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A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



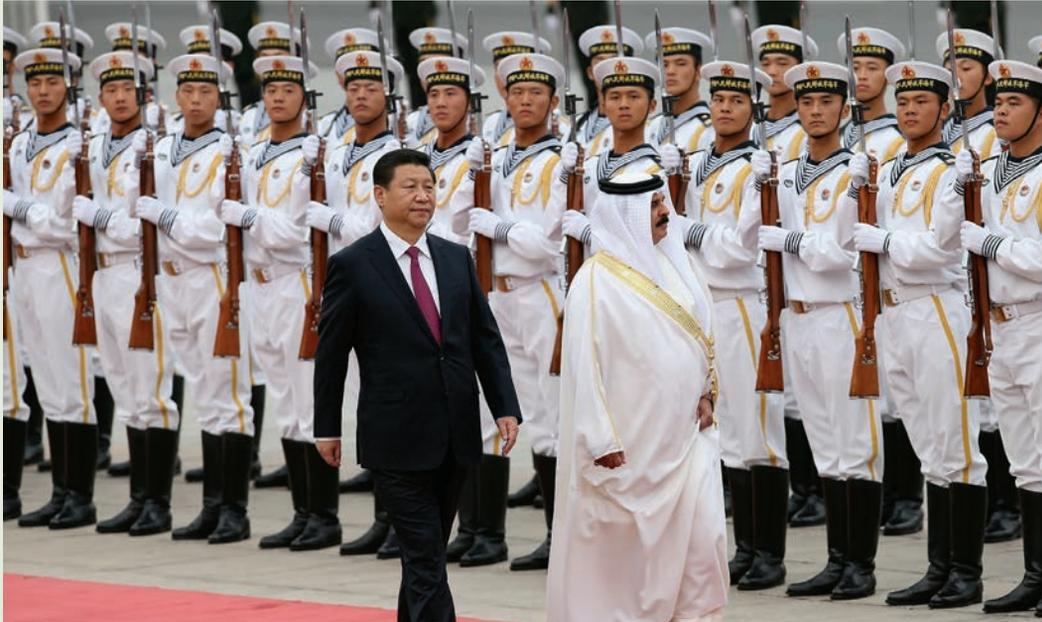
THE PHILIPPINES TYPHOON HAIYAN'S AFTERMATH

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A R T I C L E S

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■ **WALKING TOGETHER:** Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) accompanies King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain (right) during a welcoming ceremony outside the Great Hall of People in Beijing, China (Sept. 16, 2013).

PHOTO: FENG LI/GETTY IMAGES

China Moves In Beijing Filling U.S. Power Vacuum in Mideast

China has been pushing into the region in order to continue its economic growth, secure resources, and expand its global political clout.

Page 4

FRONT COVER: Top, displaced residents walk along an area destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan (Nov. 23, 2013). Bottom, two young boys stand among the devastation (Nov. 10, 2013).

PHOTOS: ODD ANDERSEN/AFP/ (TOP); DONDI TAWATAO/ (BOTTOM); GETTY IMAGES

Personal from the Editor-in-Chief
The True Church—Identifying It (Part 4)
Page 1

The Changing Face of Fraud
How Much More Can America Take?

The growing need to provide for oneself in a time of economic turmoil has resulted in an altered mindset toward right and wrong across the United States.
Page 8

The Philippines: Typhoon Haiyan's Aftermath
The destruction and lasting effects of Typhoon Haiyan add to the chaotic whirlwind of continuing worldwide disasters.
Page 11

Why Should You Read the Old Testament? (Part 1)
Is the Old Testament still relevant? Learn the surprising truth—from the *New Testament!*
Page 15

Television Listings for *The World to Come*™ with David C. Pack
Page 19

Seven Ways to Lead Your Child to Success!
Forty percent of United States marriages end in divorce. Ninety percent of cohabitating parents in the United Kingdom split up before their children reach age 16. While such worldwide trends severely limit potential futures of sons and daughters—your family does not have to be a statistic.
Page 26

World News Desk
Page 32

PUBLISHER/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
DAVID C. PACK

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
JEFFREY R. AMBROSE

MANAGING EDITOR
EDWARD L. WINKFIELD

SENIOR EDITORS
WILLIAM H. BEHRER
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DALE L. SCHURTER

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JEFFREY R. AMBROSE
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ART/GRAPHICS
KYLE M. HOLCOMBE
PAULA C. RONDEAU
EILEEN M. WILLARD

WEBSITE SERVICES
BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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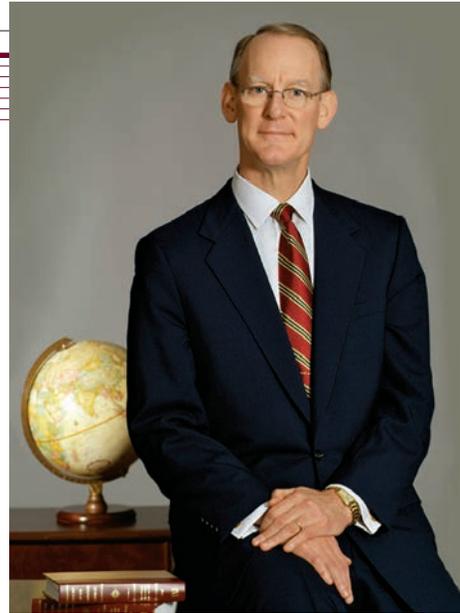
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Contact *The Real Truth*:
1000 Ambassador Drive
Wadsworth, OH 44281

realtruth.org

PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



The True Church— Identifying It Part 4

WHEN JESUS SAID, “I will build My Church” (Matt. 16:18), did He really mean just one? Are there verses in the Bible—plain statements from God!—that make absolutely clear that Jesus Christ constructed just a single unified organization? There are—and in this final part of the true Church series, we will examine many.

Watch the truth emerge. And recognize that God would have to make available what you are about to see.

The Bible speaks of the all-important role of the Spirit of God—or Holy Spirit—and how Christ’s followers would each receive this gift at conversion. Jesus promised to send His Spirit after He was resurrected: “...It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send [it] unto you” (John 16:7).

Yet receiving God’s Spirit signifies more. Almost none understands what else has occurred at conversion. When one is converted—has repented, been baptized, and received the Holy Spirit—he has been placed into the Body of Christ. Notice: “For by one Spirit are we all

baptized into *one body*, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (I Cor. 12:13).

Only One Organization

The New Testament speaks of God’s Church as “the Body of Christ.” It states that this Body has many members (individual brethren), who are likened to parts, or members, of the human body. I Corinthians 12 is the place to begin: “For as the body is one, and has *many members*, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ...For the body is not one member, but many” (vs. 12, 14).

What does this mean? Almost all are confused. When Jesus walked the Earth, His preaching of the gospel and other teachings, and all miracles and works that He did, were done through, and from, His physical body. Of course, Christ’s body was later resurrected as spirit, requiring that His Work and preaching be transferred to another entity, His Church—which Scripture makes plain He still considers His “Body” continuing on Earth what He started.

The analogy of hands, feet, eyes, ears and mouth is used in the chapter to show how different parts of a

human body are *connected*: “But now has God set the members every one of them in the body, as it has pleased Him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they *many members*, yet but one body” (I Cor. 12:18-20).

Popular Belief

This passage cannot be “spiritualized away” through human reasoning. It does not describe an amorphous, disconnected structure of disagreeing people and organizations. Feet, eyes, ears or limbs severed from human bodies *die*! God created the body, so He understands what He inspired to be written.

Yet the professing Christian world almost unanimously teaches that Christ’s Body—His Church—consists of many denominations and fellowships said to be connected by the Holy Spirit working in believers wherever they are affiliated. Many sources attest to this popular thinking. But this is totally contrary to the Bible. This clever counterfeit asserts that Christ and His Body are divided among many groups or organizations.

Let’s learn *why* this is false.

Further Meaning of “Body”

Recall from Part 3 of this series: “[Christ] is the Head of the Body, the Church...” (Col. 1:18), and “... [God] gave *Him* to be the Head over *all things* to the Church, which is His Body...” (Eph. 1:22-23). The Bible definition of the *Body of Christ* is the *Church*, and vice versa! They are the same.

Further, the apostle Paul admonished the brethren to be “Endeavoring to keep the *unity* of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is **ONE BODY** [Church], and one *Spirit*, even as you are called in one *hope* of your calling; one *Lord*, one *faith*, one *baptism*, one *God and Father*...” (Eph. 4:3-6). There is no confusing the all-encompassing unity and agreement required of God’s people. Recall how Jesus prayed in John 17 for *this* level of oneness.

Paul went on to describe a faithful ministry working with and teach-

ing Christ’s Church. Let’s comprehend through a longer passage. As we read, ask if multiple organizations could fit this description: “And [Christ] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the *perfecting of the saints*, for the work of the ministry, for the *edifying* of the Body of Christ: till we all come in the *unity* of the *faith*, and of the *knowledge* of the Son of God, unto a *perfect man*, unto the measure of the stature of the *fullness of Christ*: that we henceforth be *no more children*, tossed to and fro, and carried about with *every wind of doctrine*, by the sleight of men...but speaking the truth *in love*, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly *joined together* and *compact* [I Corinthians 12:24 adds “tempered together”] by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of *every part*...” (Eph. 4:11-16).

Christ’s Body is unified in both *doctrinal truth* and *love*. This is impossible to miss. In phrase after phrase, this passage demonstrates the “*whole body*,” with “*every joint*,” and “*every part*,” must be in *complete* agreement under Christ’s authority. And He works through *His* ministers to keep the Church from drifting into “every wind of doctrine.”

The New Testament Temple of God

Another connection must be seen. The New Testament Church and Body of Christ is also described as the “Temple of the Lord.” Many passages make this plain, and they are crucial to understand.

Let’s examine what—and more correctly, *who*—is the Temple of God today.

John 2:19-21 proves the Body of Christ is the same as the Temple of God—or, as we will see, the House of God. Christ’s words become the Bible interpreting the Bible: “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building

[the renovated temple built long after Solomon’s had been destroyed], and will you rear it up in three days? But He spoke of the *temple of His body*.”

This is astonishing understanding known to but the tiniest few! Yet if you just take Christ’s words at face value, that His “Body” is also His “Temple,” you can never get confused. The Bible will continue to interpret itself.

What Paul Recorded

Now notice this from Paul: “...You are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom all the building *fitly framed together* grows unto a holy temple in the Lord” (Eph. 2:19-21).

Next read this: “For we are laborers together with God: you are God’s husbandry, you are God’s building” (I Cor. 3:9). Then Paul added, “Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are” (I Cor. 3:16-17).

God sees His people—the true Church—the Body of Christ—as His Building, or Temple. Jesus Christ is *building* a Temple.

Notice further: “And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God; as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (II Cor. 6:16).

The end of this passage is from Leviticus 26:12. It reveals God has *always* planned—“has said” from the beginning—that His Church would be those in whom He would one day *personally dwell*—making it the most glorious temple of all.

Church, Body and Temple—Three Critical Verses

Another proof that the *Church of God*, the *Body of Christ*, the *House of God*, or the *Temple of God* are the same is

understood by comparing several passages. Follow closely the incredible connection to come.

First, remember from Part 1 that the Bible definition of the true Church is "...the *house of God*, which is the *church of the living God*, the pillar and ground of the TRUTH" (I Tim. 3:15). The Church is where "*the truth*" is—not "*some of the truth*" or "*much of the truth*" or even "*most of the truth*"—and certainly not "*truth mixed with error*"—but rather simply "THE TRUTH"!

Get clear that the Church is also the "house of God"—and it houses both God's people and God's truth.

Now recall that God's Temple is called "a building *fitly framed together*" (Eph. 2:21). Did you notice Ephesians 4 spoke identically of Christ's Body—"the whole body *fitly joined together*" (vs. 16)?

