

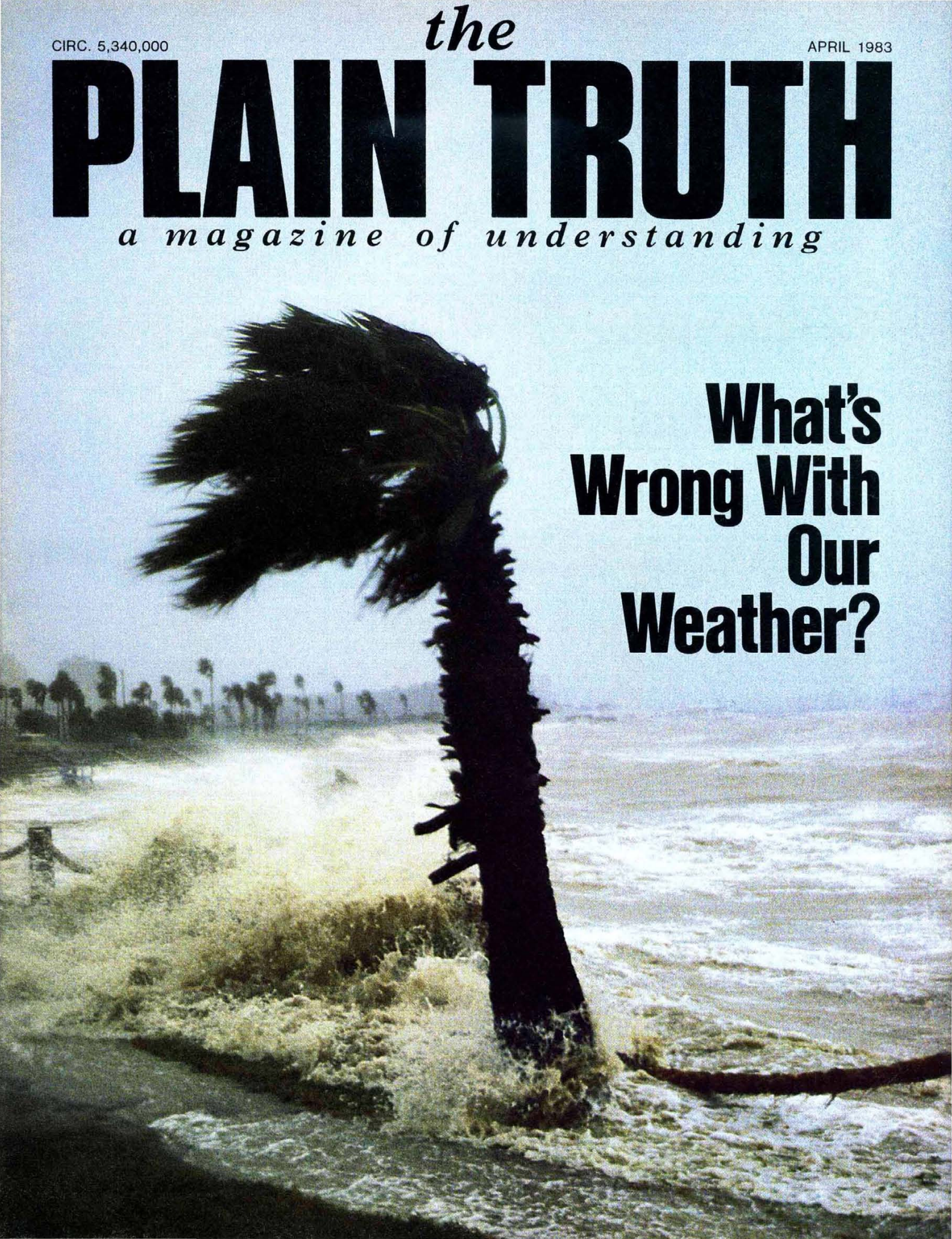
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APRIL 1983

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



**What's
Wrong With
Our
Weather?**

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

Vol. 48, No. 4

Circ. 5,340,000

April 1983

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ABOUT OUR COVER

Symbolic of dangerous weather are the bent palm and the swirling surf. Not only in 1982, but now in 1983 weather reports speak of "worst this century" and "lowest" or "highest on record." This issue highlights the seriousness of the problem.

COVER PHOTO BY KOKOJAN—BLACK STAR

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Personal from...

They Didn't Believe What He Said

The more I travel around the earth, the more I see the sickening conditions in the world today, and the more I glean from history, the more convinced I become that the real root *cause* of all of humanity's troubles and evils may be summed up in six words: "They didn't believe what he said." And they still don't believe what he says today!

Suppose you had suddenly come into consciousness—just now having been suddenly created the first human being. Your Maker is sitting beside you, revealing to you *vital knowledge* so direly necessary for you to know.

He tells you that he has made you and the wife he has created beside you so that you can reproduce your kind. In due time you will populate the earth with millions of your offspring.

He reveals to you that he has provided for you a *WAY OF LIFE* that will *CAUSE* and produce *PEACE* between individuals, groups and nations that shall arise. This way of life is an inexorable spiritual law as automatic and relentless in continual action as the law of gravity, which he demonstrates to you. It is the basic law of his government by which he rules the vast universe he has created. It is the law of love. It will produce peace, happiness, joy, abundance, universal prosperity, and if you and your children choose it as your way of life, he will give you also the gift of eternal life, which he has not yet given you.

This way of life is symbolized by a tree in the midst of the beautiful garden where he has placed you, called the "tree of life." But also, in case you decide to reason out your own way of life—taking to yourself the decision and knowledge of what is good and what is evil, then

there is a second very special symbolic tree that also produces fruit. The tree is the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil." But your Maker *FORBIDS* you to take of this tree, which means disobedience to his law, and if you choose to disobey and take of that tree, you shall die, since the penalty of *SIN* (the transgression of his *LAW*) is *DEATH*.

Would you *BELIEVE* what your Maker said? Would you?

Adam and Eve didn't.

God their Creator had given them his way of life. If they rejected it, turning to their own way, it would bring sorrow, curses, unhappiness, suffering—and death!

But Satan, in the symbolic form of a serpent, came along and said God lied. They would not surely die. They were immortal souls. He reminded them of the superior human minds they had. They could work out their own way of life—and after all, could they believe God? They only had his word for it.

They must have said, "Yes, that's right! After all, how can we be sure? All we have is God's word for it. We'd better *make an experiment*, and be sure! Let's put it to the test. Let's *take to ourselves* the decision—the knowledge of what is good and what is evil."

They made the first scientific experiment. Even today, the scientific method rejects revelation as a source of knowledge and understanding.

Adam and Eve rejected divine revelation, as does modern science today. They didn't believe what their Creator said! And it was "when the woman saw [observation] that the tree [of the forbidden fruit] was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise [human reason], she took of the fruit thereof [she made the experiment], and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Gen. 3:6).

Some 4,000 years later, God sent Jesus Christ, his Son, into the world (*Continued on page 40*)

THE STRUGGLE FOR THE "SOUL OF EUROPE"

by Gene H. Hogberg

Events are now unfolding that will radically alter the political map of this divided continent—perhaps before the decade is over.

FROM ALL indications, 1983 may well prove to be the most decisive year for Europe since World War II.

The East-West stalemate that has kept the Continent divided—but in a state of "armed peace"—for nearly four decades is on the verge of becoming "unstuck."

At the center of the crisis is the Soviet Union's growing fear over its ability to maintain a firm grip over events in Eastern Europe.

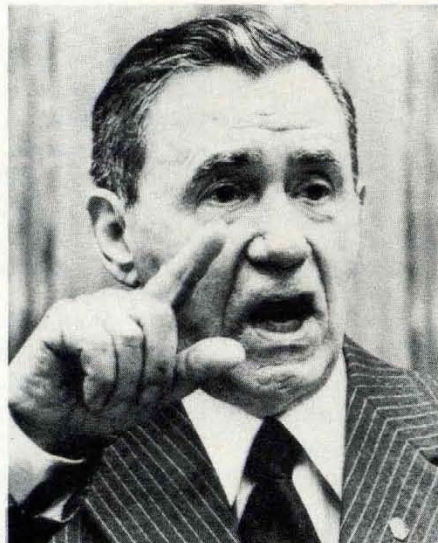
The nations of Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria together represent the Soviet Union's "security zone" against any future military threat from elsewhere in Europe.

And from where they sit, the top leaders in the Kremlin do not like what they see.

Kremlin Peace Offensive

On the political and military fronts, Moscow has embarked on a full-scale peace offensive. The objective: to forestall the announced aim of the NATO alliance to deploy 572 new intermediate-range ballistic and land-based cruise missiles before year's end.

The NATO plan, if implemented, would make possible, for the very first time, a nuclear counterattack upon the Soviet heartland from bases in *Western Europe*. The new Pershing II missiles could reach Soviet targets in only 8 minutes.



SOVIET Foreign Minister Gromyko cautioned West Germans of consequences of deploying intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

New Soviet Communist Party leader Yuri Andropov has made a series of proposals to reduce the East-West nuclear arsenals in Europe. This culminated in his call, on January 5, for a nonaggression pact between NATO and its Moscow-led Warsaw Pact counterpart.

A communique at the end of a two-day Warsaw Pact summit in Prague, Czechoslovakia, described the proposal as a "new grand peace proposal," adding that it would be circulated to all 35 nations participating in the European Security Conference at Madrid, Spain.

Western diplomats quickly remarked that the Soviet offer was "nothing new." A similar Warsaw

Pact offer failed to win NATO acceptance in 1958.

Nevertheless, they were hesitant to reject the offer outright, since it was well received by the rapidly growing and politically influential peace movements in Western Europe and the United States—the principal target audience of the Soviet move.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan has been put on the defensive by this string of Soviet proposals. As a result, he felt obliged to dispatch Vice President George Bush to several Western European capitals to shore up a visibly crumbling NATO common front.

Mr. Reagan is widely perceived in peace movement circles as being largely responsible for fueling the nuclear arms race. (Those in the movement dismissed the President's zero option offer of last year—no new missiles for the removal of Soviet missiles targeted on Western Europe—as being insincere.)

Vatican Challenge

The Soviet leadership also perceives a powerful threat to its status quo in Eastern Europe coming from another direction—the Vatican.

Moscow has been deeply concerned ever since the Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, was surprisingly elected to the highest office in the Catholic Church in the fall of 1978.

Pope John Paul II has had a galvanizing effect not only upon his native Poland but upon Roman

Catholic populations throughout Eastern Europe.

Only one year after the Pope's stunningly successful homecoming visit to Poland in the summer of 1979, Poland's ill-fated independent Solidarity labor union movement was formed.

Soviet authorities quickly realized that Solidarity would challenge exclusive Communist party rulership in Poland. If successful, such a development could have spread like wildfire to the entire East Bloc, and into even the western part of the U.S.S.R., especially the Baltic and the Ukraine.

In late 1980 and early 1981 the Soviets contemplated a military move into Poland, but drew back. The Pope is reported to have threatened Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev in a private letter that he would "lay down the crown of St. Peter" and return to Poland to lead resistance to Soviet intervention.

For this or for whatever other reason, the Soviets desisted in their direct approach. They prevailed upon Poland's own military to restore order in December 1981.

First Soviet Cardinal

Tass, the Soviet news agency, issued sharp personal comments on Pope John Paul II in late December 1982. It asserted that under his leadership the Vatican was involved in unwanted activities in Poland and in "anti-Communist propaganda on a broad scale."

A few days later, the growing tensions between Moscow and the Vatican reached a new height with the stunning appointment, on January 5, 1983, of the first Soviet cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church.

Soviet officials claim they had no advance notification of the elevation of Bishop Julijans Vaivods of Riga, Latvia, who becomes the first

WEST GERMAN President Carstens paid state visit in October 1982 to Italy and the Vatican. Dr. Carstens conferred with Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Casaroli, above, addressed papal officials, middle photo, and presented gift for church's humanitarian efforts, below. The Vatican is increasingly preoccupied with events in Europe.





BLACK STAR PHOTOS

POPE JOHN PAUL II, welcomed last autumn to Spain by King Juan Carlos I, right, urged Europeans everywhere to "give life to your roots. . . . rebuild your spiritual unity."

resident Soviet citizen to be created a cardinal since the Russian revolution.

At the same time, Polish Archbishop Jozef Glemp was elevated to the office of cardinal, along with East Germany's Joachim Meisner, the Archbishop of Berlin.

Thus, while the Soviet Union may have the United States on the defensive, the opposite is true with respect to its relations with the Vatican. "Catholic revival worries Moscow," headlined the January 7, 1983, *Financial Times* of London. The article reported that the "Soviet concern about the Catholic resurgence within Eastern Europe is becoming irrepressible."

The Pope's "Vision for Europe"

Perhaps most disturbing of all to Moscow is Pope John Paul's continual calls for the "spiritual unity" of Europe.

This theme, which he stressed much on his visit to Poland in 1979, was repeated on his recent 10-day visit to Spain. The Pope culminated his trip with an address he labeled a "Declaration to Europe."

In this speech at the city of Santiago de Compostela, the Pope issued an impassioned appeal for all Europeans in both the East and West, to discover "your origins.

Give life to your roots."

Of course, he was speaking of Europe's Catholic heritage. Henry Kamm of the *New York Times*, in his Nov. 10 column, described the activities of the final day of the Pope's Spanish tour:

"At the final destination of his 10-day pilgrimage to Spain . . . the pope celebrated what he called a 'European act.' . . .

"He said: 'I, John Paul, a son of the Polish nation that has always considered itself European by its origins, traditions, culture and vital relations; Slav among Latins and Latin among the Slavs. . . . I, bishop of Rome and pastor of the universal church, from Santiago issue to you, old Europe, a cry full of love: Find yourself. Be yourself. Discover your origins. Give life to your roots'" (emphasis ours).

The Pope spoke in the presence of Spain's King Juan Carlos I, representatives of European organizations and universities especially invited for the 'act' that was clearly intended as the high point of the papal tour.

"The Europe the pontiff described was equivalent to Christian Europe," continued Mr. Kamm. "He said the history of the founding of its nations 'coincides with the penetration of the gospel.' *European identity*, the pope declared, 'is incomprehensible without Christianity.' . . .

"Old Europe" between East and West

Writing for *The Daily Telegraph*

of London, Nov. 10, reporter Michael Field added the following points concerning the Pope's dramatic "European act" while on his visit to Spain:

"The Pontiff pleaded for peace in 'Old Europe.' He offered the services of the Roman Catholic Church as a mediator between East and West.

"He issued the warning that the Continent was facing a crisis of economic, spiritual and political upheaval and the threat of nuclear holocaust.

"The solution, he said, lay in an affirmation of Europe's Christian heritage. Pilgrims who had come to the Shrine of St. James in the Middle Ages had helped to make Europe a homogeneous and spiritually united Continent of Latin, Germanic, Celtic, Anglo-Saxon and Slav peoples. But now Europe was in crisis, fractured by unnatural divisions [meaning the ideological division into the capitalist West and the communist East] that had stopped its people from meeting freely."

Near the end of his speech, the Pope stressed that "Europe has still in reserve incomparable human energies capable of sustaining it in *this historic work toward a continental renaissance.*"

This vision of a new, yet ancient, Europe, the very revival of the Roman Empire, a new Europe to transcend today's "artificial" political boundaries, is what will soon disturb Moscow more than anything else. □

WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR WEATHER?

by Dan C. Taylor

Are climates changing? Scientists may theorize. But what are the *real* causes behind today's weather upsets?

NOTHING has such a vital physical impact on human beings as the weather.

Past civilizations have risen or fallen on the fortunes of good or bad weather. Yet, for the most part, today's generation has come to take the largely tranquil, predictable weather of the mid-20th century for granted.

Few realize today that the period from 1910 to 1960 is considered to be the most unusually good run of weather experienced in the history of climatology.

As global temperatures slowly rose in the first part of the 20th century, so did agricultural output. By the 1950s, yields were unprecedentedly high. In the 1960s the so-called green revolution was under way. Spurred on by new hybrid seed, chemical fertilizers and relatively stable climate, world hunger seemed to be on its way to being a thing of the past.

But something happened in the last few years that was unexpected. Our climates have become more variable and extreme. Droughts are followed by floods. And the hopes



SEVERE winter flooding forced thousands to flee from their homes in Monroe, Louisiana.

JOHN STARKEY—BLACK STAR

debate that has raged for more than a decade, climatologists have argued over whether or not the earth has passed the peak of a warm, stable cycle of weather patterns. Is it now entering a more unpredictable period? This seems to be especially true of the Northern Hemisphere.

Among the proposals now being carefully monitored is the role of sunspot activity in directly affecting our temperatures here on earth. Sunspot activity reaches its peak at the end of an 11.2-year cycle. The last sunspot maximum was in 1979. The sun's temperature is actually cooler during a sunspot maxi-

mum and therefore the earth becomes cooler.

Others are studying volcanic clouds—such as that resulting from the Mexican volcano, El Chichón, in March 1982—and industrial pollution. Even soil particles can be suspended high in the atmosphere and there create a thin layer of reflective substances that block out some of the sun's warming rays.

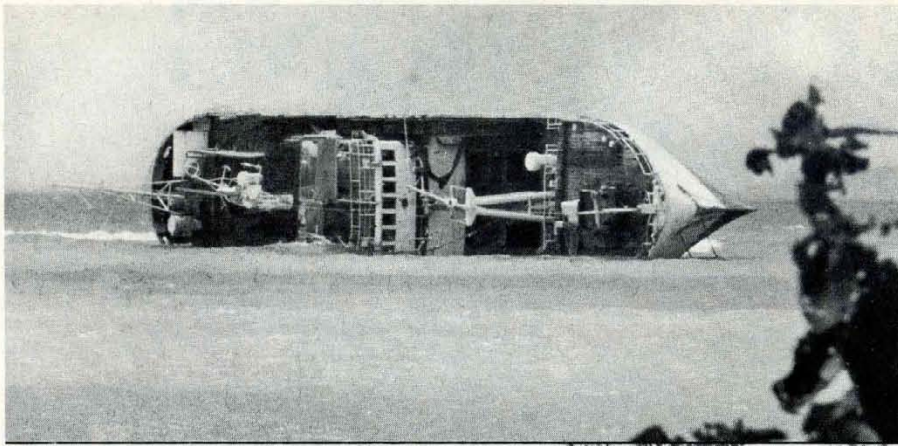
Still another area of concern is the simple fact that cold weather begets more cold weather. For instance, for a single day in January 1982, 75 percent of North America was covered with snow. 1982 went

that were pinned on the agricultural miracles of the '60s have vanished. Is there indeed a soon-coming crisis in our weather? If so, why?

Why a Change in the Weather?

It is accepted by climatologists that climatic change can result, in general, from variations in the earth's solar orbit. These slight modifications produce alternating periods of relatively warm, stable climate then frigid, unstable ones.

Some scientists note that there may be other factors that may bring about climatic change. In a



on to be a severe winter with many record lows in the normally balmy southern states.

Snow reflects about 90 percent of sunlight. Winters with a lot of initial snowfall consequently cause a sort of "snow feedback." Warming sunshine is reflected back into space while colder temperatures cause moist air to condense—thus more snow or sleet. Winters are intensified and longer.

Another phenomenon widely accepted as a cause of our upset weather is jet-stream locking. A jet stream is a narrow, fast-moving body of air about 6 to 10 miles high (10-16 km) flanked by broader, slow-moving currents of air. It is formed by an energy exchange process that takes place when warm tropical air meets cold polar air.

What has been happening is that instead of the jet stream slowly moving from area to area, it has been, of late, locking into one position for long periods of time. By locking in one position, an area will continue to experience the same type of weather until the jet stream finally moves. What causes this process is a group of "blocking highs" that keep weather channeled in an area until the highs suddenly and inexplicably break down.

This locking phenomenon was what occurred in 1980 when the U.S. experienced a devastating heat wave that took more than 1,300 lives. At the same time, South Africa froze while Eastern Europe was drenched by torrential rains.

The "Greenhouse Effect"

Man is also undeniably affecting his environment and climate in
(Continued on page 42)

TROPICAL CYCLONE—The ferocious weather of 1982 is illustrated by these historic photos of the March battering and courageous response of the Kingdom of Tonga in the South Pacific. Demolished port facilities, massive damage to residences, uprooted fruit trees and inundated croplands left Tonga with near total loss of the kingdom's annual income. Technical, agricultural and financial help from neighboring and distant countries enabled Tonga to begin a two-year rebuilding effort. Economic restoration began with all hands devoted to replanting the soil with root and leaf crops.

KALONIKALI TONGA

BUILD STRONG FAMILY TIES

Here's How!

by Ronald D. Kelly

Important principles often ignored can help you establish and maintain strong family ties.

