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the

JULY-AUGUST 1983

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



Central America...

ANOTHER VIETNAM FOR U.S.?

the
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a magazine of understanding

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ABOUT OUR COVER

U.S.-trained battalion on the march in El Salvador. Government soldiers are nevertheless ill-equipped to prevent sabotage of nation's infrastructure by rebels.

COVER PHOTO BY JOHN HOAGLAND—LIAISON

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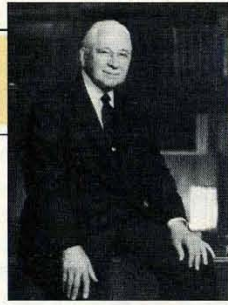
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Personal from...

As Knowledge Doubles, So Do Troubles. Why?

POVERTY, ILLITERACY, crime are growing—not diminishing. World troubles and evils have escalated. Weapons of mass destruction exist by which MAN CAN BLAST MANKIND FROM OFF THIS EARTH! The whole world today stands on the brink of human extinction.

But *WHY?*

There has to be a CAUSE for every effect. While humanity has been supposing we have been **ADVANCING—IMPROVING**—we've been bringing more and more evils upon ourselves—more and more suffering and agony on **PEOPLE!**

The whole world went along on a fairly even keel, with little agricultural, mechanical and industrial progress for almost 5,500 years. Transportation was by foot, mule, camel back, rowboat or sailboat. Communication was by written letter carried the same way.

Then, just over 500 years ago, the printing press with movable type was invented. About 300 short years ago came the first beginnings of modern science. This advancement of modern science and technology is so recent that 90 percent of all the world's scientists **WHO EVER LIVED** are alive today! In the brief span of my lifetime, this world has passed with lightning speed past the age of invention, the machine age, the major developments in science and technology, the nuclear age and the space age!

The world thinks of it as wonderful **PROGRESS—ADVANCEMENT!** The world's fund of **KNOWLEDGE** doubled in the decade of the '60s, and again in the '70s—but in each decade the world's troubles and evils doubled also!

WHY? Even if the increased knowledge did not **CAUSE** the increased evils, neither did it solve the world's problems or rid the world of evils!

What the world does not know, and refuses to learn, is that peace, happiness, contentment, joy, abundant and universal well-being are *spiritual values*—the **ONLY TRUE VALUES** IN LIFE.

There is a **SPIRITUAL LAW**—a law of outflowing **LOVE**—the way of life of helping, serving, cooperating, sharing. I simplify it by calling it the way of "give." Its transgression is the way of "GET"—of vanity, coveting, envy and jealousy, hostile competition, strife, violence.

That basic spiritual **LAW** is as **ACTIVELY** in motion as the law of gravity—as inexorable, as relentless, as certain! Its punishment for transgression is the suffering and anguish humanity is suffering now—for every trouble, every evil, has been caused by the way of "GET." We measure **SUCCESS** in life by the amount one has been able to "GET"—to accumulate—to **TAKE** from others—to **HAVE** and **POSSESS!**

The way of life of "GIVE" is the basic spiritual **LAW** set in motion by our Maker. But our first parents spurned it and turned to "GET." Yet that way of "GET" is the **CAUSE** of all of mankind's troubles.

If we all lived the way of outflowing **LOVE**—toward our Maker and toward each other, in helping, serving, sharing, **GIVING!**—we would have world **UTOPIA!** There can never be **SALVATION**, peace, contentment, happiness, joy, universal well-being and eternal salvation from trouble and evils until we **TURN FROM** the philosophy of "GET"—repent of that way—turn to our Maker and his way of outflowing love. Yet 6,000 years have **PROVED MANKIND SIMPLY WON'T!**

And so now, just before **MAN** utterly **DESTROYS** mankind, that "Unseen Strong Hand from Someplace" is going to intervene dynamically in human world affairs and save mankind from itself! I am merely a voice crying out in the spiritual wilderness of this 20th century, calling on people to repent of their false ways and turn to the God who gives us the breath we breathe, and saying, whether you believe it or not, that "Strong Hand" will intervene to prevent man from utterly destroying mankind and usher in a world living the way of outflowing **LOVE**—a soon-coming world of **PEACE**, contentment, joy, and eternal salvation offered to **ALL!** □

The U.S.A.

PARALYZED BY THE GHOST OF VIETNAM

by Gene H. Hogberg

Turmoil in the Western Hemisphere is growing by the month. The stakes are enormous. Why does one superpower—the United States—seem powerless to act in its own interest?

CENTRAL America is ablaze on several fronts.

In El Salvador, recent successes by insurgents have prompted renewed government requests for increased U.S. military aid for that beleaguered country.

In Nicaragua, counter-revolutionaries—covertly financed by the United States—have taken a firm hold in areas of the countryside. A storm is brewing in the U.S. Congress over Washington's attempt to put pressure on the Marxist regime in Nicaragua. The U.S. claims it only wants Nicaragua to quit supplying revolutionaries in El Salvador. Yet the forces the United States is assisting openly profess that their aim includes the overthrow of the government in Nicaragua.

At the southern tip of the Caribbean island chain, off the coast of Venezuela, Cuban engineers are building a 10,000-foot-long airstrip in Grenada. To the east, on the northern shore of South America, a pro-Soviet government has taken root in Suriname, the former colony of Dutch Guiana. Authorities there have offered to send troops to



HONGKING—LIMSON

Nicaragua “to defend the revolution” in that country.

Region of Turmoil

The countries of Central America have lived, ever since their days of independence in the early 1800s, in a cauldron of political uncertainty.

This has naturally concerned the United States. The economic fortunes of the United States and Central America, as well as the Caribbean island countries, have been closely linked together. This has been true despite vast differences in culture, language, religious orientation and historical development patterns.

The United States—along with Canada—emerged as a unified prosperous society, underlaid by a large and influential middle class.

By contrast the Central American societies were unsuccessful in attempts at broad political union and remained divided among themselves and within themselves.

As a whole they could be described as somewhat feudalistic societies, with a layer of wealthy and politically dominant landowners and entrepreneurs at the top.

While a substantial middle class developed in El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama, great gaps between the prosperous and the poor continue to this day. With regard to politics, moderate parties between the authoritarian right and revolutionary movements on the left have been difficult to establish. There is precious little “middle ground.”

U.S. Involvement

Periodically the United States has felt compelled to intervene militarily in the region to preserve its own interests. During one period, U.S. marines remained in Nicaragua for 20 years. Interventions, however, nearly always came with a price: widespread resentment in Latin American countries of *yanqui* imperialism.

During the late 1970s officials of the Carter administration expressed the hope that the contentious region could be "depoliticized." Despite frictions between Washington and Cuba—which represents Moscow's interests in the Western Hemisphere—the hope was expressed that regional trouble could be kept "outside the context of the superpower relationship."

Moscow and Havana read the U.S. hands-off policy differently. Now was the time, they believed, for them to intervene in perennially troubled waters to pursue *their* long-range interests.

The first opportunity presented was in Nicaragua where, in the late 1970s, widespread resentment built rapidly against the 50-year-long rule of the Somoza family (which had close ties to the United States).

A popular-front revolution succeeded in 1979. Marxists within the front ultimately captured the major spoils of the revolution, deposing democratic moderates of power and influence.

It wasn't long before trouble erupted in neighboring El Salvador, inspired and eventually supported by Nicaragua's revolutionary leadership. One of El Salvador's communist leaders, the late Cayetano Carpio, asserted that after El Salvador falls, it and Nicaragua would be "arm-in-arm and struggling for the total liberation of Central America."

Conflicting Latin and U.S. Views

In recent months, foreign ministers of several Latin American nations have appealed—so far unsuccessfully—for an end to the East-West conflict in Central America and for the removal of all foreign forces.

Ironically, the United States has but a handful of advisers in El Salvador and Honduras, whereas in Nicaragua alone there are 8,000 Cubans, including 3,000 military "advisers," plus specialists from the Soviet Union, East Germany, Bulgaria and North Korea.

Just as English-speaking *norte-americanos* have often been insensitive to concerns of Latin Americans, so Latins sometimes fail to understand deeply held concerns of the U.S. with regard to deteriorat-

ing conditions immediately south of its border.

"I know a good many people wonder," President Ronald Reagan said earlier this year, "why we should care about whether Communist governments come into power in Nicaragua, El Salvador or other . . . countries . . . of the Caribbean. . . ."

"People who make these arguments," continued the President, "haven't taken a good look at a map lately. . . . It isn't nutmeg that's at stake in the Caribbean and Central America; it is the United States' national security."

The future well-being of U.S. allies, too, is involved, the President maintained. At stake, in the President's view, are the vital sea-lanes of the Panama Canal—no longer under sole U.S. control—the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico. Through these waterways pass half of U.S. imports, including large quantities of oil. The region, the President believes, constitutes the country's "fourth border" and is of strategic importance in resupplying Western Europe in case of an emergency.

In the event of war, the bulk—up to 85 percent—of the U.S. Army's combat logistics would have to be shipped from ports on the Gulf of Mexico.

Echoing the President's concern is Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. To bring revolution right up to the southern border of the United States would cause the U.S., Mr. Weinberger says, to bring military forces back from Western Europe and Asia to defend the national integrity of the United States. Europe and Asia would then be exposed to the full military and political leverage of the Eastern bloc.

Vietnam Haunts America

The talk of "dominoes" falling one after another in Central America and the Caribbean also haunts the memory of many in the United States.

Such language is painfully reminiscent of traumatic experiences in Southeast Asia where the United States suffered its first defeat in war and where indeed dominoes did fall—South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The urge in the U.S. Congress *not* to intervene directly in Central America, even though the stakes are so much higher, is strong.

Make no mistake. America's "pride in its power" was shattered in Vietnam. The tragic experience of Vietnam stalks the halls of Congress and the corridors of editorial offices throughout the land. Vietnam, editorialized the March 28, 1983, issue of *The New Republic*, "will continue for many years to weigh like a nightmare upon the foreign policy of the living. . . ."

The fact is, there are parallels between the disaster in Southeast Asia and the way in which the U.S. is approaching the crisis in Central America.

First of all, the United States today *has no overall regional strategy* for meeting the challenge—or, at least one that has a broad consensus of support. Second, Washington, as in the 1960s and 1970s, is neglecting to deal with the real opponent. And finally, as in Vietnam, the U.S. is seeking not to win but merely "not to lose" the struggle.

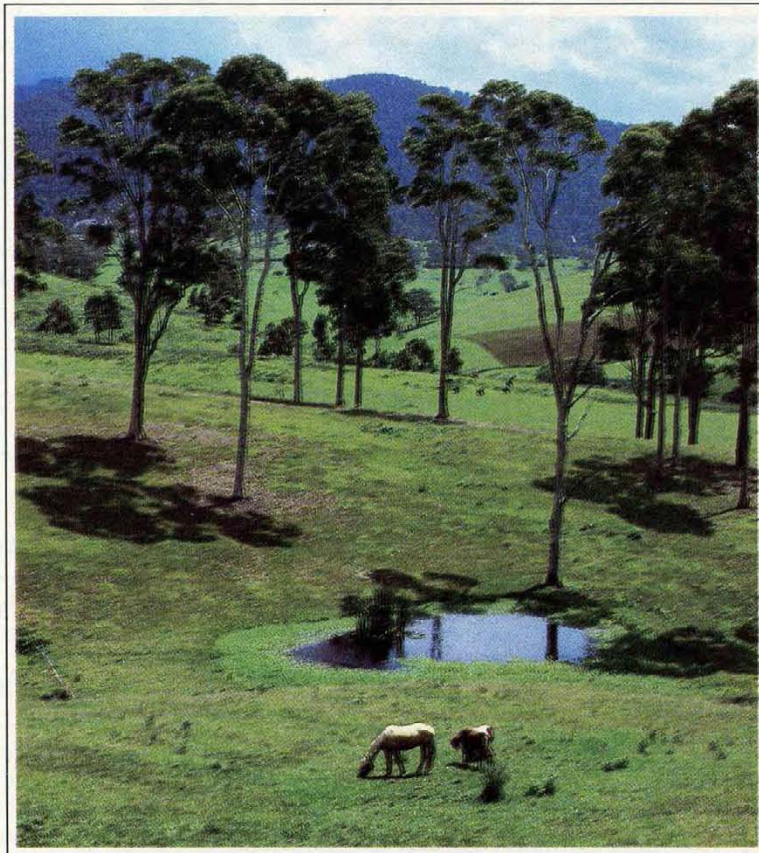
Regarding the first parallel, retired U.S. Air Force General T.R. Milton wrote in the March 1983 issue of *Air Force* magazine that in Southeast Asia, "we were concentrating on a place called South Vietnam, and there were maps to prove its borders existed. In real life the borders did not exist and Ho Chi Minh [North Vietnam's leader] knew it. He, unlike our intellectuals, did have a strategy, one designed to . . . [consolidate] all of Indo-china—Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos—under Hanoi's rule. He must have had trouble believing his luck when we declared North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia out of bounds."

Similarly today, many insist that each insurrection in Central America arises spontaneously from local conditions and is nonrelated to other eruptions in the region.

The insurgents themselves say otherwise. Earlier this year, El Salvador's guerrillas declared, via their Radio Venceremos station in Managua, Nicaragua, that they were part of a regional struggle. "We are and will continue to be

(Continued on page 41)

AUSTRALIA THE BEAUTIFUL...



YATES—AFTER IMAGE

by David K. Noller

A surprising turn of events will stagger the “Lucky Country.” But Australia’s ills will be healed and its awesome potential realized.

AUSTRALIA is rapidly heading toward its greatest crisis in its near 200-year history.

Unprecedented problems loom ahead for this vast island continent with its small 15 million population. The crisis Australia faces is not just a temporary hurdle.

It is time our readers understood, from one who is an Australian, the causes of our national problems—here in Australia and in the English-speaking nations

worldwide—and the prophesied outcome revealed in our Bibles!

The Critical Present

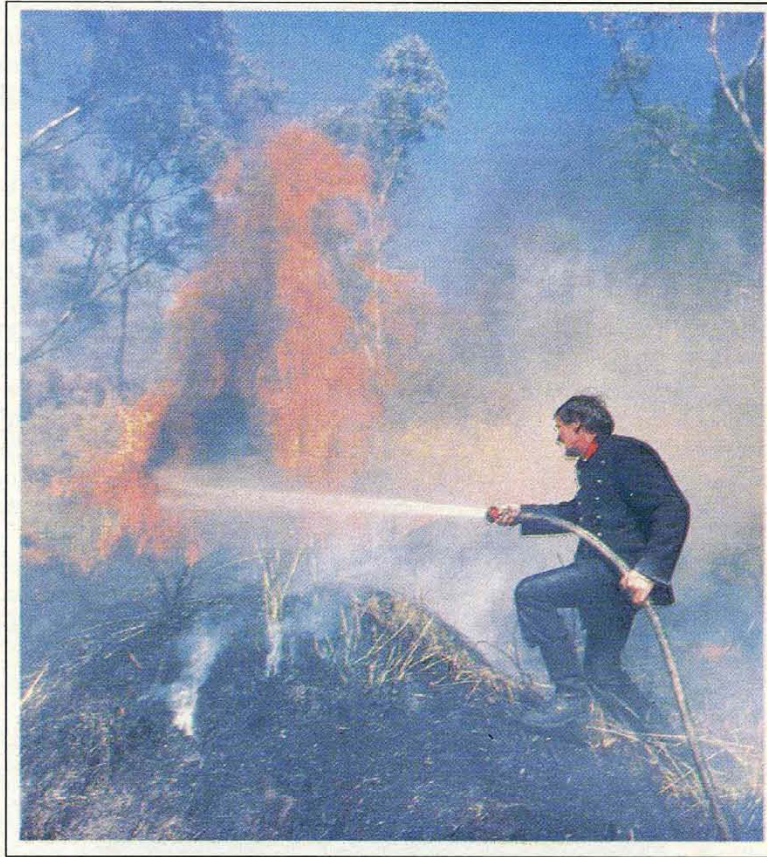
Australians are pinning their hopes on their prime minister, Bob Hawke, and his Australian Labour Party (ALP) who were swept into office in the national elections March 5. This election may prove one of the most crucial in Australia’s history.

After seven years of conservative government—a coalition of the Liberal and National parties led by the former prime minister, Malcolm Frazer—the Australian voters have opted for the Labour alterna-

tive. Mr. Hawke, a former head of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), became the Labour Party’s third prime minister since World War II. He achieved his goal in less than three years in public office.

Blanche d’Alpuget in her biography of Robert J. Hawke, states that his deeply religious mother, Ellie, while pregnant, took out the Bible each day, keeping a vow she had made in childhood. She told friends and relations that she was astonished how often it fell open, as if by design, at the early chapters of Isaiah, and how her eye was drawn to the verses foretelling the birth of

AUSTRALIA THE CONDEMNED!



BLACK STAR

Bushfires ravaged huge areas of the drought-plagued south and southeast. The fires swept through forests, grazing land and towns in the states of Victoria and South Australia leaving a trail of death and destruction.

a great son—the sign of Immanuel the Prince of Peace: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder. . . .”

The prophet Isaiah was actually referring to Jesus Christ as the Messiah. Bob Hawke’s parents felt, too, that their son “in some indefinable way was different from others and that he was a destined instrument of the Lord.”

Now the electorate has given Mr. Hawke a clear mandate for his plan for reconciliation, recovery and reconstruction. During his campaign he used the slogan, “Bob Hawke: Bringing Australia To-

gether Again,” capitalizing on his experience in mediating labor disputes while head of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

But optimistic predictions about Australia’s future must be based on two *ifs*, and they are large ones.

They assume that the government will have the courage to make the crucial decisions to halt the nation’s downward slide. They also assume that the Australian people will look to themselves and learn the lessons of history.

But Will They?

Prime Minister Hawke’s solutions to Australia’s economic problems

include wage-and-price controls coupled with heavy government spending. But already he has been forced to review election promises in light of the latest projected budget deficit for 1982-83 of A\$4,300 million.

More important, the projected deficit for 1983-84 could go as high as a massive A\$9,600 million.

Australia has also been hit with natural disasters. Large areas of the continent have been stricken with drought—some parts, at the time of writing, have not received worthwhile rain for more than four years.

The country’s farm economy is

taking a beating. The production of wheat, one of Australia's major export items, will probably fall to half its normal level. Even though rain has brought relief recently to some areas, the drought still has a firm grip on large sections of the nation. Unless the drought breaks soon nationwide, an economic disaster of mammoth proportions looms.

Bushfires ravaged huge areas of the drought-plagued south and southeast. The fires swept through forests, grazing land and towns in the states of Victoria and South Australia leaving a trail of death and destruction. Two weeks later floods swept through areas of South Australia, including some areas devastated by the fires.

Australia's prosperity and standard of living are slowly being eroded. This is occurring even when Australia still has astonishingly rich mineral deposits and resources.

How Did She Become So Prosperous?

Few people, including Australians themselves, understand why 15 million people enjoy so much comfort and wealth. Let alone comprehend why their standard of living is slipping and the nation is becoming riddled with problems.

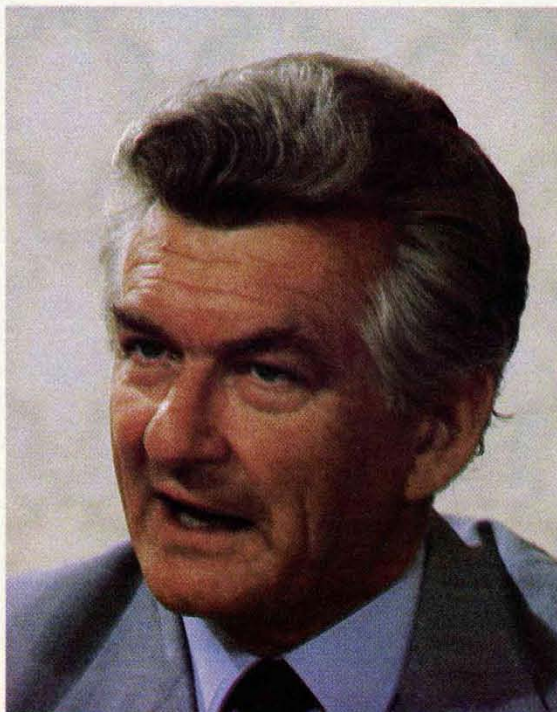
In less than 200 years of European settlement Australia has risen from wilderness to wealth. She has become one of the well-off, prosperous nations of the world—the envy of some of her neighbors in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

When the first Europeans arrived from Great Britain in 1788, little did they realize that they had set foot on a vast treasure trove—a unique land with mountainous stores of minerals, rich soil and rolling coastal grasslands.

Australia's vastness is often not realized. The area of Australia is almost as great as that of the United States (excluding Alaska). In size it is 32 times greater than the United Kingdom.

Australians are not the wealthiest people in the world. Per capita income is around US\$9,580. But few other people live as well or enjoy the same easy life-style. Australians dwell in good housing (around 70 percent of the people own their own homes).

The regions that have been surveyed are rich enough in resources. Bauxite. Gold. Silver. Nickel. Copper. Lead. Zinc. Coal in enormous quantities. The statistics are indeed impressive, even when com-



ROBERT J.L. HAWKE, Australian trade union executive and now Prime Minister. Can he stem the tide of national moral decay?

pared with the rest of the world.

Australia is about 70 percent self-sufficient in crude oil, and the natural gas reserves in the Indian Ocean off the northwest coast are far beyond domestic needs.

Australia has about 17 percent of the Western world's low-cost uranium reserves. It also has the world's biggest deposits of tantalum, a metal used for high technology applications such as jet engines and nuclear reactors. Australia is also the world's biggest producer of rutile—an important source of titanium.

Much of the mineral wealth is largely untapped. In many cases it is not yet fully fathomed.