"Fitly framed together" and "fitly joined together" come from the same word. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* defines it as "to render close-jointed together," "organize compactly," "be fitly framed (joined) together" (in the sense of laying). God clearly meant the same thing whether discussing the Church, Body of Christ, the Temple, or House of God.

Here is fascinating meaning. "Render close-jointed" and "together in the sense of laying"—obviously means to lay individual bricks or stones that are mortared—"close-jointed"—beside each other—"together"—as one would lay them in rows within a building.

Since the Temple is also God's "building," there is no way to conclude the true Church could be anything other than *one undivided organization*—a single building! Let no one tell you God's Church is anything different! This Building cannot be spiritualized away—as do professing Christian ministers with virtually every teaching in the Bible!

The apostle Peter brings an exclamation point to this. Let's read it: "...the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone [Christ], disal-

lowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, you also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ...it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a *chief cornerstone* [of God's House or Temple], elect, precious: and he that believes on Him shall not be confounded" (I Pet. 2:3-6).

The Tragedy

Most will not hold precious the Christ of the Bible. Neither will they hold to His teachings (of course, most will not even research them). They will not yield to His government. Neither will they come to His Church, nor support His Work. And they will not permit Him to head their lives—and place them into His Temple. Blind, they keep themselves outside the only House He is building.

Why will not most people accept that God's Church has to be one organization?

Get this. If God is calling you—if He is offering you His truth—you are being judged on this knowledge! Peter also wrote that "judgment" is *now* on "the *house of God*" (I Pet. 4:17).

What could be more important to you than allowing yourself to be placed by Christ into the House of God? What could be more important to you than comprehending this vital knowledge—never understood by Christendom—that, "Except *the LORD* build the house, they labor in vain that build it..." (Psa. 127:1)? There is but one House God could have had in mind.

How could the leaders of men's churches think they can build their own "houses," and that Christ would submit to their lead, and follow them, instead of the other way around? And how can so many millions blindly help them?

Why Many Groups?

Some history. Let's understand why the supposed Christian world has so many squabbling, competing churches.

The universal church at Rome has always taught that the Body of Christ

is solely those within that church. Even though it teaches doctrines that are almost entirely the traditions of men, its understanding that Christ leads one undivided Body, identified in a single church, is largely correct. Their error is to whom they connect it.

Now let's understand the thinking of the reformers. When they rejected Rome, they knew they had left what they once believed was the sole Body of Christ on Earth. They knew that, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body..." (I Cor. 12:13).

The entire world of Christendom can read this passage, and others, about the Body of Christ. So such passages had to be "reconciled" with now what were different groups, founded by different reformers. Here was their problem: they had to come up with a teaching compatible with baptized believers joining *many* denominations—they had to reconcile "one Body" with hundreds of organizations. They had no choice but to conclude Christ's Body involves *many*, *disagreeing* "communities of believers" that are somehow all "spiritually tied together."

This is utterly false!

Complete Unity

A great deal can be learned by reading instructions to various congregations. Unity and oneness are stressed time and again within the true Church.

The Corinthian congregation was suffering from division and disunity. They were admonished to stop entertaining other doctrines: "Now I beseech you, brethren...that you all speak the *same thing*, and that there be *no divisions* among you; but that you be *perfectly joined together* in the *same mind* and in the *same judgment*" (I Cor. 1:10).

Where in this is license from Christ for multiple organizations—"churches"—to appear in His name? Where in this description is room for hundreds, even thousands, of groups in disagreement over teachings—and diminished in the all-important

Please see **PERSONAL**, page 30



CHINA MOVES IN

Beijing Filling U.S. Power Vacuum in Mideast

China has been pushing into the region in order to continue its economic growth, secure resources, and expand its global political clout.

BY JEFFREY R. AMBROSE

IN THE DECADES since the fall of communist dictator Mao Zedong, global opinion of China has grown gradually more welcoming. While there were setbacks, notably after the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, the trend was bolstered by the country's impressive economic growth and supercharged by the dazzling display of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

For some years, the 1.3-billion-strong nation has been seen by Americans, Chinese and outside observers as a global competitor with the United States.

Where does China stand now in the court of public opinion? A July 2013 Pew Research Forum international survey provides insight: "Since the 2008 financial crisis, perceptions about the economic balance of power in the

world have been shifting. Looking at the 20 nations surveyed in both 2008 and 2013, the median percentage naming the U.S. as the world's leading economic power has declined from 47% to 41%, while the median percentage placing China in the top spot has risen from 20% to 34%."

"...even in many countries where America is still seen as the top economic power, most believe China will someday become the leading overall superpower...This view is more common now than it was in 2008, when Pew Research first asked this question. Today, majorities or pluralities in only six countries believe China will never replace the U.S."

While this may not be surprising overall, some specifics were unexpected: "This trend has been especially

apparent among some of America's closest allies in Western Europe. Today, for example, 53% in Britain say China is the leading economy; just 33% name the U.S. Roughly six-in-ten Germans (59%) say China occupies the top position, while only 19% think the U.S. is the global economic leader (14% say it is the EU)."

The survey placed hard numbers on the general perception that China is filling the power vacuum left by a receding America. And in all the areas where, not too long ago, the U.S. exerted influence as the lone superpower, China is beginning to displace Uncle Sam.

One such area is the global crossroads of history, resources, religion, conflict and diplomacy: the Middle East.

■ **UNLIKELY MEETING:** China's President Xi Jinping, far right, meets with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, far left, along with other delegates at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China (May 9, 2013).

PHOTO: KIM KYUNG-HOON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



China: Already Ahead

America has spent half a decade looking inward, slogging through internal crises that sent shockwaves around the globe. In the meantime, *The Wall Street Journal* reported, “China surpassed the U.S. as importer of Persian Gulf crude several years ago, by some measures. Now it is on track to overtake the U.S. this year as the world’s No. 1 buyer of oil from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, the largely Middle Eastern energy-exporting bloc.”

This is a result of a number of factors such as growing oil demand in China, flat U.S. oil consumption, and America’s advances in shale oil pushing it toward energy independence. And it has upset a long-standing dynamic between the two global heavyweights. *The Wall Street Journal* continues: “For years, China and other oil-consuming nations have benefited as Washington spent billions of dollars a year to police chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz and other volatile parts of the Middle East to ensure oil flowed around the globe.”

“For Washington, China’s oil thirst means justifying military spending that benefits a country many Americans see as a strategic rival and that frequently doesn’t side with the U.S. on foreign policy.

“Signs of tension are surfacing. Beijing has asked for assurances that Washington will maintain security in the Persian Gulf region, as China doesn’t have the military power to do the job itself...particularly as the Obama administration has pledged to rebalance some of its strategic focus toward East Asia, said people familiar with those discussions.

“In return, U.S. officials have pressed China for greater support on issues such as its foreign policy regarding Syria and Iran.”

Chinese foreign policy generally follows a pragmatic, you-scratch-my-back-I’ll-scratch-yours pattern. Thus, with America mulling a reduced

Mideast presence, it also risks losing a bargaining chip used to nudge China toward U.S. interests.

Vali Nasr, author of the book *The Dispensable Nation: American Foreign Policy in Retreat*, told *PBS NewsHour* in a Web interview that the U.S. “wants to ‘pivot to Asia’ and focus attention on China and away from the Middle East...but ‘the problem is just as we are pivoting East, the Chinese are pivoting West.’”

PBS summarized Mr. Nasr’s comments: “The Chinese are looking to the region—from Pakistan to Iran to Saudi Arabia and Turkey—to help supply their vast need for energy and products...China considers stability in the Middle East important to its own stability, he said.

“The growing relationship might develop further. While the Middle East watches the American role recede, it will look to China for economic, diplomatic and possibly even military purposes, said Nasr.”

Oil supply alone is a huge reason for China’s Mideast overtures. Its automotive market, already the world’s largest, expects sales to roughly double by 2019, intensifying a tremendous thirst for petroleum. The massive weight of its population, which is increasingly urban and aspiring to a middle-class lifestyle, gives the government little choice but to secure agreements from nations at the center of large-scale crude oil production. China inevitably turned toward what Japan’s parliament member Yuriko Koike calls a “post-American Middle East.”

One Chinese trait that will be refreshing to Mideast regimes is its avoidance of getting involved in the internal politics and governance of its trade partners. This is thrown into sharp relief when compared to the American approach. *The Atlantic* reported: “Unlike the United States, China has good relations with countries across the region, even those who are at odds with each other. For example, China has held bilateral diplomatic and trade relations with both

Iran and Saudi Arabia—mutual enemies—for decades. Beijing also maintains good relations with and sells arms to Israel, while at the same time endorses Palestinian statehood and right to self-determination. These relationships are consistent with China’s foreign policy approach, which [Liu Chao, chief of political and press affairs at Amman’s Chinese Embassy] says favors ‘equality, mutual respect, and non-interference’ over U.S.-style democracy promotion.”

Mr. Liu told the magazine: “We do not interfere with domestic matters... When there is domestic unrest, we do not comment. This is a diplomatic philosophy based on totally different values from America, who likes to ‘look around in other people’s homes.’ China does not do this.”

Turkey, Lebanon, Iran

China recently agreed to sell a multi-billion-dollar missile defense system to Turkey, which chose to look east for this purchase rather than north to Europe or west to the U.S.

Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported, “China’s likely sale of sophisticated missiles to Turkey over the objections of its NATO allies might have angered Washington and other capitals, but it should not have been a surprise... Even as the U.S. has spent billions of dollars and lost hundreds of lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, Beijing has been quietly upping its presence in the Middle East.”

“Beijing’s economic, political and diplomatic clout...is growing fast. China’s Ministry of Commerce said [in September that] China-Arab nation trade now reaches \$222 billion a year, 12 times its 2002 level. That would outstrip U.S.-Mideast trade, valued at \$193 billion in 2011.

“Militarily too, China’s footprint is rising. As well as maintaining a three-ship antipiracy task force in the Indian Ocean and occasionally sending ships to the Mediterranean, Beijing has deployed UN peacekeepers to Lebanon.”

“China’s interests in the region, [said Christina Lin, a former U.S. official and now fellow at the School for Advanced International Studies], ranged from energy and investment to countering the spread of jihadist militancy, a major worry for Beijing in its Muslim provinces.”

“Beijing has long been a major supplier of small arms to the region—the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute [in October 2013] reported 2006-10 sales to Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Qatar. Still, the Turkish deal is seen as a major breakthrough for its advanced weapon sales.

“China’s soaring energy needs are seen as a major motivator, coming just as the U.S. gets closer to energy independence and budget constraints and public reluctance hit its military presence.

“Already, Chinese national oil companies are amongst the biggest players in Iraq and Iran and Beijing is both Saudi Arabia’s largest trading partner and the biggest single purchaser of Iran’s crude.

“That purchasing power has effectively allowed China and other Asian powers to determine how successful U.S. and European sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program can be.”

This has been one of the major sticking points in Sino-American relations: China’s soft stance toward and extensive spending in Iran. “...Iran [is] the third-largest supplier of crude oil to China. The two nations have a bilateral trade volume of over \$40 billion, compared to around \$8 billion between China and Israel. In early November, China agreed to finance \$20 billion in Iranian development projects” (*The New York Times*, “Sinosphere” blog).

However, with the American administration’s latest increased level of comfort with Tehran, this becomes less of an obstacle for Beijing.

Jordan

Jordan is considered a pillar of stability in the Mideast region, and even more

so in the wake of 2011’s Arab Spring. One of America’s closest allies in that area, the relative peace there gives it an advantage of which China has taken note.

The Atlantic reported, “...Chinese-Jordanian trade has grown at steady double-digit rates in the last decade and China is now Jordan’s 3rd largest trade partner, all while war and political instability have thrown Jordan’s neighbors into turmoil.

