

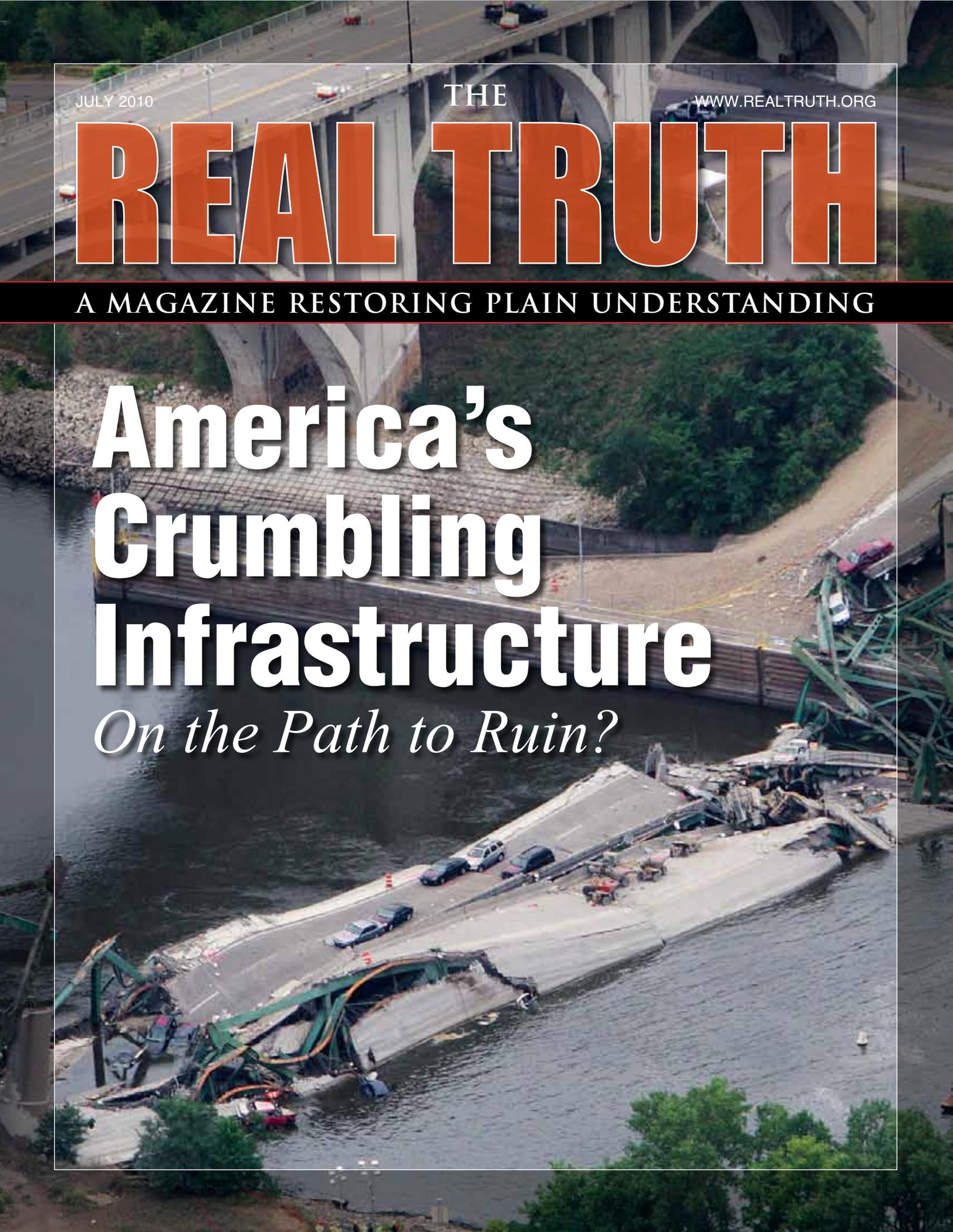
JULY 2010

THE

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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

An aerial photograph showing a significant collapse of a bridge over a river. The remaining section of the bridge is a narrow strip of concrete and asphalt, with several cars parked on it. The collapsed portion of the bridge, including its green steel truss structure, lies in the water. The surrounding area includes a dirt path, some trees, and a concrete wall.

America's Crumbling Infrastructure

On the Path to Ruin?

THE REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

VOL. VIII | NO. 6 | JULY 2010

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As the United States prepares to wind down its shuttle program, the race for who can become the most prominent space power is on.

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PHOTO: NASA

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PHOTO: MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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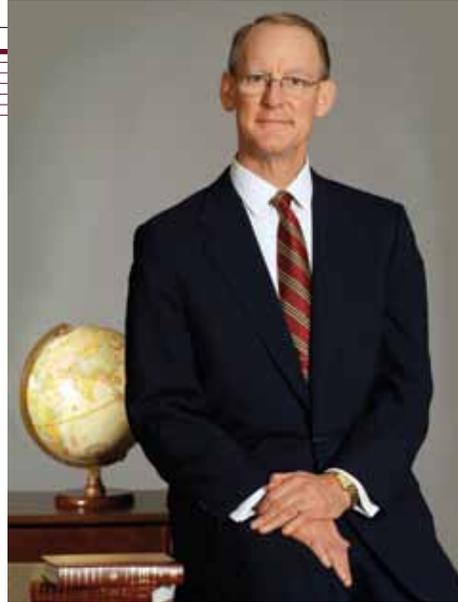
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



The Seven Laws to Success

EVERYONE WANTS to be successful. I have never met anyone who wanted to fail. But most have no idea how to *achieve* success. And they are not sure how to recognize it if they see it—either in themselves or others. Supposed “higher” education has never taught true success. Nor have most understood that there are basic, specific LAWS that *must* be employed to reach it.

Most people have no idea how to *define* success, let alone achieve it. Nor have they been taught the laws that govern it. Do you know what they are?

You are about to receive *priceless* knowledge.

Just what is success? So many seek it, having never defined it. As a result, very few people ever really achieve true success. And most never actually sit down and try to analyze the reasons for their failure. These same people are certainly capable of recognizing that they *have* failed—but cannot explain *why*! Everyone would like to be, and be thought, a success. Yet most people fail without knowing why.

Though some might feel they are *destined* to fail, this is not true. Men and women of all ages *can* achieve success. But they must understand and practice the right formula—and only after they understand exactly *what* they are trying to achieve! This Personal explains the LAWS to success.

Assumptions About Success

Do you know what success is? Many believe it involves achieving a certain amount of WEALTH. Their only pur-

pose for being is to accumulate money and material goods. As has been said, “The goal is to see who can die with the most toys.” These seem to believe they must have a significant “net worth”—and many possessions. Yet such people never find true happiness at the end of the “money rainbow.”

Others come to believe that success is a reflection of how much POWER they have. It is as though the measure of their life is how much *influence* they have over people, events—or even economic, governmental or world affairs. Such people usually have controlling personalities. To them, success is how much—or how many—they *control*. Generally speaking, these people are *more* miserable than those who seek wealth because they live in fear of losing their power.

Still others hope to achieve FAME. These people are often driven by a need to be *known*. They seek “name recognition.” Of course, nearly *everyone* would love to enjoy their “15 minutes of fame.” But not everyone believes that fame equals success. And those who are famous represent probably the most miserable “success” category.

In every case, the people who *appear* to have achieved success have gained a certain level of status. Whether that success involves wealth, power and influence, or fame—a certain status in comparison to others has been reached. Success involved elevating oneself above others.

Very few are ever considered to be a success without having obtained one or more of these commonly described elements of status.

Think for a moment! And be honest. How many people could you name who you consider truly success-

ful, but who do *not* fit one of these categories? Few, if any.

Successful People?

What about people generally thought to have achieved success in their fields? Consider some examples. What about athletes, movie stars or musicians? Some achieve a level of fame almost unparalleled in any other endeavor. They are almost seen as gods and goddesses. These people are pampered, continually written about and photographed, and often become extremely wealthy, having multiple homes. Yet, when they cannot find happiness within sometimes several marriages, they turn to alcohol, drugs, sex and, in many cases, sadly, suicide.

So then, do these people's lives reflect true success?

Now consider the great captains of industry. Many command enormous salaries and wealth, and wield great power within giant corporations. Are such men *truly* successful? And what of the more respectable greatest business tycoons of 100 years ago? What did their wealth and fame gain them? If they couldn't take it with them, and they have been largely or entirely forgotten, what good did it do them—what *permanent* success did it bring? Whatever they achieved was temporary—at best a fleeting illusion.

Ask: Did famous authors or inventors truly achieve success, simply because their works outlived them? If you say yes, are you sure? On what final basis were they a success?

Are you absolutely certain *your* definition of success is the correct one? If most people's view of success is right, then why is there so much misery in the lives of people who have achieved wealth, power and fame? Why do they often change mates as easily as shoes? Why are so many of these *success stories* quietly delving into drugs,

alcohol, overwork, materialism, sex, escapism and pleasure-seeking? Why are their lives so empty—devoid of real *meaning*?

Why are their children often shameful examples that evidence miserable home lives? Why, when asked, do so many say that wealth, power and fame was not *satisfying*? Why are so many unable to handle accomplishment?

You Need Not Fail!

Think of the world at large. Many elderly people are dependent on government programs and other aid to survive when they should be independent. Upon growing old, they feel uncertain and worried, because they never plotted the course of their lives toward a definite end. They had never set out to achieve true success.

Here is why this happens to so many! The general assumption is that success is largely a byproduct of one's *natural ability*. It is as though "you have it or you don't." Most think they have little control over their own success or failure. They have been programmed by common assumptions to believe that they cannot do much to change their level of achievement in life.

Is this true? Is success or failure entirely connected to talents one is born with?

I have hired many people, and fired a few. For some years, I owned a successful company. I inherited a small chain of retail stores from my parents, and we continually sought "hired help." I found that only a certain few worked hard, while others did not. Past a point, their success or failure seemed to have little to do with ability or talent. I learned that people's success was far more connected to the desire to produce, learn, grow and achieve than any other reason.

Yet, I found that virtually all who did not succeed could have—*IF* they had known and applied

the laws to success. I came to realize that people fail by choice, not by inherited traits, meaning their "genetics." I learned that people have far more control over the direction of their lives than they realize, or are willing to admit. Sadly, however, most languish throughout their lives believing there is little or nothing they can do to achieve the success they long for.