Few countries seem so well endowed as Australia to face the economic uncertainties of the future.

Australia, when it became one nation in 1901 (six sovereign states federated), was a huge, almost empty continent, populated by only 3.8 million people. The population was 95 percent British and 99 percent white. The Aborigines by that time accounted for only about 1 percent of the population.

In the early 1960s it was estimated that the ancestry of Australians was roughly 50 percent English, 20 percent Irish, 10 percent Scottish, 2 percent Welsh and 18 percent non-British.

Immigration to Australia, mainly from countries such as Poland, the two Germanies, Holland, Yugoslavia, Italy, Greece and Turkey, is changing the composition of the population. Melbourne, Australia's second largest city, has become, after Athens and New York, the third largest Greek city in the world.

The Bible Answers

But why did Great Britain come to inherit this continent with all its wealth? Was it by accident or by design? The story can be traced back into Bible history and prophecy.

Joseph was one of the 12 sons of the Hebrew patriarch Jacob, or Israel. Joseph received the birthright (I Chron. 5:1-2). The birthright had to do with future national greatness and was first promised to Abraham. It was then passed down to Abraham's son Isaac, then to Isaac's son Jacob.

Just before Jacob's death in Egypt, Joseph took his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, and visited his ailing father. Jacob asked for the boys to come near so he could bless them. Because his father's eyesight was poor (Gen. 48:10), Joseph directed Ephraim, the youngest son, toward Jacob's left hand and Manasseh, the eldest, toward Jacob's right hand (verse 13). This was so the firstborn

(Continued on page 39)

IS ANYBODY UP THERE?

by Ronald D. Kelly

Many would like to have a more personal relationship with God, but just do not know how.

WHY does God seem unreal to so many people? Do you ever find *yourself* asking, "Does God even exist?"

After experiencing two world wars, millions drifted into a modern world where God has no apparent meaning. West Europeans, who at one time were in the heartland of Christianity, became the least religious in the professing Christian world.

Now, however, in spite of the commercialism and material mindedness in Western societies, many have an increasing awareness of God. In a very dangerous world they sense a need to be closer to him.

So, whether you are one of those who have never been "religious," or among those who have discovered the need of personal contact with God, you can profit from understanding what prayer is and what it is not. The answers may surprise you!

Some Far Away Superstition?

"How do you talk to God?" many have asked us. Should you memorize a mealtime or bedtime prayer? Do you have to be in a church or chapel to pray? Are you supposed to say Bible sounding words such as "thee" and "thou" when you talk to God?

These are questions people have about prayer. But for some reason, prayer is something you just don't talk about much. So a large percentage simply do not pray even though they know deep down they should.

So let's talk about it. You probably want to pray more than you do. And if you already pray regularly, you probably want to pray more effectively.

Unfortunately, when many pray—if they pray—it is out of desperation—when something has gone wrong. In the face of tragedy people cry out in that last moment of panic, "God, save me!" Or "God, help me!"

But that's not the time to establish contact with the Creator of heaven and earth. You should not

wait for that last moment. You should establish and maintain a close personal relationship with God, now, before a crisis comes.

Christ and Lazarus

One of the most inspiring illustrations of the power of prayer is the moment when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus, along with his two sisters Mary and Martha, had been close to Jesus. He often stayed at their home in Bethany, near Jerusalem. But Lazarus became sick and died (John 11:14).

The death of Lazarus was to serve a great purpose. Of course Jesus Christ could have healed him even before he died, but he chose otherwise. Through raising a man from the dead, Jesus would show once and for all the source of his power.

By the time Christ arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been dead four days and was already buried (verse 39). The glory of God was to be revealed through this momentous event.

Jesus gave instructions to roll back the stone that sealed the

tomb. He walked to the entrance, lifted up his eyes and prayed, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me" (John 11:41-42, NIV).

Have you ever thought about how powerful—but how short—that prayer was? As a result of a prayer that lasted 10 seconds, a dead man walked out of a tomb, living proof of the power of God. And the power of prayer.

But did you notice what Christ said in that prayer? "Father, I thank you that you have heard me." This wasn't the first time Christ prayed about this fantastic miracle. Christ had already prayed to his Father diligently about this matter. After all it was the final public miracle he would perform. Christ was close to God because of constant prayer. "I know that you hear me always," he said (John 11:42). Knowing his time had come, he could step forth for the final days of his life on earth with full confidence God would be with him.

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Another example of the power of prayer is Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel. God's true religion had almost been lost. Even Elijah thought he was the only one left obeying God (God showed him there were 7,000 others, though). But for the most part the nation was given over to false worship.

Elijah finally gathered 850 of the pagan priests and prophets to see who could call fire from heaven to consume an altar.

Of course there was no such thing as Baal—not as a living entity. Elijah knew that. But the priests of Baal thought there was. So they began early in the morning to cry out to their nonexistent god. All morning they cried and chanted. Finally about noon they leapt on the altar to scream to their deity. Nothing happened.

Throughout the afternoon they continued their wailing. They even resorted to slashing their bodies hoping their "god" would see and hear. They shouted themselves hoarse, but nothing happened. You

can read the entire story in I Kings 18:17-40.

Late in the afternoon, after waiting through the hours of pagan ritual, incantation and frantic screaming, Elijah stepped forth to prove who the great God is.

Elijah prayed to the Eternal, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again" (I Kings 18:36-37, NIV).

After a prayer lasting no longer

**You should not wait
for that last moment. You
should establish
and maintain a close
personal relationship with
God, now.**

than 20 seconds, God, responding to Elijah's prayer, consumed not only the sacrifice on the altar, but the wood, stones, dust and water in the trench.

That's the power of prayer.

In both these examples, the power in these short prayers was the result of daily prayer and contact with God.

Daniel's Example

To further illustrate the importance of prayer, let's turn to the example of another well-known servant of God—Daniel. You may remember, Daniel was a young Jew deported in the days of the Babylonian captivity of Judah.

In Babylon, Daniel had risen to a prominent position. But in late 539 B.C., the Babylonian Empire was conquered by the Medo-Persians. The Persian ruler set Daniel over all the other princes in the kingdom (Dan. 6:1-2). The Persian princes were enraged. They tried to find fault with Daniel, but could find none. They finally saw the only way

to get at Daniel was through his devotion to God.

They tricked the king into signing a law that forbade worshipping any other god, save the king himself.

Daniel had worshiped God through the entire Babylonian domination. He would not stop now—even under penalty of death. What did Daniel do?

Read it in Daniel 6:10: "He went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."

Daniel had prayed regularly. Every day. Three times a day. He would not stop that vital part of his day no matter what the penalty.

If you remember the story, the jealous governors and princes insisted the king throw Daniel to the lions as a penalty for not calling on the king alone as god. It was the law—even the king couldn't change it. But God who had heard Daniel every day, heard him once again. While the Bible doesn't record any special prayer of Daniel at this time, you can be sure Daniel prayed fervently. Wouldn't you?

An angel was sent (verse 22), and the lions didn't even scratch Daniel.

That's the power of prayer. Not the desperate last minute, "God save me" prayer. But the result of constant contact with God who will hear you every day.

What About You?

Maybe you will now say, "I wish I could pray like that." Perhaps you really want to pray—every day, even three times a day. But you just don't know how. You wonder what to pray about. Or how long to pray. Or where to pray.

Maybe you have had the experience of deciding you would start to pray. But when you knelt down to pray, you felt alone. Like you were just talking into thin air.

Just about everyone who has tried to pray has had the same feeling.

Throughout Christ's ministry the disciples saw Jesus separate himself from them to pray. Sometimes he went a little distance away from camp. Other times he went out to a mountainside. Still other times he

went to a private room. But the disciples knew he regularly prayed to God in heaven. They also knew John the Baptist had taught his disciples to pray. But the disciples didn't really know how to pray themselves.

Christ had told them about prayer on several occasions. He said in Matthew 6:7, "But when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words" (RAV). The easy way is to have a memorized prayer to say over and over. But that is not how to pray.

Another time Christ had talked with them about public religious displays. Some religious leaders in Jesus' day had a special vanity. They would go to the temple with great pomp and ceremony. Some would have a trumpet bearer sound the horn, and when everyone turned to see, they would cast their offerings into the temple treasury. Or they would pray piously. These were the same ones who loved to have the chief seats in the synagogue.

You know what Jesus called this kind of pretentious worship?

Hypocrisy!

Concerning prayer, Christ said to his disciples, "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen" (Matt. 6:6, NIV).

Personal prayer is not conducted on main street out in the open. It is your personal and private time with God who is your spiritual Father. Of course, it is entirely appropriate to have occasional public prayer such as asking God's blessing on a meal, to open a meeting or important event and the like.

But we are talking about the time you spend with God in personal prayer.

Let's go back to the example of Christ's disciples. They had observed the many times Christ went out alone to pray. They knew he instructed them not to pray like so-called religious people did. Not to use vain repetitions. But they just did not know how to pray privately.

They finally got the courage to ask him. Christ had been away praying. When he returned one of them said, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples" (Luke 11:1).

Jesus gladly instructed them.

But he didn't tell them what a lot of people think. The passage in Luke 11:2-4 shows *how to pray*. Many today think Jesus told them *what to say*. That is, they think that Jesus' words are what we are to pray over and over. But remember Christ said, "Don't use vain repetition." The so-called Lord's Prayer is not a memorized ditty to be repeated thousands of times—it is a guide to prayer.

Perhaps the best way to phrase the meaning behind this prayer is to call it an OUTLINE of what to pray about.

For many that's the biggest problem of all—what to pray about. Once we acknowledge the

The easy way is to have a memorized prayer to say over and over. But that is not how to pray.

need to pray, and to pray every day, we face the dilemma of what to pray about. It shouldn't be embarrassing to admit you don't know how. Even the apostles had to be taught to pray. If you find yourself at that point, you have good company. We all have been there.

Once you have decided to learn to pray, you need to have a place to pray. Probably the best place for most people is a private room or closet at home. Perhaps the bedroom. Or if you have a basement, a quiet private place there could be set aside as a prayer area. You might have to find your own special place. The main thing is to have a place where you will not be interrupted. And a place you can call your own for the time you pray.

What to Pray About

Christ gave us an outline—a general framework for prayer. If you only recite the outline, you will be finished praying in a little over 20 seconds. That could hardly be considered meaningful private prayer.

But if you use the words of Jesus as an outline, you can pray 10 minutes, 20 minutes, 30 minutes or more each time you pray. It won't be vain repetition at all.

Let's take each of the points of his outline and see just a few things you can pray about.

I have talked to a lot of people about prayer. Many have told me how much more personal God has become once they really learned how to pray.

Most of us don't have any problem talking with people. We can talk with our parents, a good friend, people at work, relatives and neighbors. Why should it be so hard to talk to God? At first it may not be easy. After all, people are right there with us. They talk back. But God may seem, especially at first, far away. He is in heaven. We may feel as if we don't know where that is.

Prayer is our opportunity to talk with the Father in heaven.

You don't need to talk to God in archaic grammatical expressions. It isn't more religious to say, "Lord, we thank thee for thy divine providence," than it is to simply say, "Father, thank you for your blessings in my life."

Your conversation with God should be normal and natural—not stilted and falsely religious sounding.

So once you acknowledge God as Father, Jesus said to give honor and praise to him. If you are happily married, you have terms of endearment you use to express your feelings to your mate. You may call your spouse "sweetheart," or "darling," or "honey," or "dear," or something special that has meaning to you.

But you would never use such words or phrases to describe your relationship and feeling for God. Words like *awesome*, *omnipotent*, *majestic* and *glorious* come to mind.

In other words, as you start praying, you need to get your mind on just how great and powerful God is. He is in heaven—a great and powerful spirit being. Each time you pray you can think of different ways to express both the personal and spiritual relationship you have with God. You can actually spend several minutes communicating

(Continued on page 44)

YOU CAN EAT WELL EVEN IN A DEPRESSED ECONOMY

by Mary E. Hegvold, R.D.

HOW MUCH money do you have to spend for food? How much have you been spending? Have you kept records of your food expenditures?

What kinds of food have you been buying? Are you eating as well as you could in today's economic squeeze?

A favorite topic for discussion in this depressed economy is the high cost of food and how to afford a proper diet. What may at one time have been considered a necessary part of the daily diet may have become scarce or too expensive for the average consumer.

Factors to Consider

Take a few minutes and write down what you spent for food this week or last week. Multiply this amount by 52 (weeks) to find out how much this comes to in a year. Surprised? The yearly cost of food is more than most people realize!

Planning is vital to get the most out of your food budget! The goal is to provide a nutritionally adequate diet that will promote the best health, yet be available where you live.

Besides cost there are nine other factors to consider. Some of these are nutritional requirements of those to be fed, foods available, food habits, time

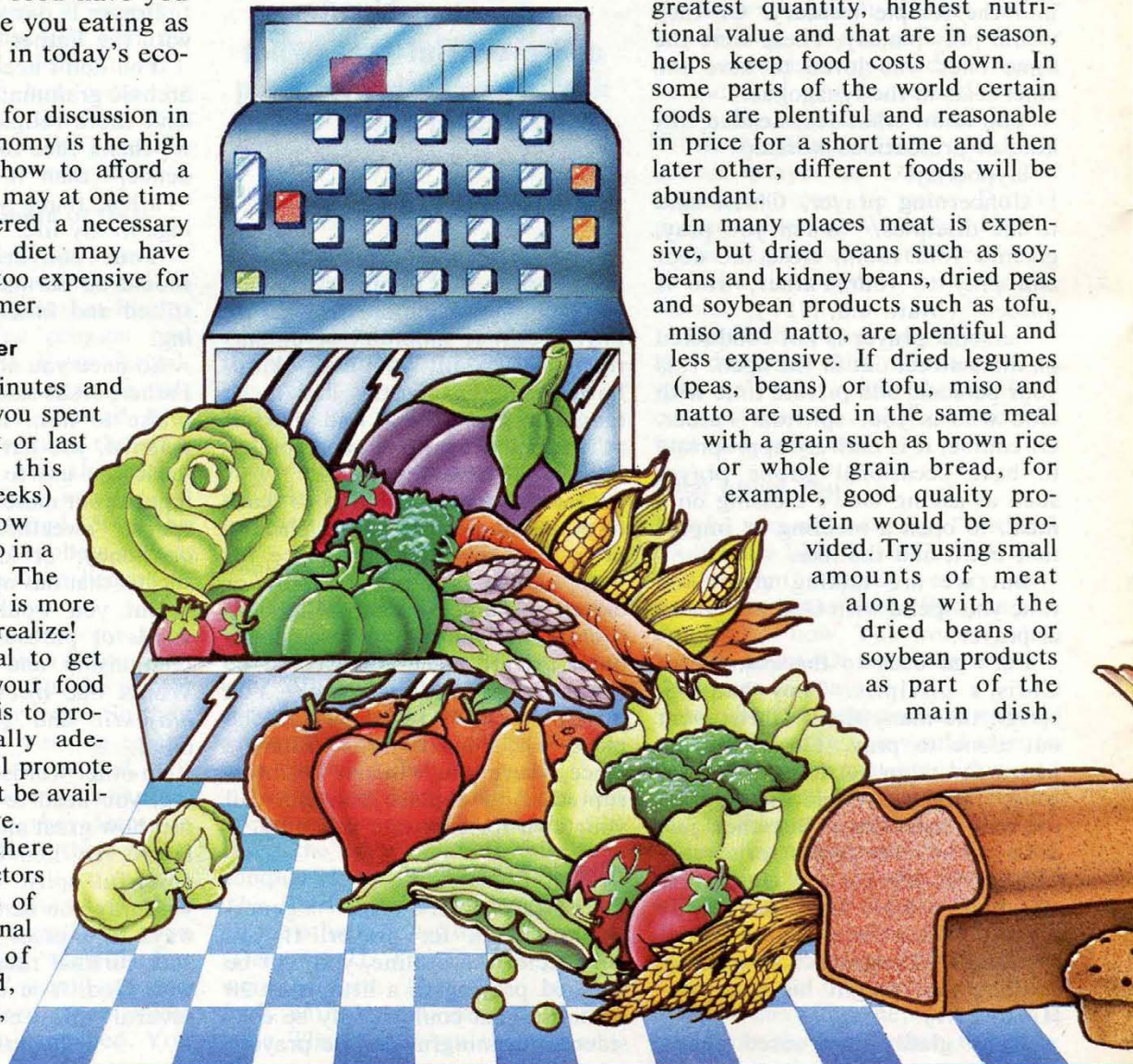
available for food preparation, transportation, daily schedule, equipment, skills and special health considerations.

Nutritional requirements are affected by such things as age, type of activity, pregnancy and lactation.

The needs are greater at times of rapid growth such as teenage years and during pregnancy and lactation. When work is being done that requires a high level of physical activity, a higher calorie intake is needed than for sedentary work.

Using **foods available** in the greatest quantity, highest nutritional value and that are in season, helps keep food costs down. In some parts of the world certain foods are plentiful and reasonable in price for a short time and then later other, different foods will be abundant.

In many places meat is expensive, but dried beans such as soybeans and kidney beans, dried peas and soybean products such as tofu, miso and natto, are plentiful and less expensive. If dried legumes (peas, beans) or tofu, miso and natto are used in the same meal with a grain such as brown rice or whole grain bread, for example, good quality protein would be provided. Try using small amounts of meat along with the dried beans or soybean products as part of the main dish,



instead of meat alone as the main dish. It might even be a matter of changing from eating beef to eating lamb, chicken or fish, which may be more abundant and economical in your area.

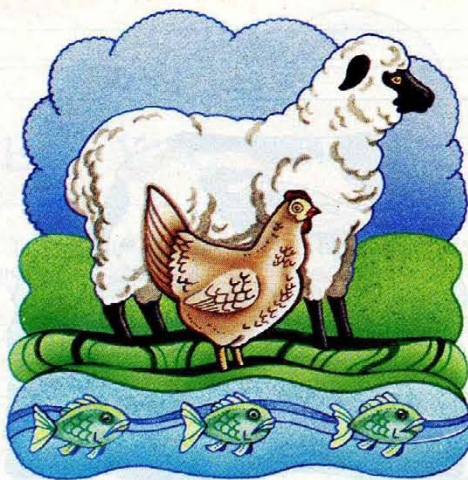
You may be accustomed to eating oranges, but where you now live oranges may be scarce and expensive and instead there is an abundance of cheaper papaya and mango. These can be substituted for oranges for a lower cost and similar food value.

Tomatoes may be considered a necessity. When they are scarce and expensive, other foods such as green cabbage, broccoli, brussels sprouts and dark green leafy vegetables may be more abundant and cheaper. They can be used instead of tomatoes for similar nutritive value.

Milk is generally considered fairly abundant and economical in some parts of the world, but in others it is scarce and expensive. In this situation the calcium, for which milk and milk products are valuable, may be low in the diet. With careful planning, desirable amounts of calcium can be provided in the diet by using adequate amounts of such foods as fish where the bones are also eaten (as with sardines); soybean products; dark green vegetables, such as various greens and broccoli; and lime-treated corn tortillas.

It is wise to develop tastes for all seasonal foods, as finicky **food habits** can lead to costly unnecessary purchases of more scarce and more expensive foods. If a move is made to another country and culture, or even a different part of a country, the foods that are plentiful may be quite different from the ones you are accustomed to. Developing a liking for foods new to you may mean the difference between being well-fed or being poorly nourished.

The more variety included in the diet the more like-



It might be a matter of changing from eating beef to eating lamb, chicken or fish.

ly you are to obtain the nutrients needed. From this standpoint it is also wise to develop a taste for many foods.

Try to get nutritive value from foods instead of pills or other supplements. If there is a need for a supplement it should be planned to do just that—supplement, rather than be used instead of a nutritious diet.

The daily schedule or routine should be considered. It may have a direct influence on when or where you buy food and the **time available for food preparation**. Along with this the mode of **transportation** plays an important part. Shopping may need to be done on the way home after a day at work or after children are taken to or picked up from school, or some other time during the day. Where shopping is done and how much is bought at a time, are not only affected by *when* the shopping is done, but whether one is walking or riding a bus or in one's own car or in a friend's car. The amount that can be carried is more limited when on foot or riding a bus, than when in a car.

The **daily schedule** for food preparation needs to be considered realistically so it can be used to greatest advantage for the health and welfare of all concerned. When time is limited it is wise to concentrate on preparing those foods that

would provide the greatest food value for the family—not in preparing those unnecessary extras, such as time-consuming desserts.

The **equipment** available for food preparation—and for storage—needs to be considered before food items are bought. Oven-baked homemade bread can be delicious and nutritious, but if you do not have an oven or an oven that functions adequately, other alternatives should be considered. Yeast breads in the form of muffins or pancakes can be made on griddles or in surface cooking pans. If a refrigerator or a freezer is not a part of your household, then foods that do not need such storage, or that can be bought in amounts needed and prepared and consumed soon after preparation, should be selected.

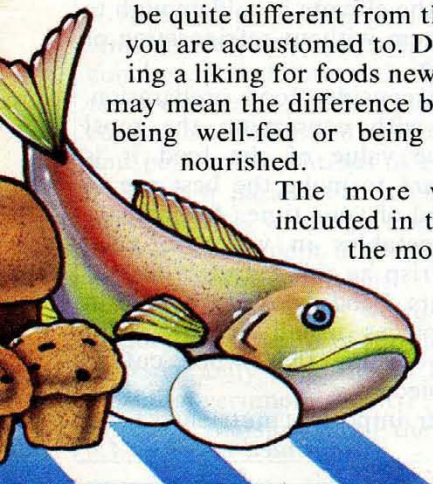
Even though you may have considered all of these factors, what about your **skills** in food preparation? Are you trying to do what a friend, who is quite accomplished in food preparation, does, yet end up with a waste of time, money and food? It is wisest to recognize your abilities and start there with simpler food preparation techniques. Besides, many of the easier things to prepare are often most nutritious and economical.