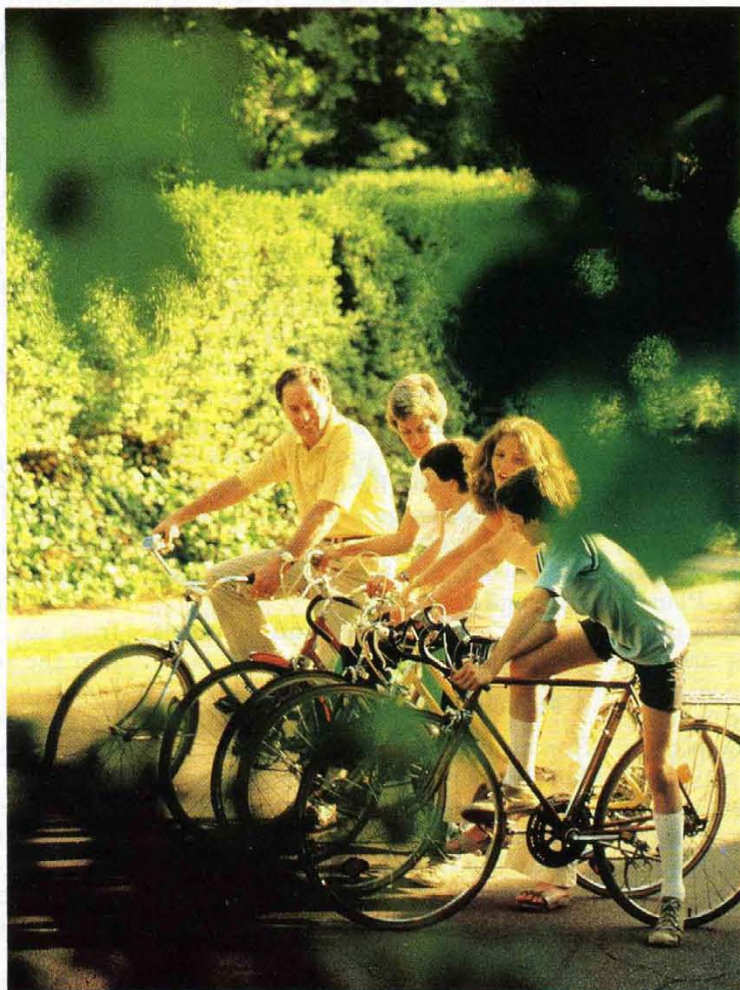
SELDOM do families get together anymore. We live in such a hectic society.

We have little time for dinner with the grandparents or for a family reunion. And because we haven't taken the time, the glue that holds families together doesn't hold firm.

It's time to revive some old-fashioned values and build more permanent family ties. It might just save your family.

Dinner at Grandma's

Let's take for example an old American custom to gather the whole family every Sunday afternoon for fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, fresh cooked garden peas and, best of all, three different kinds of homemade pie. If you ever had such wonderful dinners in your family, you can almost taste the delicious meals still. And who could ever forget the fun of some games afterward with all the children in the neighborhood joining in?



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If that had been part of your life you cannot forget it. But why is it gone today? Doesn't anyone care anymore? And why can't you start or reinstate such family get-together customs now?

Well, you can.

Of course, if the grandparents live hundreds or thousands of miles away, you can't have Sunday dinner together frequently. But if they are nearby, you can certainly make it a fairly regular practice. Even if they are a great distance away, all is not lost.

Those Wonderful Family Reunions

Another great old-fashioned tradition used to be getting the family together once a year or every other year—I mean the whole family: brothers and sisters and all the cousins. There is nothing like it.

And remember those lazy Sunday afternoons in the summer when you sat in the shade of the old oak tree watching cloud formations float by? Or do you remember playing outside with your cousins while your parents sat and talked for hours?

We, in the Western democracies, live in very mobile societies. In the United States a family now moves on the average of once every five years. Often these moves are hundreds or sometimes thousands of miles. When such moves happen the children may grow up without

any real sense of stability.

The result of this separating has created a whole generation who don't know "who they are." When you grow up under the influence of your parents and your grandparents, there is little doubt of who you are. If you have a quick temper as your grandfather did, you'll know it if you saw him yell at the cow when she kicked over the pail. If you have a fine voice for singing, you well may have inherited it from your grandmother. If you heard her singing lullabies, you will know for sure where you got your voice.

Many have become more aware of their heritage as a result of the Alex Haley book and television series, *Roots*. It has made many want to search out their backgrounds and ancestry. Mr. Haley created a need to find out who we are and where we came from.

This knowledge of one's family heritage seems to be missing in so many families today. Grandpa may have been forced into early retirement while he still had years of productivity left in him. Perhaps he died prematurely from the lack of purpose and inactivity. Like as not grandma was put into a rest home to rock away her final years of life in boredom. What a tragedy! And all the time they could have helped so much.

Don't let the opportunity for your children to know and love their grandparents go by. Plan a family reunion as soon as it is practical. If the grandparents are not living, make it a practice to visit the cemetery where they are buried. Tell the children stories about their grandparents and the "good old days." You'll be surprised at the greater sense of identity it gives them.

Nontraditions

Instead of positive traditions, do you know what many families in today's society have? Nontraditions. What are nontraditions? Let me give you an example.

The typical Western breakfast.

Years ago when societies were mainly agrarian, breakfast was quite an affair. The entire family sat around the table. Mom prepared a hearty meal of cooked ce-

real, toast from homemade bread, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs and a hamburger patty. Dad outlined the day's chores. That was a tradition.

A nontradition is quite the opposite. Today, dad probably grouches his way through the morning preparing to fight the traffic jams. He may or may not bolt down a cup of coffee and a piece of toast.

Where's mom? She may have a job of her own and hurries through the blow dryer and hair curlers to be ready for her ride to work.

And the kids? Left to themselves, they take the easy way out and gobble down a bowl of pre-sweetened cold cereal.

That's breakfast. That's what we mean by a *nontradition*. Nothing of lasting value comes out of this life-style. There is nothing here to pass on to the next generation. No positive family relationships are built.

The chances of the dinner hour having any greater family value are between slim and none. The major difference in the evening, compared to breakfast time, is the blaring of the television—that greatest of all conversation destroyers. Staring at production-line situation comedies or old movies while eating a pop-in-the-oven prepared meal, the average family spends little time getting acquainted with each other, much less the grandparents and the cousins.

That's hardly the kind of bonds that build strong family ties.

A Personal Example

Something that happened in our family nearly three years ago really forced home the point to my wife and me how important family bonds are. We had not needed to think about it before then.

At that time our daughter left for college. It was amazing how much we all missed her. We missed her smiling face coming through the door every afternoon as she came home from school. We missed her sitting next to us at church services each Sabbath.

We found she missed us, too. She missed mom's home cooking. Especially the homemade rolls and the apple pie. Why, she even

missed quarreling with her brother and sisters. She missed the television—found out she had to study a lot more in college. And she missed her friends even though she had made many new friends at college.

But there was one thing she missed more than anything else.

Friday night dinner!

We hadn't deliberately planned it that way, but over the years, Friday night dinner had become a family custom. The girls were in cheerleading, had after-school jobs and of course homework. My job required frequent nights away from home. Like many families we were going 10 different directions and did not spend nearly enough time together.

So Friday night became special. We all agreed we would do nothing else that night—it was family night. It soon became a habit. My wife would spend a special part of Friday preparing the meal. And was it super. Gourmet cooking. For several years it has been our very best family custom.

The next year our second daughter left home to make her way in the big wide world. We missed her, too. And she missed us. But most of all she missed . . . you guessed it, Friday night dinner.

We also found another family bond had been built. This one an annual custom.

Our daughters at this point in time both lived about 1,000 miles from us. They could not afford to join the remaining members of the family for another tradition that we have—a week of skiing during the January school vacation.

We all once had some delightful days together. In skiing we found an activity that tied the family together. Unlike the routine at home where each of us had our own thing to do, when we were skiing we were together, helping each other. Since we all started learning at the same time, we were at about the same ability level. We could laugh together as we tumbled down the slopes. The big kids helped the little kids and we all have progressed into reasonably good skiers.

While we all cannot get together every year anymore, we fondly

remember our experiences in the beauty of the mountains. Each winter at least four or five of our family of seven still manage to meet on the slopes.

Ethnic Traditions

Some of the strongest bonds in many families are passed on from generation to generation as a result of cultural heritages from the land of their ancestry. Those customs often retain cultural tastes in food, dress, dance and even in professions.

One custom was particularly striking to my wife and me when we spent the summer in Jerusalem. Along with nearly 50 Ambassador College students, we participated in the archaeological excavations at the City of David dig.

We found Jerusalem a city of apartments. We rented an apartment and settled in for the summer. On Friday afternoon businesses start closing shortly after noon as most Jews in the city make Sabbath preparations.

A beautiful custom starts the Sabbath each week. About 20 minutes before sundown, candles are lighted in nearly every home. It's quite a sight. All over Jerusalem through the windows you see the flickering lights of candles on dining room tables. The family gathers around for dinner and often engage in another Jewish family tradition—singing Sabbath hymns.

These traditions have been perpetuated through many centuries and serve not only to bind families together, but bind an entire people to an ancient heritage and to their God.

Learning a Trade

Another passing on of custom can be that of a trade or profession. Throughout most of history, children learned the trade of their fathers that had in turn been learned from their fathers.

Because many modern societies have given up such practices altogether, crafts that have endured for centuries are being lost.

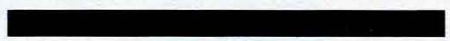
Even if a youngster does not wish to follow in his father's footsteps, if a trade, craft or profession has been learned, he will have

something to fall back on.

It's amazing today how few boys do—or know how to do—any household jobs, paint or mend things, change the oil or tune up the car. Only a small number of girls know how to sew, quilt or even cook for that matter.

You see, in order to learn many of these skills, you have to spend time with your father or mother or with grandparents.

Since most of us are not living on a farm, we may not know how to plant, cultivate, harvest, can (bottle) or freeze vegetables and fruits. Even if many families wanted to have a vegetable garden, they wouldn't know how to. Yet many middle-aged parents have known how to plant a garden—and almost every grandpar-



“
It's time to revive some
old-fashioned
values and build more
permanent family
ties. It might just save
your family.
”



ent had one; probably grew up on a farm or in the country. Why haven't we passed on these fun and useful skills?

If you have not learned any skills that should have been perpetuated in your family, why not take a little time to backtrack and learn from your father or mother in order to pass them on to your son or daughter?

Building New Traditions

Maybe you are part of a family that just does not have a long family history. Perhaps you have no knowledge of your ancestry or even of a craft of your parents.

But that should not stop you establishing bonds in your family now. Our own family Friday night dinners and January ski trips are by no means passed on from my wife's family or mine. But I have a fairly firm conviction these *new*

family customs will be carried on by our children after they are married.

Recently we were transferred to California where our two daughters moved after they left home. You'll be way ahead of me here, but do you know where they have been nearly every Friday night since we moved? Right. At our house for dinner.

So you see, new traditions can be just as important as old ones.

It's Up to You

Whether you have realized it or not, there are really only two courses of action to take. Either build meaningful and lasting traditions in your family, or drift into “nontraditions” that will cause your family to split further and further apart one from another.

Why not sit down this evening and talk over what kind of relationships will best benefit your family? Get out the old picture album. Recall granddad and grandma—even your great grandparents. Maybe you'll bring up some long lost part of your family past that your children have never even heard before.

Then talk about what kind of new customs you would like to incorporate into your family.

Obviously not every family will find skiing the most practical way to spend their annual vacation. But some of the most meaningful family experiences can be worked around a vacation. Perhaps visiting national parks, or taking up camping, fishing or other outdoor activities, will be something your family can enjoy.

One of the best ways to spend vacation time is to hold regular family reunions such as have been mentioned in this article.

So whether you decide on special vacation trips, outdoor campouts, Friday night or Sunday afternoon dinners, or nothing more than a quiet afternoon in your own backyard, make up your mind to build strong family bonds. You'll always be glad you did. Someday your grandchildren will thank you for establishing family bonds that will be passed on to their children and to generations yet to come. □



What's Needed Most to FEED THE WORLD'S HUNGRY!

by Donald D. Schroeder

Not more industrial development,
but a renewed and immediate effort to improve agriculture!

SOMETHING is seriously wrong in world agriculture!

Why are so many nations plagued with millions of malnourished or starving citizens? Even certain nations with major industrial and military development also suffer from massive shortages of food that must be made up by imports. Why?

Yes, why?—when all could be well fed even today!

Did you know that the earth has not only the capacity to feed its population of four and a half billion humans, but resources to feed a population *several times* that?

A potentially bounteous earth, except in a few areas, isn't producing the food it could. It isn't producing the successful farmers it could. We need to ask why it doesn't. And what is needed to lift the curse on world agriculture today!

Greatest Challenge

Worldwide, farmers are facing their greatest challenge in history. Food supplies must *nearly double* by the year 2000—only 17 years away. That's to give the projected world population of around six billion—barring some world catastrophe—an adequate diet.

But the International Food Research Institute warns that poor nations 17 years from now won't be

able to afford to buy the staggering amounts of food needed. And food aid—as distinct from food sales—from the handful of major food surplus nations will not solve this explosive problem. And the few big food exporters, producing ever more costly food, certainly can't afford to give it away.

What, then, is the hope to feed hungry peoples?

Food aid is practical, at best, only in short-term emergencies such as war relief, drought or natural disasters. Prolonged food aid is a positive deterrent to food production in many hungry lands. It allows government leaders to avoid taking the difficult steps needed to place their nation's agriculture on a sounder basis.

The facts are these: Even now the problem of world hunger could be greatly alleviated. But only if governments worldwide *immediately* reorder national priorities and devote much more of their research, wealth and energy to agricultural and rural development. Even now cooperative efforts could help needy nations better feed themselves.

In fact, yields could be doubled or tripled in many nations—even in those whose millions perpetually totter on the brink of starvation, such as in Bangladesh. This startling improvement in food production is presently possible by utilizing the best seeds and crop varieties for a given area, and by more efficient use of water and local fertilizers.

Food supplies can be dramatically increased in many areas even with *present* levels of production. How?

By better access roads to fields and markets, by better harvesting techniques, and by better storage and food preserving facilities. Better rural hygiene, health and living conditions are desperately needed to enable farmers to produce more.

An old saying sums up the real need in hungry lands: "Give a hungry man a fish today and he will be hungry tomorrow. But teach a hungry man how to catch his own fish and he will eat today and tomorrow."

The Big Problem

But all this demands a major reorientation of government policies throughout the world. It means agriculture and rural development must be given a much greater priority.

It means if not land ownership for most farmers, then at least greater access to good land. It means making available affordable credit to poorer farmers so they can utilize better farming techniques. It means establishment of attractive food prices for farmers to encourage them to produce. It means more easily available farm supplies and equipment.

Sound agricultural development would also require following up with better storage and preservation facilities that often could double food supplies by cutting wastage. And good roads to move crops quickly to

Agricultural Development- A Wide Open Field

Food scientists are discovering that mankind is nowhere near the limits of plant, livestock and soil productivity. There is still room to boost yields and learn how to use more efficiently the earth's acreage for animal and crop husbandry. Here are the facts from around the world:



Irrigation: For the tropical farmer, water control is crucial. Instead of costly enormous dams, farmers can frequently build smaller earthen dams and dig irrigation ditches.

Enormous amounts of irrigation water are lost to evaporation before use. Smaller but deeper holding tanks would be more effective in conserving water. Proper water utilization and conservation can allow the farmer to plant two or three crops instead of one.



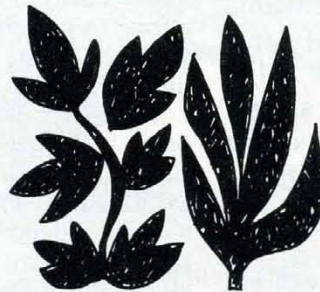
Pests: More emphasis is needed on finding natural organisms and natural chemicals that kill pests and don't hurt plants. Petroleum-based chemicals are costly and often are dangerous to humans and the environment. Insects and animal pests often eat more crops than do people. Reducing these losses can easily raise *present* yields in many areas as much as 30 percent to 50 percent.



Fertilizer: Particular emphasis needs to be placed on developing

fertilizers that are not petroleum-based. In Asia, man-made urea (nitrogen) from petroleum or natural gas is expensive. Manure and composts (crop and vegetative wastes) could be utilized instead of burned for fuel. Building a compost bin or ditch is cheap and easy.

Rice farmers in Asia have found as much as 90 percent of fertilizer is lost if spread across the top of a wet paddy. But mixing fertilizer with soil (called the "mudball method") and packing it down next to the roots reduces by half the amount of fertilizer needed. It also increases employment for laborers.



Intercropping and Multicropping: One of the cheapest methods of pest and plant disease control is intercropping. Intercropping is planting different kinds of crops in alternate rows or in

various close associations on small acreages. Each crop acts as a barrier to the spread of insect pests or plant diseases affecting the other crop.

This planting method was widely practiced for centuries by Asian farmers. Yet only recently has scientific evidence been found to support it. Unfortunately, in recent years Western agricultural development has tended to push monoculture techniques on farmers. The result is increased insect and plant disease problems.

Multicropping is planting more than one crop (of the same kind or of various kinds) during a growing season. This is possible in the tropics and subtropics because of the abundance of sunshine throughout the year. The major constraint is water availability and sufficient fertilizer or soil nutrients.

Recent intercrop and multicropping research is showing that various combinations of grain and vegetable crops can often double production on a given piece of land. Much research needs to be devoted to the best crop combinations and possibilities for every soil and local condition.

In some areas, alternate rows of cereals and

storage and markets. It means better rural health care, clean water development, schools and homes. Sufficient supplies of essential food, pure water, health care and hygiene are necessary for peoples to have the energy to produce.

The task involves development of efficient production systems for every crop, every season, every region in every nation. It means learning about the best seeds, about water management, soil conservation, fertilizers and technology for hundreds of farming environments. And the best animal husbandry

systems that enrich, not destroy, the environment.

What a different world it could be if there were more cooperative worldwide research between advanced and developing nations.

Most needed now in many hungry nations are crops that require less water, less costly fertilizers, than go into the "Green Revolution." Food experts warn that the Green Revolution has, for all its marvelous yields, only temporarily bought us time to tackle the world's food production problems.

But the Green Revolution has

simply bypassed the vast majority of small, poor farmers who cannot afford it. Too often what's happened is this: The increased profitability of the hybrid strains of lower-protein wheat, rice and corn have led larger farmers who can afford them to devote more and more acreage to these seeds. Less and less is devoted to growing of staple vegetables—such as lentils, peas and beans—which are the only sources of proteins for many.

Several years ago, Norman Borlaug, noted agricultural scientist and developer of hybrid seeds, esti-

legumes show dramatic increases in both crops. Several years ago in the Philippines, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) had amazing results intercropping maize (corn) and peanuts. It was found these crops, suitably planted together, can intercept 40 percent more sunlight and are up to 60 percent more productive than when either is grown alone. As well, these two crops combined to control pests better than when growing alone: peanuts attracted a spider that kept down stem borer infestation in maize.

Also, the residual nitrogen from a harvested legume crop, or a well fertilized soil, can be used efficiently by a proper second food crop in some areas.



Weeding: Certain leafy legumes planted with rice also reduce the incidence of weeds. In one area of West Africa, it was found that cucumbers planted with other food staples controlled weed growth. The roots of

cucumber plants were found to produce a substance that inhibits the weeds.

Weeding is one of the most tedious, back-breaking and strenuous jobs on farms in developing nations. Low-cost but efficient mechanical weeders could multiply the acreages a small farmer could cover with the same human effort.



Multiuse: Fields can be rotated between raising many kinds of crops and raising livestock. Animals eat leftover food roughage and in turn fertilize the fields. And proper rotation of crops is a good natural method to cut down crop diseases and pests.

Fish farming, too, is another area of acreage utilization often overlooked in the search for more protein production. The UN Food and Agricultural Organization estimates fish farming in small ponds, irrigation ditches and rice paddies would multiply protein production many times over in many

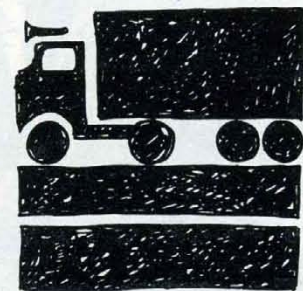
countries. Some Filipino farmers have been able to return to the traditional practice of growing fish in rice paddies—a practice previously severely curtailed by the use of pesticides.

Aquaculture of fish has been practiced in parts of Asia for centuries, but the output has usually been low. Recently, a successful project run by the Central Inland Fisheries Institute of India was able to increase annual catches from half a ton of fish from a one hectare (2.5 acre) single specie pond to 10 times that amount. They did it by cultivating different species of fish in the same pond under controlled conditions. Some fish were bottom feeders, others were middle feeders, others top feeders. The whole area of the pond was used efficiently.



Harvesting and Storage: Besides the problem of pests, great quantities of food are lost by improper threshing methods and by poor handling, storage and food preservation.

Fermentation and mold during wet season crop harvesting and badly organized drying and milling facilities, lose much grain. Grain dryers that work for North America may be useless in tropical climates. Grain bins designed for gentle prairie winds are no good for Africa's blazing sun. Developing right storage facilities for local conditions is a great need.



Distribution and Marketing: Efficient ways to quickly transport food to cut down spoilage is needed in many nations. Good roads are necessary to deliver a greater percentage of available food to places where it is needed and in good condition.

In sum, there is vast room for cooperative agricultural research, development and assistance. If humanity can learn to share research and development in the critical area of food production, the payoff can be big in terms of world peace, happiness and hope for all mankind.

mated only 10 percent to 15 percent of the world's cultivators had benefited from advanced agricultural know-how.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates around two thirds of the cultivated land in developing countries is not suitable for high-yielding seeds and their high requirements for water, fertilizer, pesticides and supporting technology.

Four fifths of the farms in poor nations are less than 12 acres and many are only around two. Modern tractors and combines do not fit.