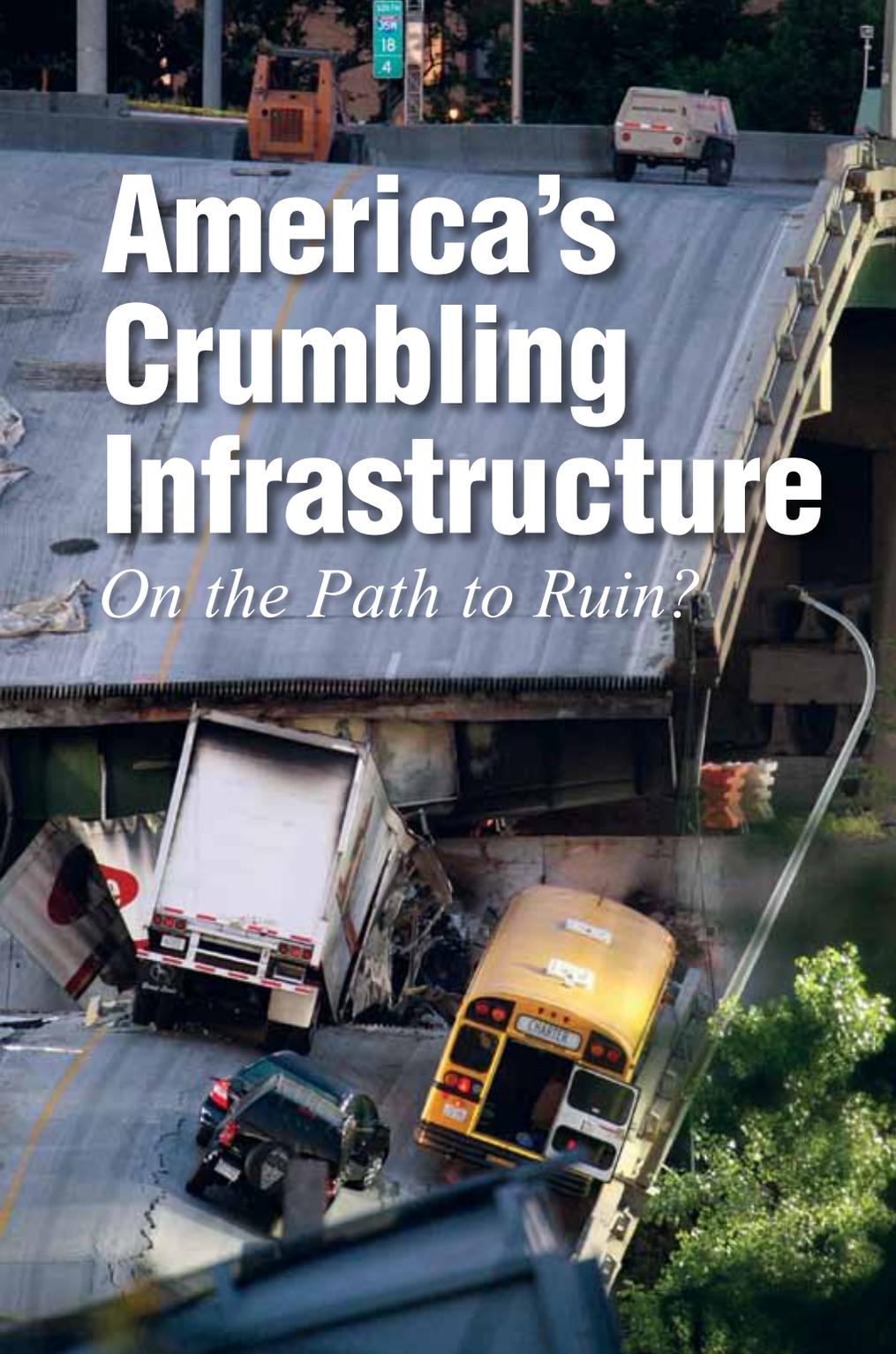
Not Satisfying

Now get this! Every millionaire eventually dies. There are no exceptions to the rule that *all* die. Notice: "...it is appointed unto men once to die" (Heb. 9:27) and "For that which befalls the sons of men befalls beasts...as the one dies, so dies the other...All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again" (Ecc. 3:19-20). In every case, the wealth, power and fame—and even recognition of the most famous people—dies with them. Obtaining and enjoying these things could not keep them alive. Although some few may be remembered for a while beyond their lifetime, none have knowledge of this from the grave. And even remembrance of the accomplishments of their lives is fleeting.

Other Aspects of Character

There are aspects of character that are generally considered to be virtuous qualities. One must be courteous, loyal, hardworking, honest, always on time, dependable, patient, and probably much more, to have any hope of success in this world. Almost everyone understands these qualities, but few—and fewer every day—exhibit them. You will see these are all outside the enormous importance of the seven laws of success this *Personal*, as well as the companion *World to Come* broadcast series, covers.

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America's Crumbling Infrastructure

On the Path to Ruin?

Millions in the United States believe their lifestyles filled with modern conveniences will continue forever. But the underpinnings of the country—including its electrical grids and transportation systems—tell a different story.

BY WILLIAM H. BEHRER

“TENS OF THOUSANDS of bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. A third of the nation’s highways are in poor or mediocre shape. Massively leaking water and sewage systems are creating health hazards and contaminating rivers and streams. Weakened and under-maintained levees and dams tower over communities and schools. And the power grid is increasingly maxed out, disrupting millions of lives and putting entire cities in the dark.”

This statement is not describing a developing country. It was written to promote a *History Channel* television special dealing with the dire condition of America’s infrastructure and the kinds of manmade disasters that could be just around the bend.

It gets worse. A *New York Times* report found that “a significant water line bursts on average every two minutes somewhere in the country”—or 720 times daily!

“In Washington alone,” the article continues, “there is a pipe break every day, on average, and [in March 2010] intense rains overwhelmed the city’s system, causing untreated sewage to flow into the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. State and federal studies indicate that thousands of water and sewer systems may be too old to function properly.”

“For decades, these systems—some built around the time of the Civil War—have been ignored by politicians and residents accustomed to paying almost nothing for water delivery and sewage removal. And so each year, hundreds of thousands of rup-

■ **COLLAPSE:** Vehicles rest on a crumpled section of the I-35 bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The bridge, which spans the Mississippi River in the city’s downtown, collapsed during the evening rush hour (Aug. 2, 2007).

PHOTO: SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

tures damage streets and homes and cause dangerous pollutants to seep into drinking water supplies.”

This is Washington, D.C.—the capital city of the free world! In this age of modern technology, medical advances and an international space station, it seems incredible that the vital infrastructure of the United States is collapsing.

The sweeping scale of the problem is not yet fully visible because infrastructure—power grids and water and sewer systems—is largely hidden from the naked eye. The average person gives little thought to it but for one exception: when it does not work.

Most do not realize that the U.S. is hurtling toward a time when vital utilities will regularly drop out, roadways will become impassable due to disrepair, and blackouts will cripple metropolitan areas.

Millions believe the comfort and luxury afforded to nearly every American will go on forever. But, without *drastic* intervention, the nation inevitably faces ruinous collapse.

America Gets a “D”

“We’ve been talking about this for many many years,” Patrick Natale, executive director of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), told *CNN*. “We really haven’t had the leadership or will to take action on it. The bottom line is that a failing infrastructure cannot support a thriving economy.”

After reviewing several areas of America’s infrastructure, ASCE issued a 2009 report card, which gave the nation a bleak cumulative ranking of “D.”

The results for the individual categories were equally telling: Aviation, D; Bridges, C; Dams, D; Drinking Water, D-; Energy, D+; Hazardous Waste, D; Inland Waterways, D-; Levees, D-; Public Parks and Recreation, C-; Rail, C-; Roads, D-; Schools, D; Solid Waste, C+; Wastewater, D-; Transit, D.

In 2001, the ASCE grade was D+. Nearly 10 years later, conditions continue to worsen.

Imagine if your child brought home the same poor grades year after year.

You would certainly take immediate action! Yet American infrastructure is able to skate by with barely passing grades because the situation has *seemingly* not yet become dire.

The ASCE estimates that \$2.2 trillion is needed over a five-year period to address all of these concerns. Staggering! All this at a time when the nation is plagued by ever-increasing debt. Daily, the government spends an average of \$4.09 billion—with total U.S. debt over \$13.1 trillion.

Shaky Foundation—Shaky Future

How important to the health of our nation is our infrastructure? Just as the proper functioning of the circulatory system, nervous system and skeletal system is vital to your body’s health and well-being, so too is the nation’s infrastructure vital to the success of its citizens. Utilities and services must be maintained to continue to live the way we do. Without them, nearly everything in the U.S. comes to an immediate halt.

The 2009 ASCE report card detailed the level of disrepair and decay and



showed how infrastructure plays into almost every part of day-to-day life.

Roads: “Americans spend 4.2 billion hours a year stuck in traffic at a cost to the economy of \$78.2 billion, or \$710 per motorist. Poor road conditions cost motorists \$67 billion a year in repairs and operating costs, and cost 14,000 Americans their lives. One-third of America’s major roads are in poor or mediocre condition and 36% of major urban highways are congested. The current spending level of \$70.3 billion per year for highway capital improvements is well below the estimated \$186 billion needed annually to substantially improve the nation’s highways.”

Bridges: “More than 26%, or one in four, of the nation’s bridges are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. While some progress has been made in recent years to reduce the number of deficient and obsolete bridges in rural areas, the number in urban areas is rising. A \$17 billion annual investment is needed to substantially improve current bridge conditions. Currently, only \$10.5 bil-

lion is spent annually on the construction and maintenance of bridges.”

The ASCE projects a five-year budget shortfall for bridge and road repair of \$549.5 billion.

Drinking Water: “America’s drinking water systems face an annual shortfall of at least \$11 billion to replace aging facilities that are near the end of their useful life and to comply with existing and future federal water regulations. This does not account for growth in the demand for drinking water over the next 20 years. Leaking pipes lose an estimated seven billion gallons of clean drinking water a day.”

Wastewater: “Aging systems discharge billions of gallons of untreated wastewater into U.S. surface waters each year. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the nation must invest \$390 billion over the next 20 years to update or replace existing systems and build new ones to meet increasing demand.”

Shared five-year budget shortfall for drinking water and wastewater: \$108.6 billion. For levees: \$48.7 billion. Dams: \$7.45 billion. Aviation: \$40.7 billion.

Public transportation: \$190.1 billion. The list goes on and on.

Widespread Blackouts

One of the most outdated and overburdened parts of infrastructure is that which Americans perhaps most take for granted—electricity.

What would life be like without electricity? When was the last time you walked up 42 stories? How would you prepare meals without a stove or microwave? Failed alarm systems, downed traffic lights, dead telephone lines and no Internet access are just a few of the problems that you would face.

The ASCE states the electrical grid is in urgent need of modernization.

“Congested transmission paths, or ‘bottlenecks,’ now affect many parts of the grid across the country. One recent estimate concludes that power outages and power quality disturbances cost the economy between \$25 billion and \$180 billion annually. These costs could soar if outages or disturbances become more frequent or longer in duration. There are also operational problems in maintaining voltage lev-



■ NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA:

Far left, a helicopter drops sandbags to fill a broken section of a failed levee, which allowed floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina to fill the streets of New Orleans.

■ CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA:

Middle, a traffic light above a flooded city street in Cedar Rapids, Iowa (June 13, 2008).

■ SNOQUALMIE, WASHINGTON:

Top right, a King County Department of Transportation employee talks on his cellphone while standing atop a damaged section of a road (Jan. 9, 2009). During that time, record rain and snow caused many rivers in western Washington to flood their banks.

■ LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:

Bottom right, traffic travels on a damaged street (Feb. 10, 2009). The California Department of Transportation announced that it is suspending work on more than 100 projects statewide after the state legislature failed to pass a state budget.

PHOTO: (FAR RIGHT) DAVID J. PHILLIP/AFP (MIDDLE) SCOTT OLSON/ (TOP RIGHT) STEPHEN BRASHEAR/ (BOTTOM RIGHT) DAVID MCNEW/ GETTY IMAGES

els. Transmission problems have been compounded by the incomplete transition to fair and efficient competitive wholesale electricity markets. Because the existing transmission system was not designed to meet present demand, daily transmission constraints or 'bottlenecks' increase electricity costs to consumers and increase the risk of blackouts."