“Jordan is ideally located...because of its proximity to Syria, the Palestinian Territories, Egypt, Lebanon and Iraq, all countries with market potential but also political instability.

“‘Jordan is a small market, but it can be a gateway to the entire Levant,’ [Binu Pillai, CEO of a Shanghai firm that holds expos promoting Chinese goods in various countries] says, referring to the western part of the Middle East. ‘It’s a hub. It’s also secure, which is absolutely a priority.’”

A Chinese student working in Jordan stated, “The more other countries fight...the better the business is here” (ibid.).

Algeria

A flashpoint of the Arab Spring, Algeria’s economy continues to struggle. While it holds Africa’s third-largest proven oil reserves, second-largest natural gas supply, and sizeable shale gas deposits, high unemployment and corruption (as described by Transparency International) have hindered progress. However, with a large population (about 39 million) and plenty of space (the 10th largest nation on Earth), it is still seen as a growing market with great potential.

And China is there, as the following odd-couple account shows: “In 2011, when Algeria’s Religious Affairs Minister Bouabdallah Ghlamallah awarded the contract to build the Grand Mosque of Algiers, the third-largest such structure in the world, it did not go to a homegrown Algerian bidder nor to one based in a fellow Muslim-majority Arab nation like Lebanon, nor even to one in

a nearby non-Muslim nation like Spain, with long connections to the Islamic world. The February 2011 contract-signing ceremony officially granted the \$1.3 billion mega-project to a farther away and far less likely competitor—a state-owned Chinese enterprise.

“Beijing’s infrastructure giant, China State Construction Engineering Corp. (CSCE), is expected to complete the Algiers mosque project—a complex that will span more than fifty acres with room for as many as one hundred and twenty thousand congregants to bow down in prayer at one time—in just under four years. It would be a follow-up to another CSCE mega-project in Algeria—the country’s \$11 billion East-West Highway, a seven-hundred-and-fifty-mile, six-lane freeway stretching between Algeria’s borders with Morocco and Tunisia, built with oil revenues and billed as the world’s largest public works project” (*World Affairs Journal*).

Saudi Arabia

It may come as a surprise to learn that China is Saudi Arabia’s second-largest trading partner, just behind the U.S. With American crude oil imports declining, China is bound to take the top spot.

Strengthening ties, Saudi Arabia and China signed a “memorandum of understanding...based on the sincere desire to consolidate and strengthen the bonds of friendship and economic cooperation between the two countries...both countries are also seeking to effectively promote and further develop bilateral trade.”

A representative added, “‘From this agreement...we aim to develop means to transfer technology and human resources for the benefit of the project...we also aim to find a real environment for the establishment of joint ventures in the two countries to help achieve a common benefit for all.’”

A Chinese official stated, “‘We aim through this agreement to build together a new bridge of connection and reach higher levels of exchange in



the fields of economy, trade, industry, agriculture, construction, and enterprise development. We also aim to increase the exchange of culture, arts, education and vocational training” (*Arab News*).

While this is just one example of expanding cooperation, Beijing has a keen interest in continued strong relations with the Saudi kingdom, which controls both the largest oil reserves on the planet as well as the world’s second-largest Sovereign Wealth Fund (not far behind Norway).

Israel

As an article in the November edition of *The Real Truth* made plain, relations between Israel and the United States are hovering near a historic low. The small Jewish nation, the only Western-style democracy in the Middle East, now seeks other giants on whose shoulders it can stand.

The New York Times’ “Sinosphere” blog detailed such developments. “As an Israeli diplomat, Dore Gold has sat down with his country’s prime ministers, United States presidents and Palestinian negotiators, all in search of that elusive solution to the Middle East conflict.

“But the shifting tides of geopolitical power brought Mr. Gold to China...where he found himself hosting a Sabbath dinner with guests not traditionally invited to this Jewish gathering: Chinese officials.

“This push comes at a time when Chinese-Israeli relations are ripe for renewal. Even before the two nations established formal diplomatic ties in 1992, Israel was giving China access to its most lucrative industry: weapons. Israel soon became China’s second-largest arms supplier, but relations collapsed in 2000 when the United States forced Israel to cancel a billion dollar sale to China of its Phalcon early warning aircraft systems. A few years later, Israel agreed to American demands to cease selling arms to China.”

But with frost forming on the America-Israel bond, Israel is taking

another look. “Sinosphere” continued, “In pursuing warmer ties with China, Israel hopes to leverage its skills in high-technology and agricultural innovation to win the political support of the Chinese government, which has signaled it wants to play a greater diplomatic role in the region.”

China has also been careful not to take sides in Israel-Palestine disputes. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was the first leader from the Middle East to visit Chinese President Xi Jinping following his taking office in March 2013. During the visit, Mr. Xi outlined a four-point plan to address the question of Palestinian sovereignty. While the plan could be viewed as pro-Palestinian, later in the very same week, President Xi received Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for talks on economic cooperation. He did not feel the need to lecture Mr. Netanyahu on Israeli domestic policy. China was the first country to which Mr. Netanyahu traveled after being reelected, a decision that had strong symbolic value.

China’s Time?

China’s November 2013 Third Plenum governmental conference produced a number of landmark decisions that included a proposal to relax the nation’s one-child-per-family policy and a resolution to continue a market-driven economic model, which further distanced the nation from its state-controlled past.

Another planned change will also have far-reaching effects: The transition of the Chinese president away from the status of a figurehead sitting atop a bloated bureaucracy toward an in-control, decision-making national leader—more like a Western president or prime minister, and, from the Mideast perspective, a bit more like a “king.”

This and other factors will help ensure that China continues filling the post-American power vacuum in the Mideast and many other places. And this trend will not be reversed!

How can this be stated with such certainty?

Ironically, the future of this officially atheist nation can be known by studying a religious text. But this is not one of the ancient Confucian, Taoist or Buddhist writings.

Many who watch world news, including most traditional Christians, are unaware that the Bible foretells the rise and fall of nations and kingdoms. While in many ways it focuses on the nation of Israel, Israelites are far from the only peoples mentioned.

For example, the book of Daniel specifically described the courses of the Neo-Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greco-Macedonian and Roman empires (symbolized by various “beasts”) in some cases centuries before their rises to power. Given the level of detail contained within these accounts, many critics have actually concluded that the book was a fraud—one written *after* they had risen. But none of these arguments have held up to careful scrutiny. And some of the objections have even been withdrawn by those who originally proposed them!

Nonetheless, there are still those who cannot entertain the possibility that, in a universe 93 billion light-years across—the observable portion—there are other intelligent beings that have involvement in human life. This is where they err and do not understand that all of these events have been preplanned.

Scripture reveals that China will be a major force in an end-time power bloc called the “kings of the East.” This massively populated global power will initially coexist with a revitalized, unified Europe before a final showdown. This dark period, though, will be followed by an unprecedented, unparalleled time of recovery and peace—for China, all of Asia, and the entire world!

To learn more about the future of all nations, request the free, informative booklet *The Mid-East in Bible Prophecy* at rcg.org/tmeibp. It will help you to make sense of the world around you and comprehend the bigger picture that overarches international relations. □



THE CHANGING FACE OF FRAUD

How Much More Can America Take?

BY EDWARD L. WINKFIELD

The growing need to provide for oneself in a time of economic turmoil has resulted in an altered mindset toward right and wrong across the United States.

“IF YOU ARE not cheating, you are not trying!” This phrase is heard in the sports world as athletes go to great lengths to gain a competitive advantage. However, it can also be seen as a mantra for growing numbers of Americans attempting to gain an edge over financial systems.

To combat tax fraud, the United States Internal Revenue Service has

implemented tougher penalties and punishments. Yet this has had little impact on unscrupulous individuals intent on breaking the law. According to *Reuters*, “...tax return fraud is an increasing problem that the agency is struggling to keep up with.”

In a transcript of a congressional hearing from the news organization, U.S. Congressman Darrell Issa stated: “The IRS is clearly [lagging] behind the thieves...Why rob a bank, when you can rob...the IRS?”

Fraud (along with bloated bureaucracy) plagues the world of government contracting, which involves agreements, typically made with the private sector, related to spending on goods and services. The non-profit Center for Effective Government estimated that the U.S. government spent \$536.8 billion on specialized items and skills during the 2011 fiscal year. These funds represent relatively “easy

money” for those who greedily overcharge on federal contracts. The stories of “\$500 toilet seats” and “\$1,000 Pentagon hammers” have managed to diminish from the headlines, but not from day-to-day operations.

Average citizens are also targets, as evidenced by rising reports of credit card fraud and identity theft. A 2012 *ACI Payment Systems* report showed that 42 percent of cardholders in the U.S. have been impacted by fraud while, according to the *ABA Deposit Account Fraud Survey Report 2011*, financial institutions saw \$955 million in losses due to *debit card* fraud alone in 2010—a 21 percent increase from the \$788 million in losses seen during 2008.

America is wobbling under the constant pounding of these and other instances of bald, outright deception and dishonesty. Yet, in many ways, the country still appears prosperous.

Because of this, many see the emerging fraud crisis as isolated—

actions perpetrated by a small number of greedy, criminal types. In their eyes, being victimized is a problem for “government regulators” or an “unlucky few.”

The reality is that the fraud problem is much more common than most realize.

Continuing Spread

Federal assistance programs such as Medicare and Social Security—aka “entitlement programs”—represent additional areas where fraud runs rampant. These were developed in the spirit of the majority helping out the disadvantaged few.

Throughout the years, such programs have grown gargantuan. According to a *U.S. News & World Report* summary of the book *A Nation of Takers: America's Entitlement Epidemic* by Nicholas Eberstadt, “Spending on entitlements is the highest in American history. In 2010, entitlement spending had grown to be almost 100 times higher than it was in 1960; it has increased by an explosive 9.5 percent per year for 50 straight years.

“Entitlement transfer payments to individuals (such as for income, healthcare, age, and unemployment) have been growing twice as fast as per capita income for 20 years, totaling \$2.2 trillion in 2010 alone—which was greater than the entire gross domestic product of Italy and roughly the same as the GDP of Great Britain.”

As these systems grow, regulating them becomes increasingly difficult. Instead of only “helping those in need,” many people decide to “help themselves” to what they see as easy government money. This is done by stretching their circumstances to meet eligibility requirements—or worse, being fundamentally dishonest.

Forexample, thousands of Americans routinely defraud state unemployment compensation programs. One way they do this is by voluntarily resigning from a position and then falsifying the reason they separated from an employer—all to receive benefits.

Another ploy is for people to continue receiving benefits *after* returning

to work. These are known as “concealed earnings,” a term used by economists David L. Fuller, B. Ravikumar, and Yuzhe Zhang in a report released by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. According to these researchers, this type of behavior accounted for an estimated \$2.2 billion or about two-thirds of the total losses of unemployment compensation fraud in 2011.

Unemployment compensation is not the only program subject to fraud: Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, welfare and disability insurance are also targets.

The news program *60 Minutes* aired a segment on the Federal Disability Insurance Program. According to the report, the U.S. disability program has become “a secret welfare system.”

On the program, United States Senator and physician Tom Coburn acknowledged that the \$135-billion-a-year program is being “gamed pretty big right now.” Dr. Coburn “randomly selected hundreds of disability files and found that 25 percent of them should never have been approved—another 20 percent, he said, were highly questionable.”

Preventing abuse of such programs is complicated, according to *60 Minutes*. Some lawyers and their clients have effectively widened the definition of a qualifying disability. Ailments such as backache, depression and fibromyalgia (joint and muscle pain) are hard to prove since there is no definitive diagnostic test for any of these disorders.