In addition to these factors, **special health considerations** may require a modified diet because of such conditions as diabetes and high blood pressure. Arthritis, the wearing of dentures or other potentially limiting conditions need to be remembered in planning the kinds of food that will be easiest to eat as well as most nourishing and economical.

Plan of Action

Consideration of various factors that affect the food intake is just the beginning of a program that can help you obtain the most nourishing and economical food available to you. To be of real value these factors need to become part of a plan that can work favorably in your situation.

The first part of this plan is to decide what foods you intend to serve for the coming week. Writing menus for a week's meals can be a great help to make the best use of your time and money, as



well as provide foods high in nutritive value.

An important point to keep in mind is the number of people for whom the food is being planned, bought and prepared. Avoid waste by careful planning and use of food.

Use foods in their natural state whenever possible and feasible. In general the less processed foods have more nutritive value than those that have been highly refined. Even though some of the nutrients removed may again be replaced, they may not be of the same quality or in the same amounts as in the original product. Some are never replaced.

Before deciding on your menus for the week, become aware of the most abundant local foods that are high in nutritive value and the most economical. These foods may be different from what has become a routine part of your diet.

Food Buying

After making a menu for meals for a week, check to see what items you already have and what you need to buy. Have a shopping list based on the menu needs for the week. This is a must if you want to use your time and money to the best advantage. Avoid impulse buying. Make substitutions only if you find a better buy than the item that you planned to use.

Become familiar with food prices as you shop. Also study food advertisements in the newspapers to find out prices. Compare the cost of convenience foods with the cost to make the items from the various ingredients yourself. Discuss food prices with friends to see what might be available. Keep a list of prices of frequently purchased food items to refer to for more effective use of your food money. When shopping, keep track of the money you spend as you select the items so you will know the approximate cost before it is time to pay the cashier.

Consider your storage space and equipment when deciding on the quantity to buy at one time. Where possible, and if adequate storage is available, plan to buy enough to last a week. Exceptions would be perishable items such as milk and



Milk is generally considered fairly abundant and economical, but in some parts of the world, it is scarce and expensive.

fresh green, leafy vegetables.

Learn the source of the best buys of high quality food that also meet your needs. In some instances the price may be a bargain, but the products are no bargain!

Quality as well as price is important!

The roadside fresh produce stand may sound like a better place to shop than the regular marketplace. But be sure to consider the traveling time needed. If a long distance is involved the fuel costs may cause the purchase to be more expensive than in local markets.

Buying in large quantities or co-op buying may sound like a great idea when the savings on food items are mentioned—but is it always?

It depends on your needs. If you end up with items that spoil before they can be used it could be more of an expense rather than a savings. It is important to purchase food while it is at peak (top) quality and also use it before it deteriorates or spoils.

To be an effective buyer you need to become aware of what constitutes quality in food products. Size is not necessarily a good criteria. The largest eggs may just cost more to buy, not be superior in quality. Most recipes assume that medium or large eggs will be used,

not the more costly, extra large or jumbo ones.

With berries, fruits and vegetables, as well as fish and poultry, freshness is an important consideration. Where possible it is helpful to find out delivery times at the market, especially for the more perishable items. With this in mind you may be able to plan your shopping at times when these items are freshest.

Purchasing a whole chicken and cutting it up yourself is usually cheaper than buying one already cut up. Become aware of the possible cuts available from certain roasts or pieces of meat. Variety can be added to the menus by buying a larger cut and dividing it into pieces for various uses yourself. For example, a large slice of round steak or roast can be cut into pieces suitable for broiling, grilling or frying and can also be cut into pieces for braising or cooking in a small amount of liquid.

Coupons may be regarded by some as a sure way to save money. But are they always? If by using the coupons you would save money on an item you ordinarily would use, the answer is yes. If you would not ordinarily buy the item the answer is no.

Storage and Preparation

Proper storage may mean the difference between using and losing the items you buy. If frozen foods have been bought they should be stored in the freezer promptly or used quickly. If there is no adequate storage for perishable items such as poultry, fish and meat, they should be bought daily, in amounts that can be consumed on that day, unless the climate is cold enough to store them without refrigeration or freezing.

Now consider food preparation. Along with conserving the most nutritive value of the food it is important to make the best use of food and of your time. Avoid soaking vegetables in water to keep them crisp as this causes a loss of nutrients. Foods cooked whole or in large pieces usually retain more nutritive value than when cut in small pieces.

Other important nutrient saving
(Continued on page 43)

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!

World Government in Our Time?

Five years after the close of World War II, Winston Churchill declared in a speech in Copenhagen, "Unless some effective world *supergovernment* can be brought quickly into action, the proposals for peace and human progress are dark and doubtful."

In the early 1960s, noted nuclear physicist Edward Teller, who helped develop the hydrogen bomb, warned, "We must work for the establishment of a world authority sustained by moral and physical force—a *world government* capable of enforcing worldwide law."

Many voices have been raised calling for a world government to be established. Numerous scientists and world leaders *know* that world peace is possible *only* if all the nations are brought together in a supreme world government!

Is World Government Possible?

Yet, declared A.F.K. Organski in the book *World Politics*, "World government is still a long way off. . . . The creation of a world government through the voluntary agreement of existing nations is so unlikely that we can say flatly that *it will never happen*" (emphasis ours throughout this study).

And Hans J. Morgenthau, in his book *Politics Among Nations*, asserted, "There is no shirking the conclusion that international peace cannot be permanent without a world state, and that a world state *cannot* be established under the present moral, social and political conditions of the world."

What a paradox! Leaders admit the most urgent need today is world government. Yet they admit that such a government is a near total impossibility under present world conditions!

What about it? Is world government impossible—an idle pipe dream of unrealistic optimists?

If our only hope lies in the efforts of men, then a world government is **NOT** possible, and there is *no hope* for the survival of the human race!

How World Government Will Come

People today generally fail to recognize there is a power other than their own that can bring about a universal government on earth.

That great power is **GOD ALMIGHTY!** He has the power and the wisdom to make world government a *reality!*

This is the message God sent Jesus Christ to proclaim to the world. It is the gospel—the good news—that Christ will return with the power of God to set up the government of God on earth!

Few today understand that God has allotted mankind 6,000 years in which to rule himself. During this time, God has kept hands off the affairs of men. He has allowed man to pursue the ways that seem right to him, which have resulted in suffering and death (Prov. 16:25). God has given man the opportunity to prove, *by experience*, the basic inadequacies of *any* form of human government—be it communism, fascism, socialism or democracy.

God is allowing mankind to prove to itself that *no human* form of government can bring or enforce world peace!

Your Bible reveals that a time of *spiritual* and *physical* rejuvenation—1,000 years of boundless peace and prosperity—is coming in our time! Let's take a glimpse at what the government of that wonderful world tomorrow will be like and how it will enforce peace.

1. How will Jesus Christ, the returning "King of kings," deal with the warring nations of this world? Rev. 19:11-16.

COMMENT: As we discovered in previous studies, Jesus Christ will return to this earth at the climax of catastrophic world troubles. He is coming to rescue mankind from nuclear annihilation! (Matt. 24:22.)

At his return, Christ will have to subdue warmakers and *force* mankind, *at first*, to submit to his rule! He will use a "rod of iron," symbolizing absolute authority. He will rule with *power*, not hesitating to use it when necessary! Men, influenced by their old habits and selfish attitudes developed under this world's sys-

tem of misguided education, must be ruled rigidly *until* they learn the positive fruits of living God's way.

2. Where will the headquarters of this divine government be set up? Jer. 3:17.

COMMENT: Christ will rule the nations from Jerusalem, the future world capital of the kingdom of God. Once established, his rule will spread over the entire earth.

3. Who will assist Christ in administering God's government after his return? Dan. 7:18, 22; Rev. 5:10; 20:4.

COMMENT: Christ will place over nations and cities those he has already trained to rule under him. The "saints"—Christians who have voluntarily come under the government of God in his Church and proved their loyalty to God during their mortal lives—will assist Christ in governing the world after they are born again as spirit sons of God at Christ's return.

The coming government of God will not be a democracy or any other kind of humanly devised government. Time and money will not be wasted on campaigning and elections. There will be no need to cater to special organized groups or classes of people to get votes. There will be no lobbyists or other pressure groups trying to influence government policy.

Government will be from the top down, with Christ reigning supreme and each divine ruler under him serving in genuine love and concern for his subjects, instead of acting according to selfish motives as is often the case today.

4. How much power will each ruler exercise in his own area? Rev. 2:26-27.

COMMENT: There will be authority to render judgments on the spot in all parts of the world. Yet all governmental policies will be based on the pattern laid down from world headquarters by Christ himself. God's government will be perfectly organized, devoid of useless red tape and bureaucratic excess baggage.

Reeducation to God's Way

1. Will the nations finally realize how good God's government is and begin to seek Christ, asking to be *instructed* in God's way of life? Micah 4:1-3.

COMMENT: In Bible prophecy, a "mountain" is often used as a symbol of a major nation and "hills" as symbols of smaller nations. Notice that people will come to Jerusalem seeking to be taught God's way of life.

Christ will not only be supreme king over all the nations, he will also be *supreme educator*! He will *reeducate* the world to God's way of life—the way of God's law of love—so people may, of their own free will, decide to follow his way that leads to peace, economic prosperity and spiritual blessings.

2. Will God punish those nations that refuse to be reeducated to his way? Zech. 14:16-17. And if they still refuse to obey? Verses 18-19.

COMMENT: After rebellion against the government

of God is put down by divine power, Christ will begin immediately to reeducate people worldwide. They will come to know he is Lord over all, and that he possesses the way to both physical and spiritual blessings. Those who stubbornly refuse to learn will suffer from drought and plagues until they submit to God's rule.

3. Will God's saints take a personal part in bringing about complete understanding of God's law, and in directing people toward right action? Isa. 30:20-21.

COMMENT: With proper guidance from those who teach God's way of life, violence and crime will be stopped. People will finally learn how to live at peace with one another.

4. How successful will God's reeducation program be in teaching the knowledge of his way to the world? Isa. 11:9; Jer. 31:34.

COMMENT: During the Millennium no religious confusion will exist, because Satan, who has deceived the whole world, will be imprisoned at Christ's coming, awaiting final judgment (Rev. 20:1-3). Humans will then be teachable—their eyes will be opened to God's revealed truth.

As a result of God's reeducation program, people will begin to live God's way of love—the way of giving and outgoing concern for others—the way of true values—the way of peace, of happiness, of well-being, of joy and, ultimately, spiritual salvation!

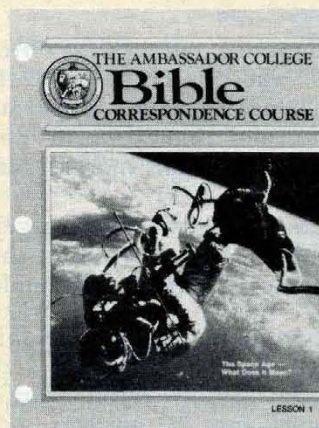
In our next study we'll learn about conditions on earth after the nations have been reeducated to God's way of life. We'll learn what tomorrow's world will be like!

Prepared by Richard H. Sedliacik

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exciting, challenging book ever written, and its message is for you now! You can enroll in this free course by checking the box on the enclosed literature request card and returning it as instructed. If no card is available, write in requesting the Course.





The Other Land of the Free

by John Halford and Leon Sexton

Bangkok, Thailand

In a part of the world that has seen so much upheaval, war and misery, this nation of 45 million people has remained stable and at peace. Much of that is because of the outstanding example of leadership set by the man who has ruled Thailand for 36 years—King Bhumibol Adulyadej. It is time our readers have a closer look at this remarkable man and the nation he leads.

To the casual visitor, Thailand might not seem like one of the world's more successful countries. It is still classified as a "developing" nation.

But if we look deeper and examine the fabric of the country, we see a different picture. Thailand's people, in general, are not caught up in the mad scramble to get ahead at all costs. Their social and family life is not falling apart.

Perhaps we should not think of the Thais as a "have not" people, but as a people who just "have different." What is it about Thailand that has preserved it in a troubled region?

Thais are grateful for their long record of independence—Thailand means literally, the "land of the free." Although strictly nonaligned, Thailand enjoys a long and stable friendship with the United States—also known worldwide as "the land of the free"—and the nations of Europe. (Thailand was never a colony of one of the European powers.) In foreign affairs, the Thais conduct themselves with dignity and common sense. Some years ago, the nation earned international respect when it opened its borders to hundreds of thousands of refugees who fled neighboring Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos after the Indo-Chinese wars.

Various governments, civilian and military, have ruled Thailand since the end of the Second World War. But changes in government do little to disturb the tranquil pace of Thai life, which is firmly built on three pillars: the Throne, the Buddhist faith, to which most Thais belong, and the land itself.

Although King Bhumibol is a constitutional monarch, holding no political power, he is held in almost universal prestige and honor by his subjects. Pictures of the Royal Family adorn nearly every home, shop and office in Thailand. Such is his reputation that *lèse majesté*—showing disrespect to the Royal Family—is a serious offense. No loyal Thai would ever think of speaking against the King, or defacing his picture (or even a postage stamp with his portrait on it). In times of peace, the King and Queen provide a focal point for the Thais' love of their country. In times of crisis—yes, even peaceful Thailand has its

moments of anxiety—it is to the Throne that the nation looks for guidance and reassurance.

King Bhumibol does not rule by fear and oppression. The respect for him and his beautiful wife, Queen Sirikit, is genuine. The King and Queen deeply love their people. In return, the Thais sincerely honor their King and Queen with an intensity that is rare in today's world.

That is an important point—let us restate it. The people of Thailand look to their King as the embodiment of all that is Thai. He is the head of the Thai family—an extended family that encompasses the whole nation. Throughout history, men of many nations have risen to rule their people—only to become carried away with delusions of grandeur, demanding homage from those they rule. But the King and Queen of Thailand deserve their honor. They and their children have dedicated their lives to their



LEFT: HALSTEAD—LIANSON. RIGHT: ADAMS—LIANSON

people. King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit are followers and upholders of the Buddhist faith, yet perhaps no finer examples could be found of Jesus' admonition that "he who will be greatest among you should be servant of all." *They serve!*

Each year, the Royal Family travels thousands of miles, by plane, helicopter, jeep and on foot to every corner of their large kingdom. His Majesty tries to spend as much time as possible meeting and listening to the people who are the grass roots of Thai society—the peasant farmers who form 80 percent of the population. He makes it a point to visit even the remotest areas of the kingdom, appraising himself of the needs of even the humblest of his subjects. During their reign, the King and Queen have initiated hundreds of projects aimed at educating and improving the well-being of all Thai people. The King has met much of the expense of these projects from his personal funds.

His Majesty's projects are not designed to impress visitors and enhance prestige. There are no monuments to vanity that have so often been the legacy of rulers trying to impress. Neither does the King encourage industrialization for its own sake. He is not against modernization, for he is well acquainted with the Western world and its ways. He was born in the United States and completed his formal education in Switzerland.

King Bhumibol carefully monitors his country's progress. As the wealth of Thailand lies in its land, it is to the land that the King directs his people's attention. His royal projects are always carefully planned to fill a genuine need. Many developing nations would do well to copy the Thai example, before they collapse completely under self-imposed burdens in their efforts to catch up with the industrialized world.

The King's projects range from irrigation of the dry northeast of the country to flood prevention in the south. They focus on agricultural and animal husbandry projects that teach Thai farmers how to increase productivity without abandoning traditional methods.

Farmers in one area, for example, were too poor to own a water buffalo—essential for tilling the rice paddies. King Bhumibol initiated a water buffalo "bank," that would loan a buffalo to a farmer until his plowing was done. Another project introduced improved strains of fish into the canals and waterways that bring water to

the fields, thus providing an additional supply of food.

Agricultural research is even carried out within the Palace grounds in Bangkok. The King will personally plant rice grains selected for their strength and hardiness. The harvested seed grains are sent to farmers throughout the nation.

The King will often pay a personal visit to regions where crops fail. Practical help always follows, and the King often makes a follow-up visit to be sure the problem is solved.

The Queen serves alongside her husband. She is the innovator of many projects designed to revive and improve Thai art and handicrafts. She stresses respect for traditional methods along with top quality workmanship. In this way Her Majesty has fostered a renewed interest in her people's unique talents.

One of the most far reaching and innovative undertakings initiated by the Royal couple are the Royal Highland Hilltribe projects.

The Hilltribes of northern Thailand are ethnically different from the Thai people. They have different languages, customs and religion, and have not had much social contact with the lowland Thai population.

Up until the middle of the 1950s, little attention was paid to these nomadic tribesmen. But since then, the government found it necessary to concern themselves with these simple mountain peoples for three important reasons:

First, they used a destructive method of agriculture known as slash and burn. In a selected section of mountain rain forest, the trees are slashed or cut down and burned. This not only clears the land for cultivation, but also provides ash that gives additional nutrients to the soil. Crops are then planted and harvested repeatedly until the soil is exhausted five or seven years later. The tribe then moves on to slash and burn another area. Through slash and burn, Thailand's vast teak forests and the land on which they stood were being ruined. As the Hilltribe populations increased, more and more upland forest land was destroyed. This caused a change in the watershed patterns, which disrupted the lowland rice cultivation and caused flooding.

Second, in the later part of the 1950s, rebel groups began infiltrating the mountain regions of Thailand, posing a potential threat to security as they attempted to influence the Hilltribes.



Third, the Hilltribes of northern Thailand are traditional cultivators of the notorious opium poppy.

Because of these three areas of concern, Thai intervention in the traditional patterns of life of the Hilltribes became essential. But *how* to intervene was the problem.

It is at this point that King Bhumibol demonstrated his grasp of the situation and his concern for the welfare of his mountain subjects. He realized that it would be disastrous to forcibly suppress the growing of opium, as it was the Hilltribes' main source of income. Also, demanding a halt to their traditional slash and burn agriculture would disrupt their way of life and make them prey for potential enemies of Thailand.

His Majesty used his influence to institute a well-planned project of intervention based on one vital key—EDUCATION. He initiated a number of projects designed to educate the Hilltribes in the cultivation of alternative cash crops. He also encouraged them to practice a more settled form of agriculture that would preserve the mountain forests from the effects of slash and burn. Members of the Royal Family became familiar figures in the mountain valleys as they traveled, often on foot, encouraging the people to adopt the new programs.

These programs have proved successful. Entire villages now grow peaches, beans, strawberries, coffee and upland rice crops instead of opium. These crops bring in better profit than did opium, and many Hill-tribe villages are now too busy growing cash crops to bother with the risky opium trade.

This is not the end of the story. Concerned about the future generations of his mountain subjects, King Bhumibol initiated a further project to improve the educational standards among these mostly illiterate tribes, to prepare them for increased contact with the lowland Thais.

Volunteer teachers and specially trained Border Patrol Police have been sent into the hills to teach the equivalent of the Thai "three Rs" in mobile schools. Thailand's Hilltribes have appreciated this project most of all, as they highly value education, especially for their children.

Today the Hilltribes of northern Thailand recognize His Majesty King Bhumibol as their friend and protector. He has proven to them that he is genuinely

concerned for their welfare. The King understands that the way of giving, sharing, helping, encouraging and educating may not be the quickest way to eliminate a problem. But it is the best way—and indeed the *only* way to a lasting solution where everyone benefits.

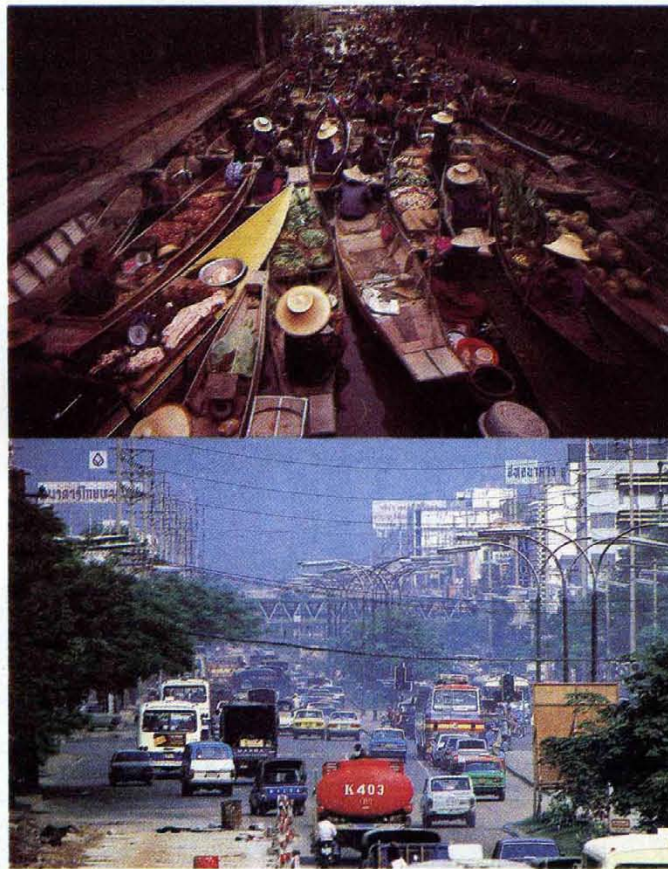
King Bhumibol has shown the world that long-range practical solutions that take into consideration the well-being of everyone can be made to succeed. *Giving* to his mountain subjects has worked—*taking* from them will not.