What happens when the power ceases to flow and a blackout occurs?

In the summer of 2003, the power went out for much of the northeastern United States, as well as parts of eastern Canada.

The New York Times reported during the event: "Office workers who were still at their desks watched their computer monitors blink off without warning on a hot and hazy afternoon. Soon hospitals and government buildings were switching on backup generators to keep essential equipment operating, and the police were evacuating people trapped in elevators."

"Traffic jams grew to dozens of miles long, stranding buses and even emergency vehicles, as police officers and platoons of well-meaning citizens tried to control the streets with hand-lettered stop-and-go signs. Hundreds of subway and commuter trains were paralyzed, some in tunnels, including a Long Island Rail Road train that was trapped beneath the East River with no air-conditioning for almost two hours."

The blackout affected as many "as 50 million customers in the United States and Canada, as well as a wide range of vital services and commerce. Air and ground transportation systems shut down, trapping people far from home; drinking water systems and sewage processing plants stopped operating, manufacturing was disrupted and some emergency communications systems stopped functioning. The lost productivity and revenue have been estimated in the billions of dollars," ASCE reported.

Region-wide loss of power cripples the flow of everyday life. No electricity means no television, no place to charge your cellphone, no computers, gas

pumps not working—virtually every part of the daily routine being affected.

The 2003 blackout lasted only a relatively few hours. Consider if the outages were longer—what violence, looting, rioting, would soon grip a city in darkness?

Disaster Upon Disaster

The United States must summon \$2.2 trillion over five years to begin to fix its deteriorating physical foundation. This is \$2.2 trillion the nation does not have. For the once-towering economic leader, this is a tragic and crippling problem.

Crumbling infrastructure means one thing for the individual—without drastic and widespread intervention NOW, each individual in America is destined for a severe change of life. One with spotty electricity, without cellphones or Internet access, impassible roads riddled with potholes, higher food prices, and having to boil water to ensure it is safe to drink.

To the average American citizen, this is unthinkable. Yet just sitting down to watch a daily 30-minute news program reveals a different view. On top of failing bridges and roadways, outdated electrical grids and levee systems, and pipes bursting every two minutes are news report after news report of countless tragedies—crises of all kinds—disaster upon disaster.

The unemployment crisis, immigration woes, pension and social security concerns, homegrown terrorists, oil spills, earthquakes and citywide flooding are just a small sample of what America faces. Put together, these crises will cost the nation additional trillions.

After reviewing the facts, one can feel defeated and think: *How did we get ourselves to this point? Why has it come to this?*

Unknown to most, however, this coming period for America was foretold long ago—and with it comes the reason for the United States' decline.

The Old Testament of the Bible details the coming state of the nation: "Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumor shall be upon rumor" (Ezek. 7:26). The antiquated language hides

the true meaning of the phrase. In the original Hebrew, "mischief" means *ruin* and *disaster*; "rumor" can also be translated *news* and *report*.

Certainly, there is tragic news report after tragic news report! Before one set of crises is addressed, another consumes the nation.

Of this time, the book of Ezekiel says, "An end is come, the end is come; it [awakes against you]; behold, it is come" (Ezek. 7:6).

This increase of tumult and tragedy has only just begun. As the disasters and ruin pile upon one another—the infrastructure, which once kept the nation safely running—will now only severely worsen each calamity.

During this period, the consumer-driven economy will cease to exist: "The time is come, the day draws near: let not the *buyer* rejoice, nor the *seller* mourn: for wrath is upon all the multitude thereof" (Ezek. 7:12).

In this time, accumulated luxury items will be useless: "They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD" (Ezek. 7:19).

Ezekiel also states that God intends to punish America.

"Now I will shortly pour out My fury upon you, and accomplish My anger upon you: and I will judge you according to your ways, and will recompense you for all your abominations" (Ezek. 7:8).

But why would He do this?

Before punishment, there will be a warning about national sins and what will come if there is no change. As with any loving parent, God always warns before chastisement, leaving no excuse for those who continue in ruinous behavior.

That warning message, detailed in the pages of the Bible, is plainly explained on *The World to Come* program, presented by David C. Pack. The daily broadcast, coupled with unique analysis found in *The Real Truth* magazine, will continue to paint the picture of what is to come—and how it will affect you. □



Losing the **WAR** on AIDS

Is There Any Hope?

The 30-year battle against AIDS is seemingly unwinnable, with no cure in sight. Yet there is an aspect that educators, governments and aid groups often overlook, which offers hope to millions with HIV.

BY F. JACO VILJOEN

INSIDE A PRIVATE CLINIC in a rural South African town lies a male patient. Almost motionless, he says that he has not felt well for the past two weeks. Anxious family members brought him here because he stopped eating more than seven days ago. He has constant diarrhea, difficulty breathing and a dangerously high fever.

At first glance, the man looks chronically ill. His muscles have

wasted away, leaving only skin wrapped around his bones.

During the examination, he gives a smile as he tries to hide his pain. An oral thrush infection has caused lesions in his mouth, making it difficult to swallow. His brother must constantly wipe his mouth of dripping saliva.

This is a picture of a man losing his battle against one of the most gruesome diseases ever to plague the human race—AIDS. Without help, he will probably not see the end of the week. Without antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, he will die.

Similar scenarios are reality for more than 33 million HIV-positive men and women worldwide, each with a different face, name and identity. While there is no known cure for the virus, ARVs are one of the few weapons doctors have in their arsenal to slow its progression. But even though patients taking ARVs have a chance to live longer, the drugs' side effects can also be deadly, including increases in secondary cardiovascular disease, diabetes, kidney toxicity, as well as liver and nerve damage.

So the search for a cure continues.

■ **WITHOUT A HOME:** A three-year-old HIV positive orphan cries at the Aidchild Orphanage in Mpigi, 60 km north of the capital Kampala, Uganda. She was abandoned in Kampala at a hospital and refused by an orphanage due to her condition.

PHOTO: MARCO DI LAURO/GETTY IMAGES

Seemingly, no stone has been left unturned in the global fight against the human immunodeficiency virus pandemic and its end stage, AIDS. Donors contribute millions of dollars annually to try to combat and overcome this common enemy. But the problem continues to expand—and their efforts have minimal impact.

As with nations when they go to war, aid groups, governments and health agencies want to win. Yet almost all evidence seems to show that the battle against AIDS has already been lost.

Is there something they are missing in this seemingly hopeless fight?

Exploding Pandemic

HIV first appeared on the world scene in 1981. It started a ripple effect that soon engulfed the world. According to the United Nations organization UNAIDS, health officials worldwide register 3 million new HIV cases yearly and 2 million infected people die each year from the virus. As a result, approximately 12 million children are orphaned annually.

The highest incidence of AIDS occurs in Africa, with the United Nations estimating AIDS could kill more than 80 million Africans by 2025.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the most affected as it contains 67 percent of Earth's HIV cases. The most recent statistics reveal that in 2007, 72 percent of global AIDS-related deaths occurred there. In addition, out of an estimated 2 million adolescents under the age of 15 with the virus worldwide, 90 percent live in this region.

According to UNAIDS, South Africa is one of the sub-Saharan countries with the largest percentage of people living with HIV—more than 16.9 percent.

Dr. Dewald Steyn, an infectious disease physician at South Africa's University of the Free State, stated in an email interview with *The Real Truth* that current HIV statistics are reliable, but in his opinion, the extent of the problem is much bigger than what is reported. Currently, he said, there is

“no cure possible” and “prevention strategies are failing.”

For example, South Africa, an HIV-prevalent country, is a nation with limited access to medication. While the country has an estimated 5.7 million reported cases, a UNAIDS *South Africa 2010 Progress Report* found that the “number of persons who are receiving treatment at public health facilities has reached approximately one million.”

This is a shocking statistic considering the decrease in the cost of treatment over the last few years. According to the most recent data from the Results for Development Institute, first-line combination HIV treatment decreased from \$10,000 per patient yearly in 2000 to only \$90 in 2007. But given that 80 percent of Africans live on less than \$2.50 a day, governments and international aid groups must still cover most medical costs—a prospect which is becoming less and less of a possibility.

Diminishing Resources

Worldwide aid and donations that help countries obtain ARVs and implement prevention strategies are as essential as fuel to an engine. Yet the global recession has threatened to jeopardize charitable contributions.

Recently, humanitarian aid organization Doctors Without Borders reported, “...major international funding institutions such as PEPFAR [U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief], the World Bank, UNITAID [non-governmental aid organization], and donors to the Global Fund have decided to cap, reduce or withdraw their spending on HIV treatment and antiretroviral drugs over the past year and a half.” This would mean fewer people can start on ARVs.

The article further explained that in the 2009 fiscal year, donations to the Global Fund, the leading organization in the battle against HIV/AIDS, have decreased 8 percent to 12 percent, which will likely have negative implications for countries such as South Africa.

“Every single HIV positive person in South Africa needs to be put on ARVs to stop the spread of the dis-

ease,” Dr. Steyn said. “If your viral load is undetectable, you do not spread HIV. Question remains whether this would be possible at all in South Africa—probably not.”

Yet even with an increase in treatment, Dr. Steyn explained that ARVs and condoms are still insufficient to prevent new infections.

While donations are decreasing, the amount of funds needed to combat the pandemic is increasing. According to UNAIDS, \$15.6 billion was available in 2008 to combat HIV/AIDS globally. In 2010, however, \$25 billion will be required—with more cutbacks by international aid groups feared.

“Backtracking by international donors in funding HIV/AIDS risks undermining years of positive achievements and will cause many more unnecessary deaths,” Doctors Without Borders cautioned. “If there is reduced funding, then it will mean more people will die, and we will have more orphans.”

Decrease in funding aside, Dr. Steyn said he feels governments and aid organizations are not doing enough to counter the problem, especially in his home nation.

“South Africa denied the problem far too long,” he said, “this country doesn't have the resources or man power to control the epidemic now. This is sad news, but reality on the ground.”

Hope on the Horizon?

Numerous studies have concluded that AIDS is spread primarily through risky sexual behavior with more than one partner, especially among homosexuals, and intravenous drug use. Thus, to win the war on AIDS, researchers, medical experts and organizations have tried advocating various methods—from increased condom use to abstinence.

“The most reliable ways to avoid transmission of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), are to abstain from sexual activity or to be in a

Please see AIDS, page 17

SPEAKING AT the John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida on April 15, United States President Barack Obama told an audience of NASA staff, politicians, astronauts and business leaders, “More than half a century ago, far from the Space Coast, in a remote and desolate region of what is now called Kazakhstan...the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth, which was little more than a few pieces of metal with a transmitter and a battery strapped to the top of a missile. But the world was stunned. Americans were dumbfounded. The Soviets, it was perceived, had taken the lead in a race for which we were not yet fully prepared.

“But we caught up...President Eisenhower signed legislation to create NASA and to invest in science and math education, from grade school to graduate school. In 1961, President Kennedy boldly declared before a joint session of Congress that the United States would send a man to the Moon and return him safely to the Earth within the decade. And as a nation, we set about meeting that goal, reaping rewards that have in the decades since touched every facet of our lives.”

So began the original space race: a Cold War showdown between Washington and Moscow, the two largest powers left standing in the wake of World War II. Eyeing each other with suspicion, the two nations viewed the expanse of space beyond Earth’s atmosphere as the next front on which to assert global dominance.