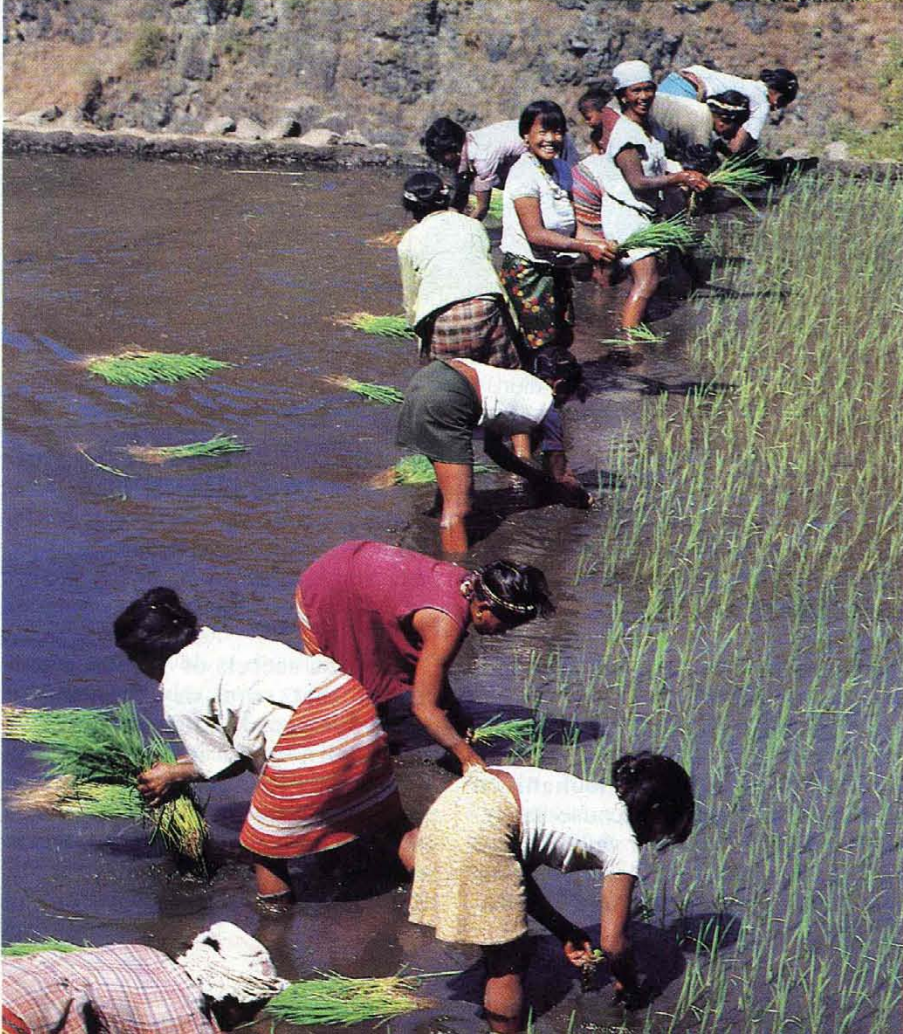
What these areas need is the introduction of small farm machinery and tools that supplement human effort, not replace it; machinery to increase the need for more farm laborers through greater productivity, not drive farmers from the land into unemployment and urban ghettos.

Labor-intensive agriculture can often produce more per plot of ground than highly mechanized agriculture. This is because laborers on small farms can work harder and longer on each acre. Various combinations of grain and vegeta-

ble crops can often double production on a given piece of land. And multiple cropping also reduces the farmer's risk caused by dependence on a single crop.

Pioneer Taiwan

One of the secrets of Taiwan's success is that rural development in the 1950s paced industrial development, with rapid increases in the earning power of small farmers as a powerful stimulus on the industrial sector. Land and credit protection and technical assistance have more than doubled food production on



the average two acres worked by Taiwanese farmers.

This experience for small farmers has also been repeated in areas of the Philippines, South Korea, India and Japan.

Multiplying productivity on plots large and small over so many varying soil and weather conditions is a complex task. But it is one that man could have achieved long ago if humans and their governments had their priorities and values right.

Mankind could still make great strides in feeding the world's hungry, could yet avoid much calamity. But those in responsible positions of authority will have to admit their mistakes and set their will and energies in united effort with other leaders to meet the world's great agricultural challenge.

Today, one of the most hopeful signs is regional crop development agencies that are concentrating on farming methods and technology appropriate to small farmers—technology that in most cases is neither expensive nor highly technical.

Yet such effort is the easier part of the problem.

The hard part is getting the cooperation of political, cultural and social leaders to allow necessary changes to proceed. And to attract qualified people to educate, encourage and show rural populations better farming methods—to demonstrate agricultural benefits others can see with their own eyes.

Governments need to attract the best people into agriculture: people who want to serve rural populations and their needs. Instead too often what happens after education in many nations is the educated learn to despise rural living and want an office job in a city commensurate with their education.

The world food problem is really a problem of political will and right decision making. It is only governments that can protect land rights

(Continued on page 38)

WEDDING man and machine power, top-appropriate and efficient machinery aids food production in state of Punjab, India; below, labor-intensive rice planting in Kalinga-Apayao Province, Philippines.

The PLAIN TRUTH

CHARLES STEINER—SYGMA

J.P. LAFFONT—SYGMA

COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAD IS IT POSSIBLE?

by Keith W. Stump

Can you "make contact" with dead relatives and friends? Here is an eye-opening look at a topic that has intrigued millions!

RECENTLY, we received a curious tape recording from a *Plain Truth* reader.

The unusual recording purports to contain excerpts from *actual voice conversations* with persons who have died and "passed into the higher planes."

This two-way, telephone-like communication was reputedly accomplished by means of an electronic instrument invented by a group of American scientists and psychic investigators.

Many of you have probably seen newspaper or magazine articles about this alleged "breakthrough." Some may have heard the actual recordings. A few have written to *The Plain Truth* asking about this extraordinary device.

Is this—at last—concrete evidence of the continuance of conscious personality after death? Are these *really* the voices of the dead?

If not, *what are they?*

And what about "mediums" and "seances"? Can they really provide us with a link to the dead?

Invisible Hands

Few questions are as vitally important as that of man's ultimate destiny. *Is there a life beyond the grave? If so, is it possible to communicate with those who have "passed over"?*

Virtually all civilizations since the beginning of history have possessed some form of belief in an afterlife. And not surprisingly, attempts to communicate with the dead go back to earliest antiquity.

The belief that the spirits of those who have "passed over" can make contact with the living is known today as *spiritualism* or *spiritism*. Modern spiritism had its birth in Hydesville, New York, in the middle of the last century—specifically, March 31, 1848.

It is an interesting story. For several nights, mysterious rappings and strange noises had kept the Fox family awake. As far as John Fox could determine, the disturbing sounds could not be attributed to mice, rats or the wind. History is full of "haunted houses" of this type. But in this case, events took a unique turn.

On March 31, John Fox's two young daughters playfully issued a *challenge* to the noises—a challenge to *repeat* their own patterns of raps. Remarkably, their exact patterns *were* repeated—seemingly tapped out by invisible hands! The Fox sisters had established a *dialogue* with the unseen presence causing the noises!

They then asked the presence questions that could be answered "yes" (one rap) or "no" (two raps). The presence willingly supplied answers.

Painstaking sessions employing various types of codes enabled the

Fox sisters to acquire detailed information about the presence. Amazingly, it claimed to be the spirit of a dead peddler, Charles B. Rosma, murdered many years earlier in the basement of the cottage now occupied by the Fox family! For one reason or another, he had apparently been delayed in his progress into the "next world."

News of the goings-on in the Fox house spread rapidly, creating considerable stir. Neighbors were invited in to hear the "conversations." Many became convinced that the Fox sisters were in actual contact with the dead.

Modern spiritism was born.

Within a few decades, the controversial movement had gained millions of followers around the globe. Among them were many famous personages, such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle—creator of the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes—and Sir William Crookes, the English physicist.

Messages from the "Other Side"

Death, the spiritists declared, is merely a door to continuing life—in the "spirit world." Moreover, they said, we can establish communication with those on the "other side."

This contact is usually made through the agency of a medium at a seance. A seance (French for "a sitting") is a meeting for the purpose of obtaining spiritistic phenomena. The medium (usually a

woman) is the focal point of a seance and acts as the organ of communication with "departed spirits."

Seances became the rage in fashionable society throughout Europe and America in the last century. In brief, a seance is conducted as follows:

A small group of people sit in a circle around a table, usually holding or at least touching hands. The room is quiet and dark. The medium then goes into a trance or semitrance, a state resembling deep hypnosis.

While in the trance, the medium purports to convey messages from the spirit world to those around the table. The messages often come by way of a "control," a departed spirit that associates itself with the medium and passes on messages from other spirits.

Sometimes the medium simply repeats to the participants around the table what she is told by her "control"—or describes what she sees in the spirit world. At other times, the control spirit or another spirit speaks directly through the medium.

On occasion, the participants themselves hear spirit voices coming from outside the medium, often from somewhere overhead. In rare instances, a spirit creates a vague visible form for itself and partially materializes—creating a ghostly apparition for all to see!

Many have come away from seances convinced of the authenticity of the phenomena. Others have suspected fraud. What is the *truth*?

Is communication between the "two worlds" possible?

The famous stage magician Harry Houdini (1874-1926) sought an answer to this question. He threw out challenges to mediums to prove to his satisfaction the authenticity of their activities. He claimed he could duplicate by purely physical means any effect they produced in the course of a seance.

During the course of 30 years of witnessing alleged examples of communications with the "next world," Houdini declared he had not "found one incident that savored of the genuine."

What Houdini often did uncover

were extremely clever frauds and skillful illusions perpetrated by charlatans and unscrupulous mediums on trusting victims.

Darkened rooms provided the perfect setting for fraud. Concealed microphones, wires, mirrors, projectors, ventriloquism, sleight of hand and other ingenious techniques combined to produce a variety of spectacular effects convincing to the gullible. Houdini caught scores of embarrassed mediums red-handed in such frauds.

Based on his investigations, Houdini concluded that spiritism was riddled with trickery, deceit and fraud. Other investigators have agreed that the percentage of fraud is high.

But are *all* mediums fakes?

By no means!

There are many serious mediums who have stood up under the most *rigorous* scrutiny of investigators. Despite meticulous testing, they have given no evidence of any type of fraud.

Are these mediums, then, really in contact—as they believe—with *the dead*?

Spirit Photographs

The art of photography—in its infancy when modern spiritism was born—soon came to the aid of spiritists in convincing the public of life beyond the grave.

Hundreds of photographs have been taken over the decades purporting to show vaguely materialized spirits actually caught by the camera! Many spiritists consider such photos to be the outstanding proof of their beliefs.

A large percentage of these photos, however, have been shown to be bogus—the results of "doctored" or retouched negatives, double exposures, trick lighting effects or other deceptions.

But others have stood up to the tests of investigators. I have personally examined scores of these photographs and am satisfied as to their overall genuineness.

But again—are these photos *proof* of life after death?

Electronic Communication

And now—a spectacular further development in the world of spiritism.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, experimentation has reportedly produced an electronic device enabling the operator to engage in two-way, telephone-like conversations with the dead—a type of Ouija board with a voice!

It was the great inventor Thomas Edison who first conceived the possibility of instrumental communication with the dead. But experimenters had to admit failure in establishing an electronic link with the spirit world—until the late 1950s.

In 1959, the Swedish filmmaker and painter Friedrich Jurgenson played back tapes of bird calls he had recorded in a Swedish forest. To his astonishment, he heard what he believed to be his dead mother's voice on the tape! This began a series of experiments to record spirit voices. Hundreds of voices have appeared on his tapes.

Other researchers have claimed to have recorded the spirit voices of Churchill, Hitler, Stalin, Tolstoy and many other famous men and women of history.

Many years of such research and experimentation have now produced the two-way machine previously mentioned. The device tunes in on certain radio frequencies that provide a channel over which "those in the higher planes"—the reputed dead—can convey their messages.

There is no apparent reason to doubt the sincerity or the integrity of those who have worked on this project or of other researchers in the field of EVP (electronic voice phenomena). It is unlikely that the voices have been faked in any way. There are no indications of fraud or hoax. It is apparent that the researchers are in actual voice contact with spirit entities.

By what means does the device work? "It does work," remarks one of its inventors, "but we don't fully know those underlying laws yet." He also admits that mediumship is involved to some degree. "It [the device] requires an operator with a very special type of psychic energy."

Are these the voices of the dead?

Some investigators have suggested that these reputed "mes-

sages from the dead” might actually be coming somehow from the *subconscious* of the machine’s operator himself, and not from the “other side.” The same explanation has often been put forward to account for the messages of mediums in seances.

Many other explanations have been suggested for this and other spirit phenomena—all of which at *times* have probably played a role. But again, *not all* spirit phenomena can be adequately explained away by such theories. There remain certain manifestations for which no entirely satisfactory explanation has been offered—other than *actual spirit contact*.

But has contact been made with *the dead*? Or might there be *another* explanation?

No Immortal Soul

At the end of last year *The Plain Truth* published an article challenging the widely held belief in an “immortal soul.” The age-old belief in the separate existences of the body and the soul was proved to be *without support* in the Bible!

That article explained the true scriptural definition of the word *soul*, demonstrating that “soul” designates man’s *physical* life—that a soul is what man *is*, not something spiritual he *has*. Man has no *inherent* immortality. The soul is *mortal* and can *die* (Ezek. 18:4, 20).

The article showed from the Bible that the dead “sleep” in insensibility in their graves until a future resurrection—a rising from the dead.

Many readers wrote in, inquiring how one can explain “ghosts,” seances, spirit photography and related phenomena. If these are not the spirits of *the dead*—what are they?

The explanation is found in the Bible!

World of Spirits

The Bible reveals that there is *indeed* a world of spirits! But they are *not* the spirits of the dead—though some may *masquerade* as spirits of the dead! This spirit world is the world of *angels*—and *demons* (fallen angels).

Angels were created by God

eons ago—long before the creation of the earth. The archangel whom we call Lucifer and one third of these created angels ultimately rebelled against God (Isa. 14; Ezek. 28; II Pet. 2:4; Rev. 12:4).

The disobedient Lucifer became *Satan*, “the Adversary.” The angels who followed him in rebellion became *demons*. They remain subject to Satan, the “prince of demons” (Mark 3:22, Moffatt).

Satan and his demonic cohorts exert enormous influence on this world. The Bible calls Satan “the god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4). In that role, he has succeeded in *deceiving* the whole world (Rev. 12:9).

Satan and his demons pretend to bring light (II Cor. 11:14-15). Demons have, for millennia, been turning mankind from truth into spiritual darkness, falsely calling that darkness “light.” The Bible warns of the dangers of humans dabbling in the world of spirits.

Notice just a few of these passages:

“Regard not them that have familiar spirits [the “control” or “guide” that associates itself with a witch or medium], neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them . . .” (Lev. 19:31).

“There shall not be found among you any one . . . that useth divination [obtaining secret knowledge by supernatural means], or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer [one who enquires of the dead]. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord . . .” (Deut. 18:10-12).

Again: “They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The Lord saith: and the Lord hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word. Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination . . .” (Ezek. 13:6-7).

In the New Testament—in Acts 16—the apostle Paul *exorcised* a spirit of divination from a young woman.

Now notice a biblical example of just how seriously God takes spiritism!

In I Samuel 28, we find an

account of an ancient “seance” involving king Saul of Israel. Saul desired to know about the outcome of a great battle with the Philistines in which he was about to engage. He inquired of God, but received no answer (verse 6). God refused to listen to Saul because of his rebellious attitude.

Saul then defied God’s clear commands in the law and ordered his servants: “Seek me a woman that hath a *familiar spirit*, that I may go to her, and enquire of her” (verse 7).

Saul was told that there was a woman at Endor that had a familiar spirit. She is referred to as a *witch* in some translations, as a *medium* in others.

So Saul disguised himself and went to the woman by night and said: “I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee” (verse 8). The practice of “consulting the dead” was rife among ancient Israel’s heathen neighbors. Saul had been influenced by their practices.

Now notice what happened:

The medium asked whom she should bring up. Saul said: “Bring me up Samuel” (verse 11).

The woman then saw a form that she believed to be Samuel. Saul himself did not see the spirit, for he asked the woman to describe it to him. As a result of the description, Saul “perceived that it was Samuel” (verse 14).

The spirit—still invisible to Saul—then spoke directly to Saul and prophesied of his impending defeat at the hands of the Philistines (verses 18-19).

The spirit that appeared was not Samuel. Samuel was *dead* (verse 3), and “the dead know not any thing” (Eccl. 9:5, 10). At death, one’s thoughts perish—as the Bible plainly teaches (Ps. 146:4).

Moreover, Scripture tells us that God refused to answer Saul by prophets (I Sam. 28:6). But Samuel was a prophet (Acts 13:20). The spirit that spoke to Saul thus could not have really been Samuel.

What had appeared to the medium and spoke to Saul was simply a form that *looked like* Samuel—a demon *impersonating* Samuel! It was *deception*, however

sincere the medium may have been. There is *no other* explanation within the teachings of the Bible!

Saul *assumed* the demon was Samuel—just as spiritists *assume* they are contacting the spirits of the dead. Spiritists would all do well to ask themselves the question posed by Hamlet in the play by William Shakespeare. Upon encountering a form claiming to be the ghost of his father, Hamlet thought to himself:

“The spirit that I have seen
May be a devil, and the devil
hath power
To assume a pleasing shape.”

Saul *sinned* by seeking a witch. God takes the sin of spiritism very seriously. “So Saul *died* for his transgression . . .” (I Chron. 10:13).

Works of Darkness

Demons are spirits of darkness. Spiritism is a work of *darkness*. Little wonder that it is normal spiritist practice to conduct seances in a *darkened* room. Strong light, say spiritists, hinders communications with the spirits. This fact in itself should tell them something about *what kind of spirits* they are dealing with!

One might also ask of spiritists why the “afterlife” is apparently so concerned with such *trivia* as is often manifested in seances and “hauntings”: knocks and rappings, eerie noises, screams, table levitating and the like. Is there not *more* to this alleged afterlife than the playing of childish pranks and usually trivial conversation?

The answer should be clear! It is *not the dead* with whom we are dealing!

The dead cannot communicate with the living! The reason? They're DEAD—not alive in some sort of “spirit world.” No such survival is taught *anywhere* in the Bible! (Write for our free booklet *Lazarus and the Rich Man* for the explanation to one of the most misunderstood passages in this regard.)

It is the world of *demons*—seeking to perpetuate the *false doctrine* of the immortal soul—that is behind spirit manifestations in seances, spirit photographs and electronic voice phenomena. Mas-

querading as “spirits of the dead,” they deceive the biblically unlearned—just as king Saul was deceived at Endor!

Such manifestations are accomplished by *demon power*—not by the Spirit of God! Most spiritists refuse to admit this possibility.

Man's True Destiny

There is only one mediator between God and man—Jesus Christ (I Tim. 2:5-6). Mediums and their familiar spirits are not the source of reliable spiritual knowledge, but rather perpetuate a false concept of man's destiny.

The Bible has much to say about eternal life—and how one can receive it as a gift. But this truth is much different than what many have been led to believe!

If you would know the TRUTH

about man's destiny, go to the TRUE SOURCE of such knowledge—the Bible—and write for our free booklets *Life After Death?* and *What Will You Be Doing in the Next Life?*

Do not risk the dangers of dabbling in the spirit world. Follow the example of the Ephesians, who *burned* their books of sorcery, magic and divination when they heard the truth! (Acts 19:19.)

Heed the clear words of the prophet Isaiah (8:19-20, Moffatt translation), who declared:

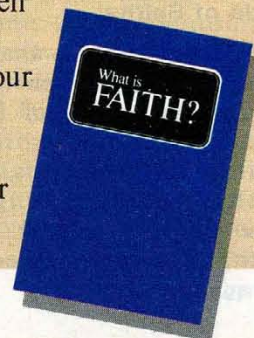
“When they tell you to consult mediums and ghosts that cheep and gibber in low murmurs, ask them if a nation should not rather consult its God. Say, ‘Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? Consult the Message and the Counsel of God!’ ” □

“But where's the evidence?”

In the Scriptures, God is quoted as promising, among numerous other incredible and very desirable blessings, healing of diseases, physical health and financial prosperity. And the Bible claims that it is impossible for God to lie.

But how can you be sure? What evidence do we have?

The free booklet *What Is Faith?*, written by Herbert W. Armstrong, explains the evidence many have overlooked. For your copy, mail the literature request card in this issue or write to the *Plain Truth* office nearest you (see inside front cover for a list of addresses).



"THE WORLD TOMORROW" RADIO AND TV LOGS

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of *The World Tomorrow*

RADIO LOG

Listed by state or province are the station's call letters, location, frequency and the time *The World Tomorrow* is aired.

U.S.

ALABAMA

WYDE, Birmingham — 850, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WMGY, Montgomery — 800, 6:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.

ALASKA

KBYR, Anchorage — 700, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.
KCBF, Fairbanks — 820, 10:30 p.m., Sun.-Sat.

CALIFORNIA

KGRB, City of Industry — 900, 12:00 noon, Mon.-Sat.; 9:00 a.m., Sun.
KBOB-FM, City of Industry — 98.3, 12:00 noon, Mon.-Sat.; 9:00 a.m., Sun.
KMJ, Fresno — 580, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KIEV, Glendale — 870, 11:00 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 11:30 a.m., Sun.
KLAC, Los Angeles — 570, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
KRAK, Sacramento — 1140, 10:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.
KOGO, San Diego — 600, 5:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KNBR, San Francisco — 680, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

COLORADO

KQXI, Arvada — 1550, 3:45 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 11:30 a.m., Sun.
KLZ, Denver — 560, 11:30 p.m., Sun.-Sat.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WEZR-FM, Washington — 5:00 a.m. Mon.-Sat.; 7:30 a.m. Sun.
WRC, Washington — 980, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

FLORIDA

WCGL, Jacksonville — 1360, 8:00 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6:30 a.m., Sun.
WGBS, Miami — 710, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WINZ, Miami — 940, 12:05 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WVCF, Orlando — 1480, 12:30 noon, Mon.-Sat.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WPLP, Seminole — 570, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 11:30 p.m., Sun.

GEORGIA

WPLO, Atlanta — 590, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WSB, Atlanta — 750, 10:30 p.m., Sun.