“People run out of unemployment insurance,” Marilyn Zahm, one of the nation’s 1,500 disability judges, stated during the program. “They are not going to die silently. They are going to look for another source of income. It is not unusual for people, especially people over 40, to have some sort of an ailment or impairment. So they will file for disability benefits based upon that. For many of these people, the plant closed. There are no jobs in their communities. What are people supposed to do?”

Meanwhile, the buckling program is a major economic resource for some

of the poorest areas of the country. Local grocery stores, restaurants and other retail establishments benefit greatly when monthly checks go out—as do their employees.

“[Disability benefits] are a vital part of our economy. A lot of people depend on them to survive,” a regional social security office employee told the news outlet while describing the local town where the office is located.

Is the abuse of these and other programs somehow justified? Do the ends justify the means?

Regardless of moral grounds, the price tag for these programs is outpacing the growth of federal revenue and is becoming a blight threatening the entire national budget.

“The Unemployment Thing”

More people are using these assistance programs and others that involve taxpayer dollars as mere economic options.

At a dinner party, a young man in his early 20s mused about how after having worked for the government for a while and graduating college, he was thinking about “doing the unemployment thing” until he figured out what he wanted to do.

Another 20-something, a personal trainer and seasonal landscape worker, commented in a different setting that instead of finding full-time work elsewhere during the winter, he collected unemployment to supplement the income he received from the gym.

This mentality has cemented itself in the public psyche. The Pennsylvania newspaper *Reading Eagle* reported about a builder who “gets paid pretty well when he’s working, but once a project ends he has to collect unemployment, which amounts to about half of his regular pay.”

“‘It only takes so long to build something, so you work yourself out of work,’ he said.”

It has also become common for jobless adults in their 20s and 30s to cash out on pensions early or use unemployment as a way to get more out of life.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported about some of these people who consider themselves “funemployed”: “While

millions of Americans struggle to find work as they face foreclosures and bankruptcy, others have found a silver lining in the economic meltdown. These happily jobless tend to be single and in their 20s and 30s. Some were laid off. Some quit voluntarily, lured by generous buyouts.

“Buoyed by severance, savings, unemployment checks or their parents, the funemployed do not spend their days poring over job listings. They travel on the cheap for weeks. They head back to school or volunteer at the neighborhood soup kitchen. And at least till the bank account dries up, they’re content living for today.”

“I feel like I’ve been given a gift of time and clarity,” said [one woman] of Franklin, Tenn., who was laid off from her job as a tea shop manager... After sleeping in late and visiting family in Florida, she recently mused on Twitter: ‘Unemployment or fun-employment?’”

It seems the shame of not having a job has nearly been erased. One 30-year-old substitute teacher who has been on unemployment several times to supplement her income wrote on a blog: “I’ve hit what I feel like is the end of an unemployment honeymoon...For a while, it was nice to sleep in late (until 8am sometimes!) and not have to worry about rushing around. But now I’m at a point where I’m working on trying to find things to do.”

“Sometimes it’s easy like going to Disneyland, but some days it’s tough. Yesterday, I had nothing that had to be done. No errands, no friends to meet up with, nothing.”

Thanks to unemployment benefits, she said, she will be able to pay all her bills—even though she did not earn a paycheck that month.

What many do not take into account is when they use these systems, the money does not originate with the government. Taxpayers, who themselves



■ **VOICING OPPOSITION:** Protesters call for an increase on taxes for the wealthy and speak out against cuts in Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid during a demonstration at the Federal Building Plaza in Chicago, Illinois (Dec. 6, 2012).

PHOTO: SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

are employed, actually pay for them. Accepting and defrauding entitlements means taking money from those who are working hard and trying to pay their own bills.

The Heritage Foundation released figures showing that, as of 2010, over 70 percent of federal spending went to 47 governmental dependence programs. The dramatic increase of this percentage over the last 50-plus years goes beyond the effects of population growth and inflation. Growing numbers are fraudulently benefiting from these programs simply because they can get away with it.

The “unemployment thing” reveals a lot about America’s shifting national character.

Generation of Character

A person’s true character becomes obvious when times are tough. A nation’s character is the same.

This principle was readily apparent during the Great Depression, which produced “The Greatest Generation.” The challenging decade of the Depression solidified a powerful inner strength, fortitude and conviction in those who weathered the storm.

Those alive during that time abided by a set of values vastly different from those prevalent today. An excerpt from the book, *Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression* by Studs Terkel, gives a look into the life of one man who suffered: “I’d get up at five in the morning and head for the waterfront. Outside the [gates of a refinery], there would be a thousand men. You know [very] well there’s only three or four jobs. The guy would come out...[and then say] ‘I need two guys for the bull gang. Two guys to go into the hole.’ A thousand men would fight like a pack of Alaskan dogs to get through there. Only four of us would get through.”

Picture this today! Imagine one thousand men gathering daily with the hope of being one of four men to find work. The mere thought of this is preposterous to modern thinking.

Yet the Depression forged the Greatest Generation. They drastically scaled back their lifestyles, learned to do without, and clearly made the distinction between “needs” and “wants.”

Please see **FRAUD**, page 24

THE PHILIPPINES

TYPHOON HAIYAN'S AFTERMATH



■ **DISASTER AREA:** Top, Typhoon Haiyan moves toward the Philippines in the Pacific Ocean (Nov. 7, 2013). Middle, a woman surveys damage from the typhoon (Nov. 24, 2013). Bottom, an aerial shot shows the aftermath of the cyclone (Nov. 9, 2013).

PHOTOS: NOAA/ (TOP); ODD ANDERSEN/AFP/ (MIDDLE); RAUL BANIAS/AFP/ (BOTTOM); GETTY IMAGES



The destruction and lasting effects of Typhoon Haiyan add to the chaotic whirlwind of continuing worldwide disasters.

BY SAMUEL C. BAXTER
WITH JEFFREY R. AMBROSE

LOOKING UP in the Philippines often means finding an expansive sky that seems to go on forever: picture-perfect clouds set against a stunning, deep-blue backdrop.

Yet lowering one's gaze since the November 8 Super Typhoon Haiyan, also known as Yolanda, has revealed something utterly different: entire towns reduced to rubble, coconut tree forests flattened—a cacophony of destruction.

Meteorologists clocked the storm's winds near 200 mph with gusts up to 235 mph, some of the strongest ever recorded. These numbers did somewhat diminish before the storm struck the central region of the Philippines, yet the power of the typhoon shocked residents used to living in the path of cyclones.

The mayor of Tacloban, a city of 200,000 directly in the storm's path, told the *Guardian* what it was like: "I couldn't see it coming because the wind was so strong. We just took cover. Glass shattered. People grabbed me and took me into a building but within 10 minutes the doors had blasted open and water was everywhere." Regarding the sound of the wind, he stated, "Imagine you're standing behind a jet engine that's about to take off and all you hear is that roaring sound."

When the storm passed, the chaos of the wind and water gave way to disorder and disarray of other sorts. Corpses hung from trees and littered the ground, more than four million were homeless, and devastated infrastructure slowed aid delivery to a painful crawl.

For those who survived, the turmoil hit on a visceral level. One gut-wrenching television interview featured a middle-aged man who, with an expression somewhere between grief and numb resignation, confirmed through a Tagalog translator that he had lost his mother, his wife, and all four of his children.

From the beginning, there was confusion about the death toll. Initial reports placed it at three victims, then four. A day or so later, a figure of 1,500 emerged. The nation's government had one number, the United Nations another. Slowly, the body count climbed into multiple thousands. Due to the many small islands in the Philippines, however, the real number may never be known.

Hungry survivors began looting. Where aid did reach, a rice-line stampede killed eight people. Finally, the hardest hit areas began to receive food and supplies.

While the nation is now rebuilding, the chaos and lasting effects are far from over. The storm is estimated to have caused \$15 billion in damages, yet the long-term economic costs are likely to be much higher. Citing Commodity Weather Group LLC, *BBC* reported that Haiyan destroyed half of the region's sugar cane-growing area and a third of its rice-producing land.



■ **WIPED OUT:** A woman gathers water in the ruins of her home on the outskirts of Tanauan in Leyte, Philippines (Nov. 19, 2013). Opposite page, villagers race to pick up food dropped by a Philippines Air Force helicopter near the town of Pastrana (Nov. 18, 2013).

PHOTOS: CHRIS MCGRATH/ (ABOVE); MARK RALSTON/AFP/ (OPPOSITE PAGE); GETTY IMAGES

Undoubtedly, Haiyan survivors will continue to feel its effects—especially the loss of loved ones—for years to come.

Fuel to the Fire

Filipinos are no strangers to weather upsets. A German newspaper article from *Deutsche Welle* labeled their nation a "country prone to natural disasters."

The paper stated: "The Philippines has suffered from an inexhaustible number of deadly typhoons, earthquakes, volcano eruptions and other natural disasters. This is due to its location along the Ring of Fire, or typhoon belt—a large Pacific Ocean region where many of Earth's volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur.

"Annually, approximately 80 typhoons develop above tropical waters, of which 19 enter the Philippine region and six to nine make landfall, according to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC).

"The Philippines is in fact the country most exposed to tropical storms in the world. Violent tropical storms, such as the latest Haiyan typhoon, can generate 10 times as

much energy as the Hiroshima atomic bomb."

Haiyan is the latest in the nation's "inexhaustible number" of problems. When the typhoon made landfall, the Philippines was still recovering from a mid-October 7.2-magnitude earthquake in central Bohol province. After the temblor, 222 people were dead, 976 injured, and more than 330,000 displaced.

In response, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) drew up an action plan that sought "US\$46.8 million to reach 344,300 people over a six-month period until April 2014."

The UN agency reported: "Successive and simultaneous emergencies...have stretched the resources of humanitarian responders. Additional funding is urgently needed for timely aid to reach the right people."

All this *before* Haiyan had even formed in the Pacific.

Yet other manmade problems have beset the nation—hunger, homelessness and violent clashes.

An example is the lingering conflict between the Philippine government

and rebel groups such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The Thomas Reuters Foundation summarized the long, multilayered history of the situation: “The Mindanao conflict first flared in the 1960s when the Muslim minority—known as the Moros—launched an armed struggle for their ancestral homeland in the south.

“Mindanao also experiences violence linked to militant Islamist groups with pan-Asian aspirations, bloody ethnic vendettas, clan wars and banditry.

“Politics and religion aside, much of the violence is fuelled by deep poverty...”



In addition, the report added that a communist insurgency has been active for more than 40 years.

The foundation stated, “The presence of the army and so many armed factions often fans the fires of traditional family feuds, leading to clan-based violence on Mindanao. Both the army and rebel groups have been drawn on several occasions into clan confrontations, which have displaced thousands.”

Despite a 2012 peace deal between the government and the Moros, armed conflict continues. An example occurred in mid-September. According to *The Economist*, multi-day “skirmishes began when the army

and police opened fire to stop scores of rebels who were massing to enter the city. The security forces accused the rebels of using civilian hostages as human shields.”

In the end, insurgents “killed at least 12 people, some of them civilians; displaced thousands; and paralysed normal life for the city of [one million people].”

The aftermath of Haiyan has also seen rebel attacks, including from communists who ambushed an aid convoy destined for Typhoon survivors.

With widespread poverty, ethnic rivalries, clan violence, and insurgent groups, Haiyan has only added fuel to the country’s persistent problems.

Senseless Suffering?

When tallying the numbers—thousands dead, millions homeless, entire villages wiped off the map—the human toll can be overwhelming. Events such as Typhoon Haiyan make people stop and think, most often leading to a single question: *Why?*

Was it “Mother Nature” striking back at humanity? Was it simple time and chance? Where was God during this event?

Tragedies inevitably bring out the last question.