The collapse of the Soviet Union ended the Cold War and changed U.S. relations with Gorbachev-era Russia. But the space race did not end. Today, more competitors than ever are setting their sights skyward.

New Direction

In the same speech, President Obama unveiled a bold goal in space: a manned flight to an asteroid by 2025. He also proposed a new space exploration budget, with a slight increase in funds. In addition, he reconfirmed that the space shuttle program would be discontinued by the end of 2010, slightly extending a deadline set by the previous administration.

This new direction was set up after a White House appointed committee found that NASA’s project Constellation, which aimed to have a permanent U.S. station on the surface of the moon, was significantly underfunded.

Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon, stood behind the president’s plan.

■ **BLAST OFF:** A Russian Soyuz TMA-19 rocket with U.S. astronauts Doug Wheelock, Shannon Walker and Russian cosmonaut Fyodor Yurchikhin blasts off for the International Space Station from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan (June 16, 2010). The mission is the last launch by a Soyuz rocket before the U.S. space shuttle program is discontinued later this year.

PHOTO: VYACHESLAV OSELEDKO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The New SPACE RACE

Who Will Take the Lead?

As the United States prepares to wind down its shuttle program, the race for who can become the most prominent space power is on.

BY JEFFREY R. AMBROSE



“We need to be in this for the long haul, and this program will allow us to again be pushing the boundaries to achieve new and challenging things beyond Earth,” he said in a statement released by the White House (*CBS News*).

Other astronauts and industry leaders are afraid the move means America will lose its edge in space research.

During a Senate Commerce Committee meeting regarding the proposed budget, Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, said, “If the leadership we have acquired through our investment is allowed simply to fade away, other nations will surely step in where we have faltered...I do not believe that this would be in our best interests” (*NPR*).

John Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth in 1962, said in an *MSNBC* article, “The cost of continuing [the] shuttle is really very tiny compared to the \$100 billion investment we’ve made in the station, and keeping [the] shuttle flying, we’ll have the biggest spaceship ever to carry seven [astronauts] and tons of cargo.”

Politics of Space

Why explore space? The main reasons put forward are the advancement of science, and opportunity to better understand the universe. Space experiments have yielded technology used in a wide variety of fields, from food safety to art restoration, surgery to hurricane forecasting. The telecommunications industry has also benefited greatly from the development of satellite technology.

However, the political impact of a successful space program, if not equal to or more important than science, must be counted as a close second. The 1969 moon landing helped firmly establish the United States as the preeminent superpower. By the beginning of the 1990s, the nation held this position undeniably. Regular space shuttle missions, in spite of periodic tragedy, bolstered American pride.

At the same time, Russia struggled to complete its version of the shuttle, the Buran, which made only one unmanned flight before the entire effort was mothballed in 1993. This disappointing episode symbolized, and largely resulted from, the financially troubled times then facing the Russians.

During the 2008 U.S. Presidential campaign, astronaut Buzz Aldrin stated, “If we turn our backs on the [space exploration] vision again, we’re going

“Space experiments have yielded technology used in a wide variety of fields...”

to have to live in a secondary position in human space flight for the rest of the century.

“Globalisation means many other countries are asserting themselves and trying to take over leadership. Please don’t ask Americans to let others assume the leadership of human exploration...All the Chinese have to do is fly around the Moon and back, and they’ll appear to have won the return to the Moon with humans. They could put one person on the surface of the Moon for one day and he’d be a national hero” (*The Telegraph*).

Military Frontier

For decades, the concept of “militarizing” space (sometimes called “weaponizing”) has gone hand-in-hand with its exploration.

This is most commonly done through so-called spy satellites, equipped with very powerful cameras that can provide snapshots of the ground below. Some, called “Keyhole Class” satellites, have been in orbit for over three decades, and can detect objects as small as six inches across. A number of these may be scanning any

point on Earth’s surface at any given time.

In recent years, many different types of space weapons have been developed. Some have been produced and successfully tested. These fall into a few categories:

Ground-to-space: This category includes anti-satellite missiles, fired from the ground and capable of leaving Earth’s atmosphere to destroy orbiting satellites. No nation has successfully achieved full function of such a weapon—yet.

Space-to-ground: So-called orbital weapons; again, none are believed to be in use currently. These would theoretically be able to destroy tanks, command posts and other ground-level targets from above the atmosphere.

Space-to-space: Weapons that can inflict damage on other space vessels. For a primitive example, some Russian space stations reportedly have had external cannons attached.

The most famous space weapons program was initiated in 1983 by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Nicknamed “Star Wars,” the Strategic Defense Initiative involved both ground and space technology. It was purported to be a defense program, protecting America from nuclear missiles, but the Soviet Union naturally assumed it would be used in a first strike against itself, further heightening tensions.

Currently, even on-the-ground battlefield technology used by a foot soldier has a space connection, as it is linked with satellite-driven GPS.

Article IV of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, at this point signed or otherwise endorsed by most nations on the planet, begins with, “States Parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, install such weapons on celestial bodies, or station such weapons in outer space in any other manner.” However, history shows that such treaties become easy to ignore in desperate times.

Newcomers to Space

Before 2003, only the United States and the USSR/Russia had completed manned space flights. In October of that year, China became the third to do so with the launch of the Shenzhou 5.

A number of other countries have followed the lead of these pioneers in exploring space. France, India, China and Israel have employed satellite surveillance, and many other countries have a space agency of some sort, from the United Kingdom to Brazil to Germany to the Ukraine to Spain.

China is making great strides in space, as in all other areas: “‘China’s manned space program will make the initial installment of putting a permanent “man-able” station in space. Up to this point, China’s manned voyages into space have been successful but transient,’ said [Eric Hagt, China program director at the World Security Institute in Washington, D.C.]. ‘Building a permanent presence in space has been a longstanding goal of China and is more than just another step in its program. It has the important symbolic value of staking a claim in low-earth orbit and illustrates China’s permanent interests and claims to develop and exploit space along with other space-faring powers’” (*Asia Times*). The ascendant nation sees a space program as one hallmark of a superpower.

Another Asian nation involving itself in the competition is Japan. In addition to already becoming the first nation to send a moon probe fitted with a high-definition video camera, “The Japanese space agency is embarking on a mammoth \$2.2 billion project to put humanoid robots on the moon and create an unmanned robot lunar base by 2020...” the *New York Daily News* reported.

Even South Africa, a nation that battles to retain first-world status, is making forays into space. “With its pursuit of research into the farthest reaches of the universe—deep space—South Africa hopes to provide further proof that Africans can compete at all levels.

“South Africa is investing heavily to join the world’s leaders in space research. The government is investing in ‘micro’ satellites, building on its existing SumbandilaSat platform.

“It is also leading the African effort to host what is widely described as potentially the world’s largest scientific instrument, the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) radio telescope. The SKA, whose massive collection of dishes would stretch across nine African countries, is a next-generation telescope that will examine gas clouds in the early universe at 100 times the power of the most powerful existing radio telescope, the Very Large Array in New Mexico” (*Project Syndicate*).

America...Still a Superpower?

As of a couple years ago, a Cold War of words between the USA and Russia was still evident: “Not to be outdone by Boeing’s laser cannon advance, a news report out of Russia claims the Soviets were way ahead of the United States back in the 1970s. ‘Russia started developing tactical laser weapons before the United States and has several prototypes of high-precision combat chemical lasers in its arsenal, a defense industry source said...’ RIA Novosti reports, quoting an anonymous ‘expert.’

“Commenting on the announcement, the Russian expert said: ‘We tested a similar system back in 1972. Even then our “laser cannon” was capable of hitting targets with high precision.’

“‘We have moved far ahead since then, and the U.S. has to keep pace with our research and development,’ he added.

“The ‘expert’ goes on to say that the only reason the United States is now ahead is because the Pentagon has poured a lot of money into laser weapons...” (*Wired*).

A Boeing statement confirmed that on “Feb. 11, 2010, Boeing, industry teammates and the Missile Defense Agency successfully demonstrated the speed, precision and breakthrough potential of directed-energy weapons when the Airborne Laser Test Bed

engaged and destroyed a boosting ballistic missile.”

Indeed, the United States government still allots an enormous amount of money for NASA’s budget—\$18.7 billion for fiscal 2010, which by itself exceeds the GDP of over half the nations on Earth. Yet most do not consider that it takes more than funding for a nation to achieve success. America is looking less and less like a superpower, and the increasingly crowded space race is one more way this is evident.

Those who believe that the universe, Earth and humankind are a cosmic freak accident would look no further than purely physical reasons for America’s remarkable achievements. Others, believing in a Creator that is distant and uninterested in His Creation, may take a similar view.

However, those who have proven that the Bible is the inspired Word of God can read the following bold declarations:

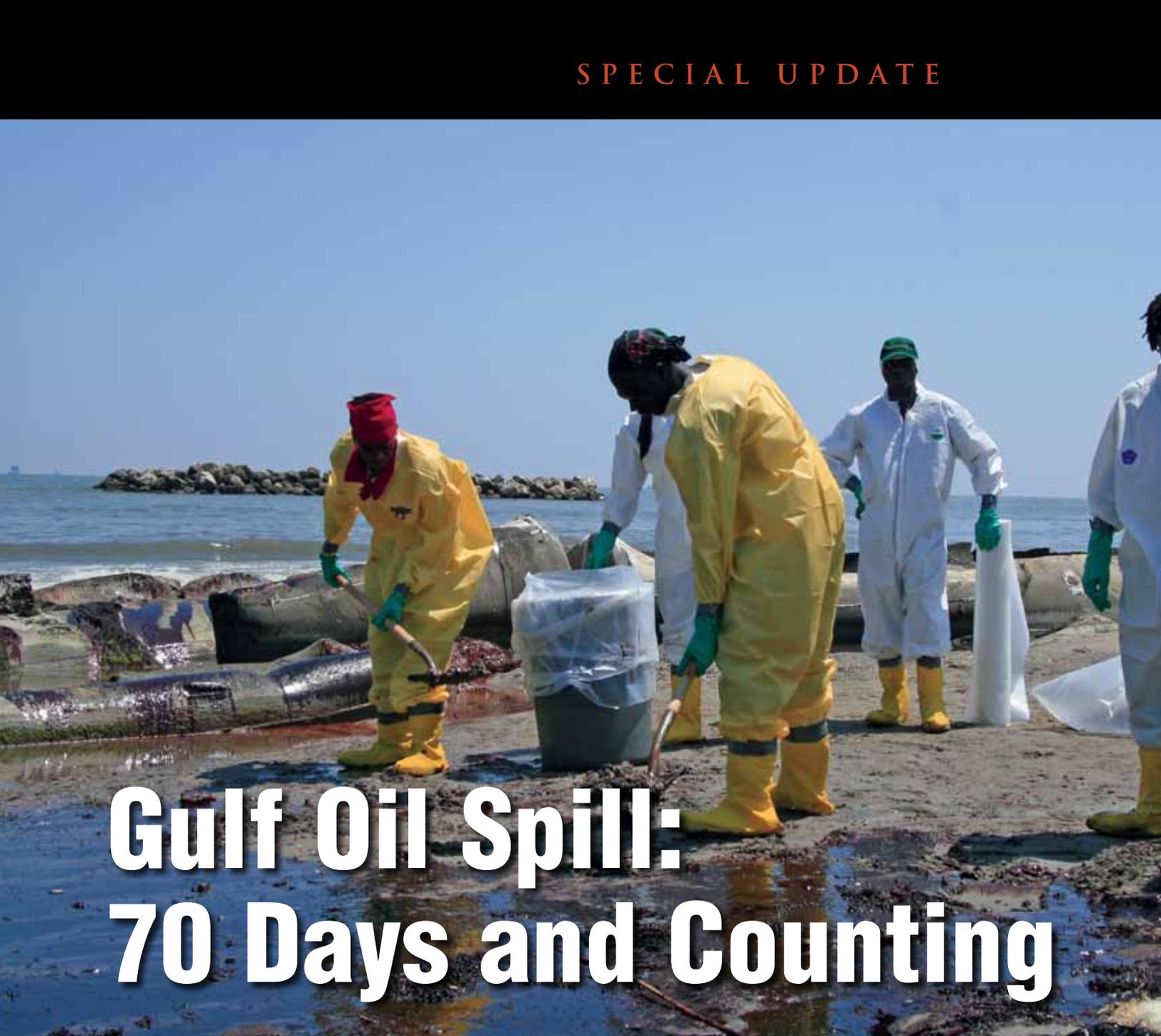
■ “Come near, you nations, to hear; and hearken, you people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it” (Isa. 34:1).