HAWAII

KIOE, Honolulu — 1080, 6:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

ILLINOIS

WGN, Chicago — 720, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
WMAQ, Chicago — 670, 4:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 6:30 a.m., 10:00 p.m., Sun.
WXCL, Peoria — 1350, 12:05 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 9:00 a.m., Sun.

INDIANA

WSBT, South Bend — 960, 11:15 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.

IOWA

KIOA, Des Moines — 940, 5:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.

KXEL, Waterloo — 1540, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

KANSAS

KGGF, Coffeyville — 690, 6:00 p.m., Sun.-Sat.

KENTUCKY

WTKC, Lexington — 1300, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 6:30 p.m., Sun.
WCII, Louisville — 1080, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 9:00 a.m., Sun.
WKJJ-FM, Louisville — 99.7, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

LOUISIANA

WJBO, Baton Rouge — 1150, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KWKH, Shreveport — 1130, 9:30 p.m., Sun.

MASSACHUSETTS

WMRE, Boston — 1510, 5:00 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 5:30 a.m., Sat.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

MICHIGAN

WLQV, Detroit — 1500, 12:30 noon, Mon.-Sat.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

MINNESOTA

WDGY, Minneapolis — 1130, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KTCR, Minneapolis — 690, 12:00 noon, Mon.-Fri.
KROC, Rochester — 1340, 10:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.

MISSOURI

KMBZ, Kansas City — 980, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:00 a.m., Sun.

NEW MEXICO

KOB, Albuquerque — 770, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KRZY, Albuquerque — 1450, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 10:30 p.m., Sun.
KBCQ, Roswell — 1020, 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.

NEW YORK

WBEN, Buffalo — 930, 8:30 a.m., Sun.; 11:30 p.m., Sun.-Thur.
WMCA, New York — 570, 10:30 p.m., Sun.-Sat.
WOR, New York — 710, 11:30 p.m., Sun.-Sat.; 6:30 a.m., Sun.
WHAM, Rochester — 1180, 11:00 p.m., Sun.-Fri.
WGY, Schenectady — 810, 10:30 p.m., Sun.
WEZG, Syracuse — 1220, 8:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

NORTH CAROLINA

WAZZ-FM, New Bern — 101.9, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

OHIO

WSLR, Akron — 1350, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:00 p.m., Sun.
WCKY, Cincinnati — 1530, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WBBG, Cleveland — 1260, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WMNI, Columbus — 920, 5:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:00 a.m., Sun.
WONE, Dayton — 980, 11:30 p.m. Mon.-Sun.

OKLAHOMA

KVOO, Tulsa — 1170, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

OREGON

KWJJ, Portland — 1080, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.

PENNSYLVANIA

WHP, Harrisburg — 580, 7:30 p.m., Sun.-Sat.
WUSL-FM, Philadelphia — 98.9, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KQV, Pittsburgh — 1410, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 7:00 a.m., Sun.

SOUTH DAKOTA

WNAX, Yankton — 570, 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 11:00 a.m., Sun.

TENNESSEE

WREC, Memphis — 600, 4:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 6:00 a.m., Sun.
WNAH, Nashville — 1360, 3:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 6:15 a.m., Sun.
WETQ-FM, Oak Ridge — 94.3, 6:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 9:00 a.m., Sun.

TEXAS

KMEZ, Dallas — 1480, 10:00 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KRLD, Dallas — 1080, 11:35 p.m., Sun.
KPRC, Houston — 950, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 10:05 p.m., Sun.
WOAI, San Antonio — 1200, 10:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 p.m., Sat.; 10:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m., Sun.

UTAH

KSL, Salt Lake City — 1160, 12:06 a.m., Tue.-Sat.; 5:30 a.m., Sun.

VERMONT

WSKI, Montpelier — 1240, 4:00 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 7:00 a.m., Sun.

VIRGINIA

WNIS, Norfolk — 1350, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 10:00 a.m., Sun.
WRVA, Richmond — 1140, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sun.
WFIR, Roanoke, 960, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.

WASHINGTON

KEZX-FM, Seattle — 98.9, 12:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KXLY, Spokane — 920, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KXLY-FM, Spokane — 99.9, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

WEST VIRGINIA

WVVA, Wheeling — 1170, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

WYOMING

KYCN, Wheatland — 1340, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

CANADA

YUKON

CKRW, Whitehorse — 610, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:00 a.m., Sun.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

CFLD, Burns Lake — 1400, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFWB, Campbell River — 1490, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKQR, Castlegar — 1230, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHNL — 1, Clearwater — 1400, 10:30 p.m., Sun.
CFCP, Courtenay — 1440, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKEK, Cranbrook — 570, 7:05 a.m., Sun.
CFKC, Creston — 1340, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJDC, Dawson Creek — 1350, 8:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKAY, Duncan — 1500, 8:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 p.m., Sun.
CFEK, Fernie — 1240, 7:05 a.m., Sun.
CFNL, Fort Nelson — 590, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.
CKNL, Fort St. John — 560, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.
CKGR, Golden — 1400, 9:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKGF, Grand Forks — 1340, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 6:00 p.m., Sun.
CHLD, Granisle — 1480, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKBV, Hazelton — 1490, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHBV, Houston — 1450, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHNL, Kamloops — 610, 10:30 p.m., Sun.
CKTK, Kitimat — 1230, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

CKMK, Mackenzie — 1240, 6:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJNL, Merritt — 1230, 10:30 p.m., Sun.
CKKC, Nelson — 1390, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKSP, Oliver-Summerland — 1450, 9:30 p.m., Sun.-Thurs.
CKOO, Osoyoos — 1240, 9:30 p.m., Sun-Thur.
CKOK, Penticton — 800, 9:30 p.m., Sun-Thur.
CJAV, Port Alberni — 1240, 10:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFNI, Port Hardy — 1240, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHQB, Powell River — 1280, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CIOI-FM, Prince George — 101.3, 10:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHTK, Prince Rupert — 560, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CINL, Princeton — 1400, 10:30 p.m., Sun.
CKCR, Revelstoke — 1340, 9:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKXR, Salmon Arm — 580, 9:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFBV, Smithers — 1230, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CISQ-FM, Squamish — 104.9, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 p.m., Sun.
CFTK, Terrace — 590, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJAT, Trail — 610, 8:30 p.m., Sun.
CJOR, Vancouver — 600, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJVI, Victoria — 900, 9:30 p.m., Sun.-Fri.

ALBERTA

CILW, Bonnyville — 1310, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CIOK, Bonnyville — 1310, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKO-FM, Calgary — 103.1, 9:30 p.m., Sun.-Fri.
CFRN, Edmonton — 1260, 5:00 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.
CHED, Edmonton — 630, 6:30 a.m., Sunday
CKO-FM, Edmonton — 101.9, 9:30 p.m., Sun.-Fri.
CJYR, Edson — 970, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
CJOK, Fort McMurray — 1230, 9:25 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKYR-1, Grande Cache — 1230, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
CJXX, Grande Prairie — 1430, 11:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CIYR, Hinton — 1230, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
CKYR, Jasper — 1450, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
CKSA, Lloydminster — 1080, 10:30 p.m., Sun.-Thurs.
CHCC, Lethbridge — 1090, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHAT, Medicine Hat — 1270, 8:00 p.m., Sun.
CKYL, Peace River — 610, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHLW, St. Paul — 1310, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFOK, Westlock — 1370, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFYR, Whitecourt — 1400, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

SASKATCHEWAN

CJSL, Estevan — 1280, 6:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJVR, Melfort — 1420, 8:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJNB, North Battleford — 1050, 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.
CKBI, Prince Albert — 900, 7:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 11:00 p.m., Sun.
CJME, Regina — 1300, 8:15 a.m., Sun.
CJWW, Saskatoon — 1370, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJGL-FM, Swift Current — 94.1, 8:00 p.m., Sun.-Thurs.
CFSL, Weyburn — 1190, 9:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

MANITOBA

CKDM, Dauphin — 7:30, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFAR, Flin Flon — 590, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJAR, The Pas — 1240, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHTM, Thompson — 610, 10:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKJS, Winnipeg — 810, 12:05 noon, Mon.-Fri.

ONTARIO

CJNR, Blind River — 730, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKPC, Brantford — 1380, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJSS, Cornwall — 1220, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKNR, Elliott Lake — 1340, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKNS, Espanola — 930, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJOY, Guelph — 1460, 7:30 p.m., Sun.
CKOC, Hamilton — 1150, 6:00 a.m., Sun.
CKAP, Kapuskasing — 580, 6:00 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.
CFMK-FM, Kingston — 96.3, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJKL, Kirkland Lake — 560, 10:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKLY, Lindsay — 910, 9:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7:00 a.m., Sun.

CKO-FM, London — 97.5, 9:30 p.m., Sun.-Fri.
CJTT, New Liskeard — 1230, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJRC, Ottawa (French) — 1150, 7:05 a.m., Sun.
CKO-FM, Ottawa — 106.9, 9:30 p.m., Sun.-Fri.
CHRO, Pembroke — 1350, 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFMP-FM, Peterborough — 101.5, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:00 p.m., Sun.
CHOK, Sarnia — 1070, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
CJQM-FM, Sault Ste. Marie — 104.3, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKCY, Sault Ste. Marie — 920, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJQR-FM, St. Catharines — 97.7, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
CJRN, St. Catharines-Niagara — 710, 11:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.
CJMX-FM, Sudbury — 105.3, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
CJSD-FM, Thunder Bay — 94.3, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
CKO-FM, Toronto — 99.1, 9:30 p.m., Sun.-Fri.
CFGM, Toronto-Richmond Hill — 1320, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKJY-FM, Windsor — 93.9, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

QUEBEC

CKO, Montreal — 1470, 9:30 p.m., Sun.-Fri.
CFMB, Montreal (French) — 1410, 5:00 p.m., Sun.
CFMB, Montreal — 1410, 6:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJRP, Quebec City (French) — 1060, 7:15 a.m., Sun.
CJRS, Sherbrooke (French) — 1510, 6:45 a.m., Sun.
CJSA, Ste. Agathe Des Monts (French) — 1230, 8:45 a.m., Sun.
CJER, St. Jerome (French) — 900, 8:45 a.m., Sun.
CKSJ, St. Jovite (French) — 1400, 8:45 a.m., Sun.
CKLD, Thetford Mines (French) — 1330, 8:15 a.m., Sun.
CHLN, Trois Rivieres (French) — 550, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

ATLANTIC CANADA

CKDH, Amherst, N.S. — 900, 10:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKBC, Bathurst, N.B. — 1360, 8:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJVA, Caraquet (French), N.B. — 810, 10:15 a.m., Sunday
CIYQ, Central Nfld. — 680, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHTN, Charlottetown — 1190, 10:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFLC-FM, Churchill Falls, Lab. — 97.9, 6:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFCB, Cornerbrook, Nfld. — 570, 6:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFDL-FM, Deer Lake, Nfld. — 97.9, 6:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJEM, Edmundston (French) — 570, 8:35 a.m., Sun.
CFNB, Fredericton, N.B. — 550, 11:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFYQ, Gander, Nfld. — 1350, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKGA, Gander, Nfld. — 730, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
CKCM, Grand Falls, Nfld. — 620, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
CKMV, Grand Falls — 8:35 a.m., Sun.
CHFX-FM, Halifax, N.S. — 101.9, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHNS, Halifax, N.S. — 960, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
CFLN, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Lab. — 1230, 6:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHCM, Marystown, Nfld. — 560, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
CKCW, Moncton, N.B. — 1220, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKEC, New Glasgow, N.S. — 1320, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFNW, Port au Choix, Nfld. — 790, 6:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFGN, Port aux Basques, Nfld. — 1230, 6:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKYQ, Southern Nfld. — 610, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFCV-FM, St. Andrews — 97.9, 6:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

CFNN-FM, St. Anthony, Nfld. — 97.9, 6:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
VOCM, St. John's, Nfld. — 590, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
CJYQ, St. John's, Nfld. — 930, 6:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFSX, Stephenville, Nfld. — 910, 6:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CHER, Sydney, N.S. — 950, 10:30 p.m., Sun.-Thurs.
CHYQ, Trinity Bay-Bonavista Bay, Nfld. — 670, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CKCL, Truro, N.S. — 600, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CFLW, Wabush, Lab. — 1340, 6:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
CJJC, Woodstock — 920, 7:00 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 5:00 p.m., Sun.
CJLS, Yarmouth, N.S. — 1340, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:00 p.m., Sat.

AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA

3GL, Geelong — 1341, 8:30 p.m., Sun.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

6MD, Merredin — 1098, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

PHILIPPINES

Cagayan de Oro — **DXKO** 630 kh, 9:00 p.m., Sun.-Sat.
Cebu — **DYKC** 630 kh, 9:00 p.m., Sun.-Sat.
Metro-Manila — **DWWW** 630 kh, 9:00 p.m., Sun.-Sat.
Tagum, Davao — **DXKT** 630 kh, 9:00 p.m., Sun.-Sat.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL AREAS

NEW ZEALAND

1XP, Radio Pacific — 1593, 7:00 p.m., Sun.
1XX, Radio Bay of Plenty — 1242, 7:00 p.m., Sun.
2XS, Radio Manawatu — 828, 7:00 p.m., Sun.
4XF, Radio Foreaux — 1224, 7:00 p.m., Sun.

Hong Kong Radio, Kowloon — 1044, 6:30 a.m., 12:00 a.m., Sat.
A3Z, Tonga Radio, (Eng) Nuku'alofa — 1020, 6:30 p.m., Sun.
Radio Luxembourg, (Fr) Luxembourg — 5:15 a.m., Mon.; 5:00 a.m. Tue., Thur.
ZFB-1, (Eng) Hamilton, Bermuda — 960, 1:40 p.m., Mon.-Sun.
Rediffusion, (Eng) Bridgetown, Barbados — 10:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WOSO, (Eng) San Juan, Puerto Rico — 1030, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
Radio Turks & Caicos, (Eng) Turks & Caicos — 7:00 p.m., Mon., Tue., Wed.; 7:30 p.m., Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.
ZNS-3, (Eng) Freeport, Bahamas — 6:00 a.m. Mon.-Fri.; 9:00 a.m., Sun.
Radio Antilles, (Eng) Montserrat, Eastern Caribbean — 930, 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 7:00 a.m., Sun.
Radio Antilles, (Fr) Montserrat, Antilles — 1450, 740, 6:00 a.m., Mon, Thur., Sat.
4VCM-4VGM-4VBM, (Fr) Haiti — 7:45 p.m., Wed.
Radio Caribes, (Fr) Guadeloupe & Martinique — 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
Radio Ceylon — 7190, 9720, 15425, 9:00 p.m., Sun., Tue., Thur., Sat.
GBS, (Eng) Georgetown, Guyana — 1:00 p.m., Mon., Wed., Fri.
ZDK, Grenville Radio, (Eng) St. John's, Antigua — 10:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Radio Caribbean, (Eng), St. Lucia — 3:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
RJR-FM, Jamaica — 92.5, 8:00 p.m., Tue. Thur.; 9:30 p.m., Sun.
RJR-AM, Jamaica — 4:30 a.m., Thur., Sat.
NBS, Trinidad — 610, 10:30 p.m., Sun.-Fri.

See next issue for TV log

COMING TO GRIPS WITH YOUR FINANCES

by Ronald D. Kelly

Today's money management is vital to tomorrow's financial success.

LIKE IT or not, the world operates on money. Without money we would not have a place to live, food to eat or clothes to wear. Yet making ends meet, meeting the challenges of income and outgo—balancing the family checkbook—can be a rewarding experience.

Planning personal budgets as examples for our readers worldwide must be viewed from as broad a perspective as possible. Common principles will help you budget no matter where you live or what language you speak or what your currency is called. You should apply the principles to your own distinctive national and personal circumstances.

A Worldwide Plan

One thing you can know for sure, rising good times are over for now. The Western world enjoyed unparalleled prosperity from the end of World War II until recent times. Wages and salaries generally increased at a faster pace than the cost of living. You need to gear down now for changes in your standard of living.

When we think of budgeting from a worldwide perspective, we have to take into consideration great cultural differences in various budget areas. One family might already have a home paid for and find the cost of housing a minimal part of the budget. In other countries, the cost of renting a home, apartment or flat will take 40 per-

cent or more of the family income. Food costs vary greatly from one nation to another. Recommended percentages of income to allocate the various budget areas must take into consideration your own personal circumstances. Learning to calculate your needs in proportion to your income is a very important principle.

First Things First

The practice of budgeting based on this *percentage* principle is an ancient custom. We are first introduced to it in the pages of the Bible in the time of Abram or Abraham almost 4,000 years ago.

After winning a victory over those who had taken his nephew, Lot, captive, Abram was returning home. On the way he neared what would later become the city of Jerusalem. It was then called Salem. The king of that city, Melchizedek, came to meet Abram. Melchizedek was also the priest of God (Gen. 14:18). Abram was God's servant. He lived according to God's law, statutes, commandments and judgments (Gen. 26:5). When Abram met Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of the Most High God, what did Abram do? ". . . And he gave him tithes of all" (Gen. 14:20).

The word *tithe* means "tenth," or 10 percent. Abram had taken spoil in the victory over the Canaanite kings. When he met God's priest, Abram gave 10 percent of what had been taken. Thus we see tithing—giving 10 percent to God—an ancient law. From this, we can derive an important princi-

ple of budget allocation—the *percentage* system.

Let's learn from this example of tithing.

What God has done is give mankind control over the earth and its resources. When God created the first humans, he "blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (Gen. 1:28).

God, who owns the entire universe, essentially said to man: "The earth is yours to use. You can farm it. You can graze stock on it. You will discover minerals and other natural resources in its soil, in the oceans and in the atmosphere of the earth. Use it. Produce from it. Live off of it. But 10 percent of all the increase you take from it is mine. The 90 percent remaining will be yours to discreetly use."

God has used that 10 percent for his work over the ages. In the days of Abram, Melchizedek was God's priest—the tithe went to him.

After God called the nation Israel out of Egypt under the direction of Moses, God used the tithe to pay the Levitical priesthood for their work in the religious and educational services for the nation (Heb. 7:9). After Christ established the New Testament Church, tithes were to be used for the work of God through the Church.

The very first step in successful financial management is therefore to tithe, to present 10 percent of one's adjusted gross income to the

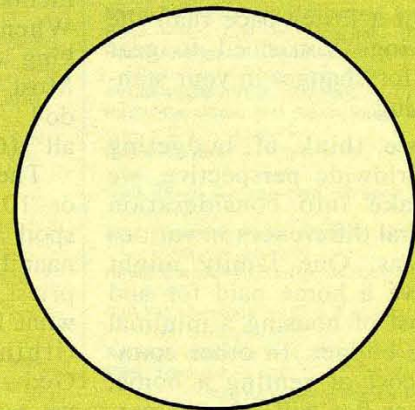
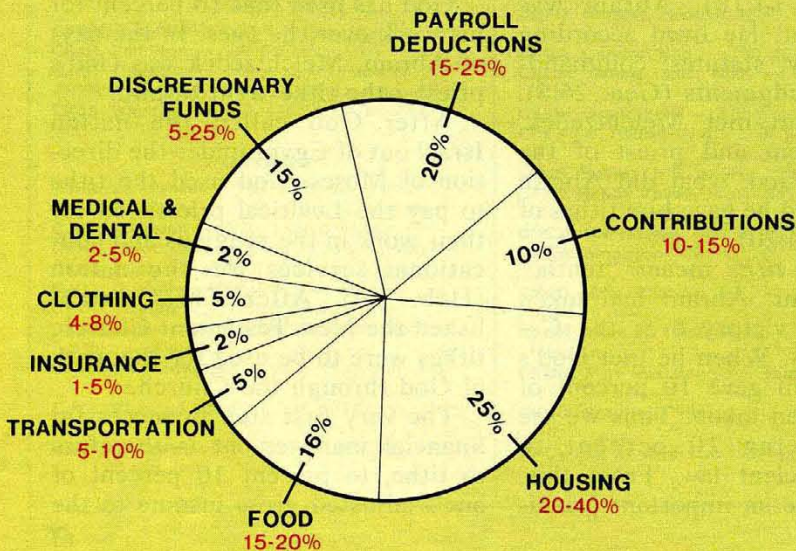
THREE MONTH SPENDING ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

		Month 1					Month 2					Month 3				
		Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Total	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Total	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Total
Payroll Deductions	Federal Tax															
	State/Prov. Tax															
	Social Sec./ Pension Fund															
	Other															
	Contributions															
Housing	Rent / Mortgage															
	Utilities / Telephone															
	Furnishings / Maintenance															
	Food															
Transportation	Car Payment															
	Fuel / Maintenance															
	Public Transportation															
	Insurance															
Insurance	Life/Health															
	Home / Auto															
Clothing																
Medical / Dental																
Discretionary Funds	Vacation / Travel															
	Recreation															
	Personal Allowance															
	Savings															
	Other															
	Other															
	Other															

A SAMPLE BUDGET

Flexible % Range Indicated in Red

After completing a three month analysis, you can fill in your own pie chart with your own family budget percentages.