Whether it is working with the Hilltribes, visiting refugee camps or pioneering some new irrigation or self-help project, King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit daily prove themselves to be more than just figurehead monarchs. This dedicated Royal couple show that they think and plan constantly for the needs of their country. No village is too remote, no person too insignificant not to warrant the Royal Family's concern. Even the hapless refugees from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam have received their Majesties' care and attention. The Royal couple have visited many of the camps personally, bringing encouragement and practical aid. (The King has been seriously ill from a blood disorder that he may have contracted while visiting refugees in a border region.)

The King and Queen's three children follow their parents' example of sacrifice and hard work. When King Bhumibol came to the throne, he made a promise: "We will reign with righteousness, for the benefit and happiness of the Thai people." He and his queen have kept their promise.

In a world where, almost daily, governments are overthrown, leaders assassinated and princes and kings sent into exile, the Thai Royal Family is a remarkable example of stability. They show that it isn't necessary for a head of state to hang on to power by fear or oppression. In the long run, it is love, concern, hard work and a genuine attitude of service that endears a ruler to his people. Three thousand years ago, wise King Solomon summarized this principle in a proverb: "It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, *for the throne is established by righteousness.*"

Thailand—the other land of the free—is indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated Royal Family. □



AUSTIN—LANSON

NEVEU—LANSON

THE CRISIS over Jerusalem in A.D. 70 has passed. The civil turmoil within the Roman Empire temporarily ceases.

But the hopes of many Christians are shattered. Instead of being delivered, Christians continue to suffer persecution as a result of Emperor Nero's example. Each day brings fresh news of the imprisonment or martyrdom of relatives and friends.

Many Christians are confused. They thought the signs of the "end of the age"—including Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem (Luke 21:20)—had seemingly all been there. Events had appeared to be moving swiftly toward the anxiously awaited climax—the triumphal return of Jesus Christ as King of kings.

But Jesus has not returned. He *should* have come, many say to themselves. But he hasn't. Divisions set in among Christians.

Then comes the Revelation of Jesus Christ to John, the last surviving apostle. It explains that what occurred in A.D. 66 to 70

was only a *forerunner* of a final crisis over Jerusalem at the end of this age of human self-rule. The end is not *now*.

In disappointment or in impatience, many who call themselves Christians begin to stray from the truth—or to renounce Christianity altogether. Those who stray become susceptible to "innovations" in doctrine.

Heresy is rife. Congregations become divided by doctrinal differences even though they all call themselves the Churches of God. Some begin to express doubts about the book of Revelation, and press forward their own doctrinal views.

The apostasy foretold by the apostles moves ahead. Only the aged apostle John stands in the

THE HISTORY OF EUROPE & THE CHURCH

PART TWO

THE FATEFUL UNION

by Keith W. Stump

Editor's Note: The centuries-long association between Europe and the Church has shaped—and will continue to shape—the history of the Western world. To properly understand today's news and the events that lie ahead, a grasp of the sweep of European history is essential. Only within an historical context can the events of our time be fully appreciated.

For this reason, we are presenting a series of articles examining this historic relationship. Last month's installment covered the tumultuous first decades of the early Church. Our series continues with Part Two, taking the story to the fall of the Roman Empire in A.D. 476.

way. The more than three decades since the death of Peter and of Paul in A.D. 68 have been spent under the sole apostolic leadership of John. The churches directly supervised by him and faithful elders

assisting him have held firm to the government of God over the Church and to God's revealed truth.

But now comes another shock. The apostle John dies in Ephesus.

At once, self-seeking contenders for authority grasp for power over the churches. A full-scale rebellion breaks out against the authority of God's government as it has been administered by the apostles and then solely by the apostle John.

Many lose sight of where and with whom God has been working. They turn from the teachings of John and faithful disciples to follow

others who *claim* to have authority and preeminence and who call themselves God's ministers. They become the mainstream of Christianity.

But some remain faithful even though now separated from the mainstream of Christianity. They hold fast to sound doctrine and resist the forces of the invisible Satan who deceives the whole world. They continue to believe the good news of the coming restoration of the government of God over the earth. They continue to wait for Jesus to return with power to enforce

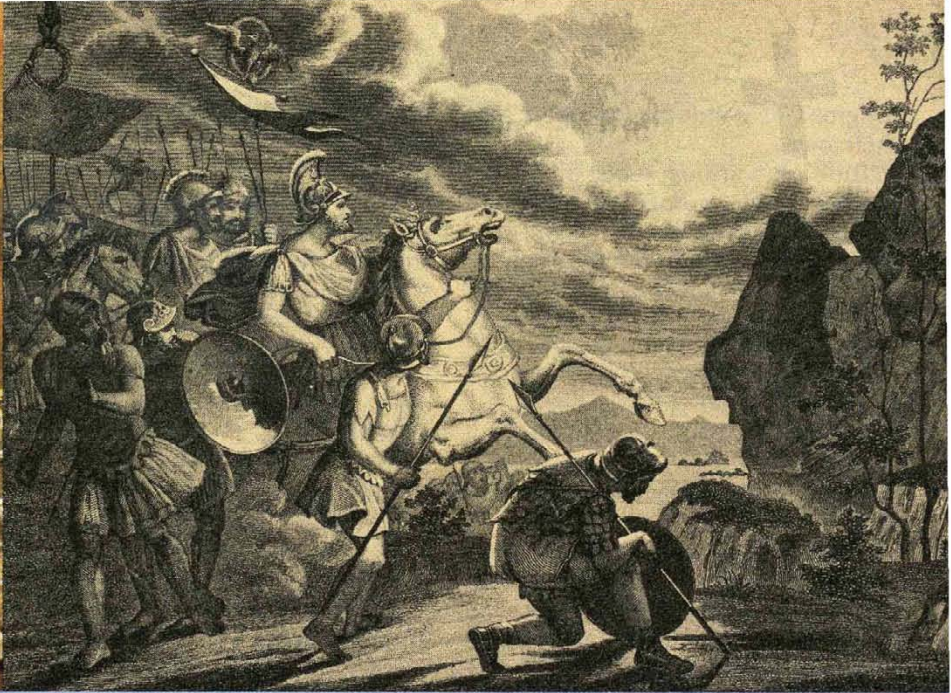
world peace.

Persecution Continues

Regardless of their doctrinal differences—whether apostate or faithful—all who call themselves Christian continue to suffer persecution.

The polytheistic Romans are not by nature intolerant in religion. They permit many different forms of belief and worship. They have even incorporated elements of the

CONSTANTINE THE GREAT, first Christian emperor of Rome, is portrayed in a marble statue made in A.D. 315 (upper left). The emperor views the flaming cross (upper right). The Arch of Constantine in Rome (bottom), was erected in A.D. 312 to celebrate his victory over Maxentius.



religions of conquered peoples into their own.

But the various sects of Christianity pose a special problem. Adherents to the various pagan religions readily accommodate themselves to the deification of the emperor and the insistence that all loyal citizens sacrifice at his altar. But this kind of "patriotism" goes far beyond what is possible for any Christians. So they are punished—not because they are Christians *per se*, but because they are "disloyal."

Nero, the first of the persecuting emperors, had set a cruel precedent. During the next 250 years, 10 major persecutions are unleashed upon Christianity.

About A.D. 95, Emperor Domitian—the younger son of Vespasian and brother of Titus, destroyer of Jerusalem—launches a short but severe persecution on Christians. Thousands are slain in his reign of terror.

In A.D. 98, Marcus Ulpius Trajan—commonly known as Trajan—is elected emperor by the Roman senate. In his eyes, Christianity is opposed to the state religion and therefore sacrilegious and punishable. Among the many who die during his reign is the influential theologian Ignatius, bishop of Antioch in Syria, who is thrown to the lions in the Roman arena in A.D. 110.

Trajan's successors Hadrian (117-138) and Antoninus Pius (138-161) continue the carnage. Among those to suffer martyrdom during the latter's reign is the illustrious Polycarp, elder at Smyrna and the leading Christian figure in Asia Minor.

With the accession of Emperor Marcus Aurelius (161-180), the Empire suddenly finds itself disrupted by wars, rebellion, floods, pestilence and famine. As often happens in times of great disaster, the ignorant populace seeks to throw the blame for these calamities on an unpopular class—in this case, the various sects of Christians.

The strong outcry raised against what the world sees as Christianity leaves Marcus Aurelius no choice. In troubled times as these, there can be only one loyalty—to the

emperor. He orders the laws to be enforced. The resulting persecution—the severest since Nero's day—brings a horrible death to thousands of Christians. Among them is the scholar Justin Martyr, who is put to death at Rome.

The Roman emperors Septimius Severus (193-211) and Maximin (235-238) continue the persecutions. Hunted as outlaws, thousands of Christians are burned at the stake, crucified or beheaded.

Emperor Decius (249-251) determines to completely eradicate Christianity. Blood flows in frightful massacres throughout the Empire. A subsequent persecution under Valerian (253-260) goes even further in its severity.

But the persecution inaugurated by Diocletian (284-305) surpasses them all in violence. This 10th persecution is a systematic attempt to wipe the name of Christ from the earth! Diocletian's violence towards the Christian sects is unparalleled in history.

An edict requiring uniformity of worship is issued in A.D. 303. By refusing to pay homage to the image of the emperor, all Christians in the realm become outlaws. Their public and private possessions are taken from them, their assemblies are prohibited, their churches are torn down, their sacred writings are destroyed.

The victims of death and torture number into the tens—even hundreds—of thousands. Every means is devised to exterminate the obstinate religion. Coins are struck commemorating the "annihilation of the Christians."

Only in the extreme western portion of the Empire do Christians escape. Constantius Chlorus—Roman military ruler of Gaul, Spain, Britain and the Rhine frontier—prevents the execution of the edict in the regions under his rule. He protects the Christians, whose general virtues he esteems.

Civil War

Diocletian's reign also brings a development of great historic importance within the political realm.

Diocletian realizes the Empire is too large to be administered by a single man. For purposes of better

government of so vast an empire, Diocletian voluntarily divides the power and responsibility of his office, associating . . . with himself his friend Maximian as coemperor.

The two divide the Empire. Diocletian takes the East, with his capital at Nicomedia in Asia Minor. Maximian takes the West and establishes his headquarters at Milan in northern Italy.

Each of these two *Augusti* or emperors then selects an assistant with the title of *Caesar*. These deputy emperors are to succeed them, and designate new Caesars in turn. The Caesars chosen by Diocletian and Maximian are Galerius and Constantius Chlorus. They are to command the armies of the frontiers.

After a severe illness, Diocletian abdicates his power on May 1, 305. He compels his colleague Maximian to follow his example the same day. They are succeeded by their respective deputy emperors, Galerius and Constantius. These two former Caesars are now *Augusti*. Galerius rules the East; Constantius rules the West.

When Constantius dies suddenly the next year while on expedition against the Picts of Scotland, his troops immediately proclaim his son Constantine as emperor. The smooth succession envisioned by Diocletian never takes place.

For the next eight years, there follows a succession of civil wars among rival pretenders for imperial power. Constantine engages these competitors in battle. The stage is now set for history-making events, within both the Empire and Christianity.

Surprise in Rome

It is now 312. The persecution inaugurated by Diocletian nine years earlier still rages. In Rome, Miltiades is bishop over the Christian groups there.

By this time, the bishop of Rome has come to be generally acknowledged as the leader of Christianity in the West. He is called "pope" (Latin, *papa*, "father"), an ecclesiastical title long since given to many bishops. (It will not be until the 9th century that the title is reserved exclusively for the bishop of Rome.)

Of the 30 bishops of the Church at Rome before Miltiades, all but one or two had died a martyr's death. With a violent persecution underway, Miltiades expects nothing better.

It is October 28. Miltiades emerges from his small house to discover the great Constantine standing in the street before him! With him are guards with drawn swords.

Constantine has just defeated his brother-in-law and chief rival Maxentius (son of the old Western emperor Maximian) at the Milvian Bridge near Rome. Winning this key battle has secured Constantine's throne. He is now sole emperor in the West.

But what does Constantine want of Miltiades? Does he intend to cap his victory by personally executing the leader of Rome's Christians?

The emperor steps forward. With Miltiades' chief priest, Silvester, serving as interpreter, Constantine begins to speak.

What Miltiades hears signals the beginning of a new era. The world will never be the same again.

The Flaming Cross

Just before the battle of Milvian Bridge, Constantine had seen a vision. In the sky appeared a flaming cross, and above it the words *In Hoc Signo Vinces* ("In this sign, conquer!"). Stirred by the vision, he ordered that the Christian symbol—the monogram $\chi\rho$ (the superimposed Greek letters X and P, *Chi* and *Rho*, the first two letters of the word *Christos*)—be inscribed upon the standards and shields of the army.

The battle was then fought in the name of the Christian God. Constantine was victorious. Maxentius was defeated and drowned.

The crucial victory spells not only supreme power for Constantine, but a new era for the Church. Constantine becomes the first Roman emperor to profess Christianity, though he delays baptism until the end of his life. A magnificent triumphal arch is erected in his honor in Rome. It ascribes Constantine's victory to the "inspiration of the Divinity."

Soon afterward, Constantine issues the Edict of Milan (313),

granting Christians full freedom to practice their religion. Though pagan worship is still tolerated until the end of the century, Constantine exhorts all his subjects to follow his example and become Christians.

Constantine donates to the bishop of Rome the opulent Lateran Palace. When Silvester is named bishop of Rome upon Miltiades' death in January, 314, he is crowned—clad in imperial raiment—as an earthly prince. The emperor fills many chief government offices with Christians and provides assistance in building churches.

Things have *indeed* changed!

For centuries persecuted by the Empire, the Christian Church has now become *allied* with it! Christianity assumes an intimate relationship with the secular power. It quickly grows to a position of great influence over the affairs of the Empire.

Christians of decades past would not have believed it. They are free from persecution. The Emperor himself is a Christian! It is simply "too good to be true." Yet it *is* true!

Many Christians puzzle over this new order of things. For nearly three centuries they had waited for the return of Jesus Christ as deliverer. They had waited for the fall of Rome, and the triumph of the kingdom of God.

But now the persecutions have ended. The Church holds a position of power and respect throughout the Empire. The picture appears *bright* for the faith!

What does it all mean?

Christians of various persuasions see many prophecies of persecution in the Scriptures. But nowhere do Jesus or the apostles foretell a popular growth and universal acceptance of the Church. No prophecy says that the Church of God will become great and powerful in *this* world.

Yet look what has happened! How is it to be understood?

After centuries of believing that the kingdom was "not of this world"—that the world and the Church would be at odds until Jesus' return—professing Christians now search for an explanation to the new state of affairs.

State Religion

Continuing events within the Empire further fuel this reevaluation. In 321, Constantine issues an edict forbidding work on "the venerable day of the sun" (Sunday), the day that had come to be substituted for the seventh-day Sabbath (sunset Friday to sunset Saturday). Christians in general had hitherto held Saturday as sacred, though in Rome and in Alexandria, Egypt, Christians had ceased doing so. (In 365, the Council of Laodicea will formally prohibit the keeping of the "Jewish Sabbath" by Christians.)

In 324, the Emperor formally establishes Christianity as the official religion of the Empire. The previous year, Constantine had defeated the Eastern Emperor and had become the sole Emperor of East and West. Thus Christianity is now the established religion *throughout the civilized Western world!*

In an effort to further promote unity and uniformity within Christianity, Constantine calls a conclave of bishops from all parts of the Empire in 325. The council—intended to settle doctrinal disputes among Christians—is held at Nicea, in Bithynia.

The Council of Nicea confronts two major issues. It deals firstly with a dispute over the relationship of Christ to God the Father. The dispute is called the Arian controversy. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, has been teaching that Christ was *created*, not eternal and divine like the Father. The Council condemns him and his doctrine and exiles Arian teachers. (The movement, however, continues strong in many areas. When Gothic and Germanic invaders are converted to Christianity, it is frequently to the Arian form.)

The other major issue at the Council is the proper date for the celebration of Passover. Many Christians—especially those in Asia Minor—still commemorate Jesus' death on the 14th day of the Hebrew month Nisan—the day the "Jewish" passover lambs had been slain. In contrast, Rome and the Western churches emphasize the resurrection, rather than the death
(Continued on page 27)

COMPUTERS: CHANGING

by Jeff Zhorne

The computer is radically changing traditional concepts of work. Here's how you will be affected.

ISN'T IT incredible? On one hand the world enjoys an unprecedented zenith of technological advancement, yet on the other hand humanity stands on the verge of nuclear annihilation.

What a paradox that man has succeeded in building computers that have tailored a new scientific age, but at the same time man has failed to solve social evils!

Dawn of a New Age?

Computers are making strong inroads into nearly every aspect of life. Some find the prospect exciting—others find it unnerving. The fact is that the ability to use a computer is rapidly becoming a job requirement.

For example, about 75 percent of all jobs in the United States within the next two years will involve computers. In other countries similar shifts toward computerization are expected.

Computers are being invited into the home, under the guise of video games or budget planners. They may serve to monitor a domestic security system, turn on the coffee pot, regulate the thermostat or manage the business portfolio.

Offices, including our own *Plain Truth* offices, are being invaded by increasing numbers of computers posing as word processors. One magazine reported that in the U.S., about 10 percent of the typewriters in the 500 largest industrial organiza-

tions have so far been replaced by such equipment.

Computer manufacturers are delighted by the new revenues. In only 40 years since the inception of digital computers, the electronic machines have flooded the marketplace, the work environment, the domestic scene—no aspect of one's daily activities goes untouched.

Not only do computers help regulate air traffic, navigate spacecraft and manufacture automobiles, they now forecast weather and monitor your bank balance—as well as facilitate correction of typographical errors in magazine articles like this one!

Whether you live in South Africa, Switzerland or the South Pacific, computers probably make transactions quick, convenient and reliable, every time you place a travel reservation, buy clothing at a department store or food at a grocery market.

Computerized Competition

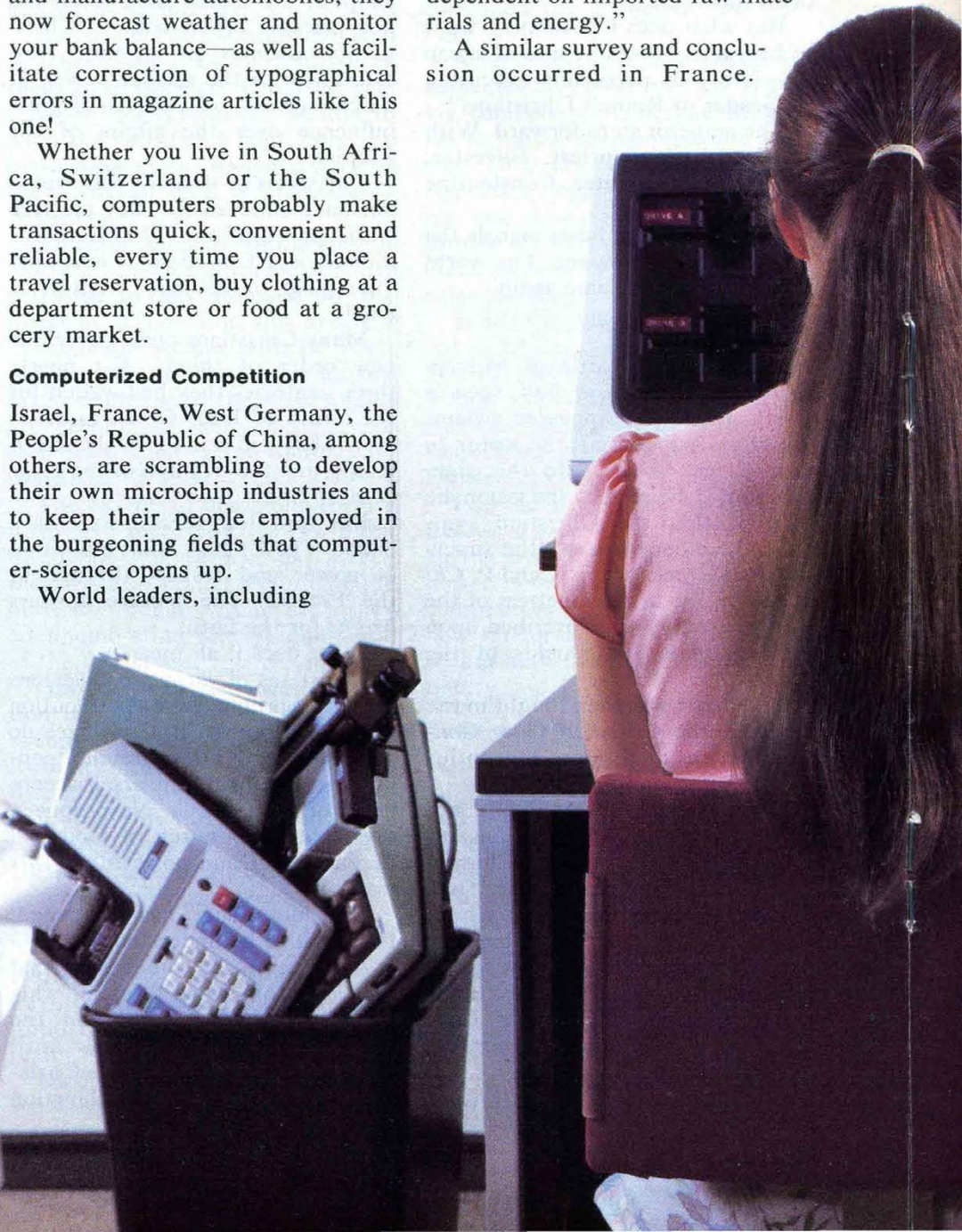
Israel, France, West Germany, the People's Republic of China, among others, are scrambling to develop their own microchip industries and to keep their people employed in the burgeoning fields that computer-science opens up.

World leaders, including

those in the Soviet Union, are aware that computers are essential if they want to compete in the frenzied international economic scene. But what effect is this all having on the individual human being?