■ “The most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever He will” (Dan. 4:17).

■ “For promotion comes neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He *puts down* one, and *sets up* another” (Psa. 75:6-7).

■ “Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are His...He *removes kings*, and *sets up kings*: He gives wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding” (Dan. 2:20-21).

Yes, the God of the Bible is involved in the flow of history. There is a reason that nations such as The United States rose to such dizzying heights of power and are now sliding downward. And you may be surprised to learn that it ultimately has *nothing* to do with American ingenuity, racial superiority or anything for which the American people can take credit. □



Gulf Oil Spill: 70 Days and Counting

■ **GROWING CATASTROPHE:** Above, a BP cleanup crew shovels oil from a beach at Port Fourchon, Louisiana (May 24, 2010). Top right, oil drips from a pelican that was picked up by rescue workers on Grand Terre Island, Louisiana (June 5, 2010).

OVER 70 DAYS into the Gulf of Mexico oil spill crisis, black crude continues to spew from the bottom of the ocean, bringing the oil spill total to an estimated 176 million gallons. The spill has already cost oil giant BP \$2.65 billion. The multifaceted crisis has wide-reaching effects:

■ Oil continues to wash onto beaches along the Gulf coast, ruining some of its primary industries: tourism, fishing and offshore drilling. At the request of the U.S. government, BP has set aside \$20 billion to pay the victims of the spill.

■ President Barack Obama told the nation in a televised speech: “Already,

this oil spill is the worst environmental disaster America has ever faced. And unlike an earthquake or a hurricane, it’s not a single event that does its damage in a matter of minutes or days. The millions of gallons of oil that have spilled into the Gulf of Mexico are more like an epidemic, one that we will be fighting for months and even years.”



Bottom right, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal speaks with workers, mainly fishermen, involved in the cleanup effort of the spill on a command post boat near Barataria Bay, Louisiana (June 15, 2010).

PHOTO: (LEFT) SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES (TOP RIGHT) CAROLYN COLE/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT (BOTTOM RIGHT) STEPHANE JOURDAIN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

■ As of the end of June, BP used over 1,552,000 gallons of chemical dispersants, such as Corexit, in an attempt to break down the oil slicks. Yet the chemical’s effectiveness is not completely known, with some scientists worried that oil mixed with dispersants is more toxic than oil by itself.

“We are still deeply concerned about the things we don’t know. The long-term effects [from Corexit] on

aquatic life are still unknown, and we must make sure that the dispersants that are used are as nontoxic as possible,” the Environmental Protection Agency stated in the *Miami Herald*.

■ Some are worried the widespread use of Corexit could have long-lasting health problems for children in the Gulf region: “Early exposure to toxic chemicals can cause permanent damage to developing organs

resulting in lifelong chronic illnesses and disability” (*AOL News*).

■ As the Gulf region moves into hurricane season, turbulent weather may slow cleanup efforts as ships cannot navigate stormy seas.

For example, due to tropical storm Alex, “Offshore oil clean-up activity off the Louisiana coast was halted because of severe weather, the U.S. Coast Guard said” (*Reuters*). □

Armageddon Unveiled!

Despite the confusion surrounding this event,
you can understand the plain biblical truth.

BY DAVID C. PACK

NEARLY EVERYONE has heard of “Armageddon.” Hundreds of authors have written books on the subject, and dozens of movies have been produced depicting the “final battle between good and evil.” Scientists and world leaders also use the term, generally to reference the possible annihilation of mankind through nuclear, chemical or biological means.

Some thought Armageddon would be the final battle of World War I. They were wrong! Others thought World War II would end with this battle. They were also *wrong*! More recently, during the Gulf War, supposed Bible “experts” were announcing, “Armageddon is here!” Again, they were wrong!—as have been many other scenarios.

The Bible mentions Armageddon in only one verse: “And He [God] gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon” (Rev. 16:16). Though the New Testament was written in Greek, Armageddon is not a Greek word. It comes from two Hebrew words “*har*” and “*megiddo*.” *Har* means “hill” or sometimes figuratively “hill country.”

The site of Megiddo is within the borders of the modern state of Israel, about 55 to 60 miles north of Jerusalem and about 20 miles east of the port city of Haifa. The location of up to 30 different cities over thousands of years, Megiddo is today little more than a 15-acre pile of

rubble on a hilltop. In ancient times, this area included a main highway between Africa and Asia. It provided a natural gathering place due to the flatness of the surrounding topography. Archaeology shows evidence of frequent, extremely heavy defense facilities there.

The key to understanding the significance of the area in the future lies in two key points contained in this verse. First, God brings certain people *to* Megiddo, and second, the Bible says Armageddon is a *gathering place*, not an event—and not a battle. When the Bible speaks of Armageddon, it is not referring to either the end of the world or the final battle between “good and evil,” as so many believe. This is critical to understand. There is no *battle* foretold at Armageddon!

There is, however, a battle referred to as “the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Rev. 16:14), but God does not call this Armageddon. This is GOD’S battle and as such it is named after Him.

Armies that will have already gathered at Armageddon and then traveled to the Valley of Jehoshaphat (read Joel 3:2) will fight in this last great clash. Today this valley is called the Kidron Valley. It is located east of Jerusalem and 60 miles south of Armageddon. Thus, the battle does not take place at Armageddon, or the Hill of Megiddo, but at the Kidron Valley.

These two major forces that are gathered will see Christ coming out of the clouds. Considering *Him* a threat, they will join forces, forming an alliance to fight their common

adversary. These men will be angry. They will not submit to God’s government. Thinking Jesus Christ is actually the “ANTIchrist,” they will “make war with the Lamb” (Rev. 17:14).

But what will be the outcome of this last battle?

Continue in Zechariah 14: “And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth” (vs. 12).

This terrible picture shows that Christ will be victorious against those opposing Him—ending mankind’s failed attempts to govern itself.

But there is GOOD NEWS!

Shortly after His Return, Christ will establish God’s kingdom on Earth (not in *heaven*) and He will enforce worldwide peace. Suffering will disappear. War will be a thing of the past—so will terrorism. Crime will vanish. Children will play safely everywhere. Drug and alcohol addictions will no longer enslave people. Poverty will be gone, as will illiteracy. Mass healings will occur. A pure language will help re-educate the population. Earth’s polluted environment will finally be restored. Air will be clean. Pure drinking water will be abundant. Even the nature of animals will be changed.

To learn more about this exciting event, watch *The World to Come* broadcast “Armageddon Unveiled—What, When and Who!” at www.worldtocome.org. □



SOUTH AFRICA'S WORLD CUP

Blessing or Curse?

The nation's latest bid to promote itself could fuel long-term problems after the tournament.

BY JACOB C. TOEWS

AS WORLD CUP 2010 fever sweeps the international community, the spotlight is on South Africa. With more than 500,000 soccer fans in attendance, it appears to be the country's time to shine. It is the first African nation to host the sporting event since the competition's founding in 1930.

In preparation for the games, 10 magnificent stadiums were built or renovated, and the first high-speed rail link between the capital of Johannesburg and the main airport became a reality. The bus system was also renovated and major road rebuilding took place. According to estimates, \$2.3 billion was spent on stadiums and infrastructure costs

alone. The government also spent \$170 million for security measures, including a 40,000-person police force, and set up 56 courts to handle World Cup-related crimes.

Authorities speculate the tournament will generate at least \$660 million for the economy, as well as increasing future tourism and investment. They also believe it may bring an increased sense of self-worth and

■ **UNITING THE WORLD:** A South African flag incorporating the flags of each nation at the tournament is waved at the opening ceremony of the World Cup games (June 11, 2010).

PHOTO: CLIVE ROSE/GETTY IMAGES



■ **STATE OF THE ART:** Planes fly in formation over Soccer City Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, during the opening ceremony of the 2010 World Cup (June 11, 2010).

PHOTO: DAVID CANNON/GETTY IMAGES

unity to a country still struggling from apartheid-era rifts.

“For South Africa, it’s a question of proving itself, both to itself and the world, and demonstrating what it can do and what it is,” a *Der Spiegel* article said. “In the case of South Africa, that isn’t easy to say.”

Many South African leaders are excited about the potential effect of the sporting event on the country’s identity. Yet South Africa has been called the most dangerous country in the world not at war. With more than 50 murders a day, a rape every few minutes and a robbery every few seconds, will the World Cup be a dream come true for South Africa’s development or add even greater strain to a land already in turmoil?

On the Ground

Despite the glitter surrounding the tournament, costs have soared 75 percent above original estimates. Financial analysts now project that instead of benefiting the depressed economy, debt incurred preparing for the celebration could greatly overburden it, as with Greece after the 2004 Summer Olympics.

At the start of the matches, criticism of huge construction company profits and labor exploitation surfaced, with *The New York Times* reporting that police used tear gas and rubber bullets in Durban to end protests by several hundred security personnel who

claimed they were underpaid during the Australia versus Germany match. *Bloomberg* reported that some impoverished South Africans were removed from their shantytowns before the soccer spectacle began.

On top of economic concerns, health authorities worry the influx of visitors will increase the spread of HIV in a country where approximately 5.7 million people are infected. The non-governmental AIDS organization AVERT estimated that in just 31 days of the games, 1,000 people per day—more than 30,000 during the entire month—will become infected with HIV. And this statistic does not account for foreigners that may engage

in unsafe sexual practices during their stay.

Equally worrisome is that more than 40,000 prostitutes from Zimbabwe and other poor nations jammed hotels in Johannesburg and Pretoria ahead of the games.

“If ever there was time to make money, this is the right time,” a Zimbabwean commercial sex worker who came to Johannesburg solely because of the World Cup told *The Christian Science Monitor*. Another Zambian prostitute quoted by the same paper said she traveled more than 1,700 miles to work there. She now earns about \$270 nightly, which could allow her to buy her own car.

The situation prompts the question: what will happen to these women after the games are over?

Plight of the Youth

Another major concern during the World Cup is the possibility of increased child abuse and human trafficking. A government-mandated five-week school holiday will leave thousands of children unsupervised while parents work.