SETTING UP YOUR MONEY PLAN

YOUR INCOME		YOUR OUTGO	
Salary, Husband	_____	Payroll Deductions	Insurance
Salary, Wife	_____	Taxes	Life
Interest Income	_____	Social Security	Health
Dividend Income	_____	Company Insur.	Homeowners/ Renters
Social Security or Disability Income	_____	Other Deduct.	Automobile
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	_____	Contributions	Clothing
Other Income (Rental Fees, etc.)	_____	Housing	Medical/Dental
Gifts	_____	Mortgage/Rent	Discretionary Funds
Withdrawals from Savings	_____	Utilities	Vacation/Travel
TOTAL INCOME	=====	Furnishings	Recreation
		Upkeep	Education
		Other	Savings
		Food	Gifts
		Transportation	Personal Allowances
		Fuel	Other
		Maintenance	TOTAL OUTGO
		Public Trans.	=====
		Car Payment	=====

NET WORTH STATEMENT

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Real Estate		Securities	Charge Accounts
Home	_____	Stocks	Credit Card Payments
Other Properties	_____	Bonds	Insurance Premiums
Personal Property		Government Securities	Other
Automobiles	_____	Mutual Funds	Taxes
Household Furnishings	_____	Gold/Silver	Federal Tax Due
Painting & Art	_____	Cash	State Tax Due
Furs	_____	Cash on Hand	Local Taxes
Jewelry	_____	Checking Account Balance	Property Tax
Clothing	_____	Savings Account	Taxes on Investments
Other	_____	Money Market Funds	Other Taxes
Long Term Assets		Cash Value of Life Insurance	Debts
Equity in a Business	_____	TOTAL ASSETS	Auto Loan
Life Insurance Cash Value	_____	=====	Education Loan
Annuities	_____		Home Improvement Loan
Pensions			Other Personal Loans
Vested Portion of a Company Plan	_____	Real Estate	TOTAL LIABILITIES
Other Vested Benefits	_____	Balance Owed on Home Mortgage	=====
IRA	_____	Balance Owed on Other Property	TOTAL ASSETS
Keogh	_____	Current Bills	=====
Other Long Term Assets	_____	Current Month's Mortgage/Rent	TOTAL LIABILITIES
		Utilities	=====
			NET WORTH
			=====

service of God. Once a person determines to step out in faith, he finds God has given a promise to those who obey him and practice tithing.

A Partnership with God

Notice it: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, 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" (Mal. 3:10). You see, tithing establishes you in partnership with God. If you provide for his work, God will see to it your needs are provided for. God will bless you and help you.

But, you must do your part. You must establish good work habits and practice good work ethics. These are essential ingredients to success in your employment. A person who trusts in God ought to be the best possible example of an employee or businessman. He should be industrious, dependable, hardworking.

By combining the principles of diligent work and faithfully trusting God, you establish the basis for steady employment and receive the benefit of God's special direction.

Tithing Teaches Budgeting

The word *budget* means proportioning your income into a series of categories. Think of it as a percentage of the money you have available. The first 10 percent of your increase is God's. The remaining 90 percent can now be allocated.

But how much and for what?

There are two categories into which you must divide your budget. The first area we will call **FIXED EXPENSES**. Fixed expenses are those that will come every month and will be about the same each month. Second, there are **VARIABLE EXPENSES**. You can also call these funds **DISCRETIONARY MONEYS**. These are expenses we will all have, but the amount we spend from month to month might vary considerably.

A fixed expense such as your monthly mortgage payment or rental payment will usually not significantly change. Other such fixed expenses will be cost of utilities—

especially heating costs in winter—telephone, food, household expenses and transportation.

After your tithes and offerings, there is a part of the budget over which you have little control: **TAXES**. The government has to function and has chosen to operate on a percentage of each wage earner's or businessman's income. In most nations taxes are withheld before you even receive your pay.

In addition to taxes, there are other funds that are withheld from your check. These include payment into a social welfare or social security fund, pension plans, required insurance, sometimes union dues and other smaller amounts. Since they are withheld, you have practically no control over them. But

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”

they must be calculated into your budget.

The three largest expenses most families incur are the cost of housing, the cost of food and in northern climates the cost of home heating. In some cases, there will be little left after these major items. Most families will find that food and housing will consume just more than half their budgetary allocation.

In our modern world, a majority of families purchase and operate at least one automobile as a principal means of transportation. Some families may be able to rely on public transportation such as buses or subway systems to provide a portion of their transportation needs. The transportation cost will also be a fairly fixed expense. A budget must be established for fuel and maintenance cost of an automobile

or for the fares for transportation.

Another fixed expense is insurance. Most families carry some form of life insurance, health and accident insurance, homeowners' or renters' insurance, and automobile insurance. In a number of nations, many of these insurance items are provided by the state and are part of the system of taxation one is charged in that nation. In other nations, insurance is a private matter and must be paid for separately. Many employers will provide insurance programs to employees and will at least cover life insurance as well as health and accident insurance. Once established, this area will be part of the fixed budgetary allocation of a family.

The variable expenses are simply what the name implies. There are a variety of budget areas that are determined by a family's needs and based upon the amount of money available for such variable expenses once the fixed expenses have been budgeted.

Variable expenses include the cost of clothing—certainly a necessity—but usually not allocated on a monthly basis. In addition there is expense for entertainment, recreation, vacation and travel, savings, gifts and personal allowances.

The accompanying pie chart will give you an idea how these expenses are broken down in an average or typical U.S. family.

Remember, your budget percentages may vary considerably from these. Once you determine how you're spending your money, use the blank pie chart to fill in your personal budgetary expenses. It will help you see how you compare to the average and will help you evaluate if you need to make changes.

Where Is It Going Now?

Before you can fill in your own chart, you have to know how you spend your income. Most of us have said more than one time, "I just don't know where it all goes." Or, "How come my outgo always exceeds my income?" Or, "I just can't seem to make ends meet."

The first thing you must do to manage successfully the 90 percent of your income after tithes is to

(Continued on page 29)

SOWING THE SEEDS OF HOPE

by Donald D. Schroeder

A bold and real step to teach the hungry world to produce its own food!

MAYBE YOU haven't heard about the winged bean.

You should have!

"It's a veritable backyard supermarket," exults a staff director of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. From top to bottom, it is almost all edible.

We know. Some *Plain Truth* staff members have enjoyed eating winged beans while assisting in expanding agricultural development in the Third World.

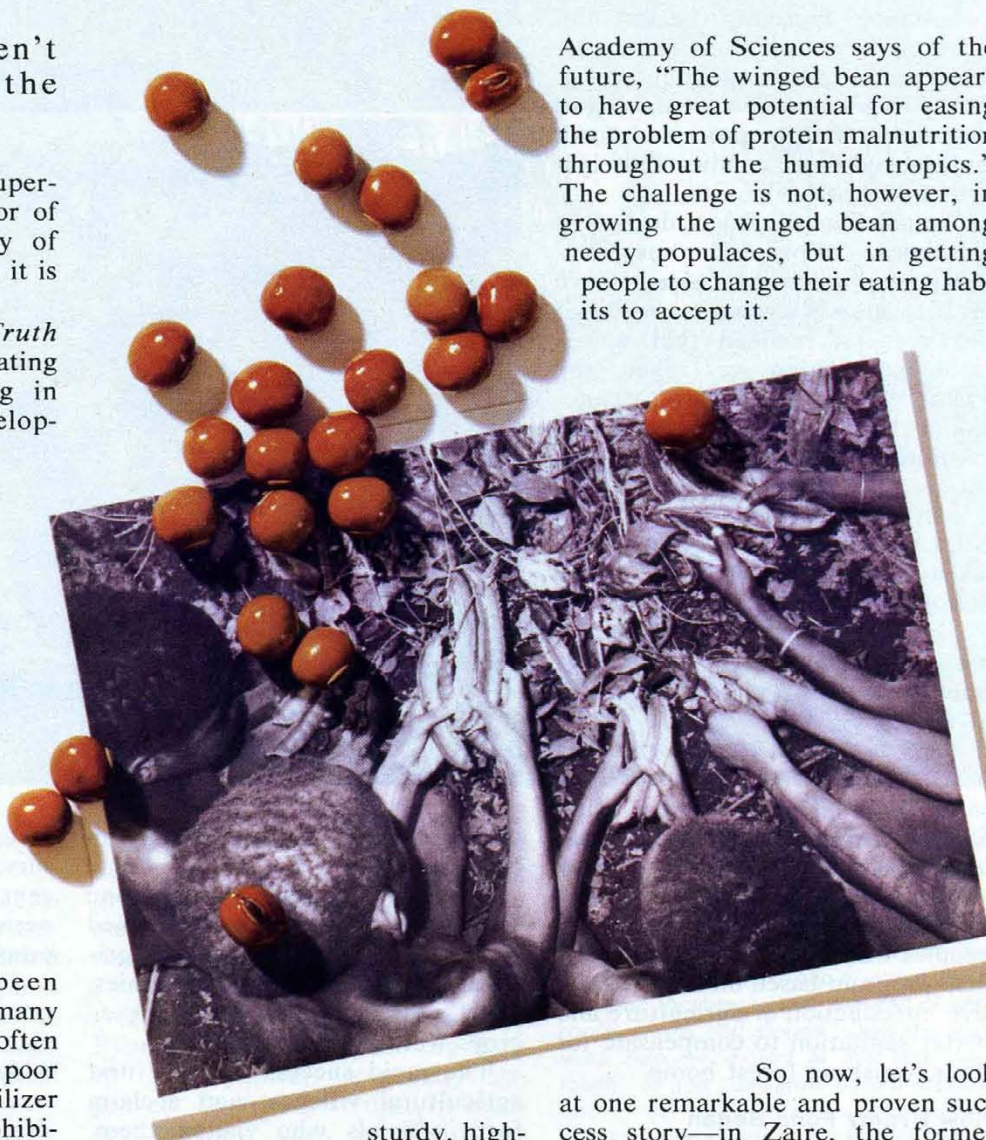
The pods make a succulent green vegetable that can be eaten almost every possible way. The leaves taste like spinach, the shoots are like asparagus and one can eat the flowers and tubers too. The seeds of the winged bean—called that because of the four winglike flanges on its pod—can be steamed or boiled.

Why Neglected

The winged bean has been neglected for development in many tropical areas because it has often been considered a peasant or poor man's food. Now, when fertilizer costs to boost yields soar prohibitively, these attitudes are changing.

As a legume, the winged bean converts its own nitrogen from the air. It needs little or no fertilizer and even enriches the soil in which it grows. Unwanted parts of the plant can be fed to livestock. It is a

Academy of Sciences says of the future, "The winged bean appears to have great potential for easing the problem of protein malnutrition throughout the humid tropics." The challenge is not, however, in growing the winged bean among needy populaces, but in getting people to change their eating habits to accept it.



sturdy, highly disease resistant vine that does not require great attention. And it grows well in rainy, tropical areas, as well as being able to survive droughts.

Experimental winged-bean plantings are now under way in around 60 countries. The National

So now, let's look at one remarkable and proven success story—in Zaire, the former Belgian Congo.

It is occurring in the Ituri forest among the Efé Pygmies. One would have thought a major development in winged-bean agriculture should have started among taller people with a tradition of agriculture. But then, valuable contribu-

tions often start small—and in this case among the smallest of people.

Before the Winged Bean

In the 1930s there were about 35,000 healthy, delightfully happy and expressive Efé Pygmy peoples.

By the mid-1950s, the pure-blooded Pygmy population was rapidly declining through destruction of their forest home. By 1960, the Efé Pygmy population had fallen to around 15,000 persons. Greedy loggers and encroaching neighboring tribes were depriving the Pygmies of their traditional nomadic patterns of supporting their lives. Many Pygmies were succumbing to diseases from the processed food, unbalanced diets, candies and cigarettes offered by tourists.

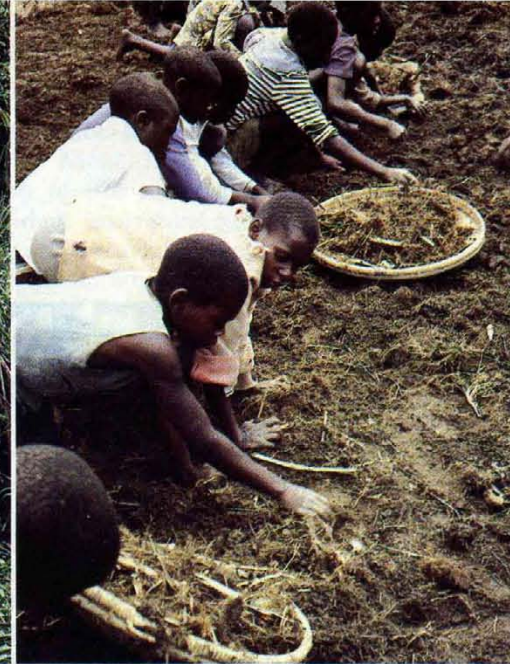
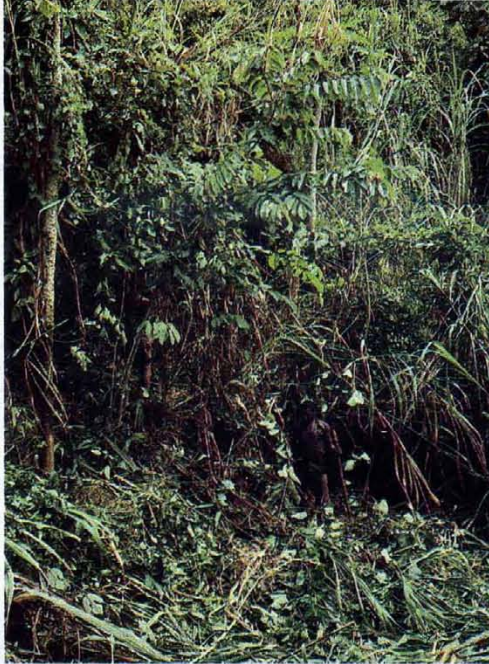
Appalled at the tragic decline of these peaceful peoples, a bush sociologist and agronomist, Jean-Pierre Hallet, already known by many of our readers, realized that unless immediate action was taken, the Pygmies were menaced by extinction. If he were truly to help he had to thoroughly understand their traditions, values and feelings.

Mr. Hallet left civilization and lived with unspoiled Pygmies in the heart of the Ituri forest for a year and a half, learning to respect the Pygmy culture with its values and wisdom—values that led the Pygmies to adopt remarkably peaceful giving and sharing ways.

Yet Mr. Hallet knew their unique life-style would not be the same again. The new ways being forced on many would quickly not only doom the race but destroy their precious cultural identity. The only realistic way to save these peoples was through a feasible self-help program based on the progressive introduction of agriculture and better sanitation to compensate for their vanishing forest home.

How Pygmy Fund Began

What the Pygmies most needed were not alms-givers but teachers—practical, unsentimental teachers to guide them. They needed to develop their own economy shaped to their psychological and physiological requirements. They needed recognition of their



BOTTOM RIGHT: BERNARD HALLET. ALL OTHERS: JEAN-PIERRE HALLET.

usefulness and dignity as human beings.

Starting in 1957, within one year's time Mr. Hallet established 18 successful *paysannats*, or agricultural villages, for the Pygmies. Land was cleared; specially chosen crops were planted and grown.

The rapid success of these first agricultural villages won acclaim from officials who visited them. Then in 1960 political independence came to the Belgian Congo. Chaos ensued.

Mr. Hallet did not give up. He gave lectures abroad about rescuing the Pygmies. But despite his efforts and personal help, by the end of 1974, the Efé population had plum-

meted to less than 4,000. These surviving few were about 10 percent of the 1935 population and perhaps only 1 percent of their number in 1825.

To generate the imperatively needed financial help Mr. Hallet established the Pygmy Fund. Aided by this new support, Hallet was able by 1975 to again organize simple, locally geared agriculture among the Efé Pygmies.

They were taught to cultivate banana trees and manioc (cassava), peanuts, sweet potatoes and rice. The Fund provided resources for the purchase of simple tools that the smaller-statured Pygmies could handle. They learned about select-



ing better seeds and were taught crop rotation.

With continuing encouragement, including that of *Plain Truth* readers, Hallet progressively added more tools, better seeds and plant cuttings. And he has worked to improve relationships between local administration, traditional, political and military authorities.

Exciting Bold Step— the Winged Bean

In the summer of 1981 Jean-Pierre Hallet introduced the winged bean among the Pygmies. The Efé Pygmies are now healthier, happier and more prosperous than ever. Their spirit is sky high!

April 1983

Their population is now a little more than 4,500. They are taking great strides toward *real* self-sufficiency, and could now, with continuing help, achieve it as early as 1985.

The relationship between the Pygmies and the neighboring Bantu (non-Pygmies) is greatly improved. For the first time in modern history, they work in the winged-bean gardens and eat and drink side by side in amazing cooperation, peace and harmony.

The world has received an important lesson on how to really help people help themselves—with dignity!

The winged bean—the “high

THE WORLD'S FIRST GIANT PLANTATION of winged beans . . . among the Pygmies! To give readers an idea of how it all developed: Upper left, a heavily foliated terrain in the Ituri forest is selected and cleared. Then a group of young villagers (non-Pygmies) clear the soil of little roots, stems and stones, while the Pygmies become expert in the last “fine touch” of hoe cultivation before staking, above. As staking nears completion, winged-bean seeds are planted. Young shoots burst through the soil cover.

protein crop of the future”—remains, unfortunately, after many years of research, still no more than a “backyard legume” in the numerous countries where it grows. But Hallet, quick to sense the legume’s

worth, boldly stepped out so the Pygmies could be one of the first people to reap the benefits of this tropical wonder plant that is high in quality protein, oil, vitamins and minerals.

In order to be able to introduce effectively the winged bean in the Ituri forest, Hallet requested from *each* of over 12 major sources, mostly in Asia, 150 kilograms (330 pounds) of seeds to be sent to him. The total received was only 152 kilograms.

Hallet could not risk scattering such precious generative capital all over the forest. He decided to plant practically all the available seeds in a single chosen area as a seed production field and to have hundreds of people—Pygmies and non-Pygmies—participating through all phases of the work.

Developing the Plantation

Gathering of all the tools, materials and labor at the right time was no small task. Here, for those of you who have some knowledge of gardening, is the equipment needed to plant this winged-bean large-scale multiplication field. The area—measuring 118 meters (387 feet) by 300 meters (984 feet)—required:

- 6,359 horizontal rods, 10.8 ft. × 2.5 in. thick
- 6,509 vertical poles, 7.5 ft. × 3 to 4 in. thick
- 95,390 lateral stakes, 8.2 ft. × 1 to 2 in. thick.

That's a total of 108,258 "sticks," totaling more than 170 miles in length, if put end to end. In addition, 51 miles of rope (twine) to secure 47,697 junctures where stakes must be tied, was required. And 19,000 nails to secure some 12 miles of horizontal rods.

Next came the human labor. The cutting down of the bushes, the cleaning up of the ground, the plowing (without plows), the measuring, the digging of drainage ditches. The elaborate building of the framework to support the stakes, the staking, the last manuring of the soil and the all-important sowing—two seeds every 8 inches.

In the first major season of growth, in 1982, approximately

380,000 winged beans were cultivated by the Pygmies and Bantu with a standard yield of about 18 TONS of seeds and about 36 tons of tubers.

In addition to the intensely cultivated field for seed production, another plot was devoted to further testing of 22 different varieties of winged beans coming from six different countries.

Success of the winged-bean project among the Efé will be shared with other organizations devoted to similar causes.

Helping Others to Help Themselves

This winged-bean realization is a bold and practical example of how *true self-sufficiency* CAN be achieved by any endangered peoples. The on-going success pro-

gram, as in all farming efforts, will depend upon many unpredictable factors—weather, water supplies, disease and animal problems—and in Zaire, local political and racial relationships.

This remarkable achievement of the Pygmy Fund is proof that sound and successful agriculture is the most essential factor in positive people (and dignity!) building.

The untiring love, dedication and efforts of many—especially Jean-Pierre Hallet—to save the Pygmies illustrate the principles for which *The Plain Truth* stands, and give insight into what helping others to help themselves will be like in the promising world tomorrow!

That is why we regularly update our readers on this unique effort.

The Pygmy Fund address is: Box 277, Malibu, CA 90265. □

Coming:

The Wonderful

World Tomorrow

Why should it sound so incredible? The Bible paints a wholly positive picture about the government, science, arts and the social order of the future. You can read about it in our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*. For your copy, mail the card or write to the *Plain Truth* office nearest you.



FINANCES

(Continued from page 24)

know where it all goes. Many families simply do not know.

If you are not now aware of how you spend your money, you have to come to grips with where it's going.

Finding out how you spend your money is going to take a little work and effort. But it can be fun. Involve the whole family in the project. A husband and a wife sitting down together with the children will draw the whole family together. Husbands and wives will understand each other's needs and the children will understand much more when you say, "We simply can't afford it."

The Three-Month Analysis

Now, you are ready to start your own personal budget analysis. Use the next three months to analyze your outgo. The work involved is well worth the effort.

This means keeping records of where your money goes. We've produced an outline that will help you keep track of your expenses over the three months. If possible, have photocopies made of this page so you can experiment with the best means of keeping your own records. You will find during the three-month analysis you will be making changes in the way you spend your money.

There are two major ways to keep track of your expenses. Choose the one that best suits your family's needs. One efficient way to keep track of expenses is to write a check for almost all items in your budget. Many banks today offer free checking services or at least offer low-cost monthly service charge accounts. By writing a check, you will have a written record in your check register and you will have a canceled check that you receive back from your bank. Be sure you write in your check register as well as on your check what the expense is for. By keeping track of the budget categories such as we recommend on the accompanying chart, you will be able to see where your money is going.

Of course, checking accounts are

not the only way to keep records. Many families may prefer not to write so many checks or to even retain a checking account at all. If this is the case, a record book or a notebook will be helpful in keeping track of how you spend cash. It is going to require special effort by all members of the family to write down to whom all expenditures are made.

It is amazing what you will discover when you start keeping this kind of budgetary record—you find where the money really goes. Many families find they are spending far too much in some areas and perhaps not enough in others. Some will be eating out too much. Others will find they are spending too much on recreation. Others will

“
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to plan for your future
is to establish sound
budgeting principles
here and now Then,
you must establish
some realistic goals for
the future.
”

find the transportation car is costing too much in repairs. You will discover these things simply by writing it all down and adding it up at the end of each month.