A study into computers' potential by the Japan Information Processing Development Center was completed just two years ago. It points to industry converting to an "information-based economy less dependent on imported raw materials and energy."

A similar survey and conclusion occurred in France.



ING THE WAY YOU WORK

There, in 1976, President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing ordered the Inspector General of Finance to analyze the impact of the computer on French society.

The Inspector General even then concluded that changes had already begun: a decrease in goods-producing jobs, an increase in jobs in the service sector and many more activities in which information is the raw material. Gradually, industrial jobs as we have known them will play a smaller role.

We are heading into a society based significantly on

information. *The Wall Street Journal* quoted one computer expert as saying, "Information is becoming our most valuable commodity."

But a Massachusetts Institute of Technology computer professor places firm limits on this proposal: "The assertion that all human knowledge is encodable in streams of zeros and ones—philosophically, that's very hard to swallow. In effect, the whole world is made to seem computable. This generates a kind of tunnel vision, where the only problems that seem legitimate are problems that can be put on a computer."

Absolutely true—the most important knowledge is not encodable—it is revealed spiritual knowledge. That kind of knowledge we give you freely in *The Plain Truth*.

Nevertheless, our readers should know how to cope even with material knowledge and the technological changes taking place around them.

We must now face the fact that in the U.S. work force, for example, only 13 percent are employed in manufacturing, while some 60 percent either produce or process information.

Just 10 years ago computers were limited to big business and data processing centers. Today more than half of all Americans earn their living exchanging various types of information—and the computer helps immensely. One major result has been more jobs available for women—a trend that will continue.

Computerized automation is shifting manufacturing and industry from the United States and developed countries to Third World nations where labor is cheaper.

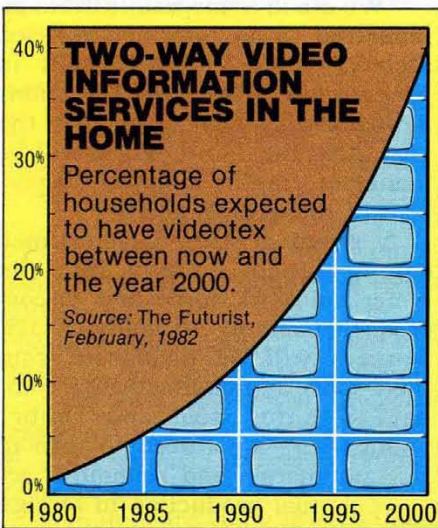
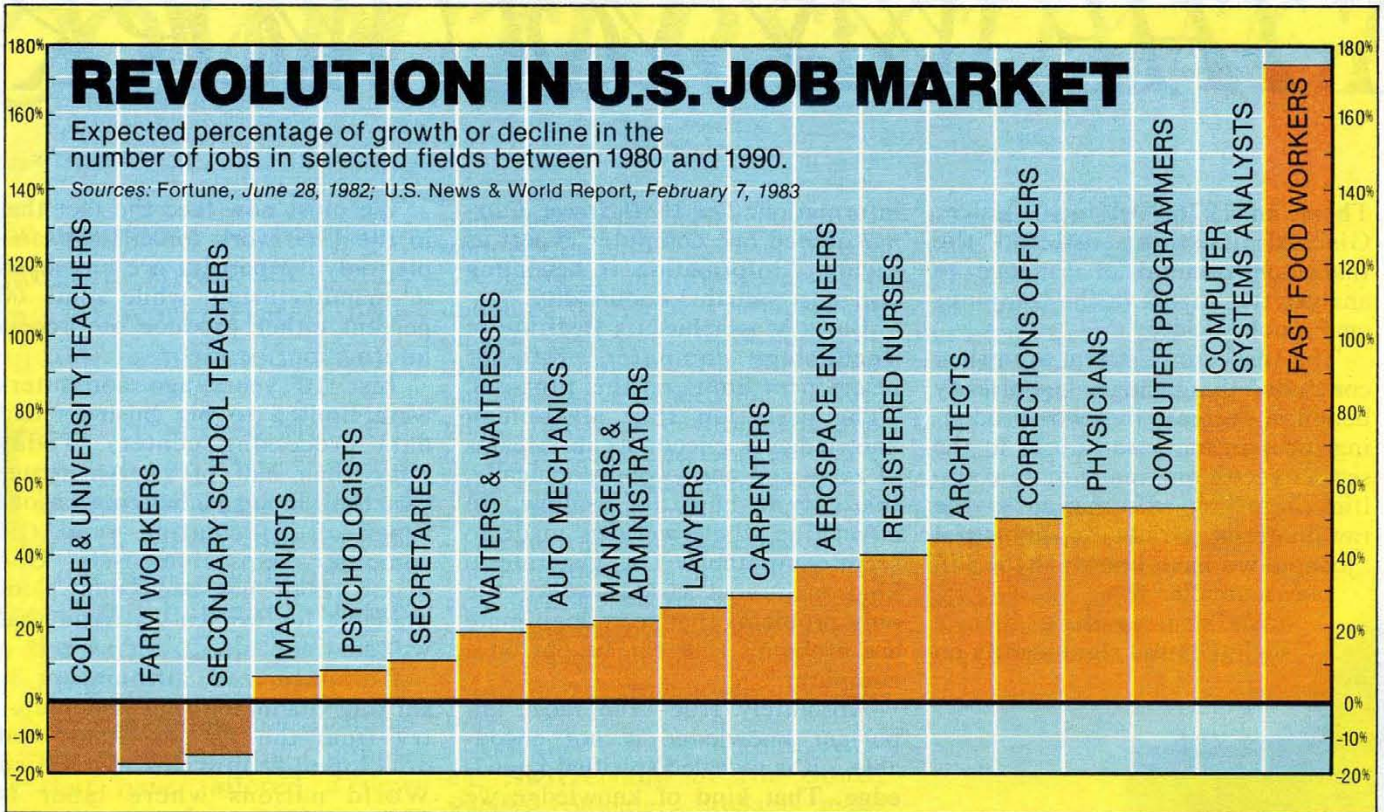
"We are in a 'megashift' from an industrial to an information-based society," states John Naisbitt in *Megatrends: Ten New Directions Transforming Our Lives*. "By the year 2000 the Third World will be manufacturing as much as 30 percent of the world's goods."

A group of U.S. Congressmen commissioned a study into the American work force and discovered that 20 to 30 million U.S. workers will be displaced from their jobs, as manufacturing companies—auto, steel and rubber industries—are forced to turn to automation and relinquish actual production to foreign competition.

"The speed and force of this change will be awesome," the report declared, especially in the psychological and emotional shock of those who fear they may not find employment again.

Thousands of new jobs, however, will be created mostly in information systems, says *Fortune* maga-





FUTURE INNOVATIONS—Technology has affected employment demands in many fields, above. Videotex, left, provides at-home shopping and banking.

One study of help-wanted advertisements in the *New York Times* showed that jobs requiring some form of computer literacy doubled from 1977 to 1982.

Five years ago, none of the listings for travel agents mentioned a thing about computer-related skills, reports *Science Digest*. Last year 71 percent required the ability to operate computer-based reservations systems.

Secretary-typist jobs that demanded word processing skills went from zero to 15 percent in the same period.

How will the computer explosion affect you? It will fundamentally change the relationship between a worker and his or her task. Work becomes abstract, the electronic manipulation of symbols.

Skilled workers will be required to handle information on paper and in computers rather than take a direct hand in producing goods—robots will do much of that.

As robotics take over certain dull, mundane jobs, more highly

trained personnel will be needed to maintain, repair, program and supervise the machines.

People prepared for new jobs will find factory work freed from much of the curse of dull repetition, leaving workers more time to be creative.

Time will tell whether that creativity will be used in this age of man for good or for selfishness and greed—thereby multiplying unhappiness!

For those not willing to accept the challenge, the change will be painful. Middle-aged blue-collar workers who know only welding or painting may not be easily trainable for the new role.

Computer Literacy

To participate fully in an information society, computer literacy will be as important as reading literacy. All this, of course, if the nations can prevent war in the meantime.

In his book *The Unprepared Society*, Donald N. Michael wrote, "Ignorance of computers will render people functionally illiterate as does ignorance of reading, writing and arithmetic."

Computer literacy is the fourth basic skill, says one innovative school

zine, "but they'll be so different that today's laid-off worker will be hard pressed to fill them."

The new brand of computer technology will not only affect engineers and scientists. It will also affect the physician, the lawyer, the executive, the administrator, the salesman, the designer—whether in the factory, the office, the laboratory or the classroom. The application of computer technology to office and factory will affect almost every job and almost every aspect of work.

superintendent, who wants his students to be as comfortable using the computer as their parents are using pencils, paper and books.

"We all have to lose our awe of this tool, the computer," declared a university professor. "We are no longer in awe of the telephone or the electric drill."

The worker's first survival skill will be knowing how to operate keyboards and computers of all kinds for many purposes.

What if you have been out of school or college for many years and your employer has no retraining program? You will have to take steps yourself to become computer literate.

In Minnesota, for example, teachers are taking computer literacy courses on their own time, without pay.

Since most countries are unprepared to retrain their work forces, national strategies for retraining displaced workers cannot be relied upon. Computer literacy—that is, in short, being knowledgeable about the computer world—will become a prime job requirement. How can *you* prepare for the future, even if others don't?

Acquiring the New Literacy

The most common misconception appears to be that one must know how to program a computer in order to use it at all. That is not true. One should know how computers and programs work, but need not know how to design either—just as a racecar driver understands his machine, but need not be a mechanic or roadway designer.

With rising numbers of programmers on the job, thousands of programs—the operational material (software) that tells the computer what to do—have already been written and are ready for use. Programmers use math, common sense and logic to write programs in a computer language, but you need not repeat this process in order to use the software.

Designers try to make their software as easy to understand as possible. For instance, in some systems, type *O* and you can open a file that contains your manuscript, budget, listing or appointment schedule.

Type a *P* and your file prints out on a connected printer in a fraction of the time it would take you to type it on a typewriter. Type *X* to exit the computer.

Admittedly, some programs are not that easy to operate. And computer literacy means more than tapping a few letters on a keyboard.

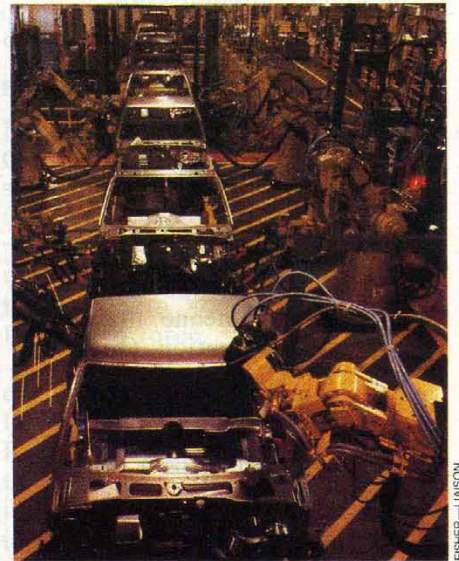
Some computer scientists sum up computer literacy like this: "Learn enough about a programming language to write a simple program, be able to do word processing (edit, move and print out text), draft a simple budget using calculation-type software and know the principles behind the terms

such as magnetic tape, compiler, CRT, disk drives, terminals, hardware, memory and others."

Another professional says literacy should mean being able to use a computer as an everyday tool to solve problems and to do the tasks that help you the most. It should mean being comfortable with a computer keyboard.

Living in a computerized society

TECHNOLOGICAL SURGE—Left, inspecting microelectronic circuitry that comprises computer boards. Right, automobile manufacturing is aided by increasing numbers of robots. Bottom, youths use a computer to monitor profits from a lemonade stand.



will require one to think even more about and assess unfamiliar concepts, to reason and draw conclusions, to make judgments then act on the new understanding.

One expert says the intelligent person of the future will be the one who will be able, with a computer's help, to locate information, not store it in his head.

Merely reading or hearing about computers, however, does not constitute literacy any more than reading about numbers makes students mathematically literate. You learn by hands-on operation. If you don't have access to a computer, try enrolling in a computer course at a college or trade school, or join a community computer club.

If you are in college, study major disciplines of mathematics, computer science, electronic engineering—even satellite engineering.

Or, if you have to, march into a computer store and declare, "I know nothing about computers—can you please show me how they work?"

If there's a computer in your office, ask if someone may teach you about its operation. One study estimates office workers today could save 15 percent of their time if they only used the technology now available. Perhaps a computer is available for you.

Down the Road . . .

The forecasts for the next five to seven years are that about a half million computers will be in U.S. schools alone.

Technology may soon be available for travelers to plug their pocket-size computer to a synthesized knowledge bank for instant facts about subjects ranging from finance and sports to statistics and health.

Japanese specialists toil toward a projected 1990 goal, when they will unveil a Fifth Generation Computer—a "world brain" containing one million transistors on a single silicon chip the size of a pinhead. This new phase of computer, it is hoped, will converse with humans in Japanese, English and German and supply expert services in law, medicine and economics.

The Japanese government would use the Fifth Generation Computer "to boost industrial competitive-

ness worldwide, save energy and address social problems . . . a quest for global supremacy in the information field."

Global supremacy would give the Japanese a hold—not on food or weapons—but on information. "Whoever has a grip on information management will direct a lot of where we go and the bridges that get us there," says Michael Dertouzos, one of America's premier computer scientists.

But computers' artificial intelligence cannot rival human ability to think creatively.

The Missing Dimension

Herbert A. Simon, who won the 1978 Nobel prize in economics and research into the decision-making process, believes all sorts of improvements in human affairs can

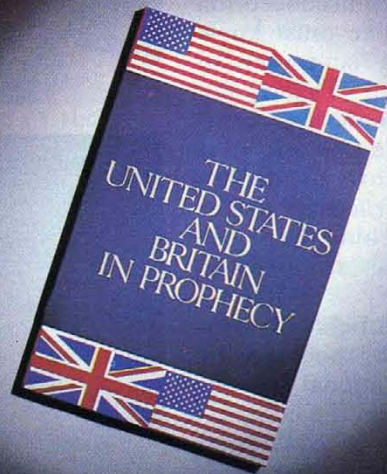
come about if we are able to enhance human thinking power with large amounts of computer thinking power.

"After all, there's a lot more thinking in the world that needs to be done than gets done. Using computers, we'll make a lot of decisions more sensibly," says Mr. Simon.

Missing from this observation, however, is the *spiritual* dimension. The underlying causes of man's greatest problems cannot be solved on a computer. No computer program dealing with only material elements can solve problems that are based not on material but on spiritual causes.

The ultimate source for solving earth's monumental problems is God and his revealed knowledge—the Bible. That's the message of *The Plain Truth*. □

Identify Yourself



Bible prophecy positively identifies both the United States and British Commonwealth and reveals cataclysmic events about to envelop our nations! This master key of prophecy—our national identities—has been lost until this time, but is now explained in our free booklet. Find out what will happen in the next few years! For your copy please use the reply coupon.

HISTORY

(Continued from page 21)

of Jesus. They celebrate an annual Passover feast—but always on a Sunday.

The Council rules that the ancient Christian Passover commemorating the death of Jesus must no longer be kept—on pain of death. The Western custom is to be observed throughout the Empire, on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox. It is later to be called “Easter” when the Germanic tribes are converted *en masse* to Christianity.

Most Christians accept this decree. They constitute mainstream Christianity and the world accepts them as such. But some refuse, and flee (Rev. 12:6) into the valleys and mountains of Europe and Asia Minor to escape persecution and death. They continue, away from the world’s view, as the true Church of God, lost in the pages of history.

The Fateful Union

As the majority of Christians view this new unity and uniformity within the Church and the near universality of its influence, a revolution in thinking takes place.

There is now ONE Empire, ONE Emperor, ONE Church, ONE God.

Many Christians wonder: Is it possible they have not fully understood the concept of the kingdom of God? Is it possible that the *Church itself*—or even the now-Christianized *Empire*—is the long-awaited kingdom of God?

Or, might it be that God’s kingdom is meant to be established on earth *gradually*, in successive stages? Could Constantine’s edicts be the first step in this process?

This is a time of reevaluation, of deep soul-searching. Some few declare the Church should wield no secular power—that such would be inconsistent with the spirit of Christianity. Entangling itself with temporal affairs, they assert, will only corrupt the Church from its true purpose. They declare that the world is *still* the enemy—only its outward tactics have changed.

But the majority feels differently. Here, they believe, is a great

opportunity to spread their Christianity throughout the Empire and beyond. Hundreds of thousands—even millions—will be converted. The opportunity, they say, must be *seized*, not shunned!

The fateful union of Church and State is thus ratified. That move shapes the course of civilization for centuries to come.

Church-State Confrontation

Constantine the Great dies on May 22, 337. Water is poured on his forehead and he is declared “baptized” on his death bed.

About a quarter century after Constantine’s death, his nephew Julian (361-363) gains the throne. Julian rejects the faith of his uncle and endeavors to revive the worship of the old gods. His hatred of the Christians gains for him the surname “Apostate.”

To spite the Christians, Julian patronizes the Jews, and even attempts to rebuild their Temple in Jerusalem. He is thwarted, however, by “balls of fire” issuing from the foundation, which makes it impossible for the workmen to approach.

Despite Julian’s efforts, the old stories of gods and goddesses have lost their hold on the Roman mind. After Julian is killed while invading Persia, Christianity returns to full prominence in the Empire.

In 394, under Emperor Theodosius (378-395), the ancient gods are formally outlawed in the Empire. Conversion to Christianity becomes compulsory.

The power of the Church in Theodosius’ time is best illustrated in an incident involving Ambrose, the archbishop of Milan. A man of savage temper, Theodosius orders the massacre of about 7,000 people of Thessalonica, as a punishment for a riot that had erupted there. The Thessalonians are butchered—the innocent with the guilty—by a detachment of Gothic soldiers sent by Theodosius for that purpose.

When the Emperor later attempts to enter the cathedral in Milan, Ambrose meets him at the door and refuses him entrance until he publicly confesses his guilt in the massacre. Though privately remorseful, the Emperor is reluctant to diminish the prestige of his office

by such a humiliation. But after eight months, Theodosius—the master of the civilized world—finally yields and humbly implores pardon of Ambrose in the presence of the congregation. On Christmas Day, A.D. 390, he is restored to the communion of the Church. The incident emphasizes the independence of the Western Church from imperial domination.

Theodosius is the last ruler of a united Roman Empire. At his death the Empire is divided between his two sons Honorius (in the West) and Arcadius (in the East). Though in theory only a division for administrative purposes, the separation proves to be permanent. The two sections grow steadily apart, and are never again truly united. Each goes its own way towards a separate destiny.

Barbarian Inroads

Meanwhile, the restless Gothic and Germanic tribes to the north grow stronger and more threatening to the peace of the Empire. For centuries the Romans have fought off the barbarian hordes. Now these tribes begin to move into the Empire in force.

Not all, however, have come as enemies. For decades many tribes have been coming across the Roman frontiers peaceably, as settlers. Many Germans are now serving in the Roman army, and some in the imperial palace itself.

When Emperor Theodosius dies (395), one of these Germans is even named as guardian of his young son Honorius. He is Stilicho, a “barbarian” of the Vandal nation. A brilliant general, Stilicho repeatedly beats back attempted invasions of Italy by various barbarian tribes.

Most troublesome of all is Alaric the Visigoth. Stilicho repels numerous assaults by Alaric into the peninsula.

But Honorius is jealous of the general who has so often saved Rome. In August, 408, he has Stilicho assassinated. The news of his death rouses Alaric to yet another invasion.

For a costly ransom, Alaric spares Rome in 409. But the next year he comes again. On August 10, A.D. 410, Alaric takes the “Eternal City,” and for six days

Rome is given up to murder and pillage. For the first time in nearly 800 years, Rome is captured by a foreign enemy!

It is a profound shock. Many cannot believe it. When Jerome—the translator of the Bible into Latin—hears the news in Bethlehem, he writes:

“My voice is choked, and my sobs interrupt the words I write. The city which took the whole world is herself taken. Who could have believed that Rome, which was built upon the spoils of the earth, would fall?”

Many bemoan the event as the fall of the Western Roman Empire. But there is still an emperor on the imperial throne. In a ceremonial way, at least, the Empire continues.

Alaric withdraws from the city and dies soon afterward. Rome grants the Visigoths the richest parts of Gaul as a permanent residence. By the middle of the 5th century, barbarian tribes are occupying most parts of the Western Roman Empire.

Papal Peacemaking

Of all the barbarian tribes, perhaps the non-Germanic Huns are the most feared of all. A nomadic people moving out of Central Asia, they are led by the famous Attila, known to the world of his time as the “Scourge of God.”

In 451, Attila invades Gaul, his objective being the kingdom of the Germanic Visigoths. The Roman General Aëtius—massing the combined forces of the Western Empire and the Visigoths—holds his own against Attila near Chalons. It is called “the battle of nations,” one of the most memorable battles in the history of the world. It is Attila’s first and only setback.

Though checked, Attila’s power is not destroyed. The next year (452) Attila appears in northern Italy with a great army. Rome’s defenses collapse. The road to Rome lies open before Attila. Its citizens expect the worst.

But Rome is spared. Attila withdraws when success lies just within his grasp. The threatened march on Rome does not take place! What has happened?

The bishop of Rome at this time is a man named Leo. He has trav-

eled northward to the river Po to meet the mighty Attila. There is no record of the conversation between the two. But one fact is clear. A fearless diplomat, Leo has confronted the “Scourge of God” and won. He has somehow persuaded Attila to abandon his quest for the Eternal City.

Attila dies shortly afterward. The Huns trouble Europe no more.

The prestige of the papacy is greatly enhanced by Leo’s intervention on behalf of Rome. As the civil government grows increasingly incapable of keeping order, the Church begins to take its place, assuming many secular responsibilities. History will record that it was Leo the Great who laid the foundations of the temporal power of the popes. Leo has become the leading figure in Italy!