“Grace Matlhape, CEO of the national HIV/AIDS youth programme, loveLife, worries that many will gravitate towards the fan parks and public viewing areas where...the alcohol-fuelled atmosphere...could increase

■ **DISMAYED:** South Africans at a Soweto fan park watch a monitor as their team loses to Uruguay during a World Cup match in Johannesburg, South Africa (June 16, 2010).

PHOTO: JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES



the likelihood of young people engaging in risky behaviour,” a United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report stated.

Thousands of unsupervised children could greatly add to the trafficking problem.

“South Africa is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked men, women, and children,” a United States State Department report revealed. “Children are largely trafficked within the country from poor rural areas to urban centers like Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, and Bloemfontein—girls trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic servitude; boys trafficked for forced street vending, food service, begging, crime, and agriculture; and both boys and girls trafficked for ‘muti’ (the removal of their organs for traditional medicine). The tradition of ‘ukuthewala,’ the

forced marriage of girls as young as 12 to adult men, is still practiced in remote villages in the Eastern Cape.”

Dream or Nightmare?

South Africa, an incredibly beautiful country of pristine beaches, wild game reserves and breathtaking mountain views, appears to have so much untapped potential. Why the overwhelming problems? Why do statistics show that the country has a murder rate eight times the international norm, more than 40 percent live on less than \$2.00 a day and more women are raped per capita than any other country?

“South Africa has been likened to a mix of the developed and developing world,” reported research firm Deloitte. “On the one hand, a strong technological and economic base puts it on a par with the well-developed nations of the world. On the other, infrastructure shortfalls have contrib-

uted to keeping it from realizing its full economic potential.”

As South African leaders grasp for solutions to their nation’s problems—including those that spur economic growth—what is in the immediate future for South Africa following the World Cup?

“South Africans live in separate but parallel worlds, and old divides continue to exist, 16 years after the end of apartheid, while new ones are opening up today,” *Der Spiegel* reported. “Their lives do not revolve around big victories. Rather, they revolve around small steps. For them, the process of increasing the positive and diminishing the negative is a slow and incremental one.”

Only after the games have ended, the tourists left, and the direction of the economy is evident, will South Africa truly know if its latest effort to pull itself out of crisis was a blessing or a curse. □

AIDS

Continued from page 8

long-term mutually monogamous relationship with an unaffected partner,” a United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report acknowledged.

Even armed with a clear-cut answer to the problem, health officials know they cannot police people’s conduct. Instead, the most they can do is to issue cautionary statements and treat the tragic aftereffects. Some have even gone to the extreme of supporting change of existing laws to accommodate the behavior.

In a recent speech, the former Executive Director of UNAIDS advocated “making it safer” for those who were abusing drugs to access clean needles as well as softening legislation that criminalizes homosexuality. *The Associated Press* summarized his statement as “groups whose behavior is criminalized are at a higher risk of infection for HIV-AIDS partly because they are unable to live their lives openly and often lack access to preventative measures and treatment.”

Ask yourself: Would this really work? Would making activities lawful, which were once considered harmful, really stop the spread of HIV?

In the nearly three decades of the war against HIV/AIDS, mankind has seemingly tried *everything* in its power to stop its spread. Yet tracking HIV back to the first reported cases and along its destructive path reveals that the virus is not merely a result of “bad luck.” It is mankind’s conduct—and not just a microscopic virus—that is to blame.

There is only one solution to eradicate the HIV crisis: change the nature of man. It is man’s conduct that is the *true* cause behind the pandemic.

Does this mean the fight against AIDS is hopeless? How could man change human nature?

The definitive source on the topic, the Bible, makes plain “that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walks to direct his steps” (Jer. 10:23).

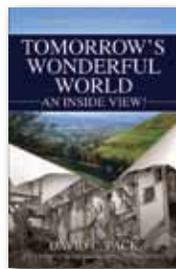
Along with detailing elements of human nature, the Bible also foretells a world-

wide change in mankind’s nature as a whole. Although it is *impossible* for a humanly devised government to do so, the Creator of the Universe promises He will soon implement a world-ruling supergovernment capable of enforcing laws to stop the spread of disease. Under His rulership, anyone who is sick, lame or dying, will be healed, for He declares, “I am the LORD that heals you” (Ex. 15:26).

No one will be left out, not even an impoverished, ailing man in the tiniest village in Africa, for He is the God “Who will have ALL MEN to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (I Tim. 2:4).

All this will be done because God does not want to see mankind suffer nor does He desire that people are sick. He promises: “For I will *restore health* unto you, and I will *heal* you of your wounds” (Jer. 30:17).

For more on how people worldwide will have health restored to them, read David C. Pack’s book *Tomorrow’s Wonderful World – An Inside View!* and booklet *The Truth About Healing*. □





An Uncertain Coalition

Can Britain's New Government Deliver?

The British populace turned away from 13 years of Labour Party rule in favor of the center-right Conservatives and left-wing Liberal Democrats, resulting in a surprising coalition. Along what path should the new government take the British people?

BY ROBERT R. FARRELL

AFTER A BITTERLY fought general election in May 2010, resulting in a hung Parliament, two radically different political parties—the center-right Conservative Party and the left-wing Liberal Democrats—came together to form a coalition government. Conservative David Cameron became the new prime minister and Liberal Democrat Nick Clegg became deputy prime

minister. Both vowed to put aside their differences and work together to chart a new course for the country.

In his first joint press conference with Mr. Clegg, Prime Minister Cameron stated, “But today, we are not just announcing a new government and new ministers; we are announcing a new politics. A new politics where the national interest is more important than the

party interest, where cooperation wins out over confrontation, where compromise, where give and take, where reasonable, civilized, grown-up behavior is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength.”

Deputy Prime Minister Clegg added, “Until today, we have been rivals: now we are colleagues. That says a lot about the scale of the new politics which is now beginning to unfold. This is a new government and a new kind of government. A radical reforming government where it needs to be. And a source of reassurance and stability, too, at a time of great uncertainty in our country” (*The Guardian*).

Before the coalition was formed, election results showed the nation was split three ways. While many chose to move away from Labour Party rule, 29 percent wanted a continuance of that government and voted for it. Another 36 percent endorsed the Conservatives,

■ **PARTNERSHIP BORN:** Prime Minister David Cameron (right) and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg hold their first joint press conference in the Downing Street garden in London, England (May 12, 2010).

PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER FURLONG - WPA POOL /GETTY IMAGES

which they hoped could bring stability to the economy. Still others—26 percent—voted for the Liberal Democrats, hoping for a party to preserve and expand the sweeping social programs Britons have come to expect.

The new government is taking power at a crucial time in Britain's history. The country faces a multitude of challenges. Its economy is in crisis, its political future cloudy, and its social fabric close to the breaking point. Clearly, this once-great nation is in steep decline.

What path will Britain take?

An Odd Couple

Seeds for the coalition government were sown in the 2010 British election, which left no clear majority party.

As parties jockeyed for power, talks began between the two bigger parties and the Liberal Democrats. After failing to broker a deal with the Liberal Democrats, incumbent Prime Minister Gordon Brown resigned under fire from his party, paving the way for the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats to form a coalition government. It is the first one in 70 years—and the first ever between these two parties.

The new government presents an odd mixture of center-right and left-wing ideologies. The Conservative Party espouses the values of fiscal conservatism manifested by cuts to government programs, lower taxes, balanced budgets, less government regulation of industry, and a pro-military, pro-American stance.

Upon taking office, Mr. Cameron outlined his government's policies going forward, stating that the government's priorities would be "safeguarding national security, supporting our troops abroad, tackling the debt cri-

sis, repairing our broken political system and building a stronger society" (*BBC*). He quickly announced plans to cut \$9 billion in government spending.

In contrast, the Liberal Democrats espouse the values of "social responsibility," including increased government programs to take care of the disadvantaged, higher taxes, fewer

one of the causes of the recent banking problems.

■ Review Britain's strategic defense initiatives, particularly focusing on Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as terrorist threats to Britain.

■ Cap immigration from countries outside of the EU to address citizens' concerns about jobs and overcrowding.

In addition, the new coalition government has made it clear that the country will not join the euro within the next five years, and that it will not forge closer relationships with Europe without a public referendum.

Plethora of Problems

The recent election results appear to demonstrate that voters are unsure who can pull them out of the many crises they face.

According to the Office for National Statistics, more than one in four Britons do not have a job, with the majority—10.6 million unemployed people—having stopped looking for work. The country's budget deficit is poised to exceed 12 percent of national income if it does not implement cuts in government spending.

This would put it on a level with Greece.

As further confirmation of this once mighty nation's economic decline, according to the economic think-tank Centre for Economics and Business Research, Britain will likely drop out of the world's top 10 economies by 2015.

Despite this grim scenario, Britons are spending recklessly. According to Credit Action, a non-profit financial management charity, the savings ratio for the average person is low, at 6 percent, and more than half have said they struggle to keep up with bills and credit commitments. The coun-

UK's New Coalition

Conservative David Cameron, Britain's new prime minister, announced a coalition government with Liberal Democrat Nick Clegg



Prime minister

David Cameron
Conservative party leader



Born 1966

Education Eton College (prep school), Oxford University

Political career

- 2001** Elected to Parliament as Conservative Party member
- 2003** Deputy chairman of party
- 2004** Head of party policy coordination
- 2005** Party and opposition leader

Key points of deal

- Liberal Democrats get five cabinet posts
- Cameron agrees to hold referendum on electoral reform

Source: Political parties, MCT Photo Service, Columbia Encyclopedia; Reuters

Deputy prime minister

Nick Clegg
Liberal Democrat party leader



Born 1967

Education Cambridge University, graduate work in U.S., Belgium

Political career

- 1999-2004** Member of the European Parliament
- 2005** Elected to Parliament as a Liberal Democrat
- 2006** Shadow home secretary
- 2007** Party leader

- Coalition agrees to five-year fixed-term Parliament

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military activities around the world, increased government spending, and a pro-Europe stance. Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said the new government would be a "bold, reforming government that puts fairness back into Britain" (*ibid.*).

Despite their differences, the coalition has promised to:

■ Reform the tax system to ease the burden on the middle and working classes.

■ Advocate more regulatory power for the Bank of England, tougher action against bankers' bonuses, and consider separating retail from investment banking—widely believed to be



WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR AMERICA AND BRITAIN?

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try's household debt is a staggering 170 percent of its annual national income, and 35 percent of Britons are prepared to go into debt to pay for a holiday.

This attitude was summed up by a consumer, who told *The Guardian*, "I'm spending more on cosmetics, jewelry and clothes than a couple of years ago. It makes me feel better...I can't see the point in saving because of low interest rates. I don't have much disposable income, so what I do have I would rather spend on treating myself."

Another Path

Britain today is but a pale shadow of the country it once was. Britons living one hundred years ago would not recognize the character of their fellow citizens: the constant partying, bad manners, broken families, and spending beyond one's means would shock them.

Almost half of all children are now born outside of wedlock and marriage has declined to its lowest level since records were first kept. *The London Evening Standard* reports that only 50 percent of adults are married. On top

of that, one quarter of Britons binge drink, with one *Daily Telegraph* headline proclaiming, "Binge drinking is as British as rain."

Perhaps surprisingly, though, more than 50 percent of Britons believe the number one problem for the country is bad manners.