In the days following Haiyan’s landfall, *CNN*’s “Belief Blog” asked what God’s role is in natural disasters. The post detailed the typical queries: “How should we make sense of such senseless death and destruction? Was God in the whirlwind itself, as the Bible hints, or present only in the aftermath, as people mobilize to provide food, water and shelter?”

Throughout the article, various religionists concluded that man asks these things “perhaps because the answers remain so elusive,” calling them “thorny theological issues” and stating that there is simply “no good answer.”

Yet there *is* an answer.

The purpose behind suffering is one of the most important topics for mankind. *Real Truth* Editor-in-Chief David C. Pack explored it in his Personal “Why Must There Be Human Suffering?” Found on *realtruth.org*, the article explains the underlying reason for suffering—backed by iron-clad proof from the Bible.

Survival Mode

While learning about such a tragedy from afar makes it easy to wax philosophical and then shift to the next news story, stop and think. Consider the plight of the Haiyan survivors and put yourself in their shoes. They are dealing with the aftereffects NOW—with little time to ponder the reason behind their suffering—and will most likely have to do so for some time to come.

Rachel Obordo summarized the resiliency and optimism of those in her home country in a *Guardian* article: “The Philippines is used to natural disasters and extreme hardship. After this latest tragedy we’ll come back fighting.”

Ms. Obordo described some of the nation’s hardships: “With 98 million people vying for space and resources, surviving is part of the daily struggle. However, with thousands dead and millions displaced from their homes, Typhoon Haiyan has left us more vulnerable than ever.”

She continued, stating that Typhoon Haiyan “is not enough to keep us down...those who have survived this terrible disaster they will stand up and come back fighting—although it may be difficult—with the resilience that has always shaped us.”

This resilience is quite remarkable and admirable. Despite chronic hardships, Filipino families *endure*, often with smiles on their faces. Other nations could learn a lot from their examples.

Global Trends

Simply pressing on, however, is becoming increasingly difficult—not just in

the Philippines, but the world over. Natural disasters, famines, war and disease outbreaks are coming faster than ever, with no time to fully recover before the next chaotic wave hits.

Deutsche Welle wrote: “Since 2006 it has been rare for worldwide disasters to number under 900 in any given year. This is in stark contrast to the 1980s, when a terrible year might have seen a mere 500 disasters.”

How long can the world cope with a never-ending stream of overlapping mega-disasters?

Extreme weather is increasing across the globe. For example, Europe has been hit by a spate of powerful storms, with scientists predicting such weather upsets will be the new norm. Military conflict, such as the Syrian civil war, lingers with no end in sight. Rumbles of impending military strikes come from the Mideast, Asia and elsewhere. Old diseases such as bubonic plague and tuberculosis are back—and this time are antibiotic resistant.

The tumult of terrible events is both perplexing and distressing. How long can mankind cope?

As with the reason for human suffering, many look to religion for answers. Some turn to Bible prophecy, wanting to know if there is an end in sight.

The Bible *does* foretell trends seen in the Philippines and the world over. This includes hurricanes/typhoons, earthquakes, volcanoes, disease, starvation, ethnic violence, and terrorism.

Such trends are listed in Jesus Christ’s Olivet prophecy, which answers the question on the minds of millions: “What shall be the sign of Your coming, *and of the end of the world* [or age]?” (Matt. 24:3).

The answer from Jesus can be found in the rest of Matthew 24 and in parallel accounts in Mark 13 and Luke 21.

Matthew states: “And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars... *For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences [disease outbreaks], and earthquakes, in diverse places*” (vs. 6-7).

The New Testament was originally written in Greek. The word translated “nation” in these verses is *ethnos*. In other words, it could be worded, “For ethnic group shall rise against ethnic group.”

Mark’s account echoes Matthew, but adds a few key points: “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in diverse places, and there shall be famines and *troubles*...” (Mark 13:8).

The term “troubles” is defined by *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* as “disturbance, that is, (of water) roiling, or (of a mob) sedition.”

Think of mobs looting after a disaster, but also of *roiling water*—such as typhoons and other extreme weather!

Luke 21 adds, “But when you shall hear of wars and *commotions*, be not terrified...” (vs. 9). *Strong’s* states that “commotions” can also mean “instability” and “disorder.” This implies both instable governments and terrorist attacks.

Verse 11 of the Luke account states that there will be “*great earthquakes*.” The Greek word for “great” is *me-gas*—as in MEGA-earthquakes.

Put all of this together: rumors of war, ethnic violence, terrorism, widespread famine, disease pandemics, mega-quakes, super-typhoons. All of these conditions have existed throughout millennia, but all have been **DRAMATICALLY** increasing in *magnitude* and *frequency* over the last few decades.

The Philippines is a microcosm of the worsening trends now enveloping the globe.

Cutting Through Confusion

After Jesus listed these signs “of the end of the world,” which the Bible also calls the “last days” (II Tim. 3:1), He exhorted His followers to “watch” (Mark 13:33). The context shows this means to watch world events through the lens of biblical prophecy.

Yet there is a problem. Most so-called Bible experts severely butcher, botch and blur what God’s Word says

on these important prophetic topics. Ask 10 theologians to explain something like the “beast” mentioned in Revelation 17 and you will get 10 very different answers.

Such inconsistency can understandably leave the average person disheartened and confused. The situation can leave others skeptical of Bible prophecy all together. They might ask: “Why would God record prophecy—supposed future events—in His Word and then not allow those following Him to understand what is coming?”

But this prophetic and religious confusion should not come as a surprise. In fact, the Olivet prophecy began with this worldwide trend.

Notice: “And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name...and shall deceive many.” (Matt. 24:4-5). Similar words are repeated in Mark and Luke.

Many do claim to come in Christ’s name yet offer mangled interpretations of prophecy. Why such utter confusion?

There are six main reasons for the chaotic whirlwind of botched prophetic understanding:

(1) They do not understand the identity of religions. To comprehend prophecy, one must know which belief systems are valid, which are true or false.

The book *Where Is the True Church? – and Its Incredible History!* answers this question. It is available at rcg.org/thogtc.

(2) They do not understand the identity of nations. Some modern nations are relatively easy to find in the Bible. For example, most Asian nations are descendants of Noah’s son Japheth. Yet others are more obscure and require deeper research into the Bible and history. What about the greatest nations? Where do they fit in prophecy?

The eye-opening book *America and Britain in Prophecy*, which is available

Please see **PHILIPPINES**, page 31

WHY SHOULD YOU READ THE OLD TESTAMENT?

PART 1

Is the Old Testament still relevant? Learn the surprising truth—from the *New Testament*!

BY JUSTIN T. PALM

ALTHOUGH MANY Christians claim to hold the Old Testament in high regard, the first section of the Bible is often relegated to material for children's bedtime stories. Think David and Goliath, Samson and Delilah, Jonah and the whale, Daniel in the lion's den, and other stories. Some do turn to the Psalms for comfort during hard times, but lack of understanding causes them to ignore huge parts of the Old Testament.

Others question the validity of accounts such as Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the Flood, and Sodom and Gomorrah.

The Creation story is an example of a large element of the inspired record of history that is blurred by Christians today. Evolutionary concepts are combined with the Genesis Creation account to create a hybrid version of mankind's beginning.

Some Bible translations even include only the New Testament, supposedly making it easier for students of God's Word to focus on the "more important" elements of God's Plan. "Followers of Christ" have been taught that God's Law has been

done away, and that they need only focus on the *New Covenant* of "love, mercy and Christ's sacrifice."

What comes to mind when *you* think of the Old Testament? Confusing stories of violence, adultery and genealogies? Long historical accounts of ancient judges and kings, harsh civil laws, and mysterious prophecies?

Others take sections from the Old Testament out of context and generally avoid the prophets and Levitical laws and statutes. An article titled "Why I Still Love the Old Testament" from *Relevant*, a non-denominational religious magazine, summarized the struggle to make sense of the Old Testament: "A[n]...old pastor friend of mine told me that 70 percent of evangelical sermons are drawn from the New Testament. Whether this is a proven fact, anecdotal or gut feeling, I never knew, but it doesn't sound implausible. Particularly in recent years, where the Old Testament has come under such harsh scrutiny, it's entirely understandable that pastors would lean toward the gentle hum of Paul's letters and Christ's teachings. The rest of us certainly do."

Under the subhead "The mysterious God," the author writes, "Of all the reasons to shy away from the Old Testament, this is the most compelling. Without mincing words, the God of the wandering Hebrews and the fiery prophets is confusing."

Ironically, the writer concludes the article by *encouraging* readers to study the Old Testament.

■ **SIGNIFICANT REGION:** The New Testament reveals that Jesus grew up around the Sea of Galilee in Israel, which is pictured above.

PHOTO: STACEY L. PALM/THE REAL TRUTH

With all of the reasons in mind, how should you view the Old Testament?

Revealing Account in Luke 4

The answer to this question can be found by examining how Jesus Christ saw this collection of religious books. True Christians are those who strive to follow His example. Notice I Peter 2:21: “For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an *example*, that you should *follow His steps*.”

Thus, it can be concluded that whatever approach Jesus Christ had to the Old Testament, Christians should hold the same view.

Many Bible students assume Jesus taught radical new truths. Did He disregard the Old Testament books of the Bible and replace their teachings with a message of love and forgiveness? Did Jesus minimize the Old Testament and do away with it?

Before examining the New Testament record, we must first establish a fundamental aspect of Christ’s teachings. The New Testament had not yet been written during His earthly ministry. Since there were no New Testament books for Christ to cite, His teaching from Scripture could only have come from the *Old* Testament. His authority came from God’s recorded Word—which at that time was the Old Testament.

We begin with an account in Luke 4. Christ had fasted for 40 days and nights to draw close to God. He was then led “by the Spirit into the wilderness” (vs. 1) where he was tempted by Satan: “And the devil said unto Him, If You be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread” (vs. 3). Jesus’ response? “*It is written*, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (vs. 4).

Christ quoted Deuteronomy 8:3!

Satan next offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world: “And the devil, taking him up into a high mountain, showed unto Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give You, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomso-

ever I will I give it. If you therefore will worship me, all shall be Yours.

“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get you behind Me, Satan: for *it is written*, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve” (Luke 4:5-8).

This time Christ quoted Deuteronomy 6:13!

The third instance Christ was tempted He used the same technique: “And he [Satan] brought Him [Christ] to Jerusalem, and set Him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto Him, If You be the Son of God, cast Yourself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you: and in their hands they shall bear you up, lest at any time you dash your foot against a stone.

“And Jesus answering said unto him, *It is said*, You shall not tempt the Lord your God” (Luke 4:9-12).

Lastly, Christ quoted Deuteronomy 6:16!

Jesus quoted the Old Testament three separate times to fight Satan’s temptations! Why would He have done this if He viewed the Old Testament as unimportant?

Prophecy Fulfilled!

Continuing in Luke 4 brings more evidence of Jesus citing the Old Testament: “Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of Him through all the region round about. And He *taught in their synagogues*, being glorified of all. And He came to Nazareth...and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

“And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Esaias [Isaiah]. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon *Me*, because He has anointed *Me* to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent *Me* to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

“And He closed the book, and He gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on Him. And He began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” (vs. 14-21).

This was a dramatic moment in the synagogue! The audience must have been stunned when Christ boldly stated that He had fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 61:1-2.

More Examples

When describing the famous “Golden Rule,” Jesus referenced “the law and the prophets” (Matt. 7:12)—the Old Testament! Jesus used Old Testament accounts when He discussed the Sabbath with the Pharisees (Matt. 12:3-5). He mentioned Noah’s time and the Flood (Matt. 24:37-39), along with references to the prophet Daniel (Matt. 24:15) and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Luke 17:29). Clearly, Christ believed that these accounts were much more than children’s bedtime stories.