In the religious sphere, Leo strongly asserts the primacy of Rome’s bishop over all other bishops.

Earlier in the century, the illustrious Augustine, bishop of Hippo in North Africa, had uttered the now-famous words, “Rome has spoken; the cause is ended.” At the Council of Chalcedon in 451, the assembled bishops responded to Leo’s pronouncements with the words: “Peter has spoken by Leo; let him be anathema who believes otherwise.”

The doctrine that papal power had been granted by Christ to Peter, and that that power was passed on by Peter to his successors in Rome, begins to take firm root.

In June, 455, Geiseric (Genseric)—the Vandal king of North Africa—occupies Rome. Again Leo saves the day. Leo induces Geiseric to have mercy on the city. Geiseric consents to spare the lives of Rome’s citizens, demanding only their wealth. Leo’s successful intervention further increases the prestige and authority of the papacy, within the Empire as well as the Church.

The Deadly Wound

But the city of Rome is fast dying, and even the papacy’s efforts cannot save her. The Empire lives only in a ceremonial sense. The Western emperors are mere puppets of the

various Germanic generals. Now even the ceremony is about to be stripped away.

It is 476. A boy-monarch sits on the throne in Rome. His name is Romulus Augustus, but he is satirically dubbed “Augustulus,” meaning “little Augustus.” By curious coincidence, he bears the names of the founder of Rome (Romulus) and of the Empire (Augustus)—both of which are about to fall.

The German warrior Odoacer (or Odovacar)—a Heruli chieftain ruling over a coalition of Germanic tribes—sees no reason for carrying on the sham of the puppet emperors any longer. On September 4, 476, he deposes Romulus Augustulus. The long and gradual process of the fall of Rome is now complete.

The Western Empire has received a mortal wound. Rome has fallen. The office of Emperor is vacant. There is no successor. The former mistress of the world is the booty of barbarians.

Zeno, the Eastern Emperor at Constantinople (founded by Constantine in 327 as the new capital for the Eastern half of the Empire), appoints Odoacer *patricius* (“patrician”) of Italy. But in reality, Constantinople has little power in the West. Odoacer is an independent king in Italy.

Silent Forces

With the fall of the Western Empire, ancient history draws to a close. A transitional period follows.

Every portion of the Western Empire is occupied and governed by kings of Germanic race. Many of these barbarian kings are, like Odoacer, converts to Arian Christianity, opposed to the “Catholic” Christianity of Rome.

But their kingdoms are not destined to endure. Forces are already silently at work, forces seeking to mold out of the ruins of the old Western Empire a revived and revitalized Roman Empire—a *non-Arian* Empire!

These forces will ultimately succeed in *healing* the deadly wound of A.D. 476—with epoch-making consequences.

(Next month: “The Imperial Restoration”) □

How to Quit Making Mistakes!

by Roderick C. Meredith

What is the secret of overcoming personal problems and job failures?

OH, I WISH, I wish I hadn't made that awful mistake!" the young woman cried out to herself.

But she had, just the same—as usual.

And as she watched her husband angrily slam the car door, roar out of the driveway and disappear down the street,—she felt a great emptiness sweep over her. Their little home no longer seemed like a castle. It seemed like a tomb.

Strangely, the thing she had been so upset about with her husband no longer seemed important. In the melancholy silence of the empty house, she couldn't care less.

As she slumped dejectedly in a chair in the middle of the room, she began to realize deeply that it

was her husband she wanted—not a new vacuum cleaner he said they couldn't afford.

Why did she always pick at him when he came home at night? *Why* did she always have to say the wrong thing to her husband—words she deeply regretted later?

And *why* did he have to react the way he did?

Find the CAUSE of Your Problem

Nearly all of us in the industrialized world have modern houses, cars, radios, television sets, nice clothes, ample diets. Yet, like the young couple pictured above, we all too often have giant frustrations, moods, family problems, health problems, job problems.

With physical comforts and wealth that the underprivileged three fourths of this earth's population only dream about, most people in the developed world still

have deep problems, frustration and a sense of emptiness.

Why?

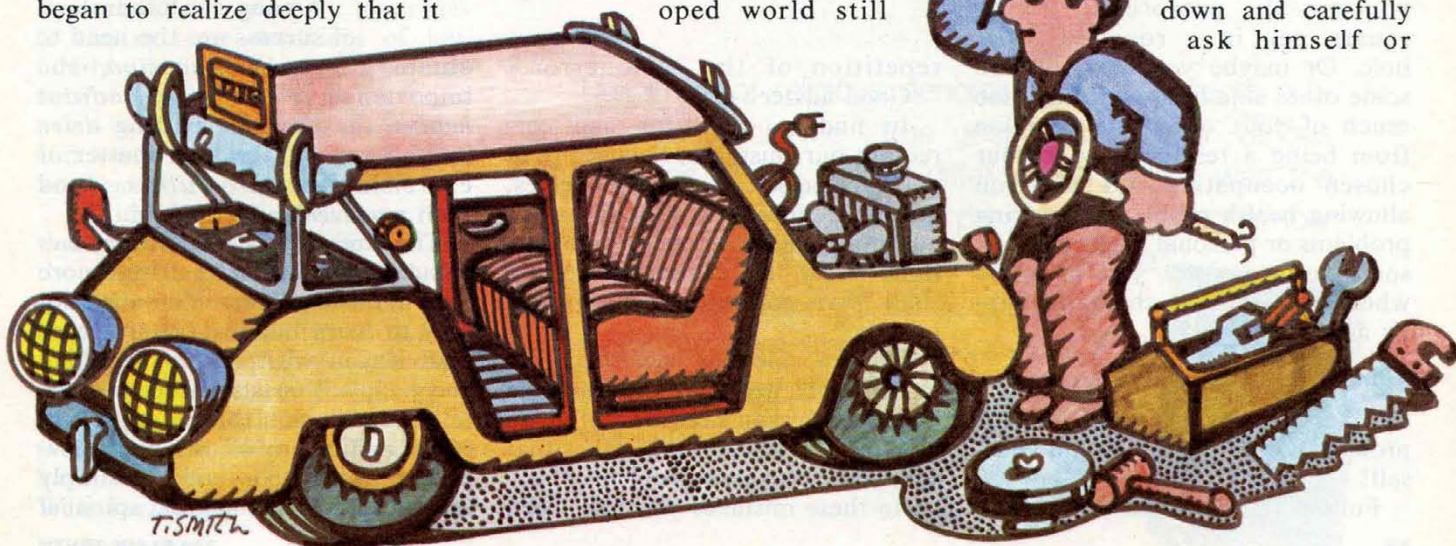
Precisely because we are often "sorry"—like the young wife described above—yet unwilling to quit making the mistakes that bring on these troubles!

A young wife, like the one pictured earlier who upset her husband, will usually try to "solve" the problem by saying she is sorry, fixing his favorite dish that night or some other *temporary* expedient. Even this, of course, is far more than *many* would do!

But it is not nearly enough.

Why? Because it only smooths over the *one* upset. It does not get at and solve the basic *CAUSE* of the continual fights and arguments that plague so many families today.

The offending spouse should sit down and carefully ask himself or



T. SMITH

herself how he or she manages to start so many arguments. And what is the basic CAUSE of the problem? Is it vanity or selfishness? Is it lack of control of temper or tongue? Is it caused by wrong emotional responses aggravated by poor health, alcoholism or some deep underlying personal problem that has not been discussed with the spouse or is not otherwise being tackled?

Just what is the real CAUSE?

The same need to get at the cause of problems applies to everyone—men and women alike—in job frustrations, social problems and other areas of life.

If, for instance, you have serious problems in your job or profession, be sure you find the real CAUSE, not some imaginary scapegoat. Ask yourself questions.

How did I happen into this line of work, anyhow? Did I purposefully go into it because it interested me and offered a personal challenge to grow and accomplish—completely apart from pay or financial considerations? Do I actually have the natural talent, skills and abilities that should normally make me a success in this type of occupation?

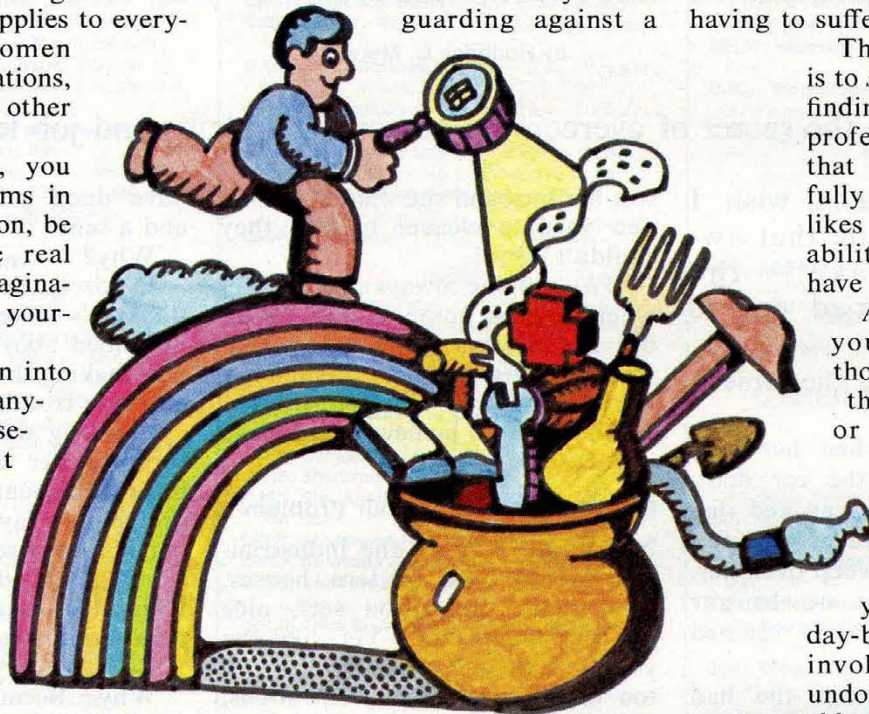
If not, then perhaps you are the proverbial square peg in a round hole. Or maybe you have allowed some other side interest to take too much of your time and attention from being a real success at your chosen occupation. Or are you allowing health problems, drinking problems or personal frustrations of some sort to upset you in a job where normally you should be happy and successful?

Admit YOUR Part of the Problem

In finding the real cause of your problem, be honest! Don't kid yourself!

Follow the example of the late

Bernard Baruch, multimillionaire, financier and counselor of U.S. presidents. After describing a setback on the stock market, Mr. Baruch stated: "In such circumstances some men grow desperate. I grew cautious. I began a habit I was never to forsake—of analyzing my losses to determine where I had made my mistakes. This was a practice I was to develop ever more systematically. . . . I never sought to excuse myself but was concerned solely with guarding against a



In finding the right job or profession...evaluate carefully the real likes, dislikes and the particular abilities and skills you have been given.

repetition of the same error." Good advice!

In finding, admitting and correcting our mistakes, how many of us never seek to excuse ourselves, but are concerned "solely" with guarding against a repetition of the same error—determined that we shall NOT continue making that mistake?

Other people may have their part in the problems you face. But, like Mr. Baruch, you need first of all to find and correct YOUR mistakes that contribute to these problems. Face up to these mistakes you have been

making. *Admit* them to yourself. Determine to *quit* making them.

When you have learned to do just this much, then more than half the battle is won!

Learn the Laws of Success

Apart from seeking out and admitting particular mistakes, you need to learn the LAWS of life, health and success. These will enable you to avoid mistakes before they occur—to recognize a potential problem on the horizon and bypass it without having to suffer first!

The first law of success is to *set the right goal!* In finding the right job or profession as a part of that goal, evaluate carefully the real likes, dislikes and the particular abilities and skills you have been given.

Again, don't kid yourself. For even though you might like the financial rewards or prestige of some occupations, you would in all likelihood be frustrated and miserable in them if you didn't enjoy the day-by-day routine they involve. And you will undoubtedly enjoy and be able to put your heart into a job more easily if it is in a field where you excel and are naturally competent because of your inherent talents and abilities.

Among the other laws of success are the need to obtain a *proper education*; the importance of building *radiant health*; the need for putting *drive* into all you do; the vital matter of exercising *resourcefulness*; and then *persevering* to the end.

The Creator has set definite *laws* of success in motion that we ignore only to our own hurt. You need not only to *learn* but to *LIVE BY* these laws if you wish to be successful and happy. You also need to come to the realization that all true laws of life, which any of us may discover, are based upon and are simply magnifications of the great spiritual

law of God as expressed in the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments set forth the basis of the true way of life intended by Almighty God to bring man blessing, happiness and health. To quit making mistakes, you need most of all to study and live by this law. King David of Israel realized this and said, "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day" (Ps. 119:97).

Use your mind! Examine your mistakes and problems in the light of the Ten Commandments and see where you have been wrong. Ask God for the strength and courage to *acknowledge* your mistakes—to **REPENT** of your errors!

To help you understand how to apply the Ten Commandments to your daily life, write for the booklet entitled *The Ten Commandments*. It will help you to see how God's laws are living laws, just like the law of gravity. It will enable you to see the principle of God's law as applied to any given situation.

Practice Self-discipline

A truly successful man is one who learns to do the things he doesn't at first like to do. Although you should choose your occupation in a field where you excel, there are certain facets of almost any job that may be disagreeable. To be successful, learn to *set yourself* to perform unpleasant chores with vigor!

Also, you must learn to *discipline* your tongue, your thoughts, actions and appetites. You may have a tendency to say too much and therefore constantly strain relations with your boss, your husband or your wife. Or to overindulge in alcoholic beverages to the extreme detriment of job, family and friendships. To be successful and *stay successful* you must **RULE** over your appetites, emotions and words or they **WILL RULE OVER YOU!**

Notice God's instruction: "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit [thoughts and emotions] than he that taketh a city" (Prov. 16:32).

Note this warning regarding careless speech: "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction" (Prov. 13:3). Whether with your mate, your

friends or on the job, learn to think before you speak!

If you tend to be lazy or sluggish, again you must discipline yourself to get up, to get going and to accomplish! This is not easy, but once you set the **HABIT** of hard work and accomplishment, things will begin to come your way. "The hand of the *diligent* shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute" (Prov. 12:24).

Your Wholehearted ACTION Required

To really quit making constant mistakes and to become a success, you will have to fervently desire true success. Just thinking about it isn't good enough. You must be willing to pay the price of success. It is worth it!

First, you need to find the real

CAUSE of your problems or mistakes. Don't spend all your time and effort coming up with a temporary solution that only alleviates the result of your mistake. Get at the CAUSE and thereby avoid future mistakes of the same nature.

Second, learn to **ADMIT** and *go to work* on your mistakes. Follow Bernard Baruch's example of seeking to determine where *you* have made *your* mistakes—never seeking to excuse yourself but guarding solely against a repetition of the same error.

Third, *learn* and *practice* the laws of life, health and success. Write for our inspiring free booklets, *The Seven Laws of Success*, *How to End Your Financial Worries* and *The Ten Commandments*, and put them to work in your life!

(Continued on page 43)

THE GOSPEL TRUTH!?

Hundreds of religious denominations and sects profess to teach the "true gospel." Yet their various versions of the gospel differ widely. What was the original gospel that Jesus preached? Is anyone now preaching that same message? Our free booklet *What Is the True Gospel?* shows, from Scripture, the clear answers. For your copy just mail the card or write to our office nearest you.



to your good health

Is All Animal Flesh Good For Food ?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Were all animals made clean? What about the unclean animals shown to Peter in a vision? Here is a straightforward Bible answer, giving the New Testament teaching. This subject is important to your health and well-being!

AFTER thousands of years of human experience, it seems there still is nothing people know less about than food.

Observe a little baby. It seems to think that anything and everything its little chubby hands can get into its mouth is good to eat—and everything baby gets his hands on goes straight to his mouth! How often must young parents take things away, and try to teach the lovely little bundle of humanity that everything one's hands can touch is not necessarily good for the digestion!

We're Just Grown-up Babies

Well, one might wonder if any of

us has grown up! Most of us adults still seem to think that anything we can stuff in our mouths is good for food. About the only difference between us and the baby is that baby puts into his mouth whatever *looks* good, while we employ the sense of taste in deciding what goes into our mouths. In a very real sense, your stomach is your fuel tank. An automobile's tank is its stomach. People wouldn't think of pouring just any fluid that will pour into the "stomach" of their car. You know that a car was not made to consume and "digest" fuel oil, water, milk or kerosene.

Yes, we are very careful what we "feed" an automobile—and totally careless and indifferent about what we feed ourselves and our children!

What happens to the food you

eat? In the stomach the digestive process takes place. And, once digested—if you have eaten fit and digestible food—a portion of the essential minerals and vitamins—the life-giving properties in the food—filter through the intestinal lining into the bloodstream to replenish and build up decaying cells, to provide energy, body warmth, good health.

Your body is wonderfully made! It is the most wonderful mechanism in the world.

But, just as you must use the right kind of gasoline in the gas tank and the right kind of oils and greases in the other parts of your car or otherwise impair its performance, so you must put the right kind of food into the most delicate mechanism of all, your body.

If you tried to oil a fine watch with axle grease, you wouldn't

expect the watch to keep good time.

And when you put into your stomach all kinds of foul things that the great Architect who designed your human mechanism never intended, you foul up your body and bring on sickness, disease, aches, pains, a dulled and clogged-up mind, inefficiency and inability—and you commit suicide on the installment plan by actually shortening your life!

The God who designed, created and made your body has revealed some essential basic knowledge about what meats will keep that body functioning in tip-top shape. Why does humanity refuse his instructions?

Some Are Eating Poison

You don't eat every plant that grows out of the ground. Some things that grow are poison, not food.

But did you know there are many kinds of poisons? Potassium cyanide will kill you very quickly. Some poisons will result in death within a few hours or a few days. But very few seem to know there are other poisons people mistakenly eat as foods which result in premature death after continuous usage for, say, 10, or 30 or 50 years.

The only difference between these poisons we falsely call foods and potassium cyanide is the relative number of minutes, hours or years it takes to accomplish its mission.

Just as every plant that God caused to grow out of the ground was not designed for food, so it is with animal flesh. Some will say, "Well, if swine's flesh isn't supposed to be eaten as food, what did God create swine for?" You might as well ask, what did God create weeds and poison vines for? Everything may have been created for a purpose, but not everything for the purpose of eating.

Now some believe that in the original creation—in the garden of Eden—God did not intend any animal flesh to be eaten. God's revelation on that point is vague, and many have argued it both ways. However, God has clearly revealed that certain animal meats are to be

eaten as food now, in this age, and Jesus, who came to set us an example, did eat flesh as well as vegetables and fruits, and so do I.

What the Great Architect of Your Stomach Instructs

When the first written revelation of God came to man through Moses, God instructed man as to which kinds of animal flesh man ought or ought not to eat. You will find this list in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14.

This is a basic law—a revelation from God to man about which kinds of flesh will properly digest and assimilate in the human system, and which will not. It is not a part of God's great spiritual law, summed up in the Ten Commandments. Neither is it part of the ceremonial, ritualistic or sacrificial laws later abolished at the crucifixion of Christ.

It is necessary to recognize that God is the Author of *all* law, and there are countless laws in motion. There are laws of physics and chemistry. You know of the law of gravity. There is the great immutable spiritual law to regulate man's relationship to God and to fellowmen—the law of love—the Ten Commandments. God gave his nation Israel civil statutes and judgments—national laws for the conduct of the national government. Israel was also his Church, under the old covenant. And for the dispensation then present God gave Israel rituals and ceremonial laws for the conduct of religious services, laws relating to typical and temporary sacrifices, meat and drink offerings—temporary substitutes for Christ and the Holy Spirit. Those laws, of course, ended when the Reality came.

Physical, as Well as Spiritual, Sin

And then, we must realize, there are physical laws working in our bodies, regulating our health. This meat question has to do with these laws.

I know of men who make a hobby of bitterly accusing others of sin for eating pork, oysters and clams.

Let us get this straight and clear!

We usually speak of sin in its

spiritual aspect. That is the aspect in which it is considered in the New Testament. The Bible definition of it is this: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4).

The penalty for violation of that spiritual law is death—not the first, or physical death, but the second, or spiritual and eternal death in the "lake of fire" (Rev. 20:14).

Now the eating of wrong food is not a transgression of this spiritual law, and is not a spiritual sin. To violate the physical laws of health often brings the penalty of disease, disability, pain, sickness and sometimes the *first* death. It is not necessarily spiritual sin.

That is what Jesus made plain, as recorded in Mark 7:14-23. Here Jesus was speaking of *spiritual* defilement, not physical health. Not that which enters into a man's mouth, but the evil that comes out of his heart, defiles the man spiritually. What defiles the man—and he is speaking of defiling the *man*, not injuring the body—is transgression of the Ten Commandments—evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, blasphemy (verses 21-22). These things have nothing to do with the physical laws of health. He was making a point concerning spiritual defilements, not physical health.

Specifically, on the physical level, he was referring to a possible particle of dirt that might get on the food from dirty and unwashed hands—he was *not* here speaking of clean or unclean meats at all.

No Change in Structure of Animal Flesh at Cross

The animals whose flesh properly digests and nourishes the human body were so made in the original creation. No change was ever made in the structure of men's bodies at the time of the Flood, or at the time of Jesus' death or any other time. Neither did God make some sudden change in the structure of animal flesh, so that what once was unfit for food will now digest properly and supply the body's needs.

The unclean animals were unclean before the Flood.

Notice, before the Flood, Noah

took into the ark of the clean animals, to be eaten for food, by sevens; but of the unclean, of which he was not to eat during the Flood, by twos—only enough to preserve their lives. The inference is incapable that the additional clean animals were taken aboard to be eaten for food while Noah and his family were in the ark.