While the leaders and media pundits propose economic, political and social solutions, the true source of Britain's problems lies in the character and lives of its citizens. Britain has turned from the old paths—from a time in which they were known for their sense of decorum, manners and etiquette. A time when the king deemed it necessary that everyone be able to read the Bible and ordered what is now recognized as the King James translation, which is still widely used today.

Consider what the translators said in the introduction of the King James Authorized Version: "But how shall men meditate in that which they cannot understand? How shall they understand that which is kept close in an unknown tongue...Translation it is that opens the window, to let in the

light; that breaks the shell, that we may eat the kernel."

It is this Bible that states, "Thus says the LORD, Stand you in the ways, and see, and ask for the OLD PATHS, where is the good way, and walk therein, and you shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein" (Jer. 6:16).

The nation's problems are spiritual—the result of sin—disobedience to God (I John 3:4). Regarding God's commandments, Britain as a nation has turned and cried, "We will not walk therein."

This great nation—which once "had it all"—has forgotten the God who gave it blessings.

England's problems cannot, and will not, be turned around unless its spiritual problems are addressed. No manmade coalition, even with the best intentions of working together, can deliver true peace and prosperity to its citizens.

Not until the nation turns to the old paths outlined by God, designed to bring abundant and happy lives, will it finally "find rest" from the countless problems plaguing it. □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

Recognizing the First Law

We are now ready for the first law: SET THE RIGHT GOAL!

Many kinds of goals can be set through life. Everyone understands this. Some goals can be small—others medium—and still others large or very large.

I have known many who regularly set goals for themselves. You probably have—and do. So do I. One could have a goal to get the garden in (a small goal) or graduate from college (a large goal). Taking a vacation, seeking and achieving a pay raise, getting married, having children, losing weight, buying a house, painting the house, learning an instrument, excelling in a sport, learning to give a speech in public, breaking or building a habit, reading a book—and a thousand other things—are all goals of one size or another.

There is nothing wrong with any of these goals. Many of them, or similar ones, are important to having a full, productive life. But none are anything close to establishing the overall right goal.

Most drift along aimlessly, having no purpose for being. They have no idea what success is—or that it is directly connected to the first law. In fact, understanding the correct definition of success *is* the first law. While many do define and set lesser, short-term goals, virtually everyone is ignorant of this vital first law of success!

Almost invariably, people allow circumstances to dictate the course of their lives. Few actually sit down and plan in advance what they hope or want to achieve over a long period. Even fewer determine in advance what they want to have achieved before they die. And even if one did reach many short, medium and long-term goals, including those that spanned many years, or even a lifetime, this is of no value unless he established the *right* goal. Only the goal based on the cor-

rect understanding of true success can be considered the right goal.

Few actually take time to analyze whether there should even be a great, over-arching PURPOSE to human life. A *few* philosophers and “thinkers” have spent much time and thought on such a goal—but *all* have failed to deduce the right answer. But again, most make no such effort to do what only a few seem interested in learning or figuring out.

While many rich and prominent men—including those whose wealth and status led to great fame and recognition—achieved such prominence by seeking it, this supposed success still died with them because it was the *wrong* goal.

So then, one absolutely must set the right goal to achieve true success!

The Second Law Revealed

Now for the second law: EDUCATION!

Virtually everything that anyone does involves having some basic education—some know-how. This is not hard to understand.

Consider. If the tire on your car goes flat, it takes at least a little knowledge to fix it. The same with painting a house. More than a little knowledge is required to do this correctly. During college, I painted houses for part of a summer. Even with some experience painting during my teen years, I had to recognize there was still much to *learn* in order to master house painting. I am glad I learned more, because it meant sufficient experience that I could paint my own house later in life, and teach my children to help.

Concert pianists practice for many years, and perhaps tens of thousands of hours, to become so accomplished. They must *learn* to play the piano. Many private lessons, and advanced knowledge, are needed to achieve such a high level of skill with the keys and pedals of a piano.

Becoming a rocket scientist requires extensive education in math, physics, chemistry, astronomy and other aspects of science and aerodynamics. Much complex knowledge is

necessary to achieve success in this field. Everyone knows this much.

Try to think of a single thing—tying a shoelace, flying a kite, driving a car, building a house, cooking a meal, writing a college textbook—that does not require know-how, and possibly a lot—meaning *much* knowledge.

Now, what animal has to *learn* to do what it does? Animals function on instinct from the moment of birth. God has programmed into animals everything they need to function effectively in their environment.

When a kitten is born, it knows instinctively where to find mother’s milk and what to do after it does. It need not be taught to do this. The same for every other mammal. They are born with instinctive knowledge sufficient to survive within their environment.

Again, this instinct is instilled by the Creator. For those who want proof that God exists, the booklet *Does God Exist?* brings that proof. You will be surprised how many proofs there are of God’s existence. You may also wish to read *Evolution – Facts, Fallacies and Implications*. Millions have found these publications both eye-opening and inspiring.

Now, I should add that I am not saying animals cannot be taught to do tricks. With patient training, elephants, dogs, horses and other animals can perform on command. But this is far different from being able to design, imagine, plan, reason and think in a directed way toward a goal or other decision.

On the other hand, humans are capable of acquiring knowledge, making decisions, exercising will and developing moral and spiritual character. People do not *instinctively* know everything necessary to function successfully. They must continually acquire ever more knowledge to address new challenges and demands upon them. This is the single biggest difference between men and animals.

Human beings must educate themselves—gain knowledge—in order to do or achieve *anything* of worth in life. They must learn throughout life. This is itself fundamental knowledge.

The amount of available knowledge in many fields of study has sufficiently advanced so that people must now acquire much specialized education to achieve their goals. They must learn to do—and be good at—their chosen profession. Many never seem to comprehend this most basic understanding and knowledge.

The advanced fields of chemistry, biology, geology, astronomy, engineering, history, medicine and many more are available for study, because men have searched out and acquired vast amounts of information in them. Colleges and universities the world over teach them, requiring students to study, which allows them to educate themselves in their profession.

But understand. To achieve a true education in right *morals* and *principles*, one must learn *how to live*—not just how to *earn a living*. There is a big difference! Learning morals, spiritual principles and laws—and the great law of CAUSE AND EFFECT—are all extremely important in receiving a well-rounded education sufficient to prepare one to achieve true success.

If basic knowledge and education are necessary to understand how to succeed with any chosen *profession*—or even any physical task—how much more important is it to be educated in the great *spiritual* values of life?

No one would consider their education complete without some knowledge of literature, music, art and history. Why then do so many think their education is complete without learning much or any of the most important knowledge—that of how to live? Why do so many believe that they must simply earn a living? Why do so many neglect the importance of capturing true values? Why do so few seek to know if there is a purpose for human life?

If the answers to these questions were better understood, this sick, troubled, confused, miserable, war-torn, poverty-stricken, disease-plagued world would have many more happy people.

Ignorance in the true values of life has taken man to his current decadent, degenerate state. Modern false educa-

tion has set aside—in fact, outright rejected!—right knowledge. The education of this world is shot full of false values, principles and the doctrines of “no absolutes” and “situation ethics.” The result is that colleges and universities are pumping out millions of young people who have no moral compass to direct them in making the many decisions they must face. They are ships without rudders!

So then, *right education* is the great second step in achieving true success!

The Necessary Third Law

Now the vital third law: GOOD HEALTH!

Your body is composed of physical matter. You consist of chemicals arranged in certain proportion to one another. The Bible states, “The Lord God formed man of the *dust* of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Gen. 2:7).

You are made of dust. Dust is made of physical matter. You must eat food, drink water, and breathe air for continued existence. Without any of these physical substances, for even a short time, you will die! You are utterly dependent on them for survival.

My parents owned a natural food store for many years. It eventually grew into a chain of stores. The largest carried 8,000 different products. Even before this, I grew up with a basic understanding of right nutrition and diet. I am most grateful for this. As a result, I am blessed with extraordinary energy. So many lack even the most rudimentary knowledge of how to achieve and maintain good health. They seem to believe that “food is food,” and “What’s the difference if one eats in any particular way?”

Most people have no concept that diets can be either right or WRONG! The majority load themselves with fatty, greasy foods—or many other types of food that could only be described as *sugar bombs*, including huge amounts of carbonated soda pop coupled with insufficient water intake. Most have no idea that, like oil to an engine, water *cools, cleans, lubricates* and generally *improves* the body’s condition. They

have no idea that they should drink significant amounts of water, well beyond simply sipping when thirsty.

It is well-known that fruits cleanse the human body, vegetables build it, grains sustain it, and herbs help to heal it. Most doctors know this. So do pharmaceutical companies, who derive many medicines from plants.

Yet few parents actually teach their children—and this is an important part of right education—that to achieve success in life, they must be HEALTHY!

No one likes to be sick. No one enjoys lacking energy. Ill health and disease do not enrich life. On the contrary, they rob a person of—and potentially can block altogether—the ability to go on to real success! If one has set the right goal and achieved a proper education, yet suffers from poor health, reaching true success is an almost impossible dream.

The world is ignorant of the fact that God has outlined in His Word many kinds of animals, birds and sea creatures that are *scavengers*—and *not* good for food. This is revealed knowledge and most critical to understand if one is to enjoy good health. Only the Bible reveals these unclean creatures for what they are. Read Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14—and then stop listening to ministers who tell you these laws were “done away” in the New Testament or by Jesus.

Most people eat devitalized foods—those that have been stripped of the important minerals necessary for good health. I recall a kind of bread as a child that had been stripped of over 20 separate minerals in order to make it white and pure in appearance, with eight of these “added back” so they could call it “enriched.” Later, the manufacturer reported that four more nutrients were “added back,” now making it “enriched” in 12 ways. Then they announced a jump to 16 ways. Most consumers were fooled and did not recognize that the original grains going into the bread had been *harmed* in two distinct ways: (1) Some elements never made it back into the bread and (2) those that did were not returned with the precision, balance

and construction that the Creator had originally intended when He designed different grains.

Millions eat daily what could only be described as “foodless food.” They eat breakfast cereals loaded with sugar and filler materials that provide little more than empty, unmeritorious calories. Sawdust might be better cereal. You will want to read both the booklet *God’s Principles of Healthful Living* and the article “Are All Animals Good Food?”

With the invention of television and many labor-saving devices, most who live in the modern age no longer *exercise* as they should. Many are sedentary—what are now called “couch potatoes” sitting before televisions or computer screens, eating potato chips, candy, snacks and junk food. This deadly mix has left the majority of people in western “civilization” overweight and undernourished—and devitalized of energy.

Most of my life I spent training and participating in vigorous sports. At age five, I began a career in competitive swimming that spanned 14 years and included 7,000 miles of rigorous training in the water. Though I reached the

goals I had set, I overdid it, and had to pull back to a more moderate approach to exercise. I had to learn balance in physical activity. Human beings are given to extremes. They either exercise too much, too little—or not at all.

I know why I was born—I understand life’s great purpose. To fulfill that purpose, I am inspired and spurred on to take care of my health.

God did not intend that people get sick. The apostle John recorded: “I wish above all things that you may prosper and *be in health*, even as your soul [or life] prospers” (III John 1:2). While lessons can be learned from illness and disease, this is not a natural state of being. When people violate cause and effect, this is the result. For the most part, people choose to get sick. Illness and disease are not random predators that knock on some people’s doors and pass by others. Usually, they are a byproduct of ignoring the principles of *good health*.