After the first month, you will have a good idea of where all your money is going. During the second month, you will see where you might make changes and adjustments. During the third month, you can experiment with these changes. By the end of three months you should have an idea of what kind of a budget you would like to set up in permanent form.

Don't let yourself get discouraged during this three-month analysis. Once you have established your budget, you probably will not need to keep nearly so detailed a record as you did during this first three months. But many families give up and quit during the budget

analysis period and never really get a grip on their personal finances.

No matter which way you choose to keep track of your expenditures—you must find out where your money is going. And during the three-month analysis, be detailed. For example, if you give cash to one of your children for a movie, be sure you allocate it to its proper budgetary area—entertainment. You don't want to have too much money going out into unaccounted-for, miscellaneous cash. You have to keep track of the flow.

At first it may seem a bother to bring home the receipts and keep records of purchases from the grocery store, the hardware store or of postage stamps you bought. But it will later yield good fruit when you analyze where it all goes.

And bringing home receipts can have a double benefit. Not only will it keep track of your budget, you will have a receipt in case you need it to exchange an item or have repairs made. How many times have you found you could not find a receipt when you needed it most? If you have a standard place where you put all your receipts, they will always be available. You don't have to set up a complicated filing system. A shoe box will do quite well. Perhaps a special drawer in the kitchen or bedroom will serve the purpose. Of course, you can set up a very detailed accounting and records system if you desire.

Sticking to Your Budget

After three months you will have a fairly good idea of exactly what you have been spending and how you ought to spend your money. If your family project has been successful, each member of the family will understand his or her individual responsibility in guiding the family to financial success.

There will be many temptations to vary from the budget you establish. In most cases, you will have to make up your mind you simply will not be able to vary from the established budget you set up.

Of course how much you have in the various budget areas will depend on your outgo and the cost of living in your region. If you find your variable expenses have enough budget allocation, you will have

what we call "discretionary" funds available for a limited variety of personal expenses. Sending the children to summer camp, buying a new television set or increasing the children's allowance are all nice if we can afford them. But if they cannot be afforded, these kind of expenses can be foolish expenses and plunge families into deep financial debt.

So don't let anything deter you from your goal of successful family budgeting.

Finding Your Financial Worth

As the years go by, it's surprising how much value can be built up in an average family. If you've purchased a home, furniture, an automobile, jewelry and other items of permanent value, you will find you have established a net worth considerably more than you might at first think. Perhaps you have a savings account, value in a retirement or annuity plan, stocks investments or cash value that is built in life insurance. While you may be struggling to make ends meet, you may also find you have been accruing a personal worth in excess of your own expectations.

In order to establish future financial goals, you should know where you presently stand. You must get control of your budget. A major reason to get control of your budget now is to be able to control expenses and to establish future financial goals.

So how much are you worth? Another chart we have produced will help you determine your net worth. Gather your records together and fill out the chart. It may surprise you how much—or how little—value you have. In order to properly fill in the blanks, you may have to have an updated appraisal made on your home or properties you own. You can estimate the value of your automobile by looking in the classified pages of your newspaper to see what similar cars are selling for. By visiting a furniture store you can see how much your furniture may be worth or what it would cost to replace at today's value.

You should have easy access to the balance in your savings account and other financial investments you may have made. Your insurance

agent can let you know the cash value you may have built in an insurance plan.

To figure your net worth, add up your assets and subtract from them all the liabilities. The bottom line is how much you are worth financially.

Planning Your Financial Future

Where do we go from here?

That depends on where you find yourself now. The three-month analysis accompanied by your statement of net worth will help you see where you must now place your financial priorities. If you have found yourself deep in debt, your goal will be, obviously, to get out of debt.

If, on the other hand, you have found yourself in fairly secure financial position, you will want to

establish some priority goals for the future.

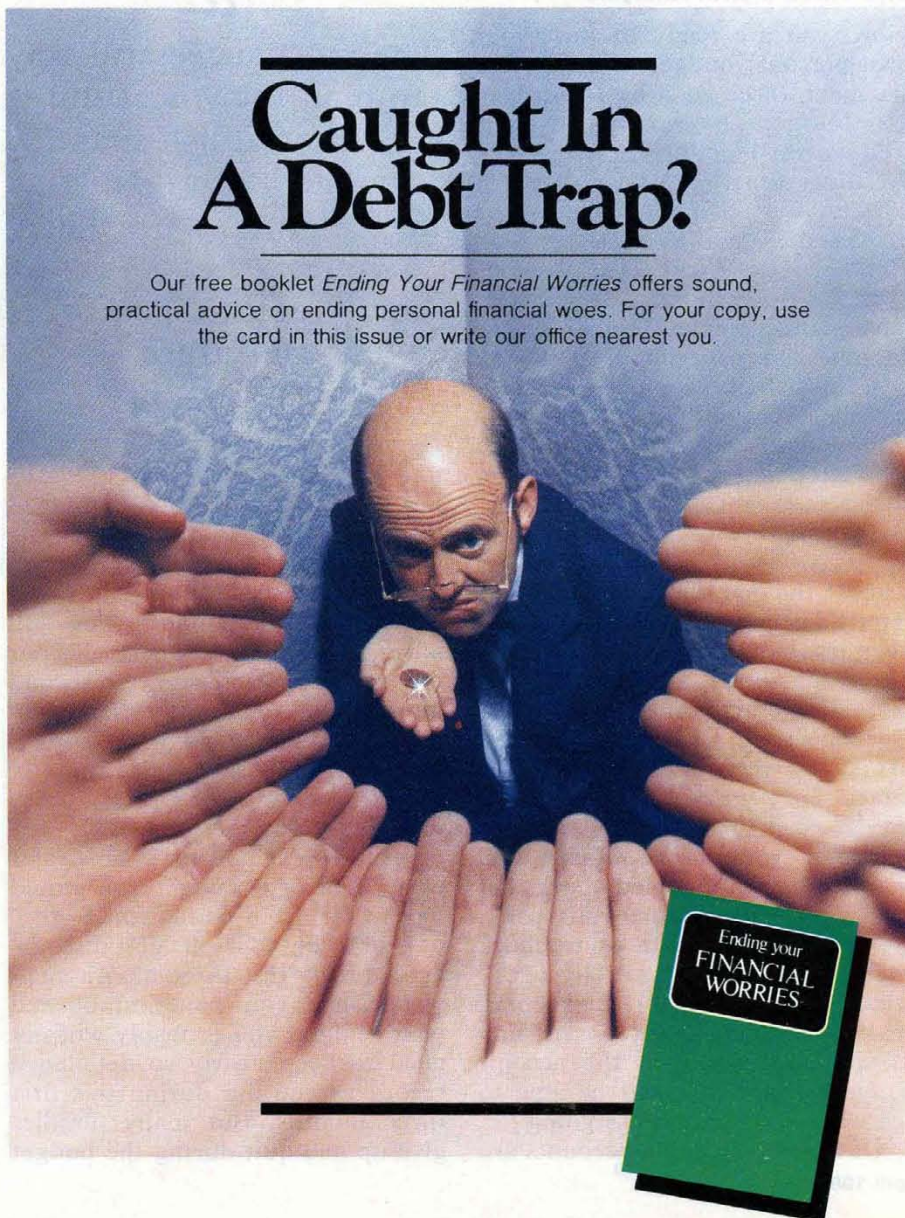
Depending on your circumstances, those goals might include any of the following: the purchase of a home, college education for the children, planning for retirement, care for aged parents or for future additions to your own family. Those goals obviously will vary from family to family.

But the most successful way to plan for your future is to establish sound budgeting principles here and now. You must get yourself out of debt if you are in debt. Then, you must establish some realistic goals for the future.

The best goal of all will be to establish your partnership with God and the self-determination to know how to budget your income. □

Caught In A Debt Trap?

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CAMEROON

Not Just Another Country!

by John Halford

I don't suppose most *Plain Truth* readers know very much about the Cameroon Republic, or even know where it is. If they do, they probably think of it as being just another country somewhere in Africa. But there is something about this West African nation that sets it apart.

In a region where progress is often measured by how far things haven't gone backward, the Cameroon Republic has been quietly solving the problems of nationhood.

Since it became an independent nation, Cameroon has followed a path of common sense and realism. I asked an American government official who had served in that country to describe it in one word. He thought for a moment and then said, "Humility." Humility—that's a strange way to sum up a country. But in the Cameroon's case, it fits.

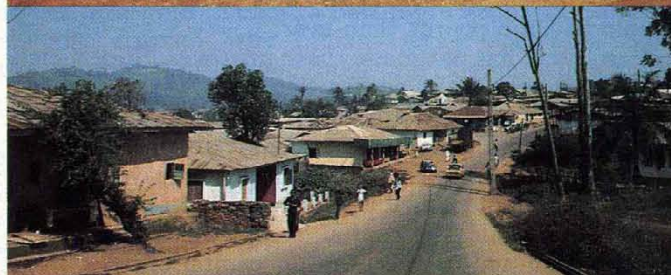
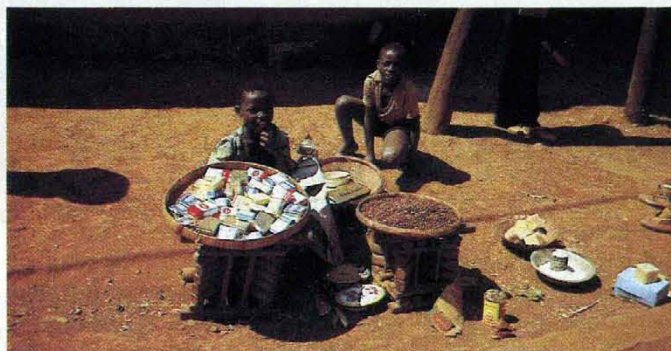
You will find the Cameroon Republic in West Africa, right underneath the bulge. It is about the same size as California, and has a population of about eight million. The name *Cameroon*, incidentally, comes from the Portuguese word for prawn. The Portuguese explorer Fernando Po was astonished at the number of prawns in the rivers and offshore waters. So, not very imaginatively, he named the area Rio dos Camarões (River of Prawns).

At first impression, the country does indeed seem like a typical Third World nation. An elaborate visa uses up two pages of your passport, and upon arrival there is the usual airport hassle. The officials are not beyond receiving a little financial token in exchange for speeding things along. And once in the country, everyone seems concerned about your taking photographs of anything that might be considered government property. (I was politely asked by a policeman not to take a picture that included a mailbox.) But the visitor should not be deterred—Cameroon is not a totalitarian state where one travels in fear. You will feel and you will be welcome.

Cameroon is one of the most stable countries in Africa. The first president, Ahmadou Ahidjo, remained democratically in power longer than any

other elective African head of state—nearly 25 years. He resigned recently, voluntarily, in favor of the prime minister, Paul Biya. Such an orderly transfer of power is unusual on a continent that is more used to changing governments by coup d'état, civil war, assassination or military takeover.

Cameroon is by no means a rich country. Like most African states, it has a long way to go before it reaches its full potential. It has some built-in handicaps. Until

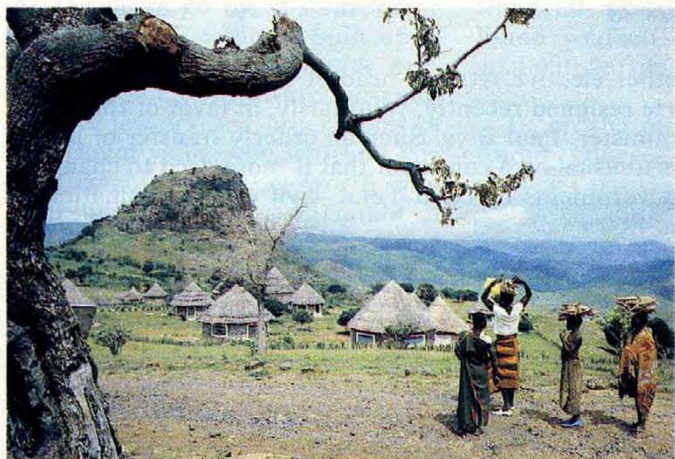


1918, the area was a German colony. After the First World War the Cameroon territory was divided between France and Britain. Then in the rush of African independence in the late fifties and early sixties, the United Republic of Cameroon was formed from the ex-British and French colonies.

At first the Republic was anything but united. Four fifths of the population were French speaking and accustomed to French administration. The remaining 20 percent, who lived mainly in the Southwest, were familiar with the British colonial systems. To complicate matters further, the north of the country was

Moslem and the south, Christian. Add to this that the population was subdivided into nearly 300 different tribal groups, and you have all the makings of an international basket case.

It is to Mr. Ahidjo's credit that he led his country cautiously and fairly toward a greater unity. He realized that a strong and prosperous country could not be built in a day. The new nation was not permitted "pie-in-the-sky" delusions of grandeur. Upon taking office Mr. Ahidjo firmly announced that his nation would not be embarking on any wild ventures. He realized that with independence should come a sense of responsibility. All too often, inexperienced and/or irresponsible leaders try to prove that their country has "come of age" by grandiose projects that they don't



need and can't afford . . . five-star hotels to impress the trickle of visitors . . . six-lane highways that lead nowhere, or a color television service before most of the people even have radios. Or, worse still, full-scale industrialization is started before an adequate pool of trained manpower is available, or a transportation and distribution system established. Foreign capital and precious assets are frittered away in vanity, and the people become poorer than ever.

Cameroon has not made these mistakes. Superficially, the country looks poorer than it is. As of my last visit, there was still no national television service (although one is planned when technicians are trained). The main trunk roads are still largely unpaved. There is a slow but dependable rail service between main centers. Yaoundé, the capital, is a pleasant town, lacking the flash and dazzle of other capital cities.

By resisting the path of self-aggrandizement Cameroon has conserved her real wealth. This, of course, is her land and her people. Instead of driving themselves to the edge of bankruptcy through ill-conceived industrial extravaganzas, the Cameroonians have kept agriculture as the basis of the national economy. The government has understood the value of maintaining the right relationship between the farmer and his land. Although there are large plantations, full support is also given to the small planter. Many own freehold title to their property. Some major nations could learn a lesson from this. If people have the pride of ownership, they produce better and more. Also, they tend to

stay with their land during tough times. Cameroon's few large towns and cities are not crowded with dispossessed farmers. The nation has the lowest rate of urbanization in Africa. The great majority of its people still work on the land.

The smaller farmer is recognized and respected as the backbone of the economy. No unnecessary restrictions are put on him, and he can expect help when, through no fault of his own, prices for his products fall. The nation is one of the few that are self-sufficient in food and energy. And—unusual for a Third World nation—food production is rising faster than the population. The people may not have much cash, but they are not hungry.

Because of their investment in agriculture, the Cameroonians have been able to make a constructive and humane gesture to 40,000 or so refugees who have fled from the civil war in neighboring Chad. The government has offered free land in the underpopulated north of the country, if the refugees will take up coffee production—Cameroon's chief export.

One can see why "humility" is a fair description of the Cameroon Republic. The nation has resisted the trend to get rich quick and become something they are not—while others around them took off on flights of fancy. (The prime example was the short-lived Central African Empire whose now deposed "emperor" spent vast amounts of his impoverished country's assets on a lavish coronation that rivaled Napoleon's.)

Still, Cameroon's leaders understood at the time of independence that the country could not prosper in the modern world if it remained totally agricultural. Fortunately, there are other resources available for development. But not in a headlong rush for industrialization, and not by mortgaging the future by becoming dependent on foreign aid. While accepting some outside assistance, President Ahidjo told his people: "All our investment needs cannot be satisfied by external aid. *We can only profit from what costs us something.*" He also cautioned them, "Industrialization is not an end in itself."

These were sensible words, and they were followed up with equally sensible policies. The government was aware of the danger of dependency on imported oil. Instead, the hydroelectric potential of the rivers is being harnessed, supplying much of the still modest energy needs. Consequently, the nation is a net oil exporter—not yet in the big leagues, but the future looks bright, if a territorial dispute with Nigeria can be solved. There are also healthy reserves of aluminum, natural gas, iron ore and coal. There is also the possibility of deposits of precious metals.

After two decades of independence, Cameroon still has many problems to solve. Education is a priority. Most of the people are still illiterate, and there is a great shortage of skilled labor. The Cameroonians kept a sound and friendly relationship with the old colonial countries—especially France. There is no false sense of pride about asking for the help that is needed if it can be afforded without losing national dignity.

It is a fact of life today that nearly all the nations of Black Africa have serious (Continued on page 40)

JAN BERRY—MAGNUM

NOSTRADAMUS

Are His Predictions Accurate?

by Michael A. Snyder

Did this 16th century
psychic map out the future of this century?

THE SUMMER of 1981 witnessed a strange sequence of events in Europe. Earlier that spring, against a Western tide of political conservatism, a socialist swept into power in France. Then came the near assassination of a Pope. And to the surprise of many, riots erupted in England.

Unrelated events? At first glance, it would seem so.

But a new translation of a medieval book of prophecy *rocked* Europe when it appeared to predict the above three events nearly four centuries in advance.

"Roman Pope do not approach the city in which the two rivers bathe," reads an English translation of the obscure French writings of the 16th-century medical doctor Michel de Nostredame—better known as Nostradamus. "Your blood and that of your followers will flow near this place when the rose will flower."

Mysterious Poetry

This verse is from Nostradamus' 16th-century book *The True Centuries*—a book divided into 10 sections of about 100 verses or quatrains. This particular verse is number 97 from book II.

At first, these words would appear to be a meaningless jumble. But M. Jean-Charles de Fontbrune (a pseudonym), a French pharmaceutical executive, claims to have interpreted the "rose" in the latter part of the verse. He shocked Europe by claiming it as the party

symbol of French President Francois Mitterrand. During the 1980-81 French campaign, President Mitterrand would often hold aloft a freshly cut rose as the symbol of forthcoming prosperity.

But so, too, did West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt earlier hold up a rose at his party's last victory!

The flowering of the French political rose occurred less than a year before Pope John Paul II was shot while greeting well-wishers in a public square in Vatican City near the two mouths of the Tiber river. A number of Catholics who strained to glimpse their religious leader also fell under the sharp gunfire from the assassin. The "blood . . . of your followers," it is said, was fulfilled in this deed.

Elsewhere in Nostradamus' obscure, crabbed writings runs the theme of violence in England. When riots unexpectedly erupted in Liverpool in the summer of 1981, some added these verses to the prediction.

Mere coincidence?

Not so, thought thousands as they gobbled up more than 700,000 copies of the new computer-enhanced translation and interpretation of Nostradamus' *True Centuries*.

To achieve this impact on his readers, Mr. de Fontbrune had taken several of the quatrains once ascribed to other Popes and political leaders and reassigned them. Even the verse (II, 97) that supposedly now predicted John Paul's gun wound was earlier thought to describe the death of Pope Pius VI at Valence, France, in 1799.

But the new translation, *Nos-*

tradamus: Historien et Prophète (in English, *Nostradamus: Historian and Prophet*), spawned widespread anxiety, to the point where Mr. de Fontbrune later publicly lamented, "I am frightened by the panic that my book on Nostradamus has unleashed on France."

National Anxiety

Why such panic? Because the 565-page translation—of material written in a curious mixture of Latin, Italian, Greek, a southeastern French dialect and classical French, which must be *translated* even into modern French—indicates that more than two thirds of Nostradamus' 1,050 quatrains reflect grisly events scheduled to come in *this* century.

As interpreted by various individuals, Nostradamus is thought to predict that before this century ends, a blazing meteor will fall into the Indian Ocean, spawning awesome tidal waves that will engulf most of southern Asia and Australia (I, 69); the United States and Soviet Union will unite in an awesome economic and military alliance (VI, 21); a dark Arabic prince will arise and plunge the world into nuclear, chemical and biological warfare, beginning in the Middle East (V, 25, 78; VI, 80); and Europe will collapse under the ensuing onslaught, with few to survive past A.D. 1999.

The result of Nostradamus' book?

A leading French newsweekly declared editorially: "Fear is becoming a market. One hundred days after having brought Mitterrand to power, our citizens are paying \$20 a copy [for Mr. de Fontbrune's

What Hidden Sources Did Nostradamus Consult?

The poetic quatrains of Michel de Nostredame's *True Centuries* have been a best-seller for more than 400 years.

Oxford scholar Erika Cheetham claims that "Nostradamus [Michel de Nostredame's popular name] is probably the only author who could claim that his work has never been out of print for over four hundred years, apart from the Bible. The interest he generates is extraordinary" (*The Prophecies of Nostradamus*, page 12).

The chief reason for this popularity is that Nostradamus' quatrains written in 1555 appear to contain remarkably accurate predictions.

In book IX, verses 20 and 34, Nostradamus wrote of French king Louis XVI's flight to Varennes, France, nearly 150 years before the fact. In book II, verse 51, he appears to predict the Great Fire of London of 1666.

Also, in several verses, he appears to predict the careers of Napoleon (I, 23, 59-60; III, 35; IV, 37, 54; VIII,

57) and Adolf Hitler (III, 35, 58; V, 29; VI, 50-51; IX, 90).

How can this be explained? It is 95 percent explained by the fact that most students of Nostradamus assign events to the obscure writings *after* they occur!

Nostradamus chose to intentionally obscure his writings in a curious poetic mixture of classical French, Latin, Greek, Italian and other European languages. He claimed it was for his protection.

In his Epistle to French King Henry II, Nostradamus wrote: "Had I wished to give every quatrain its detailed date, it could easily have been done, but it would not have been agreeable to all, and still less to interpret them, Sire, until your majesty should have fully sanctioned me to do this, in order not to furnish calumniators [false accusers] with an opportunity to injure me."

Despite these evasive comments, Nostradamus, scholars say, does appear to have made some accurate predictions. How

was he able to foretell specific fragments of the future?