Notice Matthew 22:37-40: “Jesus said unto him, *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind*. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, *You shall love your neighbor as yourself*. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” The first italicized sentence comes from *Deuteronomy 6:5*, with the second from *Leviticus 19:18*.

Over and over throughout His ministry, Jesus confirmed the Old Testament. It was His primary source. What has been shown here is just the tip of the iceberg.

Next ask yourself these fundamental questions: If Christ’s mission during His First Coming was to do away with the Law and the dusty, ancient Old Testament, why did He quote it so often? Why would He send such mixed signals to His disciples and to Christians who would come later?

Allow Christ to provide the answer. In His Sermon on the Mount, He clearly stated, “Think NOT that I am

come to destroy *the law*, or *the prophets*: I am NOT come to destroy, but to FULFILL” (Matt. 5:17).

In verse 18, He made this capstone statement: “For truly I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, *one jot* or *one tittle* shall in no wise pass from *the law*, till all be fulfilled.”

Take Christ’s words at face value. He was saying that heaven and Earth would “pass” before even the tiniest element would be nullified from God’s Law.

Christ’s Coming Foretold!

A passage in Luke 24 reveals another example of Christ teaching from the Old Testament: “And He said unto them, These are the words which I spoke unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the *law of Moses*, and in the *prophets*, and in the *psalms*, concerning Me. Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand THE SCRIPTURES [meaning the Old Testament]” (vs. 44-45).

The next passage in Isaiah 53, regarding elements of Christ’s crucifixion, would have been one of the prophecies about Himself He would have covered: “For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: He has no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

“Surely He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her

shearers is dumb, so He opens not His mouth” (vs. 2-7).

This prophecy is only one of about 60 major Old Testament prophecies about Jesus’ First Coming. (To learn more about these prophecies, read David C. Pack’s thorough and eye-opening book *The True Jesus Christ – Unknown to Christianity* available at rcg.org/ttjc.) Another is found in Isaiah 42:21. It reveals more about the purpose of Christ’s earthly ministry: “The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He [Christ] will MAGNIFY the law, and make it honorable.” You should have no doubt by now that Christ’s purpose involved “fulfilling” and “magnifying” God’s Law and the Old Testament, not doing away with it. We will see His disciples copied Christ’s example.

Apostle Paul’s View

Having no New Testament to reference, the apostle Paul also used the Old Testament. Here are just a few instances.

Paul instructed Timothy to “preach *the word*” (II Tim. 4:1-2). The phrase “the word” is found throughout the New Testament, and is a reference to the Old Testament books of the Bible. Note how the phrase is used when Paul commands all true Christians to diligently study the Old Testament: “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing *the word* of truth” (2:15).

Another passage in II Timothy brings even more proof Paul advocated studying the Old Testament. Do not miss how he tied it to Christians receiving salvation: “And that from a child you have known the *holy scriptures*, which are able to make you *wise unto salvation* through faith which is in Christ Jesus. *All scripture* is given by *inspiration of God*, and is *profitable* for *doctrine*, for *reproof*, for *correction*, for *instruction* in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, [thoroughly] furnished unto all good works” (3:15-17).

Paul wrote that “all scripture”—referring to the Old Testament—is “profitable” for Christians. He understood the importance of the law and

the prophets. This is why, speaking of ancient Israel, he wrote: “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples [types]: and they are written for *our admonition*...” (I Cor. 10:11).

The long list of God’s faithful servants outlined in Hebrews 11 proves even further that Paul believed in the veracity of Old Testament accounts. Time and again, he used the Old Testament as the backbone of his preaching. And not once did Paul speak against or contradict these older texts!

Vital Account in Acts 8

A passage in Acts 8 reveals other first-century disciples preaching from the Old Testament. The deacon Philip explained a prophecy about Jesus from Isaiah 53 (recall from earlier) to an Ethiopian eunuch in Gaza: “And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority...had come to Jerusalem for to worship, was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join yourself to this chariot. And Philip ran...to him, and heard him read the prophet Isaiah, and said, Understand you what you read? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

“The place of the scripture which he read was this, *He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened He not His mouth: in His humiliation His judgment was taken away: and who shall declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.*

“And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray you, of whom speaks the prophet this? Of himself, or of some other man?

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus” (Acts 8:27-35).

Notice that Philip began at Isaiah 53:7-8, but would have also covered many other Old Testament scriptures about God’s Plan. The account concludes with the Ethiopian eunuch

believing the gospel, along with Christ's sacrifice, and being baptized.

Next look at how first-century Christians saw the Old Testament: "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming [there] went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received *the word* with all readiness of mind, and *searched the scriptures daily*, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:10-11).

The Bereans studied the Old Testament every day to prove what they were hearing. You can and should do the same in your own Bible!

Believe Christ's Words!

Many more instances could be included to show how other disciples consistently taught from the Old Testament. The reader should by now recognize that instead of Jesus casting aside the Old Testament, He used it as the bedrock authority of His message. We also saw that the apostle Paul and other

disciples used the Old Testament as the basis for their preaching.

There is no reason to be confused about whether to study the Old Testament. We saw concrete *PROOF in the New Testament* that Jesus hardly preached about anything else!

Honest Bible students, including religious scholars educated in this world's seminaries and schools of theology, have no excuse for misunderstanding this subject. Christ was plain! He said what He meant—and meant what He said.

When Christ said He came to *FULL-FILL* the Law and the prophets, He did not mean that He came to *do away with* the Old Testament. As He repeatedly preached from it, He set an example for all true Christians—then and now—to take every element of God's Word seriously.

In fact, Christ knew exactly what He was quoting because He inspired the recording of the Old Testament. I Corinthians 10:4 reveals that He was actually the God of the Old Testament.

Do not permit anyone to blur Christ's statements. Believe Christ's words! Do not allow confused and misguided preachers to minimize the importance of the Old Testament for you.

"Every Word of God Is Pure"

Some readers could now mistakenly conclude that instead of ignoring the Old Testament, Christians should disregard the *New Testament*. But read II Peter 3:16 to see how the apostle Peter referenced Paul's "epistles" and went on to refer to the "other scriptures." Had you ever noticed this before? Peter saw Paul's writings as being in addition to the scriptures of the Old Testament! God designed both testaments of His Word to fit perfectly together.

Recall Christ's words in Luke 4:4 "that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." Each word that makes up *God's Word* was inspired by the Creator for all true Christians to study and understand. Combine Luke 4:4 with Proverbs 30:5—"every word of God is pure"—and Psalm 12:6—"the words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."

True Christians should not cast aside even *ONE WORD* of the Bible, much less the entire first section of it! Far from an old historical document irrelevant to modern Christians, the Old Testament should be read and studied by all Christians striving to live God's way of life.

All of what we covered introduces a huge, overarching question. If Jesus and His disciples constantly quoted the Old Testament, is there an *OVERARCHING THEME* that was discussed throughout the Old Testament? *Why* did they reference the Old Testament so often?

Part 2 of this article will reveal how the central theme of the Old Testament—hidden from the masses for thousands of years—is connected to Jesus' true gospel. Be sure to read it in next month's issue.

In the meantime, request our free booklet *How We Got the Bible – Which Translations Are Best?* available at rcg.org/hwgtb to learn the fascinating story of how God compiled His Word. □



“Each word that makes up God's Word was inspired by the Creator for all true Christians to study and understand.”

Watch *The World to Come*™ with David C. Pack

INTERNATIONAL STATIONS – CABLE AND SATELLITE (Check local listings for channels):



AFRICA

Thaicom 5: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 18:30 EAT, 17:30 CAT, 16:30 WAT,
15:30 GMT

ASIA/OCEANIA

Thaicom 5: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 15:30 GMT

AUSTRALIA

Optus D2: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 11:30 p.m. WST
Monday 1:30 a.m. EST, 1:00 a.m. CST
Thaicom 5: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 11:30 p.m. WST
Monday 1:30 a.m. EST, 1:00 a.m. CST

CARIBBEAN

Galaxy 25: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 11:30 a.m. AT, 10:30 a.m. ET

CENTRAL AMERICA

Galaxy 25: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 10:30 a.m. ET, 9:30 a.m. CT

CURACAO

RTNS: theWALKtv
Varies Check Local Listings

EUROPE

Hot Bird 6: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 17:30 EET, 16:30 CET,
15:30 WET

FINLAND

IRR-TV: theWALKtv
Varies Check Local Listings

ICELAND

Hot Bird 6: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 15:30 GMT

INDIA

Tata Sky: The Word Network
Sunday 9:00 p.m. IST
Thaicom 5: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 9:00 p.m. IST

Velugu TV: theWALKtv
Varies Check Local Listings

ITALY

Sky Italia: The Word Network
– Channel 823
Sunday 16:30 CET

JAMAICA

Flow TV: The Word Network
– Channel 668
Sunday 10:30 a.m. ET

MIDDLE EAST

Arabsat (Eurobird 2): The Word
Network – Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 18:30 EAT, 17:30 CAT, 16:30 WAT,
15:30 GMT

NEW ZEALAND

Optus D2: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Monday 3:30 a.m. NZT

NORTH AFRICA

Arabsat (Eurobird 2): The Word
Network – Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 18:30 EAT, 17:30 CAT, 16:30 WAT,
15:30 GMT

PHILIPPINES

Thaicom 5: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 11:30 p.m. PHT

PUERTO RICO

BROADBAND: Sky Angel Faith &
Family TV – Channel 537
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. AT

SOUTH AFRICA

Thaicom 5: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 17:30 SAT

UNITED KINGDOM

Sky UK: The Word Network
– Channel 590
Sunday 3:30 p.m. GMT

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

WCVI: theWALKtv
– Channel 23
Sunday 11:30 a.m. ET

NORTH AMERICAN STATIONS – CABLE AND SATELLITE (Check local listings for channels):



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NORTH AMERICA

FilmOn: LIFESTYLE – theWALKtv
Sunday 1:00 p.m. NT, 12:30 p.m. AT, 11:30 a.m. ET, 10:30
a.m. CT, 9:30 a.m. MT, 8:30 a.m. PT
Galaxy 19: theWALKtv – Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 1:00 p.m. NT, 12:30 p.m. AT, 11:30 a.m. ET, 10:30
a.m. CT, 9:30 a.m. MT, 8:30 a.m. PT
Galaxy 25: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 12:00 p.m. NT, 11:30 a.m. AT, 10:30 a.m. ET, 9:30
a.m. CT, 8:30 a.m. MT, 7:30 a.m. PT

Roku: Omniverse – theWALKtv

Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET, 10:30 a.m. CT, 9:30 a.m. MT, 8:30
a.m. PT

Roku: The Word Network

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET, 9:30 a.m. CT, 8:30 a.m. MT, 7:30
a.m. PT

CANADA

Galaxy 25: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday 12:00 p.m. NT, 11:30 a.m. AT, 10:30 a.m. ET, 9:30
a.m. CT, 8:30 a.m. MT, 7:30 a.m. PT

UNITED STATES

BROADBAND: Sky Angel Faith & Family TV
– Channel 537
Sunday 10:30 a.m. ET, 9:30 a.m. CT, 8:30 a.m. MT, 7:30
a.m. PT
DIRECTV: The Word Network
– Channel 373
Sunday 10:30 a.m. ET, 9:30 a.m. CT, 8:30 a.m. MT, 7:30
a.m. PT



U.S. STATIONS – CABLE AND ANTENNA (Check local listings for channels):

ALABAMA

Alabaster —
WALK-WAY-TV,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Andalusia —
WALK-WKNI,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Berry —
WALK-WSWG,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Birmingham —
WALK-WAY-TV,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Cullman —
WALK-WCQT,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Decatur —
WALK-WMJN,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Dothan —
WALK-WJJN,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Fayette —
WALK-WSSF,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Hamilton —
WALK-WMTY,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Jacksonville —
WALK-WJXS,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Montgomery —
WALK-WFRZ,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Prattville —
WALK-WBIH,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