Prior to the Flood, clean animals were usually offered as sacrifices. Those who ate the sacrifices often partook of the animal flesh, but vegetables were the main constituent of diet. After the Flood, God gave Noah not merely the green herb—vegetables—as the major part of diet, but of every *type* of living creature—clean animals, clean fish, clean fowl (Gen. 9:3 and Lev. 11).

Genesis 9:3 does not say that every living, breathing creature is clean and fit to eat, but that “as the green herb have I given you all things.” God did not give poisonous herbs as food. He gave man the healthful herbs. Man can determine which herbs are healthful, but man cannot by himself determine which flesh foods are harmful. That is why God had to determine for us in his Word which meats are clean. Since the Flood every moving *clean*, healthful, nonpoisonous type of animal life is good for food—just as God gave us the healthful, nonpoisonous herbs.

This does not give us permission to do as we please!

Not Ceremonial Law

The instruction in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14, then, is not some ritualistic regulation for the Mosaic period only. Why do so many people have the idea that God is some great unfair monster who imposes foolish hardships on his people? Whatever God instructs us is for our good, not some nonsensical restriction for one period to be changed around some different way for other people of a different period.

Now for some specific instruction concerning mammals: “These are the beasts which ye shall eat: the ox [beef], the sheep [lamb], and the goat, the hart, and the roebuck, and the fallow deer, and the wild goat, and the pygarg [ante-

lope], and the wild ox, and the chamois [mountain sheep]. And every beast that parteth the hoof, and cleaveth the cleft into two claws, and cheweth the cud among the beasts, that ye shall eat. Nevertheless these ye shall not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the cloven hoof; as the camel, and the hare, and the coney: for they chew the cud, but divide not the hoof; therefore they are unclean unto you. And the swine [hogs], because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean unto you: ye shall not eat of their flesh . . .” (Deut. 14:4-8).

Horse meat is not fit for humans

**Just as every
plant that God caused
to grow out of
the ground was not
designed for
food, so it is with
animal flesh.**

because horses not only do not have divided hoofs, but they also do not chew the cud.

Similarly, swine flesh—pork, ham, bacon, sausage—rabbit meat, etc. are simply not fit for human consumption. The same is true with oysters, lobsters, clams, crabs, shrimp, crawfish, dogs, snakes, rats and skunks.

The only seafood fit for food are fish having *both* fins and scales. Halibut has both and is clean. Catfish is a skin fish—unclean.

It's all a matter of what we have become accustomed to doing. It seems strange and horrifying to hear that some Orientals eat mice as a delicacy. But many Orientals are horrified to hear that we eat nasty, slimy, filthy oysters! But some human grown-ups, like little

babies, will eat anything they can get their hands on and stuff into their mouths.

At so-called quality grocery stores in large towns and cities, specializing in rare delicacies, you can purchase “delicious” canned rattlesnake—if you care for it.

So far as I am concerned, you may have my portion if you wish to try it. I do not care to eat it for the same reason I do not eat slugs, skunks, cats or eels—for the same reason I do not eat poison ivy or weeds. Yes, and for the same reason I do not put fuel oil mixed with sand in the gas tank of my car!

The day will come when we will at last learn that eating greasy hog flesh and other unfit “foods” has been a prime cause of cancer and other deadly diseases.

What About Peter's Vision?

But what about the sheet containing unclean animals that was shown to the apostle Peter in a vision (Acts 10)? Did this vision change the entire composition of all unclean animals, or of the human apparatus, so that these unfit things suddenly became nourishing food?

Not at all!

The purpose of this vision was NOT to change God's food and health laws that have been inexorably in motion from the beginning, but to show Peter “that [he] should not call any *man common or unclean*” (Acts 10:28). Why? Because the Jewish people had been taught to regard gentiles like unclean animals—to have nothing to do with them.

It is time you fully understood this vision. It may well affect your health, happiness and eternal life. Open your Bible to the 10th chapter of Acts.

Notice, in the 10th chapter of Acts, that Cornelius was an Italian soldier—an uncircumcised gentile. To the strict Jews, he was to be regarded as an unclean *man*. But God looks on the heart. Cornelius gave “much alms” to the Jewish people (verse 2). God remembered his alms and revealed in a vision that he should send some of his servants to Joppa to contact Peter.

In verse 9, we find Peter was a man of prayer. While praying on a housetop, Peter became very hun-

gry. Just before noon Peter fell into a trance. In vision he saw heaven opened and a sheet was let down to the earth. This sheet contained "all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air" (verse 12).

Notice this carefully. This sheet contained every type of animal imaginable, including wild animals—lions, tigers, hyenas, monkeys, skunks. And creeping things—snakes and lizards, vermin and spiders. And fowl like vultures and crows and eagles!

Peter was shocked by the sight of all these creatures. Then, of all things, God commanded Peter to kill and eat of these creatures! What did Peter say?

"Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean" (verse 14).

Peter had lived day and night with Jesus for more than three years. He certainly understood from Jesus' teaching that there were some creatures that are simply not fit for human food. That is why when this vision came 10 years after the rituals and ceremonies were abolished at the cross, Peter refused to eat. He knew that God's law of clean and unclean meats was still in full force and effect!

Now notice what the voice from heaven told Peter when he refused to eat: "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common" (verse 15). It does not say that what God cleansed were these revolting unclean reptiles, fowl and wild animals. It does say that what God cleansed is not to be called common! But what did God cleanse?

What God Really Cleansed

In this vision that Peter saw, the voice from heaven spoke three times, then the sheet was received up into heaven again. And what did Peter do? "Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean" (verse 17). He did not immediately assume like so many people that God suddenly changed his laws 10 years after the crucifixion!

Now notice what happened! "While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold,

three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them" (verses 19-20).

The voice from heaven in the vision spoke unto Peter three times because three gentile men—two servants and a soldier (verse 7)—were at that moment on their way to see him. Peter went with them to see Cornelius. This is when Peter understood the vision! He confessed in verse 28, "... God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean."

"What God cleansed" were not those unclean animals, but those

**We must
realize there are
physical laws
working in our
bodies,
regulating our
health. This
meat question has
to do
with these laws.**

gentile men, formerly regarded as unclean by the Jewish people.

Those unclean animals in Peter's vision were used to symbolize the gentile races of *men*. The Jewish people had been forbidden to associate with them because of their abominable practices. But now this wall of spiritual separation had been broken down and salvation was extended to the gentiles. Peter finally realized that this was the meaning of the vision and said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (verses 34-35).

Yes, to be accepted with God, we must fear him and work righteousness. What is righteousness? "... All thy commandments are

righteousness" (Psa. 119:172). And among those commandments are the laws that tell us which kinds of flesh are clean and which are unclean!

Would You Eat Skunks and Rats?

But suppose God had been trying to tell Peter—and us—that he should eat all the things contained in the sheet that was let down in vision. Would you eat those "creeping things"—lizards, snakes, spiders? Would you eat skunks and hyenas? Of course you wouldn't! Why? Because you have your own law of what you think is clean and unclean!

Common sense tells us that God did not intend for us to eat every creature. But we just aren't willing to let our Creator tell us which meats will give us lasting health and strength, and which ones are injurious to our bodies, and will eventually bring on more sickness and disease. It is time we let God tell us what is clean and what is unclean instead of using our faulty human reason!

Some people, however, still want to argue with God. One text they will bring up is found in I Timothy 4:1-3. Read it carefully.

Notice that these "doctrines of devils" include "commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving. . . ." By whom? "... of them which believe and know the truth." What is truth? Christ said, "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Then the Bible itself reveals the truth concerning which meats are good, for food. We should not refuse to eat any food that, according to truth, God created to be eaten with thanksgiving. But this does not mean that all meats are healthful and fit for the human body.

Notice that the false doctrine is commanding to abstain from meats that are thankfully received by those who believe and know the truth—who know God's Word. But God's Word—the Holy Bible—tells us that there *are* some meats that are "unclean," and are not to be received with thanksgiving!

Now consider what verses 4 and 5 tell us: "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be

refused, *if* it be received with thanksgiving: for it is *sanctified* by the word of God and prayer." What does it mean to be SANCTIFIED by the Word of God and prayer?

Sanctify is a word meaning to make holy, or set apart for a right use or purpose—to set apart as fit for human food.

Now which meats has God sanctified for human food? The only passages in all the Bible showing which meats God sanctified are found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. Here you find that it is the "clean"—healthful—meats that are good for food. These are the only meats that can be received with thanksgiving and prayer!

There is not a single scripture showing that God ever set apart as fit for food any unclean creatures—snails, oysters, clams, snakes, octopuses, eels, horses, rabbits, or swine! Yet people eat these creatures without realizing the harm they are doing to their bodies.

Paul Instructs Vegetarians

Paul's letter to the saints at Rome is often quoted as supposed proof that any kind of flesh food is good to eat. But is this what Paul really taught?

Turn to the beginning of the 14th chapter of Romans. Notice what the apostle is writing: "Him that is *weak* in the faith receive ye"—don't dispute with him and sit in judgment on him because of his weak understanding of the faith. Paul continues: "For one believeth that he may eat all things, another, who is *weak*, eateth *herbs* [vegetables only]" (Rom. 14:1-2).

Of whom is Paul writing? Of those who were vegetarians, as well as those who believed in eating both flesh foods and vegetables.

Paul was confronted with the same problem that we encounter today in carrying the gospel to the world. You would be surprised at the number of people who do not eat meat or even any animal products—milk, butter, cheese, eggs. Some have meatless days or days on which they will eat fish only. These are all people who, because they are weak in the faith, abstain from those clean meats that God originally sanctified or set apart in his

Word for man's physical nourishment.

The question confronting Paul was not that Christians at Rome contended that all unclean animals had now been cleansed by God—the common false assumption of today—but the real issue, according to verse 2, was over the vegetarian belief held by some that no meats whatsoever should be eaten.

Paul was straightening out the brethren on this matter, telling them that none of those clean meats that had been created by God to be received with thanksgiving should be refused. He pointed out to them, however, that it would be wrong for the vegetarians to eat meat if they had doubts about it, thereby defiling their weak consciences. For he wrote: "... Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (verses 22-23).

We must follow what God has revealed to us to be right according to the Word of God. This does not mean that our consciences always tell us what is right—not at all. We have to continually study to learn what is right and wrong. But God thinks more highly of a vegetarian who might sincerely and conscientiously deny himself the clean meats, because he does not know the full truth, than he does a person who would do the right thing according to the letter, but who really believes in his heart that he is doing wrong.

So "to him"—the vegetarian—"that esteemeth any thing to be common, to *him*"—the vegetarian—"it is common"—*koinos* in the original Greek. That is, it *seems* so to him. But it is not common *in fact*, nor to us, for we know that all clean meats are good for food. That is why Paul wrote: "I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing [common] of itself..." (verse 14).

Note that in verse 14 the word "unclean" is a mistranslation. The Greek word *koinos* does not mean "unclean" but "common"—polluted in the mind of the one who eats. Vegetarians who were weak in the faith—weak in understanding

God's Word—thought meats should not be eaten. To such a vegetarian—"to him," not to others—that meat *seemed to be* polluted. His conscience defiled the meat for him; he would become upset if he were to eat meat. But that does not make the meat polluted, in fact or for everybody else.

Notice Paul's conclusion: "For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure"—that is, all things that God sanctified and gave us to eat are clean—"but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth..." (verses 20 and 21).

Paul is not recommending eating unclean meats! Quite the opposite. He is recommending not eating any meat at all in the presence of a vegetarian brother if he is offended!

When Is "Clean" Meat "Common"?

The only circumstance in which clean meats are ever common or polluted is when the clean animals have died of themselves or when the blood has not been properly drained. That is why the apostles and elders who gathered at Jerusalem forbade the use of meat from strangled animals and meat with the blood in it (Acts 15:20). This is New Testament teaching for today!

Such animal flesh was called common because it could be given to strangers or aliens in Old Testament times if those people wanted to eat (Deut. 14:21).

In New Testament times, clean meat offered to idols was prohibited if it had been polluted by strangulation or if the blood were remaining in it. Otherwise the meat was permitted to be eaten if it did not offend anyone.

Paul devoted the entire 8th and 10th chapters of I Corinthians to instructions on not raising the question of meats offered to idols. "But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake" (I Cor. 10:28). In other words, if clean meats

(Continued on page 42)

AUSTRALIA

(Continued from page 6)

would receive the greater blessing. But Jacob crossed his arms and laid his right hand on the younger Ephraim, "guiding his hands wittingly" (verse 14).

Now read what happened: "And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. . . .

"And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a MULTITUDE OF NATIONS" (verses 17-19).

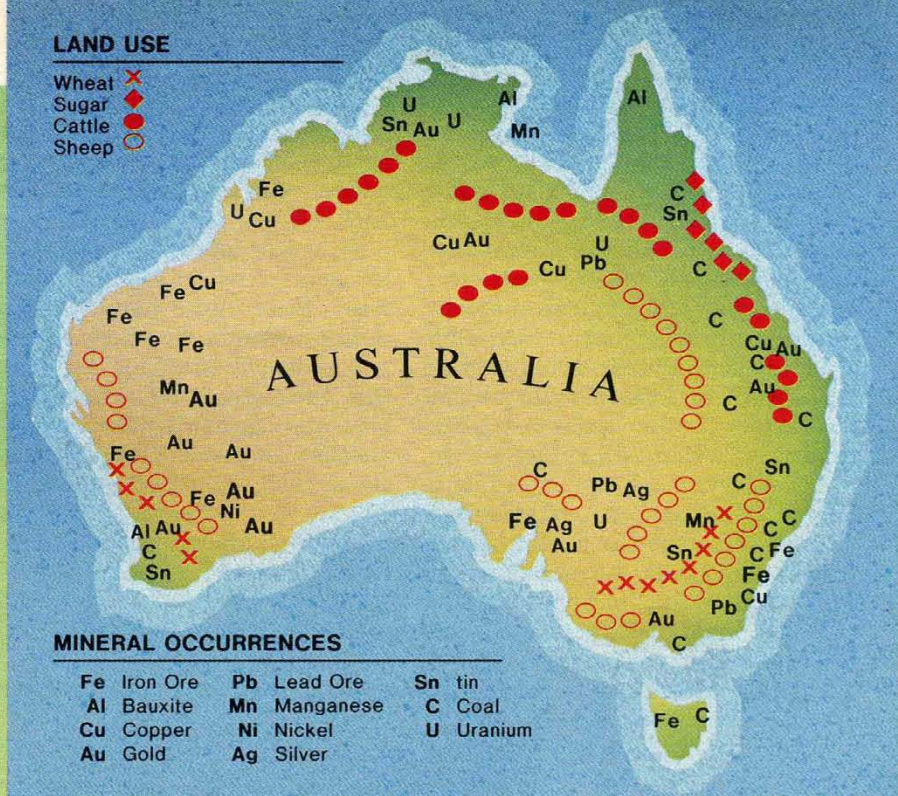
Ephraim would become a company of nations and share the staggering birthright blessings with his brother Manasseh. Isn't it remarkable that the nations that today possess the greatest national wealth and physical blessings are the English-speaking nations—the British Commonwealth and the United States?

Australia is a nation of the British Commonwealth. Along with Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the United States, Australia has inherited an enormously rich slice of the earth's real estate.

God gave that wealth to Joseph and to his descendants. Yet the British and the American people have it today! Can there be any more conclusive proof that the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, the two sons of Joseph, are the original English-speaking peoples of Britain and America today? The Australian people have inherited their wealth because of promises God made to the Hebrew patriarchs of old.

But Bible prophecy shows that the Australian people, unless they change their ways and repent of their national sins, stand to lose it all.

In Deuteronomy, chapter 28, God long ago revealed how Australia could recover from its problems and be guaranteed prosperity in the future! "And if you obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful



Where Australia Stands

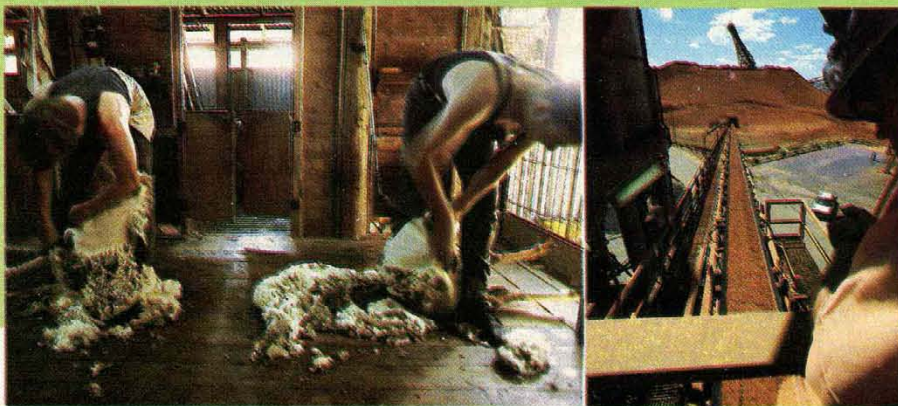
Comparative position among nations in production of:

MINERALS		AMOUNT IN METRIC TONS	RANKING IN WORLD
Iron Ore	1978	54.7 million	2nd
Bauxite	1978	24.6 million	1st
Copper	1978	217,100	10th
Gold	1979	18,497 kilograms	7th
Lead Ore	1978	418,800	3rd
Manganese	1978	633,000	4th
Nickel	1978	86,991	3rd
Silver	1978	837	6th
Tin	1978	11,716	5th
Coal	1978	80.0 million	10th
Uranium	1979	690	8th
(Estimated uranium resources)		290,000	2nd

AGRICULTURE		AMOUNT	RANKING
Wheat	1980	10.8 million	8th
*(Wheat exports for	1980	11.1 million	3rd)
Wool	1980	706,000	1st
Meat: Cattle	1980	1.5 million	6th
Sheep	1980	0.539 million	3rd
Sugar	1980	2.9 million	10th
Livestock: Sheep	1980	135.7 million head	2nd
Cattle	1980	26.3 million head	9th

Figures taken from 1979/80 Statistical Yearbook, published by Department of International, Economic & Social Affairs, United Nations (published in 1981).

*From Australian Wheat Board Annual Report 1980/81.



PT. MAP BY L. GREG SMITH. PHOTOS BY WILLOTA AND BRIGNOLO—IMAGE BANK

to do all his commandments . . . the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God" (Deut. 28:1-2, RSV).

God promised additional blessings: "The Lord will open to you his good treasury the heavens, to give the rain of your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands . . ." (Deut. 28:12, RSV).

This would mean the end to Australia's long, drawn-out drought. What a blessing that would be.

But all these blessings were guaranteed only "if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day, being careful to do them, and if you do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you . . . to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them" (verses 13 and 14).

Then God gives a startling list of curses for disobedience: "But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes . . . then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you" (verse 15).

"Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field" (verse 16).

The cities in Australia are plagued with crime, violence, immorality and pollution. Agricultural areas are plagued with declining soil fertility, crop diseases and drought.

A lot of these problems we bring on ourselves through breaking physical and spiritual laws God has set in motion. But God will also step in to directly punish or awake a nation to its sins and warn it to repent.

If a nation will not change its ways, "The Lord will smite you with . . . fiery heat, and with drought, and with blasting [effects of destructive hot winds], and with

mildew [excessive moisture and rot]. . . . And the heavens over your head shall be brass, and the earth under you shall be iron" (Deut. 28:22-23).

Other prophecies apply directly to events Australia is experiencing now. "And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord" (Amos 4:7-8, AV). These patchwork weather patterns are slowly but

epidemics resulting from famine. The cities will be destroyed in war by an enemy yet to appear on the world scene, and with the destruction of our cities another one third of our people will perish.

In chapter 6, verse 6, "In all your dwellingplaces [different English-speaking countries, including Australia] the cities shall be laid waste. . . ." The third left alive will be taken captive (Ezek. 5:12).

Commenting about the state of the nation, Australian teacher, writer and critic Bill Broderick is quoted in *Time*, September 22, 1980, as saying of modern Australia, "God is dead. Only in sport, gambling and sex is there hope of salvation. Nothing can shake the country of this cynicism except some catastrophe on a national scale."

In Hosea 5:14 God says, "For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion . . . I, even I, will tear and go away; I will take away, and NONE SHALL RESCUE HIM."

"I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early" (verse 15).

Australians—and the whole world—will eventually know "that I am the Lord" (Ezek. 6:7). This will be when Jesus Christ returns and saves alive a remnant

(Amos 5:3) to establish a new world of peace and prosperity with all nations learning to live with one another in harmony.

The warning has been going out to Australia for more than 20 years through the pages of *The Plain Truth* and the *World Tomorrow* radio and television broadcasts.

Jesus Christ, the Messiah, and he alone will save the Australian people and their kindred worldwide from total annihilation (Hos. 13:9). He will return to earth as King of kings and establish God's government over all nations. Only then will Australia truly recover. Out of the ruins Australia's full potential will at last be realized! □



SYDNEY'S PORT JACKSON—famous the world over for its natural beauty. But Sydney, like other metropolitan areas, is blemished by human sins unrepented of.

surely sapping the nation's strength.

Prolonged drought is the result of physical and spiritual sin—which is the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4)! The nation has not repented nationally and returned to a genuine contact with God. Unless there is a turnaround the curses listed in Deuteronomy 28 and in other prophecies will, says God through the prophet Moses, "pursue thee until thou perish" (Deut. 28:22).

The prophet Ezekiel also reveals that because the modern descendants of the sons of Jacob refuse to repent, one third of the English-speaking world will die in disease

PARALYZED

(Continued from page 3)

friends of the people and governments of Cuba and Nicaragua and we're not ashamed of it. To the contrary, it makes us proud to maintain relations with these nations," Radio Venceremos said. "Our war is and will continue to be national, but . . . we view our plans in the framework of a regional conflict in which there are interests of the people of Central America, the Caribbean and Latin America."