I have suffered ill health and injuries that were sometimes caused by carelessness. It is frustrating to lie in a bed or use a cane or crutches to

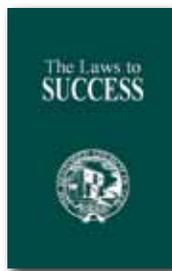
walk. This reduces one’s effectiveness—limiting capability and productivity.

I have never enjoyed being sick. Neither do you. Avoid accidents as much as possible. Be reasonably careful and circumspect about *what* you do and *how* you do things. Sometimes just thinking through how to avoid injury can eliminate much unnecessary pain and anguish.

Even a cursory study of the rich and successful of this world reveals most of them enjoy better than average health. They are generally more aware of nutrition, exercise and proper rest. They seem to understand that their body is a resource. Like any non-renewable resource, they know it can be used up!

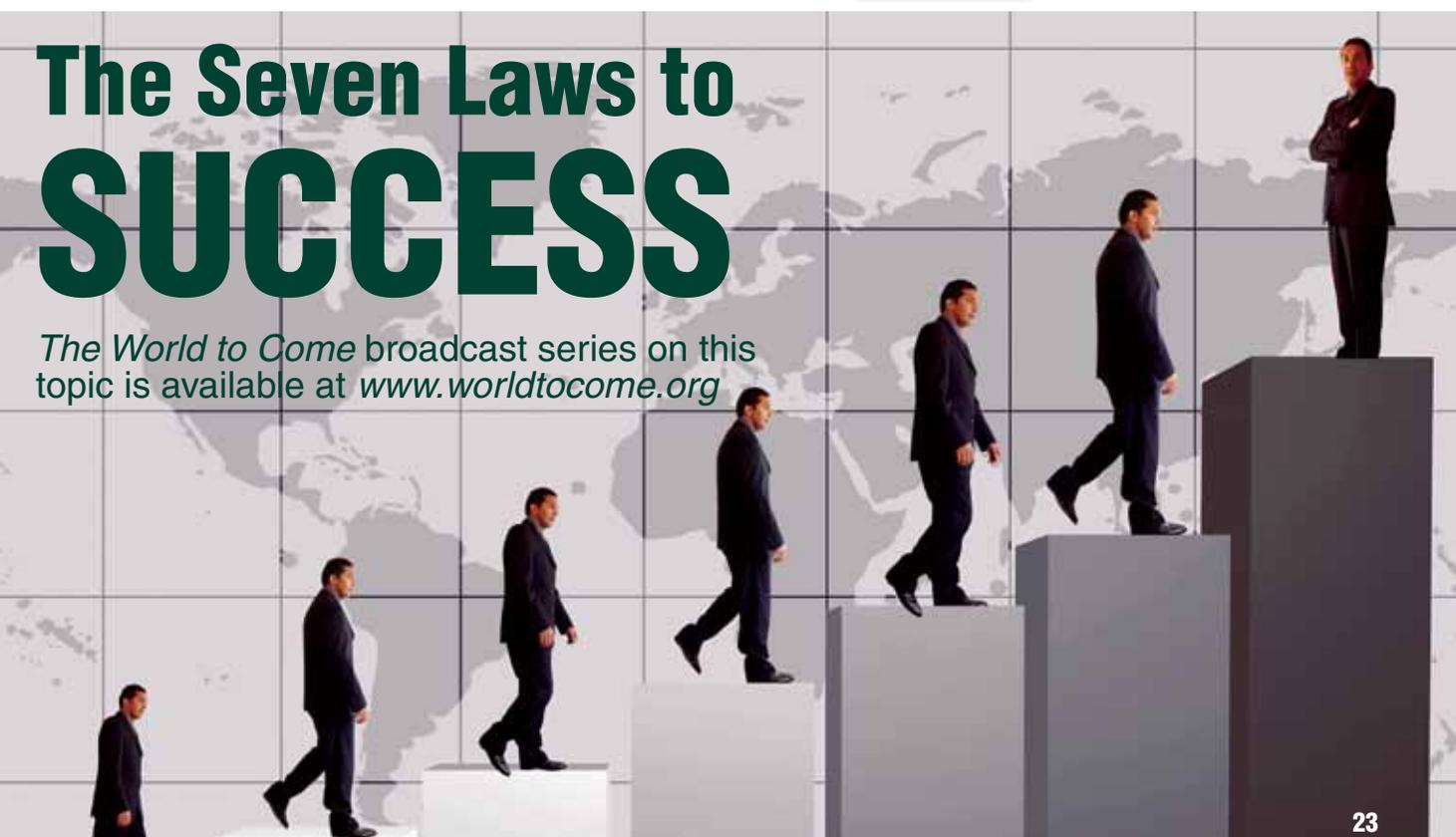
This need not be you, *if* you apply the crucial third law of success—GOOD HEALTH!

These three laws—the right goal, education and good health—are all we have space for in this Personal. Read the thorough booklet *The Laws to Success* to learn the last four. It will forever change your thinking! □



The Seven Laws to SUCCESS

The *World to Come* broadcast series on this topic is available at www.worldtocome.org



AUSTRALIA & SOUTH PACIFIC

Australia Installs First Female Prime Minister

Australia's ruling Labor Party ousted Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, instead giving the position to Julia Gillard, the nation's first female leader.

The new premier spent her first day in office calling world leaders, including United States President Barack Obama. "Mr Obama congratulated Ms Gillard, 48, on her new role, describing her appointment as the country's first female prime minister as 'an historic step' and saying that he was looking forward to working with her" (*The Telegraph*).

According to *The New York Times*, Ms. Gillard said, "My values and beliefs have driven me to step forward to take this position as prime minister...I will lead a strong and responsible government that will take control of our future."

The Times also reported that Mr. Rudd's "decision to shelve his cap-and-trade energy plan until at least 2013" contributed to him losing his post. □



■ **NEW PM:** Australia's Prime Minister Julia Gillard (right) with Deputy Prime Minister Wayne Swann during a press conference, in Canberra (June 24, 2010).

PHOTO: WILLIAM WEST/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

MIDDLE EAST

European Parliament Calls for Stronger EU Presence in Gaza

Since the May raid of a Gaza flotilla by Israeli troops, which killed nine people and further heightened tensions between Israel and Palestine, the European Union has become increasingly vocal regarding the future of the region.

The *EUobserver* reported that, following a mid-June meeting, the European Parliament "called for a stronger EU role in lifting the Gaza blockade, a day after foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton gave a chilling account of the situation there and suggested an EU naval mission to help with the transfer of goods."

In addition, the EU Parliament "proposed international monitoring of the crossings, including reactivating the European border assistance

mission (EUBAM) at the Gaza-Egyptian border" (*ibid.*).

The European border mission was previously discontinued in 2006, after Hamas won the majority in the Palestinian legislature. Israel then imposed the embargo in 2007 after Hamas seized full control of Gaza and ousted troops loyal to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. The EU, United States and Israel consider the Islamic group a terrorist organization.

Palestinians say Israel's restrictions on imports into Gaza have created a humanitarian crisis, while Israel says many imports, such as construction materials, can be used to build rockets, bunkers and bombs. □



Source: BBC; Graphic: Pat Carr

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AMERICAS

Mexican Drug Gangs Now Permeate U.S.

Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) now operate in every corner of the United States and pose a significant threat to law officials trying to counteract them, according to a U.S. Justice Department report.

“The growing strength and organization of criminal gangs, including their growing alliances with large Mexican DTOs, has changed the nature of midlevel and retail drug distribution in many local drug markets, even in suburban and rural areas. As a result, disrupting illicit drug availability and distribution will become increasingly difficult for state and local law enforcement agencies.”

In the past, authorities and local officials could stop drug trafficking temporarily in their area by targeting local gangs, but now that is almost impossible, the report revealed.

The “well-organized criminal gangs are able to maintain a stronger, more stable drug supply to local markets and to quickly replace distributors when individual gang members or

WEATHER & ENVIRONMENT

Canadian Earthquake Shakes the Region

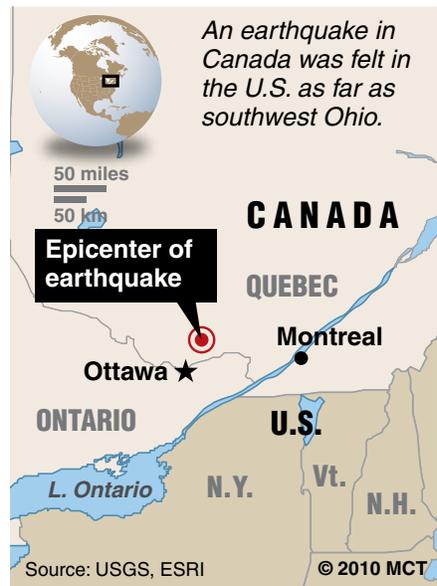
A 5.0-magnitude earthquake shook parts of eastern Canada and the northeastern United States early in the afternoon on June 23, causing moderate damage to Canada’s capital city, Ottawa.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the earthquake occurred 10.2 miles below the earth’s surface in Canada’s Ontario-Quebec border region.

The quake’s depth meant it was felt long distances from the epicenter, including the American cities of Cleveland, Boston and New York. The tremor in those areas was relatively mild, with no reported damages.

In Ottawa, however, *CTV Ottawa* reported that near the quake’s center, a 50-foot-wide and 1,000-foot-long chasm opened on a farmer’s land, moving his barn 150 feet.

CBC News reported that the quake also caused damage to a local church, town hall building and other structures. Some streets were closed to prevent injuries, and many employees were sent home for the day. North of



Ottawa, a section of highway near Bowman collapsed into a river, shutting down that route.

Experts reported that earthquakes do not happen often in the region. “Earthquakes are fairly uncommon here,” Morgan Moschetti, a seismologist with the USGS told the *Globe and Mail*. “This isn’t totally unheard of, but they are relatively infrequent.” □

The Fuel of Mexico’s Deadly Gang Wars

While Mexico has long been a major source of marijuana, officials have seen increases in the amount of methamphetamine and other drugs heading north.

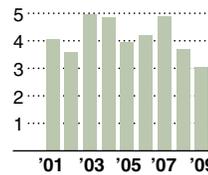
Mexican states where marijuana and opium poppy are grown



Mexican drug seizures (in pounds)

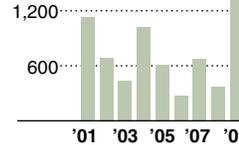
Marijuana

In millions



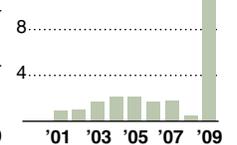
Opium gum*

In thousands



Methamphetamine

In thousands



NOTE: 2009 figures are through November

*The main ingredient in heroin

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entire distribution cells are arrested,” it said.

Government officials are concerned about what this could mean for the flow of illicit drugs to the U.S. and the violence often perpetrated by

gangs distributing them. Heroin production in Mexico more than doubled from 17 pure metric tons in 2007 to 38 pure metric tons in 2008.

“Without a significant increase in drug interdiction, seizures, arrests,

and investigations that apply sustained pressure on major DTOs,” the report continued, “availability of most drugs will increase in 2010, primarily because drug production in Mexico is increasing.” □

JULY 9, 2010

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