ALASKA

Anchorage —
CW-KYUR-DT2**,
Sunday, 5:30 a.m. AKT
WALK-KCFT,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. AKT
Fairbanks —
CW-KATN-DT2**,
Sunday, 5:30 a.m. AKT
Juneau —
CW-KJUD-DT2**,
Sunday, 5:30 a.m. AKT

ARIZONA

Camp Verde —
WALK-K18DD,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
Flagstaff —
WALK-K42IQ-D,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Lake Havasu City —
WALK-K65FI/K27EC/KLHU,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
Phoenix —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
Yuma —
CW-KECY-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

ARKANSAS

El Dorado —
WALK-KCIB-TV5/KLMB,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Eureka Springs —
WALK-K22HS,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Fayetteville —
CW-KHBS-DT2/KHOG-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Fort Smith —
CW-KHBS-DT2/KHOG-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Green Forest —
WALK-K54FH,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Harrison —
WALK-K23DU,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Jonesboro —
CW-KJOS,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Little Rock —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Nashville —
WALK-KJEP,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Pine Bluff —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Springdale —
CW-KHBS-DT2/KHOG-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KVAQ/Safe TV,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

CALIFORNIA

Altadena —
WALK-KTAV,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
Bakersfield —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Chico —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Corte Madera —
WALK-KTLN,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
El Centro —
CW-KECY-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
Eureka —
CW-KUVU-LP/KVIQ-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
WALK-K68GT,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
Fresno —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Los Angeles —
WALK-KTBTB,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Modesto —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Monterey —
CW-KION-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Oakland —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Palm Springs —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Redding —
WALK-KVFR/KGEC,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Sacramento —
WALK-KMSX,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Salinas —
CW-KION-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
San Diego —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
San Francisco —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
San Jose —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Stockton —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Visalia —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

COLORADO

Colorado Springs —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
Denver —
WALK-KDEO,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
Durango —
WALK-K16GZ,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
Grand Junction —
CW-KJCT-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WALK-K38JX,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
Montrose —
CW-KJCT-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
Pueblo —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

CONNECTICUT

Hartford —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
New Haven —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Plainville —
WALK-FVTVN,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington —
WALK-W45DN,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

FLORIDA

Chiefland —
WALK-WGEC,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Daytona Beach —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Fort Lauderdale —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Fort Pierce —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Gainesville —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Jacksonville —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Miami —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Orlando —
WALK-WTGL,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Panama City —
CW-WJHG-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Pensacola —
WALK-WCTU/WBQP,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Sebring —
WALK-WHRT,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
St. Augustine —
WALK-WQXT,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Tallahassee —
WALK-WTBC,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Tampa —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

GEORGIA

Ailey —
WALK-WPHJ,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Albany —
CW-WSWG-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WALK-Local Access,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Atlanta —
WALK-WATC-DT/WTBS,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Augusta —
CW-WAGT-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WALK-WBPI-DT,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Columbus —
CW-WLTZ-DT2,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Cordele —
WALK-WSST,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Dublin —
WALK-WDIG,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Jesup —
WALK-WQIX,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

LaGrange —
WALK-WJCN,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Macon —
CW-WBMN,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Savannah —
CW-WGSA-DT2,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Summerville —
WALK-WKSY,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Vidalia —
WALK-WQIX,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

IDAHO

Boise —
CW-KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT2,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

Grangeville —
WALK-WVBI,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Idaho Falls —
CW-KIFI-DT3,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

Lewiston —
WALK-K39CT,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Pocatello —
CW-KIFI-DT3,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

Twin Falls —
WALK-KBAX,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

ILLINOIS

Alton —
WALK-W50CH,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Bloomington —
CW-WHOI-DT2,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Chicago —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Peoria —
CW-WHOI-DT2,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-GPS-TV,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Quincy —
WALK-WTJR,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Rockford —
CW-WREX-DT2,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

INDIANA

Evansville —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Fort Wayne —
CW-WPTA-DT2,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Hammond —
WALK-WJYS,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Indianapolis —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Marion —
WALK-WSOT/WIWU,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

South Bend —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Terre Haute —
CW-WBI,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

IOWA

Davenport —
FOX-KLJB,
Sunday, 7:00 a.m. CT

Keokuk —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Mason City —
CW-KTTC-DT2,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Ottumwa —
CW-KWOT,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

KANSAS

Liberal —
WALK-K39KO,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Manhattan —
WALK-K36IO,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Pittsburg —
CW-KSXF,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Sublette —
WALK-KDGL,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Topeka —
WALK-K40IJ,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Wichita —
WALK-KCTU,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

KENTUCKY

Bowling Green —
CW-WBKO-DT3,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Campbellsville —
WALK-WLCU,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Lexington —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Louisville —
WALK-Faith19,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Scottsville —
WALK-WPBM,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge —
WALK-WLFT,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Crowley —
WALK-KAGN,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Lafayette —
CW-KATC-DT2,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KAJN,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Lake Charles —
CW-KVHP-DT2,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KFAM,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Monroe —
WALK-KWMS/KMCT,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

New Orleans —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Shreveport —
WALK-KADO,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

MAINE

Auburn —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Bangor —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Portland —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Presque Isle —
CW-WBPQ,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

MARYLAND

Baltimore —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Hagerstown —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Ocean City —
WALK-W35CS,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Holyoke —
CW-WBQT,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

New Bedford —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Springfield —
CW-WBQT,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

MICHIGAN

Alpena —
CW-WBAE,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

Battle Creek —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Cadillac —
CW-WBVC,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

Detroit —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Flint —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Grand Rapids —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Kalamazoo —
WALK-WLLA,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Lansing —
CW-WLAJ-DT2,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Marquette —
CW-WBKP-DT1/WBUP-DT2,**
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

Rose City —
WALK-IPTV,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Saginaw —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Order Related Literature from Weekly Shows



JANUARY 2014

** Indicates this station may preempt *The World to Come* with local broadcasting.
Abbreviations: CW = The CW Plus, WALK = the WALKtv, WORD = The Word Network

Traverse City —
CW-WBVC,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

MINNESOTA

Duluth —
CW-KDLH-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KCWW,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Mankato —
CW-KWYE,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Minneapolis —
WALK-KHVM,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Rochester —
CW-KTTC-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

St. Paul —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

MISSISSIPPI

Ashland —
WALK-WBII,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Biloxi —
CW-WBGP,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Booneville —
WALK-W34DV,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Bruce —
WALK-W07BN,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Fulton —
WALK-W39CD,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Greenville —
CW-WBWD,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Greenwood —
CW-WBWD,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Grenada —
WALK-W13CS,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Gulfport —
CW-WBGP,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Hattiesburg —
CW-WHPM-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Jackson —
WALK-WWJX,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Laurel —
CW-WHPM-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Meridian —
CW-WTOK-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-W21CS,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Pontotoc —
WALK-W15CG,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

MISSOURI

Aurora —
WALK-K61GJ,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Branson —
WALK-K25BD/KNJD,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Columbia —
CW-KOMU-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Hannibal —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Jefferson City —
CW-KOMU-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Joplin —
CW-KSXF,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Kansas City —
WALK-K41KX/K36II-D,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Kansas City —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Kirksville —
CW-KWOT,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Lebanon —
WALK-K64FQ,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Marshfield —
WALK-K17FU,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Osage Beach —
WALK-LakeTV,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Springfield —
WALK-K39IU,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

St. Joseph —
CW-WBJO/KNPN-DT3**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

St. Louis —
WALK-KNLC,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

MONTANA

Billings —
CW-KTVQ-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WALK-K51KR,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Billings —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

Bozeman —
CW-KXLF-DT2/KBZK-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

Butte —
CW-KXLF-DT2/KBZK-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT
WALK-K39JC,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Glendive —
CW-KWZB,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

Great Falls —
CW-KRTV-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

Missoula —
CW-KPAX-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

Missoula —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

NEBRASKA

Hastings —
CW-KWBL,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Kearney —
CW-KWBL,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Lincoln —
CW-KWBL,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

North Platte —
CW-KWPL,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Omaha —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Scottsbluff —
CW-KGWN-DT3/KCHW**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

Omaha —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

NEVADA

Las Vegas —
WALK-KEEN,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

Reno —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Manchester —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

NEW JERSEY

Newton —
WALK-WMBC,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

NEW MEXICO

Alamogordo —
WALK-WVBA,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Carlsbad —
WALK-K28JO,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Santa Fe —
WALK-KCHF/KYNM/SCCTA,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Santa Fe —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

NEW YORK

Albany —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Auburn —
WALK-W52CQ,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Binghamton —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Buffalo —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Cobleskill —
WALK-WUCB/WYNB,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

DeWitt —
WALK-WIXT,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

New York —
WALK-WMBQ/WBQM,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Oneida —
WALK-WYKO,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Oneonta —
WALK-WISF,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Syracuse —
WALK-WONO,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Utica —
WALK-WVVC,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Watertown —
WALK-WTJK,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Watertown —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

NORTH CAROLINA

Boone —
WALK-MTN TV,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Buxton —
WALK-WPDZ/WRZY,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Charlotte —
WALK-WGTB,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Durham —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Goldsboro —
WALK-WHFL,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Greenville —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Manteo —
WALK-WMTO,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Murphy —
WALK-LocalTV4,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

New Bern —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Raleigh —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Sanford —
WALK-WBFT,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Tarboro —
WALK-WNCR,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Washington —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Wilmington —
CW-WBW,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

Wilmington —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Winston Salem —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

NORTH DAKOTA

Bismarck —
CW-KWMK,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Dickinson —
CW-KWMK,
Sunday, 5:30 a.m. MT

Fargo —
CW-WDAY-DT2/WDAZ-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Fargo —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

Minot —
CW-KWMK,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-K47KA,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Valley City —
CW-WDAY-DT2/WDAZ-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Valley City —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

OHIO

Akron —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Ashland —
WALK-W33BW,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Canfield —
WALK-ETC-Cable,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Canton —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Cincinnati —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Cleveland —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Columbus —
WALK-WGCT,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Columbus —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Dayton —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Delaware —
WALK-WXCB,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Kenton —
WALK-WOCB,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Lima —
CW-WBOH,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

Lima —
WALK-WTLW,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

London —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Marion —
WALK-WOCB,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Pomeroy —
WALK-WJOS,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Sandusky —
WALK-WGNN,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Steubenville —
CW-WBWO,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Toledo —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Youngstown —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Zanesville —
CW-WBZV,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

OKLAHOMA

Ada —
CW-KTEN-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Durant —
WALK-FBC-TV,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Lawton —
CW-KAUZ-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-K43LK,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
McAlester —
WALK-FBTN-76,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Oklahoma City —
WALK-KUOT,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Stillwater —
WALK-KWEM,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Tahlequah —
WALK-CFTV,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Tulsa —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT

OREGON

Bend —
CW-KTVZ-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT
WALK-KDOV/K49KX,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
Eugene —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Portland —
WALK-K26GJ,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
Salem —
WALK-K21GX,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT
The Dalles —
WALK-KRHP,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

PENNSYLVANIA

Altoona —
WALK-WKBS,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Bethlehem —
WALK-WBPH,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Brookville —
WALK-W45BT,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Elliottsburg —
WALK-W12CA,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Harrisburg —
WALK-W07DP,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Johnstown —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Middleburg —
WALK-W18BC,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Philadelphia —
WALK-W36DO,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Pittsburgh —
WALK-WPCB,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Scranton —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Sharon —
WALK-W29CO,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Wilkes Barre —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
York —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