Many in the U.S. Congress, the news media and the public—which receives its information from skeptical newsmen—do not hold to the regional approach. A recently released document from the National Security Council confessed of continued "serious difficulties with U.S. public and Congressional opinion which jeopardizes an ability to stay the course."

Second, in Vietnam, according to Colonel Harry G. Summers, interviewed in the *New York Times Magazine* of February 13, 1983, "North Vietnam was the real opponent." In chasing after Vietcong guerrillas in South Vietnam, he reports "we were like a bull charging the tore-ador's cape."

"The result," he said, "was that the army got caught up in . . . search-and-destroy operations which cost the lives of many American soldiers, outraged public opinion and did not deal with the source of Communist strength—North Vietnam. . . . The Communists controlled the tempo of the fighting."

Except for restricted air attacks the United States never seriously took the war to the North. Weapons and matériel flowed into North Vietnam and down the Ho Chi Minh trail into South Vietnam virtually unimpeded throughout the war.

Similarly today, Cuba remains a well-armed and fortified sanctuary supporting the Central American battle zones.

More Soviet arms poured into that bastion during the years 1981 and 1982 than at any other time since the Cuban missile crisis two decades earlier. And now, since December 1982, Nicaragua, too, has been declared "off limits" by the U.S. Congress. Arms will thus continue to flow from Cuba to Nicaragua and into El Salvador across a labyrinth of routes similar to the Ho Chi Minh Trail network.



BRIGNOLO-IMAGE BANK

Finally, in Vietnam, the United States, despite its enormous investments of men and matériel, sought not victory but simply to "bring the enemy to the bargaining table" for a negotiated settlement—the apparent aim of U.S. policy in El Salvador today.

The U.S. gave up direct involvement in Vietnam in January 1973. Then Congress, despite pledges of support, drastically cut military aid to South Vietnam—while the Soviet Union doubled its support. South Vietnam crumbled in April 1975.

"What followed," reported former President Richard M. Nixon, "was one of the great tragedies of history. The 'liberators' brought ruthless tyranny. . . . There were no boat people before the communists took over. Now 110,000 fleeing their liberators have drowned in the China Sea. Hundreds of thousands have been tortured and killed in 're-education' camps. In Cambodia alone *over three million* have been murdered and starved to death. . . ."

Americans thought they could simply walk away from the chain of horrors they helped unleash in far-off Southeast Asia by giving up the fight. They won't be able to walk away as easily from a similar upheaval in Central America. If Congressional critics, continues Mr. Nixon, "oppose the president's request [for aid] they can justify their action by proclaiming that they are preventing . . . another Vietnam. But they cannot escape the responsibility for what happens thereafter. . . ."

Grave Dilemma for U.S.

Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, in an appearance before a Congressional committee in 1982, expressed his conviction that "the American people will support what is prudent and necessary, provided they think we mean what we mean and that we're going to succeed, and not flounder as we did in Vietnam."

That is easier said than done, many observers believe. The fact is, the American public and its representatives, far from being convinced as to what to do, are hopelessly divided. The defeat in Vietnam shattered national unity on foreign affairs and in addition stripped the power of the President to act decisively in the face of perceived threats to national security.

The United States is caught between not wanting to intervene

directly and "losing" El Salvador altogether; between not wishing to offend historic Latin sensitivities and seeing one domino topple after another—right up to the Rio Grande.

The domino theory is not just an invention of the United States. The British newsmagazine *The Economist* in its April 9, 1983, issue stated that "the domino theory is even truer of Central America than it was of South-East Asia. . . ."

The British and other Europeans are concerned over yet another blow to the power they depend upon for their own protection. "The 'loss' of El Salvador," continued *The Economist*, "could be a lethal foreign-policy blow for America, reminding its friends and its foes of Vietnam and the Iranian hostages. It would bring the sound of guns uncomfortably closer to Panama and Mexico."

U.S. political analyst George F. Will put the threat in stark terms: "Events in Central America are spinning rapidly toward a decisive moment in U.S. history. None of the fictions that were used to rationalize acceptance of defeat in Vietnam can be used regarding Central America. The threat there is close [and] clear. . . . There the United States will show—will learn—whether it is any longer capable of asserting the will a great power requires, or whether the slide into paralysis is irreversible."

True Cause of the Turmoil

But the real reason the United States of America floundered in Vietnam and is apparently so confused today hasn't been understood!

Those outside English-speaking North America, as well as the people of the United States, might be shocked at the real reason.

In his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of *The Plain Truth*, writes: ". . . the United States, even still possessing unmatched power, is afraid—fears—to use it, just as God said: 'I will break the pride of your power'. . . ."

"The United States has *stopped winning wars*. . . . America was unable, with all its vast power, to con-

quer little North Vietnam! The United States is fast riding to the greatest fall that ever befell any nation!" (Write for your free copy of Mr. Armstrong's book today.)

The people of the United States no longer enjoy God's protection. Scandalous national sins—divorce, crime, drug addiction, pornography, the condoning of homosexuality, to name but a few—have at last, after more than 200 years of national well-being, cut America off from the Source of her national greatness.

In a very real sense, Almighty God has, up until now, "hedged the United States in." The oceans on both sides have acted as huge protective buffers. Friendly Canada lay to the north. And as long as the U.S. possessed unassailable power, no major competing powers or ideologies had, until recently, been able to take root in the Western Hemisphere.

But this is no longer the case. God says, prophetically, of the United States that "I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; and break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down" (Isa. 5:5, RAV).

Notice also Psalm 89, verses 38 through 43: "But You [God] have cast off and abhorred, You have been furious with Your anointed. . . . You have profaned his crown by casting it to the ground. You have broken down all his hedges; You have brought his strongholds to ruin. All who pass by the way plunder him; he is a reproach to his neighbors. You have exalted the right hand of his adversaries; You have made all his enemies rejoice. You have also turned back the edge of his sword, and have not sustained him in the battle."

The rest of this psalm reveals that after a time of national punishment and captivity God will restore the fortunes not only of the United States but those of its neighbors far and wide. War, poverty, inequality, political oppression and turmoil will, finally, be uprooted in the happy and prosperous world tomorrow foretold in the Bible.

But in the days just ahead, the U.S. is heading for further calamities on its own doorstep. □

Animal Flesh

(Continued from page 38)

offered to idols were not polluted, you could eat of them unless it offended someone. Under those circumstances the meat became common, not to you, but to the other person who raised the question about idols. Notice: "Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other" (verse 29).

That is why Paul said in Romans, "But to him that esteemeth any thing to be common [margin], to him it is common" (Rom. 14:14).

Prophecy for the Future

What does the Bible say the people would be doing today? Notice: They that eat "swine's flesh"—that is what most people are doing today—"and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together"—in the wrath of God—"saith the Lord" (Isa. 66:17).

This is the fate of those "whose God is their belly" (Phil. 3:19).

Is it any wonder today, that with all our scientific knowledge, we have more doctor bills, more sickness than ever before in the history of the world? It is time we returned to God and began to obey his laws. He is our Creator. He made us. He knows what our bodies were made to utilize as good, healthful foods. He set the laws in motion regulating clean and unclean meats. It is time we began to obey them as Jesus and the apostles did!

God forbids also the eating of animal fat, or blood (Lev. 3:17; 7:23-27). Butter, olive oil and some vegetable oils and shortenings are acceptable, but animal fat should be cut off before eating meat. Cheaper hamburger is not good because it is mixed with much fat. Lard should never be used.

It may not be spiritual sin to eat biblically unclean foods. Yet, if one deliberately does it out of lust of appetite, that breaks the tenth command and becomes sin. But in all events wrong food injures the body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. It defiles the BODY if not the *man*, and if we continue to defile our bodies God will destroy us (I Cor. 3:17). □

EAT WELL

(Continued from page 12)

practices include: steaming vegetables and fruit in a steamer; simmering vegetables and fruit in a small amount of water that is brought to a boil before adding the food, covering with a lid and cooking till just tender, or done—not mushy! *Save any leftover liquid from cooking meats and dried beans or peas or other vegetables and use for soup.*

Vegetables will have more food value if they are cooked and served soon after preparation, instead of cooking them ahead of time and keeping them hot or warm till meal time.

Preparing some types of foods in quantity for later use can be helpful if proper storage is available. Breads can be made in advance and stored successfully for short periods of time at room temperature, or longer in the refrigerator or freezer. Meat and bean dishes can be cooked in quantity and stored in the freezer for future use. From the standpoint of getting the most food value and tastiest product, it is preferable to cook vegetables just before they are to be eaten.

Involve Children

More success in meal preparation and acceptance may be achieved when children are involved. They can be a help and taught good habits of food preparation from a young age by allowing them to share in experiences for which they are capable.

Safety should always be a consideration. The young child should not be allowed to use sharp knives or to be around a hot oven or cooking surface. Younger children can derive enjoyment, while learning and being helpful, by doing such things as scrubbing potatoes or adding ingredients to bread.

More Money Saving Practices

Where possible it is quite helpful to grow your own food. It is amazing how much can be grown in a small area with careful planning. If carrots grow well for you but not cabbages, maybe your friend who has a large cabbage crop but

has no success with growing carrots would be willing to trade cabbages for carrots. This way *both* of you benefit.

Home preservation of food can be a money saving method to provide more nourishing food, or it can be expensive use of time and money. Do you already own the equipment needed, such as a large freezer, or canner and canning (bottling) jars? Do you raise more of your own food than can be eaten when it is fresh?

If the answer to both of these questions is yes, than it might be worth freezing or canning food. When food preservation would involve buying equipment or the food items to be preserved, the cost might be so much it would mean less savings in the long run.

Canning of acid foods such as most fruits and tomatoes would be preferable to canning low-acid vegetables and fruits. All home-canned low-acid vegetables and fruits need to be boiled at least 10 to 20 minutes before tasting, once the canned product is opened for use. The boiling is done to kill the deadly food poison botulism, should it be present.

This process is necessary, but along with making the food safe to eat, it causes nutrients to be lost. So is it really worth the time, money and food used?

If you raise your own foods, a more economical and nourishing procedure might be to plan to raise a wide variety of foods that would grow in the different seasons. Include foods that also have a relatively long storage time in their natural state. Some vegetables and fruits such as apples and potatoes can be stored under proper conditions for several weeks, or a few months in colder climates.

More money could be available for food in some households if less were spent for certain nonfood items. The money spent for many plastic and paper items could be better used for food. Rags could often be used for cleaning and wiping up spills, instead of paper towels, and are much more economical than paper goods. Except for rare occasions, avoid the use of disposable plates, cups, glasses and cutlery in the home. Check the price of

these items. It is more than most realize.

Entertaining and Eating Out

Entertaining guests and dining out are enjoyable experiences. They can either be costly or within your budget. Pot luck meals where the guests each bring a portion of the meal can add variety and enjoyment, as well as making it financially possible to share a meal with your friends. Bringing a lunch from home is usually less expensive than eating lunch in a nearby restaurant or café.

These methods of dining work best when planning is done well ahead of time. They can provide enjoyment as well as stretch your food money.

Many people may be malnourished and go hungry because they lack information as to available foods, plan poorly or not at all, fail to develop a taste for a variety of foods, or practice undesirable habits in food buying and food preparation. The problem, then, is a lack of information and productive action, rather than a lack of available food and money.

Consider your individual situation, plan carefully and carry out your plans in a way that is best for you. You can be well nourished even in today's depressed economy. □

MISTAKES!

(Continued from page 33)

Fourth, begin to *discipline* your emotions, words and actions with God's help.

Fifth, be *wholehearted* in fervently desiring to overcome your mistakes.

God says, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (Eccl. 9:10).

In dealing with your personal mistakes and problems, if you will learn to find the *real cause*—and then follow through with the above steps—you will surely find success. In overcoming your mistakes and *yourself*, you will have a deep sense of accomplishment and a growing realization that this process is also leading you far down the road to fulfilling the very *purpose* of human existence! □

UP THERE?

(Continued from page 9)

your feelings and thoughts about the majesty of God.

Then God's Kingdom

After acknowledging God's greatness the most important thing to pray about is his kingdom. Many million times the so-called Lord's Prayer has been recited with no understanding at all of its meaning! How many know God's kingdom is going to be set up on earth? Or know through whom it will be set up? Or its purpose?

The message of Jesus Christ from the beginning was the government of God. Notice it in Mark 1:14: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD." The old English word *gospel* means, literally, "good news."

The message of the Bible is the good news that Christ is coming to establish God's government on earth. To bring the world peace, happiness and prosperity. To abolish war. Isn't that something to pray about?

We live in a world of wars and rumors of war. A world of malnutrition, hunger, turmoil. Christ also said, "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36, RAV). A Christian should be aware of world affairs—know what is going on. Know how to understand world events in the light of Bible prophecy. The *Plain Truth* magazine keeps you informed in this important area and can be used to help you know what to pray about.

In this regard, one of the very important prophecies of the Bible needs to be mentioned—Matthew 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (RAV). The work of God is certainly something to pray about every day. The apostle Paul, knowing how important prayer is, said, "... brethren, pray for us, that the

word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you" (II Thess. 3:1).

Can you begin to see how prayer is not something that will take only two or three minutes? After a while the problem becomes how to find time for all you need to pray about.

Continuing with the outline, Christ then said to pray, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Luke 11:2, RAV).

This first requires a study of God's written Word to know what God's will is. The Bible is God speaking to us. Prayer is when we speak to God. A helpful hint to guide you as you learn to pray is to have the Bible with you. Read a portion of it, such as a psalm or two, for a few minutes; then pray a few minutes. You'll be surprised

Prayer...puts you in contact with the supreme Creator

what you will get out of this technique if you have not tried it.

So you should talk to God about his will. His will about world events, and his will about your personal life.

Your Personal Needs

Now, with your mind focused on God and his greatness, on the need for his kingdom to come and on his will being done, you can, next, talk with God about your needs, hopes, desires.

But notice how Christ instructs us to think—"Give us this day our daily bread" (Matt. 6:11, RAV). It isn't appropriate to ask God for everything at once so you will not have another worry in the world. (A lot of people think big money would solve their problems.)

One of the most important lessons we have to learn is that of having faith. Trusting God is based

on daily contact with him. As you start each day, ask God to provide what is necessary for that day or for the coming week. Then you won't need to worry that much about next month or next year.

The Importance of Forgiveness

Then Christ said to pray, "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us" (Luke 11:4, RAV). Perhaps the greatest comfort we have is the knowledge that God will forgive us when we repent of sin. But he forgives us only as we are willing to forgive our fellowman and woman.

Every one of us is wrong some of the time. We slip, stumble and sometimes fall. The knowledge that God is a loving and forgiving God permits us to get up, dust ourselves off and continue our lives. So be willing to forgive others. And pray for others who need to know God's will, too. Then, as you pray, ask God for forgiveness for your shortcomings and for guidance to live his way.

The model prayer continues, "Lead us not into temptation [or sore trial]; but deliver us from evil [or better translated, 'the evil one'—Satan the devil]" (Luke 11:4).

The knowledge of God's forgiveness should lead us to the desire not to sin in the first place. By asking God to help you see where the temptations are and how to avoid them, you find God will give you special protection against the wiles and fiery darts of a very real devil.

You see, prayer is a vital part of the Christian life. It puts you in contact with the supreme Creator of heaven and earth. On a personal basis.

Contact with God every day will provide you with the help and inspiration you need to make it in a world turned upside down—a world that doesn't even know God and his way of life. Prayer will be your source of strength to meet your daily needs, as well as the big trials that may come your way from time to time. You won't then call out in desperation, wondering if God will hear when you cry, "God, save me!" You will call out to a God who you know will hear. Because you talk to him every day. There *is* someone up there. □

What Our Readers Say

Smoking

I was a heavy smoker for 30 years and so many times I wanted to quit. But for some reason I just couldn't give up cigarettes. Even my doctor told me my lungs were bad and I had to quit smoking. But I kept right on smoking until I read *The Plain Truth*. Since that day I have not smoked one cigarette.

**P. Maynard
Beauty, Kentucky**

Why No Subscription Price

About five years ago I became acquainted with *The Plain Truth* at a church fair bookstall (and recently became a free subscriber).

Two articles prompted this letter. Your personal and "Why No Subscription Price?" in the current issue.

I am an advertising man—and now an agnostic. Our most creative copywriters would find it difficult to eloquently honour and do justice to your achievement.

The successful and continuing production of any magazine is one of the most difficult enterprises to maintain even with paid advertising and a paid subscription, let alone without either.

If only metropolitan press, radio and television would follow some of your guidelines and their editors have your characteristics and your ideas, I am sure our world would be a better place to live in.

**Douglas Smith
Glen Waverley, Victoria**

Nutrition and Pregnancy

I was very pleased to see the much-needed article "There's No Second Chance." It was

greatly needed. I would like to point out that coffee should have been included in the section heading "Smoking and Drinking." Its effects can be just as devastating. Coffee is more than a noncontributing or neutral factor as listed in the "Nutritive Guidelines for the Expectant Mother" section of the article. Caffeine-containing products can harm embryos. Dr. Landon Smith in *Feed Your Kids Right* warns: "The caffeine in coffee can be considered a drug. . . ."

**Denice M. Orr
Montgomery, Alabama**

Missing Dimension in Education

You cannot fancy how happy I feel whenever I receive a new number of *The Plain Truth*.

I am a Brazilian English teacher interested in all problems of education. I wrote an article entitled "Education Turned to Peace" for a small newspaper in northeast Brazil. In this article I shared the viewpoint of a distinguished Brazilian educator who, in his goodbye speech as a member of Brazil's Federal Education Council, feels disappointed with world education towards peace. This educator states that, despite all efforts made by worldwide educational organizers, the threats of wars go on. He seems to give us to understand that education hasn't helped much towards world peace.

Under these circumstances, in my aforesaid article I suggested that your splendid magazine might contribute with an article or research on this matter, which, I am sure, will enlighten one of the world's

most important issues: education towards peace.

**Francisco Cunha
Vila da Penha
Rio de Janeiro**

Sowing Seeds of Hope

We enjoyed the article on the winged bean in the April issue. We would like to try growing some in our garden. Can you tell us where we can get them and whether they would grow in our area. I am enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope for you. We are also sending a small check to the Pygmy Fund to be of help.

**Ralph N. Brickey
Portland, Oregon**

• *Ever since Donald D. Schroeder's article "Sowing the Seeds of Hope" was published in the April 1983 issue of The Plain Truth, a tremendous interest has been increasingly focused on the most promising winged bean. The story described my own realization with this "wonder bean" as an efficient tool "to teach the hungry world to produce its own food" and that the "success of the winged bean project will be shared with others. . . ." So, I was very pleased to receive many requests for additional information. Now I am able to help several organizations and quite a few individuals who are presently planting "the supermarket on a stalk" in their backyards, patios and rooftops.*

Though the highly nutritious and prolific bean is native to the tropics, it is now being grown and multiplied successfully in Florida, near the Gulf of Mexico, in some areas of the Southwest U.S.

and, of course, in Hawaii. In many other areas, it can grow well and produce a profusion of edible leaves, shoots, and even tubers. So, it is worth experimenting with, and I will be delighted to give those readers of The Plain Truth who so request a chance to try it. Just send me a letter-size, self-addressed stamped envelope and I will rush to you the latest detailed winged bean information, including how you can get the best available "Seeds of Hope" which could become, according to the 1983 Year Book of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "the most important new crop of the century."

**Jean-Pierre Hallet
Founder and President
The Pygmy Fund
Box 277
Malibu, CA 90265**

Abused Children

I am sending you this letter to thank you on behalf of the abused, neglected and needy children. I am glad there are a few speaking out against the things that are coming against our youth.

We have a child abuse center located at 2103 8th Street, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662.

I have looked everywhere for magazines like *The Plain Truth*, with stories, statistics, with pictures of children and how they have to live. In this great country of ours, they are being raped, molested, abused and neglected in many different ways. And it is time we all worked together to stop it.

I have written a book called *Suffer the Little Children*, which tells about what is going on in the lives of our youth.

**John D. Foster
Portsmouth, Ohio**

NEW!

WORLD PEACE

How It Will Come

Scientists and statesmen say the only hope for world peace is the formation of a super world government. Yet, in the same breath, they admit that to form



such a government would be humanly impossible. Is there any hope, then, for the survival of the human race?

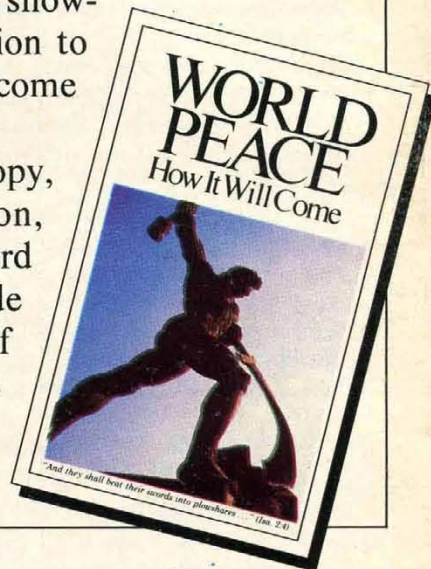
Long ago a famous person proclaimed a solution to world evils—a world gov-

ernment that will enforce peace and an abundant way of life for all. But the world rejected and suppressed that proclamation.

In light of present world conditions, it is vital that we rediscover this knowledge now!

Our NEW booklet *World Peace—How It Will Come* offers some tremendously good news, showing how the solution to man's evils will come—and soon!

For your free copy, without obligation, simply mail the card or envelope inside this magazine or, if there is none, write to our address nearest you.



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