Visions of the Future?

Nostradamus presents what he asserts was his chief method of divination in the opening quatrains of book I:

"Sitting alone at night in secret study; it [a bowl of water] is placed on the brass tripod. A slight flame comes out of the emptiness. . . .

"The wand in the hand is placed in the middle of the tripod's legs. With water he sprinkles both the hem of his garment and his foot. A voice, fear, he [Nostradamus] trembles in his robes. Divine splendour; *the god sits nearby*" (book I, verses 1-2, Cheetham trans., emphasis added).

Nostradamus also employed other methods of the occult. He had an extensive occult library, which he later burned. In the preface of his book, dedicated to his son (*Preface a mon fils*), he wrote of this extensive library: "Dreading what

might happen in the future, after reading them [the occult books], I presented them to Vulcan [a pagan Roman god of fire], and as the fire kindled them, the flame . . . shot forth an unaccustomed brightness, clearer than the light is of natural flame, resembling more the explosion of powder, casting a subtle illumination over the house."

What *was* the source of Nostradamus' predictions? Rene Noorbergen, the author of a book explaining *True Centuries*, explains: "Whether the majority of his visions came . . . from psychic inspiration, necromancy, tarot cards or a refined form of witchcraft, we will probably never learn. We might conclude, however, that *his hidden source* knew much of the course history would take, and possibly had the power to control or at least influence some of the major future historical developments"

(*Nostradamus Predicts the End of the World*, pages 3-4, emphasis added).

What hidden source?

A Serious Warning

A far more authoritative ancient volume, which

book] to shudder in horror."

In almost a mirror image of the 1981 panic from Nostradamus' predictions, the late 1800s similarly saw France frozen in fear of seemingly prophesied upheaval. An exciting interpretation of Nostradamus insisted that the Bourbon line of kings would be restored to the French throne. The interpretation was wrong and failed to appear.

Is it possible to know the future? Some turn to the writings of Nostradamus. Others to I Ching coins and various alternatives for clues to what the future holds.

But what criteria should be applied to determine whether such sources are in fact reliable? Would you put your faith in Nostradamus?

Notice how Nostradamus himself claimed to have received his information.

In the first two quatrains of *True Centuries*, Nostradamus reveals that he would gaze into a bowl of water supported on a tripod. From there he would lapse into a trance, later recovering to write what he insists he saw. In addition to the visions, Nostradamus employed astrology and attempted to contact the dead. In the preface to *True Centuries*, which was dedicated to his son, Nostradamus claimed all of his visions came from the Creator God who is revealed in the ancient writings today known as the Holy Bible. While lamely admitting

that the Bible condemns all of the means he used to obtain his visions, he asserted "we have to exempt from this [biblical] judgment Judicial Astrology."

Scholars also note that the bowl of water method used by Nostradamus was originated centuries earlier by the 4th century A.D. neo-Platonist Iamblichus. His book *De Mysteris Egyptorum (The Mysteries of Egypt)*, detailing these methods and published in A.D. 1547, almost certainly was read by Nostradamus.

The simple fact that Nostradamus used means of foretelling forbidden in the Holy Bible *proves* the Creator God has nothing to do with these prophecies.

precedes Nostradamus by many centuries, *warns* against this type of consultation. The Holy Bible, a source often overlooked, reveals the existence of a hidden dimension—a dimension inhabited by spirit beings.

In charge of the world of spirits stand God the Father, Jesus Christ and an innumerable company of powerful angels. In opposition—and permitted to influence the minds of mortal humans—the Bible reveals a group of miserable, cunning, competitive spirit beings led by a spirit known in the Bible as Adversary or Satan.

The apostle Paul identifies Satan as “the *god* of this age” (II Cor. 4:4, RAV). Compare this with Nostradamus’ quatrain saying that “the god sits nearby”—a being Nostradamus thought to be the Holy Spirit of God.

But what the Holy Spirit of God *does* reveal in the Bible is a world of spirit beings—today known as demons—who attempt to declare the future through willing humans! Take the example recorded in Acts 16:16: “Now it happened . . . that a certain

slave girl *possessed with a spirit of divination* met us, who brought her masters much profit by *fortune-telling*” (RAV).

We are commanded: “Give *no regard* to mediums and familiar spirits; *do not seek after them*, to be *defiled* by them: I am the Lord your God” (Lev. 19:31, RAV).

Few realize that demons are committed to the spiritual destruction of mankind! They are unalterably opposed to God’s way of life and to man’s incredible potential—that of literally becoming the sons of God! The Bible reveals that God has adopted a basic hands-off policy in human affairs for a period of 6,000 years. The first human beings wanted it that way! They didn’t want God telling them how to direct their lives. God only intervenes now as it suits his divine purpose for man.

Equally, few understand that God now permits Satan and his demons some freedom to *influence* and control, in varying degree, human events (Job 1:6-12).

You had better understand this! God reveals that Satan

and his demons regard themselves under *no* obligation to speak truth! God marks Satan as the *father of lies* (John 8:44). The Bible reveals that God allows “*lying spirits*” to possess those who proclaim themselves prophets (I.Kings 22:23).

Their *modus operandi* is usually, as in Nostradamus’ case, to predict certain small instances to occur in the future.

As soon as they’ve established a measure of credibility, they immediately put forth confusing prophecies intentionally difficult to understand that *lead away* from God’s revealed purpose.

The Costs of the Occult

Latest available figures show that multiple *millions* are spent on divination, astrology and other occult material.

In France, divination has been officially banned for more than a century. In this homeland of Nostradamus, in 1945 the official penalty was increased for habitual offenders of this prohibition to eight days imprisonment.

Yet, according to the French National Institute of Statistics, more than

100,000 Parisians regularly consult more than 6,000 astrologers! The same bureau said that more than 34,000 fortune-tellers receive more than the equivalent of \$120 million annually for their services!

This is an incredibly costly practice—regardless of where it occurs.

But this practice is particularly dangerous in Europe, where people are looking for urgent answers—where the ever-present danger of war hovers malevolently. Little wonder people grasp whatever clues they can find to the future.

Happily, the future of the whole world of humanity is authoritatively revealed in the Bible. Pick up a copy and *read* it!

We have two free booklets that you need to read. Write immediately for free copies of the booklets, *Why Were you Born?* and *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*. This literature is free of charge and writing for it involves no further obligation. We offer it free in the public interest.

There *is* real truth available in this confused world. God help you to understand it!

What does God command? “Give *no regard* to mediums and familiar spirits . . .” (Lev. 19:31, RAV).

So we see that Nostradamus’ claims to divine assistance in his divination are *false* claims.

Testing and Proving

The other major criticism of Nostradamus is that his predictions are impossible to interpret accurately until *after* the event has passed!

One author of a Nostradamus interpretation admits: “As far as is known, Nostradamus did not leave a ‘key’ to his predictions. If he did, it has certainly been lost. . . . The need of having to interpret his predictions without the help of such an

aid has led to some curious and widely varied versions of his quatrains.”

Further, many of Nostradamus’ predictions are simply *wrong*!

In 1564, almost a decade after the first published edition of *True Centuries*, Nostradamus predicted a full life of 90 years for French king Charles IX. The king died a mere 10 years later at the young age of 24.

In book VI, verse 62, of *True Centuries*, Nostradamus predicted a 16th-century Italian league against France. It never materialized.

Twentieth-century editions of *True Centuries* for the most part conveniently leave out the preface,

which among other inaccurate prophecies, predicts: “From the time I am writing this [in 1555], before 177 years, 3 months and 11 days, by pestilence, long famine and wars . . . the world between this day . . . shall be diminished and its population so reduced that there will hardly be hands enough to attend to agriculture.”

Any history student knows that 177 years later in 1732, Europe—far from being diminished—was busy colonizing and developing vast empires.

Only a few decades later, the Industrial Revolution—not, incidentally, predicted in any form by Nostradamus—would catapult the British peoples and later the United

States into positions of power and influence. Subsequent development of farming implements did result in "fewer hands attending to agriculture;" but in complete contrast to Nostradamus' statement, resultant vast supplies of food and better living conditions spawned incredible leaps in population.

Nostradamus, in short, is a very poor prophet—if indeed he *could* be called a prophet!

REAL Prophecy

But back to our other question. *Is* there prophecy that can be understood before the event? Is there prophecy that is rational and able to be fully comprehended?

The answer is an unequivocal YES.

You will find that only the prophecies contained in the Holy Bible emerge as rational, understandable prophecies *that ring true!*

Knowing first that there *is* an awesome Creator God, note what this Being states in his ancient revealed word: "Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is *none* like Me, *declaring the end from the beginning*, and from ancient times *things that are not yet done*. . . . Indeed I have spoken it; *I will also bring it to pass* . . ." (Isa. 46:9-11, RAV).

How refreshingly *far removed* is this clear language from the crabbed, obscure writings that appear in Nostradamus' and other so-called prophetic writings.

Understanding the Bible

Many individuals—who want to understand the Bible—usually make two fundamental errors that prevent their full understanding.

The first error is to overlook or ignore the overall purpose and framework of God's plan that is so brilliantly laid out in the Bible.

The second error involves trying to explain the Bible *without* understanding it!

Few realize that the Bible was written so that it could be clearly understood by those called of God to receive his Holy Spirit, yet could *not* be easily understood by those who are not being called of God and who want their own way.

Shocking? Read that last statement again!

A wealthy financial officer of a major ancient nation admitted his inability to understand plain Scripture (Acts 8:30-31). He, as millions since, did not then understand that to comprehend the Bible, "precept must be upon precept . . . line upon line . . . here a little, there a little" (Isa. 28:10, RAV).

In plain modern words, the Bible is similar to a large puzzle. One must sort through and put together all the pieces to be able to see the whole.

But the ability to see and understand the intent of the whole of Scripture is barred unless one has or is seeking a single specific key.

The only way to "crack the code" of the Bible—to be able to accurately place "line upon line"—is to have or be seeking God's Holy Spirit!

And we would not be inaccurate in saying that God's Holy Spirit is normally *not* applied when interpreting the prophecies revealed in the Bible.

The revealed means of receiving God's Spirit is found in Acts 2:38, "*Repent . . . be baptized . . . and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*" (RAV).

But very few fully understand what "repent" means. To repent means to *change the way one lives*.

What must one change? One must simply stop sinning. What *is* sin?

"Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4, AV). The law is summarized in the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17).

So to repent, one must stop breaking God's law and begin to practice the way that *fulfills* the purpose of the law (Rom. 13:10)—a way of love. This way of life God himself spells out in the Bible.

Once one starts keeping God's law through faith and fulfills the conditions of baptism and belief (Mark 1:15), God freely gives his Holy Spirit, which *unlocks* the mysteries of the Bible. One then is able to understand what God has written—including prophecy, which comprises about one full

third of the written word!

When one reads and understands God's word, he or she will see and agree with the apostle Peter, who wrote that "*no* prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation" (II Pet. 1:20, RAV).

God alone reveals the meaning of biblical prophecy: "For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (verse 21).

That is part of the message you read in *The Plain Truth*. It is not a human message conjured up by mortal writers.

This magazine simply amplifies a prophetic message (Isa. 40:9-10) revealed thousands of years ago that God demands be authoritatively announced "in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and *then* the end [of the age of man] will come" (Matt. 24:14, RAV).

This message is one of hope, of the reestablishment over the earth of a perfect divine authority to bring world peace.

God's word specifically warns this generation to beware individuals "performing miraculous signs" (Rev. 16:14, NIV) who will claim even to be of God but who don't look to "the law and to the testimony"! "If they *do not* speak according to this word [God's revealed law], it is because there is no light [understanding] in them" (Isa. 8:20, RAV).

Even if nations as a whole don't respond to this message and call to repentance (Ezek. 33:11), God respects the efforts of those few individuals who do: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise [of eternal life] . . . but is long-suffering toward us, *not willing that any should perish* but that *all* should come to repentance" (II Pet. 3:9, RAV).

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HELP YOUR CHILD AVOID FINANCIAL PITFALLS

by Dan C. Taylor

DOES TEACHING good money habits really matter?

How can you train your child to better manage his or her finances?

In 1981, pollster Lester Rand of the Rand Youth Poll found that there has been a steady erosion of a simple but vital monetary habit called thrift: making one's money work its hardest.

Says Mr. Rand: "Our young used to be told that a penny saved is a penny earned, and to save for a rainy day. That is not the pervading philosophy today. Young people in this country [the U.S.] are being *raised to spend*" (emphasis ours).

In the 1981 poll, Rand found that 65 percent of the 3,091 teens he interviewed nationwide seldom or never heard thrift discussed in their homes. Only 25 years earlier, a similar poll revealed that 69 percent felt that thrift was mentioned "a great deal" in their homes.

U.S. teenagers in 1980 spent nearly \$40 billion for records, tapes, cosmetics, stereos and other goods and services. Mr. Rand's poll revealed that 69 percent of these teenagers felt that they were gullible as consumers. Many found that the purchases that they made were simply unwanted later on. On the other hand, only 41 percent of the teens surveyed in 1956 considered themselves gullible.



HAL FINCH—PT

What's behind this change in attitude? Part of the answer is an inflationary psychology that was built up worldwide over the past half decade. In essence, teens—like many adults—have developed a spend-it-now-because-it-won't-buy-as-much-tomorrow mentality.

Its more basic roots lie in the home with the parents' example or lack of it. This is reflected in another of Rand's questions. When asked if their parents are thrifty, 67 percent of today's teens in the United States said no. In 1956, 56 percent felt that their parents were thrifty.

A major part of being frugal involves wise budgeting. Budgeting is merely establishing a fixed- and priority-spending framework.

One priority in any budget should be savings. Mr. Rand's poll results on the question of parental

thrift reveal a lot about U.S. parents.

In a comparison of savings as a share of disposable personal income in 1981, the American saver saved the least of the six nations compared. The average American only saved 5.3 percent of his disposable income, compared to 10.9 percent for the Canadian, 14.2 percent for the Briton, 14.9 percent for the West German, 16.1 percent for the Frenchman, and 19.4 percent for the Japanese.

The problem becomes worse when you add another set of statistics. In 1981 in the U.S., 456,514 individuals filed for bankruptcy.

More than \$6,000,000,000 was left unpaid to creditors.

Couple poor savings habits with the impulse buying habits that pervade U.S. consumerism and throw in general money mismanagement, and it is easy to see why the example put forth by American parents does not instill thriftiness in children.

How, then, can you teach your children about managing money in a way that will stand them in good stead for the future?

Even while your children are small—3 to 6 years old—you can begin teaching them about money. On this point, the words of Solomon ring true: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Prov. 22:6, NIV).

Take your children along with you when you go shopping. Explain

to them why you buy the things you do. Teach them to get the most for their money. *The Plain Truth* has long admonished readers to buy the best quality—of any item—that is affordable. This applies to everything from good wholesome food to fine durable clothing.

When dealing with preschoolers—4 to 5 years old—begin to teach them how to count money. Teach the importance of giving and receiving the proper change.

As your child grows older he will have been exposed to money and the things it can buy. Now is the time to consider an allowance.

It is important to sit down with your child and let him help determine his allowance with you. This will help him learn the rudiments of budgeting.

One important consideration in providing an allowance is to be consistent. After all, few adults would like to have erratic incomes.

The benefits of an allowance are twofold. First, a regular allowance can eliminate children's attempts to manipulate their parents to get money or gifts. And second, children who are given allowances tend to be careful spenders.

Later on, discuss the advantages of a savings account with your teenagers. Help them plan some financial goals: perhaps for a bicycle, a stereo, a vacation or college.

Finally, involve the whole family in the household's budgeting process. This will help your children learn about budgeting, as well as give them a clear idea of their family's financial picture. The latter experience can encourage family unity in times of financial crisis and help children understand the adult financial world much better.

If these few suggestions are followed or adapted to your particular situation, then when your child takes his first summer job, he will be better prepared to handle the money he will earn. He will have had years of experience in building wise spending, budgeting and saving habits. And you will have the satisfaction of having given your child a good foundation of financial knowledge. That knowledge will help your child deal with his future and avoid the financial pitfalls that have ensnared so many today. □

HUNGRY!

(Continued from page 14)

for farmers, that can offer fair credit systems, that can provide fair and honest administration and handling of money, that can supply the needs of rural development.

Agricultural development is a long-term project. It outlasts the few years most office holders keep their jobs. Sound agricultural development needs stability of government to ensure its success.

Unfortunately governments and human beings are locked in competitive and antagonistic political systems. All nations are torn with some form of racial strife and social divisions, with animosity, distrust, confusion, ignorance and self-interest. Vast defense preparations, enormous bureaucracies and, too often, corruption waste billions of dollars that could meet the critical needs of agriculture.

Imagine what could be done in a cooperative world at peace with money now spent for arms to solve the world's food and agriculture problems. Selfish attitudes and ways of living have put all nations under a curse.

Responsibility of Wealthier Nations

Wealthier nations now waste vast sums of money and technology on nonessential self-indulgences, on trivia to satisfy every whim or appetite stimulated by modern advertising. A fraction of this money and effort, if devoted to efficient agricultural research and development in hungry lands, could help many needy peoples feed themselves.

And measurable results would be quickly forthcoming. Modern false materialistic values and greedy ethics have caused many to lose all sense of social responsibility and priority.

It is true, some areas of the earth cannot produce much more food. Many marginal lands cannot support the growing populations forced to live on them because of recent wars and human conflicts. Or because of generations of bad farming practices, or poor weather or lack of sufficient water. Many

nations need to rapidly bring down birth rates further. And develop new lands for agriculture. In these areas there is no easy bailout.

But in other areas there is still time. But will the nations use it? Bible prophecy says, No!

Yet a solution is coming!

The Real Solution

The good news is the world curse on agriculture will be lifted. An astounding agricultural revolution is laid bare in the pages of your Bible.

God's plan for agricultural reform begins with the reestablishment of the government of God over the earth. It includes free productive land for all. And proper credit for rural development. And bounteous weather, rainfall and peace to develop prosperity. These are guaranteed—to those who are diligent to obey God's laws.

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house [God's government] shall be established in the top of the mountains [nations] . . . and all nations shall flow unto it.

"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord . . . and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. . . . And he [Christ] shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords [military hardware] into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa. 2:2-4).

And more wonderful news! "The wilderness and the solitary place . . . and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. . . . in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water . . ." (Isa. 35:1, 6-7).

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed . . ." (Amos 9:13-14).

God speed that happy solution to the world food and agricultural crisis! □

Learning From Past Mistakes

Many in the highly technological Western world have forgotten one of the most essential keys to national economic and social success.

Orville L. Freeman, chairman of Business International Corporation and former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, stated it well: "No country, with the exception of a few city-states, has ever prospered and built a sound economy without a solid agricultural base."

Soviet Example

Today the leaders of the Soviet Union realize the nation is a crippled world power because its agriculture is inefficient and wasteful. Bad weather is not the sole cause of the Soviet Union's repeated crop failures.

Russia several decades ago was a major food exporter. But its leaders chose to devote the nation's best money and brainpower into the development of industrial and military might instead of efficient agriculture. Now it can't adequately feed its own people.

Many Soviet farmers lack understanding in the care of machinery and crops. They lack proper roads, quality equipment, storage and repair facilities. Many crops rot in the fields or go to waste during transport. Like many poor developing nations, the Soviets now must spend massive amounts of foreign exchange on food it could be growing and preserving itself, if it were more agriculturally efficient.

Causes of Third World Poverty

A significant cause of the

food crisis in developing nations has been, of course, the population explosion since World War II. Before 1940, the less-developed areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America were net exporters of wheat, rice and maize or corn to more industrial nations. After World War II soaring population growth reversed that flow.

In the post-World War II era, government leaders of many developing nations didn't come from agricultural backgrounds but instead from urban or military backgrounds. They made a fatal mistake. They evaluated socioeconomic progress in terms of the industrial West. They hoped industrial development would enable them to rapidly duplicate the wealth of developed countries. They rushed to build showcase projects—big dams, industrial plants and urban business projects. All this diverted development from where it was most needed, in rural areas where most people lived.

Often whatever agriculture the governments emphasized centered on the development of a few major cash crops for export. Why? To earn foreign exchange to support industrial, military and urban development projects. These projects benefited only a minority of citizens—usually urban populations, the government's major supporting constituency.

Any nation involved in high industrial-urban development that cannot yet grow and feed its own people a diet of staple foods, undercuts its growth and long-term success. For two important reasons:

Whenever insufficient

staple food production exists within a country, food must be imported at great purchasing and shipping costs. Such costs compete for and deplete financial reserves needed for other development projects.

The consequently reduced purchasing power in vast, poor rural populations does not enable the masses to



afford the products of their own fledgling industry. Often these industrial goods must be exported and subsidized (draining more development funds) because they face stiff competition from more efficient producers elsewhere. And income from the few critical cash crops is often unpredictable because of rapidly changing world demand and prices.

Eventually rural lands of many developing nations may not support the pressures of growing population. Add to this bad weather, indebtedness and warfare. Poor, dispirited and land-disenfranchised masses then flee to urban areas in hopes of finding food and employment. Instead what many find is further poverty, hunger and a new kind of squalor.

Once rural masses flee their lands it creates a further drain on their nation's scant resources. Governments must then use financial reserves from cash crops sold in export to

import staple foods for ever increasing non-food-producing urban hordes. All such expenses could be avoided with prosperous agriculture.

Workable Solutions

Improved agricultural development and support services in farming areas would provide the stable employment and security rural masses seek and need. It would give them a

high sense of purpose and satisfaction by providing food and produce of many kinds for themselves and others. And successful farmers would find much greater happiness in their own familiar surroundings and culture.

Making the rural areas of developing nations more prosperous, through the growing and selling of surplus food to urban areas or for export, opens up new economic development and markets for the whole nation. As farmers increase income through selling their agricultural surplus, they become buyers of more goods and services. Prosperous farmers can also be a *primary* source of investment in their nation's industrial development.

Hunger in food-short nations cannot be eliminated without first overcoming poverty in rural areas. And poverty in these areas cannot be eliminated without successful rural and agricultural development!

JONATHAN WRIGHT-LIAISON

INTERNATIONAL DESK

(Continued from page 32)

problems—not entirely of their own making. The years under colonial masters were a mixed blessing. Many nations seized—or were granted—independence before they were maturely ready. They were often saddled with frontiers that were long ago decided by committee in Europe rather than by those who really understood Africa. The people of Africa generally suffer from diseases that have been eradicated everywhere else on earth. In spite of a high rate of infant mortality, populations are rising faster than the supply of developed resources. One can only look at the tragic conditions with a sense of deep compassion. But they must realize that they have brought much of this on themselves by borrowing heavily and then spending it unwisely. They embark on expensive prestige projects that fall apart before they are finished. And then waste precious resources and brainpower seeking influence on the international stage, instead of working on problems at home.

That is what sets the Cameroon Republic apart. While there is still a long way to go, solid progress has been made. The country's leaders haven't made a name for themselves internationally—as I said at the beginning, most people know practically nothing about them. But as Solomon wrote in the book of Proverbs, "... before honour is *humility*" (Prov. 15:33). The Cameroonians have been humble. They faced their situation realistically, and have not tried to become something they are not. Their example should not go unnoticed or unrecorded.

No nation is going to escape completely the problems of the next few years. Events on the European continent are soon to change the shape of all the world. The Black African nations may not be in a position to have much say in what happens. Nevertheless the Cameroon Republic at the moment is in a better position than most to weather the storm. May the new president continue to lead his country along the same commonsense path to national success. □

Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

with a message from heaven. This message was essentially the same as he had instructed the first two humans. It had to do with God's government and rule over them, of his way of life that would cause every good and with the gift of eternal life.

But again, humans (with few exceptions—120 in all) did *not believe* what he said! They called him a liar!

Let me quote: "As he [Jesus] spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word [his MESSAGE], then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:30-32).

They answered him sarcastically and hostilely. They were Abraham's descendants and were already free.

"I know that ye are Abraham's seed," responded Jesus, "*but ye seek to kill me*, because my word [his gospel message] hath no place in you."

They believed on the messenger—but they *rejected his message*—they didn't believe what he said!

Jesus continued, "But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth [his gospel message], which I have heard of God."

Later, Jesus said, "And because I tell you the truth, *ye believe me not. . . why do ye not believe me?*" (Verses 45-46.)

Before the end of the first century that message was suppressed and another false "gospel" substituted. Christ's message was not proclaimed to the world again until now—in the latter half of the 20th century!

But God saw to it that his word—his message to mankind—was inspired and put into his *written* Word. But even today, the religions that have appropriated Christ's name preach about the PERSON of Christ—about the MESSENGER—but they do not proclaim his MESSAGE—his *true* gospel.

And in many basic doctrines they teach the very opposite of what Jesus and the first apostles taught. They condemn the customs Jesus observed, and observe customs Jesus and the Bible condemn.

Today, a professing adherent of "Christianity" will say, in surprise, "Why, you surely don't take the Bible *literally*, do you?"

Humans have written books by the millions. People read and take *them* literally. They take them to mean what they say—and say what they mean. But the Bible? They can't seem to *believe* it can mean what it plainly says.

For example, the Bible says, "The wages of sin is DEATH" (Rom. 6:23). But professing Christians will say, "But death doesn't *mean* death—it means everlasting life in hell fire!" God SAYS "death"—but they don't believe what God *says*—and since this is his word, they don't believe his message!

This same verse says, also, "But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Do they believe eternal life is a gift of God? No, they believe we are "immortal souls" who already *have* eternal life. But God says in his Word, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:4). God says that—but professing Christians don't believe what he says! He says the same words again in Ezekiel 18:20.

God said the same thing to Adam and Eve, "... in the day that thou eatest thereof [of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil] *thou shalt surely die*" (Gen. 2:17). And in verse seven God says he "formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man [made of the dust of the ground] became a living soul." To this "soul" God said he would "surely die" if he disobeyed, taking the forbidden fruit.

It was Satan who said, "Ye shall NOT surely die." Today those who profess Christ believe what Satan said. But they do not believe what God said!

And what about modern science and higher education? Like our first parents, they reject revelation

What Our Readers Say

Personal

Thank you so much for your personal in *The Plain Truth*. It turned my whole day around. The whole day I was sluggish until I read your column while waiting for the train to go home. My attitude changed from downbeat to exultation. You write so profoundly and yet so plainly.

Mark Gannon
Maspeth, New York

Terrorism

Terrorism is justified by some historical wrong. It operates by inflicting pain and death on innocent bystanders. It shelters itself among more innocent bystanders. It flees for sanctuary to still more bystanders, more or less innocent. And it depends on the humanitarian restraints of its victims, although it proudly denies having any such restraints itself.

Alfred B. Mason
Hydesville, Calif.

Evolution

Your article on evolution about the "eye" could be the dead-end road for evolutionists-atheists.

Frank P. Barrot
The Thinkers Club
San Diego, Calif.

A Prisoner Speaks

As a subscriber, I am treasuring all the copies sent free by *The Plain Truth*. The spiri-

tual, educational and informative ideas help and console me much inside the dungeon where I am staying throughout my whole life.

Gerson J. Vilorio
Muntinlupa,
Metro Manila

Nuclear War

In your *Plain Truth* article "Humanity Won't End in a Nuclear Holocaust," there were some gross errors regarding the effects of a one-megaton nuclear explosion.

Mr. Snyder says that the nuclear fireball would consume everything within 280 square miles. That's about 8½ miles in every direction. According to the [U.S.] Federal Emergency Management Agency, the maximum fireball radius of a one-megaton blast is only .7 of a mile, and the crater diameter is .24 miles.

Mr. Snyder goes on to say "after the terminal effects the blast wave would flatten remaining structures within 4.5 miles." The Federal Emergency Management Agency says that up to three miles severe damage [would occur] to commercial-type buildings.

The point is—our [U.S.] cities are not like what Hiroshima [Japan] was like, a city mainly composed of wood, paper screens and bamboo.

I wish you would give your sources for the data you gave in this article about the effects of

a one-megaton nuclear blast. I will say I enjoyed the remainder of the article.

Jimmy Clay
Rogers, Arkansas

• *We'd be glad to.* Plain Truth senior writer Michael A. Snyder interviewed Dr. Helen M. Caldicott in January, 1982, at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Convention in Washington, D.C.

Senior writer Snyder also interviewed government and military analysts for background information at the same convention and attended the seminar "Biological and Health Effects of Nuclear Industry and Weapons: a Current Evaluation." It was presented by Dr. Stuart C. Finch of the Rutgers Medical School; Dr. Robert J. Lifton of Yale University; Dr. Herbert L. Abrams of the Harvard Medical School; Dr. Bernard T. Feld of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Dr. Caldicott.

Also consulted was John A. Jewell, a witness to the British nuclear device explosions in the South Pacific.

In addition, dozens of related books and articles were reviewed, including *The Fate of the Earth* by Jonathan Schell, *Soviet Strategy for Nuclear War* by Joseph D. Douglass Jr. and *Amoretta M. Hoerber, Nuclear War: the Facts on Our*

Survival by Peter Goodwin, *London After the Bomb* published by the Oxford University Press, *The Islamic Bomb* by Steve Weissman and Herbert Krosney, several other references that included the Federal Emergency Management Agency's material and *The Effects of Nuclear War* by the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment.

The point of the article, as stated, was not "to list for our readers all of the horrors of nuclear war." The description presented was a composite of the material reviewed. Through research, *The Plain Truth* found that the material presented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency was criticized as being misleading. Some government personnel interviewed said the material you quoted did not accurately reflect the real effects of nuclear war.

But, as stated, that's not the point. As the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment said in its report: "Throughout all the variations, possibilities and uncertainties... one theme is constant: that nuclear war would be a catastrophe." (A chart summarizing nuclear blast effects determined by the Office's report appears on page 31 of *Nuclear War: the Facts on Our Survival*.)

This document confirms the accuracy of the material presented in *The Plain Truth*.

(what God says) as a basic source of knowledge. Do they believe there was a flood in the days of Noah?

God says there was, but they do not believe what he says! What about higher education? God says the waters of the Red Sea parted, and the Israelites walked across on

the dry floor of the sea. In his Word, God says the walls of the water returned, covering and drowning Pharaoh and his army. But can you find that in the ancient history texts? They don't believe what God said!

God shows us the way to world peace—peace between individuals,

between groups, between nations. But men do not believe what God says, and so we have no peace.

God shows us the way to peace, happiness, prosperity in abundance and eternal life as his gift. But men, except for the very few, don't believe what God says! Instead, humanity suffers on! □

WEATHER

(Continued from page 6)

ways he has thus far refused to regulate.

A growing body of evidence exists that our increasing use of fuels like wood, coal and oil, along with other pollution makers like the slash-and-burn agricultural techniques popular in tropical areas, poses grave consequences for the future.

Unless that course is altered, we will see a tremendous buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This will trap heat and cause the earth's average temperatures to rise. The result is a so-called greenhouse effect.

In an article in *Science* magazine dated August 28, 1981, NASA's Institute for Space Studies in New York City noted that carbon dioxide levels in the air across America on average were 293 parts per million (ppm), with a 10 ppm margin of error, in 1880. In 1980, the level was 335 ppm.

This report points out that if the present level of fuel use grows slowly, average temperatures in the U.S. could increase about 5 degrees Fahrenheit (2.5°C) by the end of the 21st century. However, a more rapid development of fuel use could raise temperatures by as much as 8 degrees Fahrenheit (4.5°C).

Any rise in average temperature will begin a melting of the polar ice caps, flooding large areas of the world's coastlands.

In the decade of the '70s alone, ocean levels rose 4 inches from this effect.

Man is, in addition, rapidly destroying the earth's natural carbon dioxide converter: the forests. Some figures put the rate of deforestation at 120 acres every single minute of every single day. That amounts to more than 63 million acres a year. Deforestation also affects the water table, rainfall, as well as soil erosion.

What Are the Consequences?

Gone are the days when a people simply migrated away from a drought or famine. With fixed borders and a burgeoning world population, little new land is available.

Today the world is dependent on primarily the United States, Canada, Australia, Argentina and parts of Western Europe to supply the surplus foodstuffs to meet the shortfalls elsewhere in the world. A bad year or two of weather for these nations would have a disastrous impact on the rest of the world.

In addition, we have narrowed the number of plant species on which we depend for food to less than 30. In fact, five crops—potatoes, rice, wheat, maize (corn) and barley—comprise more than 60 percent of the world's food crops. By narrowing our variety we have also increased our vulnerability to climatic change.

What Is the Source of Our Weather?

What's it going to be? Are we going to be shoveling snow and ice, or will we be fleeing the coastlines to avoid the onrushing oceans? A simple answer to this question is given by David Arthur Davies, one of the leading meteorologists in the United Kingdom, and the former Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Concerning the reliability of long-range weather prediction, Dr. Davies states, "Frankly, we do not know the extent to which we can predict climatic change or climatic variability."

While scientists may not be able to accurately predict weather in the long term, almost all of their theories point to bad times ahead. Still they *can* only view the physical evidence and that tells only part of the story. There is, however, a source we can turn to for the other half of the picture. That source is God's revealed word: the Bible.

God says *he* controls the weather. "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matt. 5:45, NIV).

God sends the snow and ice as well as drought and heat. He bathes the earth with gentle rain to show his love, yet also sends floods and mildew to punish (Job 37; Deut. 28:22, last part).

Apart from normal patterns that he set in motion, God also allows

mankind to reap the consequences of physical sins: pollution, abuse of the environment or attempts to manipulate the weather. God also uses the weather to punish for *spiritual* sins.

Indeed, if we read Deuteronomy 28, we see that God's blessings on obedience includes good weather (verses 1-14) and his punishing of sin includes weather catastrophes (verses 15-24).

Centuries ago, one of God's prophets, Elijah, prayed and God withheld rain from a rebellious and sinful nation to warn the people to turn from their false gods (I Kings 17-18). But that was the ancient House of Israel, right?

If that occurred in the time of ancient Israel, what is going to be the effect on a world filled with sin?—which is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4).

The cause of our upset weather conditions involves sin: physical and spiritual, whether we like to think so or not. The nations are about to be punished for their corruption and immorality. We are beginning to reap the rewards for living the "get" way of life.

The Near Future

Today's upset weather conditions will soon pale into insignificance, unless mankind alters the present course. In the foreseeable future, our weather is going to be turned upside down (see Revelation 6:5-8; 8:4-12). The powerful forces of nature are going to be unleashed upon a disobedient, nuclear-armed world to bring it to its knees in repentance.

Wise king Solomon understood the relationship between the transgression of moral law (defined in the Bible as "sin") and bad weather. When he dedicated the Temple of God, Solomon prayed:

"When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because your people have *sinned* [emphasis ours] against you, and when they pray toward this place and confess your name and turn from their sin because you have afflicted them, then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of . . . your people Israel. Teach them the right way to live, and send rain on the land you gave

INCREASE YOUR BIBLE IQ

The PLAIN TRUTH, in conjunction with the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, presents brief excursions into the fascinating study of the Bible. You simply turn to and *read in your Bible each verse* given in answer to the questions. You'll be amazed at the new understanding gained each month from these short studies!

How Humanity Will Learn Its Lesson

WE ARE NOW fast approaching a world *crisis* unparalleled in human history!

Right now, as you read this, nations are busy applying science, technology and industry to produce newer, more frightening weapons. Each "improvement" is intended to increase the ability to mete out the threat of death and mass destruction in the event a neighbor should attack. Already enough "vintage" nuclear weapons are stockpiled to erase all life from this planet *dozens* of times over!

Meanwhile, devastating evils gnaw away at human society the world over. Mindless violence, murder, appalling immorality, rampant crime of all kinds and grinding poverty, sickness and disease continue to escalate at an incredible rate.

What has gone wrong?

Predicted Centuries Ago

The sad state of today's world was predicted more than 1,900 years ago by the greatest newscaster who ever lived. He accurately foretold today's chaotic world conditions. He foresaw the scientific discoveries and technological advancements.

This famous newscaster knew men would produce the destructive forces that now threaten the extinction of all life! This great newscaster was Jesus of Nazareth. He warned, "And except that the Lord had *shortened* those days, no flesh should be saved [ALIVE] . . ." (Mark 13:20).

This is the same Jesus Christ who is coming again, this time not only with an advance announcement but with all power and authority to save the world from destroying itself in nuclear warfare. He is returning to establish the government of God and enforce world peace!

But before that dramatic intervention in world affairs by Jesus Christ, a sequence of events must first occur—events that will affect every last person on earth! These catastrophic events are outlined in the last book of the Bible—Revelation.

In vision (Rev. 1:1), Christ catapulted the apostle John some 1,900 years forward in time into the great and terrible "Day of the Lord." It is described throughout the book of Revelation as the time when Almighty God will supernaturally *intervene* in world affairs to *punish* rebellious nations.

God is going to use the forces of his natural creation to "spank" humanity in true love, in concern for humanity's welfare, just as any loving parent punishes his children who will not listen to gentle admonition. God will send a series of punishments of increasing severity to finally *jolt men to their senses* and to *humble* them! Men today, as a whole, do not want to come under the authority of God, for their own good. They want to continue in the selfish ways that are bringing the world all its miseries.

The coming catastrophic end-time events of the Day of the Lord were revealed 1,900 years ago when the Lord Jesus Christ opened the seven "seals" that covered the scroll of the Apocalypse or Revelation (Rev. 5:1-9). Yet, when opened, most of the book of Revelation is found written in symbolic terms that Christ, the Revelator, elsewhere reveals. These were, in part, explained in the preceding two studies. (Be sure to send for the full explanation in our free booklet *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last!*)

We learned in the previous study that the *seventh seal*, which covered the scroll or book of Revelation, disclosed "seven trumpets" (Rev. 8:1-6) representing seven consecutive events—physical punishments—as *warnings* to the nations not to go any further into national and personal sins. And as we learned in our last study, the fifth and sixth trumpets (trumpets are symbols of national emergency and war) are also called "woes" (Rev. 8:13; 9:12). They signal catastrophic warfare that the Bible reveals will occur between superpowers in Europe and Asia.

Next in the sequence is the *seventh trumpet*. When it is about to sound, the third "woe" is about to fall on mankind. Let's pick up our study at this point and see the smashing climax of God's intervention in the affairs of rebellious mankind!

1. After God has allowed six previous punishments

to exact their toll upon the earth, will most of humanity remain hard to convince, unyielding and unrepentant? Rev. 9:20-21.

2. What happens next? Rev. 11:15. Is this clearly the prophesied time of Christ's Second Coming to rescue mankind from annihilation and establish the kingdom of God on earth? Same verse.

3. But what is the reaction of rebellious mankind at this time? Verse 18, first five words.

COMMENT: Instead of welcoming the returning Christ, the new ruler of the world will be rejected by major world political and military leaders whose armies are already committed to an all-out struggle over who will rule the world.

Men have never wanted God's rule, which is the only way to real peace, happiness and joy. And so rulers of many nations are found *angry* at Jesus Christ!

Seven Final Punishments

1. What else occurs under the symbol of the blowing of the seventh and last trumpet? Rev. 11:14, 18. Notice the words "thy wrath is come" in verse 18.

COMMENT: God's anger is not motivated by temper or hate but by love and mercy and justice.

2. Exactly what "fills up" or completes the just anger or wrath of God? Rev. 15:1.

COMMENT: The preceding six trumpets have heralded the unleashing of different punishments upon this rebellious war-torn world. But notice that the seventh and last trumpet *completes* God's punishments by ushering in "seven last plagues."

3. Are these plagues compared to the concentrated contents of "vials" about to be poured out? Rev. 15:7. On what are they poured? Rev. 16:1. Read the rest of this chapter to get the story flow.

4. Will the first vial cause excruciating sores upon all who are participating in this world's idolatrous, civil-religious system? Rev. 16:2.

5. What will the second and third of these plagues do? Rev. 16:3-4. Is God *just* to inflict these punishments upon rulers who have subjected the world to a nuclear holocaust? Verses 5-7.

6. Will the pouring out of the sixth vial climax in the most significant battle in all human history? Rev. 16:12-16. Will Christ judge and make war against defiant men who want war? Rev. 19:11; Isa. 11:4.

7. Will the earth be violently shaken by the mightiest earthquake ever to occur when the seventh and last plague is poured out? Rev. 16:17-18. Will islands of the sea be suddenly removed from their present geographic positions? Verse 20.

8. Will part of God's final punishment involve gigantic hailstones? Rev. 16:21.

COMMENT: The weight of each hailstone will be in excess of 100 pounds! Can you imagine the tremendous destruction this storm will cause on earth?

9. What is the reason God must punish mankind so severely? Isa. 24:4-6. Notice especially verse 5.

COMMENT: *Sin* is disobedience to God's laws of happy, successful living (I John 3:4). Sin is the CAUSE of all human suffering and woe. The world is in reality

bringing divine wrath upon itself by having lived in sin and refusing to repent. And so our loving Creator will have to punish the world primarily by the forces of nature to bring it to its senses and to *humble* all men and women so they will be teachable.

God loves mankind (John 3:16). He wants everyone to eventually understand his way that leads to eternal life—to be born into his supreme ruling family (II Pet. 3:9; I Tim. 2:3-4). But people must be *humbled* before God can work with them!

And what of those who will die in the crisis rushing upon this sick world? Since the Creator has power over life and death, these same people will be *resurrected* to mortal life after 1,000 years (Rev. 20:5, 11-13).

Having been humbled by the experience of death and resurrection to physical life, they will listen to Jesus Christ and most will voluntarily choose to obey him. They, too, will have their opportunity to understand and live God's way of love that leads to peace, happiness and joy.

10. Will the nations finally begin to seek God and ask him to teach them his ways? Isa. 2:1-4.

COMMENT: Worldwide peace, security and happiness will be ushered in by the rule of Jesus Christ. The law of God will be enforced over all nations.

Meanwhile, individually, each of us can receive God's divine protection now. But we must first turn to God and seek to do his will, as well as do *our part* in helping to spread God's end-time warning to the world (Rev. 3:7-8, 10; 12:14-16).

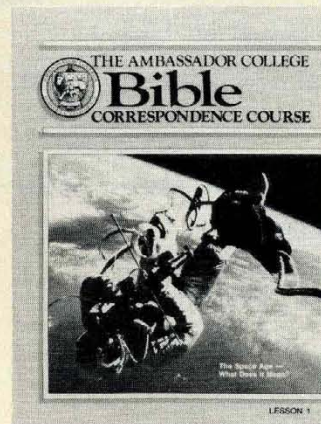
No plague need come near you! If you heed and obey God, you can be worthy to escape *these things* that shall surely come to pass (Luke 21:36).

Prepared by Richard H. Sedliacik

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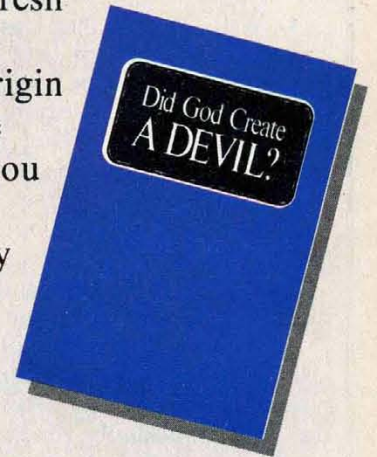
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