RHODE ISLAND

Providence —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston —
CW-WCBD-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Columbia —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Florence —
CW-WWMB-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
Greenville —
WALK-WGGS-DT,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Myrtle Beach —
CW-WWMB-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET
Spartanburg —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Summerville —
WALK-WLCN,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

SOUTH DAKOTA

Rapid City —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

TENNESSEE

Adamsville —
WALK-W18BL,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Chattanooga —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Clarksville —
WALK-WCKV,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Gatlinburg —
WALK-WJDP,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Jackson —
CW-WBJK,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Johnson City —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Kingsport —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Knoxville —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Memphis —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Nashville —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Pigeon Forge —
WALK-WJDP,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Sevierville —
WALK-Local Access,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Union City —
WALK-WOBT,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

TEXAS

Abilene —
CW-KTXS-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Amarillo —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Atlanta —
WALK-KAQC,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Austin —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Beaumont —
CW-KFDM-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KAOB-DT,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Brownsville —
CW-KCWT/KNVO-DT4**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Bryan —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Corpus Christi —
CW-KRIS-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Dallas —
WALK-KHFD/KJJM,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
El Paso —
WALK-KSCE,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT
Harlingen —
CW-KCWT/KNVO-DT4**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Houston —
WALK-KVQT/Kingdom B'cast,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Kerrville —
WALK-KVHC/IPTV,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Killeen —
WALK-KPLE,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Laredo —
CW-KGNS-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KLMV,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Livingston —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Longview —
CW-KYTX-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Lubbock —
CW-KLCW-DT1**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-KGLR,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Midland —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Odessa —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Paris —
WALK-Local TV 99,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Pipe Creek —
WALK-KAXX,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Port Arthur —
CW-KFDM-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
San Angelo —
CW-KWSA,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
San Antonio —
WALK-KSSJ,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Sherman —
CW-KTEN-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Sweetwater —
CW-KTXS-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Temple —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Texarkana —
WALK-KLFI,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT
Tyler —
CW-KYTX-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Victoria —
CW-KWVB,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Waco —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. CT
Weslaco —
CW-KCWT/KNVO-DT4**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
Wichita Falls —
CW-KAUZ-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT
WALK-K30DJ/K30DN,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

UTAH

Logan —
WALK-KJDN,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
Salt Lake City —
WALK-KTMW,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

VERMONT

Burlington —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

VIRGINIA

Bristol —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Carrollton —
WALK-WGBS,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Front Royal —
WALK-WAZF,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Grundy —
WALK-WJDG,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Harrisonburg —
WALK-WAZH,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Luray —
WALK-WAZC,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
Lynchburg —
WALK-Liberty Channel,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET
Martinsville —
WALK-WYAT,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Newport News —
WALK-WJHJ,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Norfolk —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Petersburg —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Richmond —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Roanoke —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Staunton —
WALK-WAZM,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Winchester —
WALK-WAZW,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Woodstock —
WALK-WAZT,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Wytheville —
WALK-WJDW,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

WASHINGTON

Aberdeen —
WALK-Christian Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

Kennewick —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Pasco —
CW-KIMA-DT2/KEPR-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT

Richland —
CW-KIMA-DT2/KEPR-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT

Spokane —
WALK-KHBA,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

Tacoma —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 7:30 a.m. PT

Walla Walla —
WALK-KWVO,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

Yakima —
CW-KIMA-DT2/KEPR-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. PT

WALK-K380I,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. PT

WEST VIRGINIA

Bluefield —
WALK-WJDG/WJDW,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Clarksburg —
CW-WVFX-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

Huntington —
WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Morgantown —
WALK-W64CZ,
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET

Parkersburg —
CW-WCWP,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

Weston —
CW-WVFX-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

Wheeling —
CW-WBWO,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET

WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. ET

WISCONSIN

Baraboo —
WALK-WRPQ/W43BR,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Milwaukee —
WALK-WVCY-TV,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

Superior —
CW-KDLH-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. CT

Tigerton —
WALK-W04CW,
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. CT

WYOMING

Casper —
CW-KWYF/KFNB-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

WALK-K49JZ,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

Cheyenne —
CW-KGWN-DT3/KCHW**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

WALK-KGSC/KMAH,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

WORD-Cable,
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. MT

Cody —
WALK-K34HZ,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Laramie —
WALK-KPAH,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

Riverton —
CW-KWYF/KFNB-DT2**,
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. MT

Rock Springs —
WALK-K33IX,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. MT

** Indicates this station may preempt *The World to Come* with local broadcasting.
Abbreviations: CW = The CW Plus, WALK = theWALKtv, WORD = The Word Network

FRAUD

Continued from page 10

While people were not perfect during the tumultuous Depression years, for the most part they did pull together. Instead of focusing on what they could *get* and *take*, many did everything they could to *give* and *help*.

In a video from the *Great Depression Curriculum Interview* series, funded by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, a Missouri woman recalled that her parents constantly assisted others during the Depression. Her father allowed an out-of-work man, who lived nearby, to hunt on his land and hired the neighbor's sons when they were old enough to work.

She remembered her mother invariably gave vagrants food, but required them to chop wood for it. Even when providing support, the values of this generation were evident.

Subsequent decades of prosperity—and eventually excess—have softened many Americans. The hardened people of the bygone era are slowly

dying off—and so are their tales and lessons of surviving difficult times.

People in modern times would be completely unrecognizable to those of the 1930s.

Time Foretold

Many of the admirable characteristics of the Greatest Generation—hard working, humble and honest—are based on biblical principles. Yet the Bible also references a time when extremely prosperous nations would begin to collapse into selfishness and excess.

The apostle Paul listed character traits and behaviors that would be prevalent during that time: “For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (II Tim. 3:1-4).

This list perfectly describes today's society and there is a reason

for this: *it is describing our time!* The first two qualities listed, “lovers of their own selves” and “covetous” point directly to what makes today's society different from that of the early 20th century. They describe selfish people who care only about GETTING.

Greedy, self-centered people have always existed, but today's level of dishonesty and deceit goes well beyond that of the past.

Biblical text describes the end result of the modern trend of dishonesty and fraud: “For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to *covetousness*; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one *deals falsely*” (Jer. 6:13).

Many more now are willing to engage in fraud in the pursuit of goods—only thinking of themselves and not the people harmed in the process.

Obviously, the God of the Bible is not pleased with this conduct. Notice: “And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not Me, says the LORD” (9:3).

The Creator God abhors the selfish way of GET. While He desires all of mankind to live prosperous, abundant lives, He wants it to be through the way of GIVE—selfless outflowing concern for others.

Ancient Example

God's overall plan ultimately involves working with all of mankind. Yet the early stages of it involved Him directly interacting with a small tribe of people to demonstrate to the entire world the benefits of following His ways.

This people, ancient Israel, descended from a man named Abraham, whom God found to be faithful. His faith led to God promising Abraham that his future offspring would be greatly multiplied and given tremendous prosperity, power and wealth.

The Creator worked with Israel as this model nation. As their leader, God established civil laws and rules of conduct for them to follow for their benefit. The Ten Commandments alone show the importance of honest dealings.

On multiple occasions, His laws addressed supporting those who fell on tough times. One such statute was related to ensuring the poor had enough food to eat: "And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, neither shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard, neither shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the LORD your God" (Lev. 19:9-10).

God instructed those with crops to not gather all the way to the corners of their fields or pick up the crops that fell to the ground. They were to leave these crops behind for those experiencing hard times.

Notice crops were left behind for the poor to gather for *themselves*. They were not to just sit around and wait for someone to bring the food to them. They were to work for it! Though assistance was available, they still had to *earn* it. This is a far cry from how many see the aid programs of today!

The law also clearly stated how God felt about fraud: "You shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another. You *shall not defraud* your neighbor, neither rob him..." (Lev. 19:11, 13).

The consequences for violating these rules ranged from making restitution for what was taken all the way to the death of the offender.

Over the centuries, Israel struggled with keeping these and other laws. They often did things their own way. Their disobedience led to them eventually being conquered as a people and taken into slavery. They soon lost their identity as a nation. (Judah, which came out of Israel and became the modern Jews, is the exception.)

Some of their descendants—who are commonly called the lost tribes of Israel—went on to become "a nation [America] and a company of nations [Great Britain]" (Gen. 35:11). This was a fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham.

Yet the Creator's obligations to these nations have now been fulfilled and that prosperity is fading away.

Think. The incredible economic powerhouse that is the United States is unique throughout all history. What other nation could shoulder \$17 trillion in debt, spend trillions in defense money to ensure a stable world, and shoulder the burden of wanton fraud across the land? The ability to do so speaks to the incredible power of God's blessings on America—even as it "runs on the fumes" of its prosperity.

Mercifully, God has not allowed America to suffer sudden and complete economic collapse despite its severe economic obligations and constraints. This will soon change, however. To learn more, read David C. Pack's extraordinary book *America and Britain in Prophecy* available at rcg.org/aabibp.

While the United States—and its national character—is on the decline, individuals can choose to be exceptions.

Building Godly Character

God understands there is a void in man. His Word states, "...the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that

walks to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). In other words, man needs guidance to live the way God intended. The current culture of fraud runs counter to this and is a prime example of the inability of man "to direct his steps."

The Creator's ultimate goal for man is for him to build godly character.

It is said that the character of a man is what he does when no one is watching. To paraphrase Herbert W. Armstrong, founder and publisher of this magazine's predecessor, *The Plain Truth*, true character is (1) the ability to know right from wrong, (2) the willful desire to choose right over wrong, and (3) doing what is right and rejecting the wrong, even in the face of overwhelming trials, pressures and temptations to do otherwise.

Many have their own standards of "right and wrong." The Creator issues a stern warning concerning this, "Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" (Isa. 5:21). It is God and God alone who ultimately determines what is right and wrong.

But God cannot give His character to a person by divine fiat. He cannot place it into a person the way he places "instinct" into an animal. Man, as a free moral agent—a being of free choice—must *choose* to allow God to build this character in him.

This kind of character takes a lifetime to develop. There are ups and downs, but those who remain on course can succeed. In the end, man can have perfect character like God.

Building this character begins in part with following the right habits. It involves living by a set of "laws" and "guides" based on biblical principles. Following these behaviors provides an alternative to relying on schemes and defrauding people and the government.

People have followed these concepts and realized amazing success in their personal and professional lives. To learn these foundational principles, read Mr. Pack's booklet *The Laws to Success* at rcg.org/tilts.

If practiced daily, they will change your life! □

SEVEN WAYS TO LEAD YOUR CHILD TO SUCCESS!



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

Forty percent of United States marriages end in divorce. Ninety percent of cohabitating parents in the United Kingdom split up before their children reach age 16. While such worldwide trends severely limit potential futures of sons and daughters—your family does not have to be a statistic.

WHEN A MOTHER first gazes into the sweet face of her newborn daughter, she does not imagine a life of chaos, anger or violence. She pictures giggles, sticky fingers, and pink tutus. A father envisions teaching his son to build a tree house

or watching him score his first touchdown.

Parents do not aspire for their little ones to lead lives filled with failure, poor decisions, and drug use. But such circumstances are common. Modern parents must navigate a minefield of seemingly impossible situations: living in unhappy marriages, coping with the stress of being a single mom or dad, holding down multiple full-time jobs to provide for a family... the list could go on.

Amid it all, children are often the first casualty.

The United States Department of Health & Human Services' Administration for Children & Families reported that fathers play a significant role in their children's well-being: "One study of school-aged children found that children with good relationships with their fathers were less likely to experience depression, to exhibit disruptive behavior, or to lie and were more likely to exhibit pro-social behavior."

"This same study found that boys with involved fathers had fewer school behavior problems and that girls had stronger self-esteem. In addition, numerous studies have found that

children who live with their fathers are more likely to have good physical and emotional health, to achieve academically, and to avoid drugs, violence, and delinquent behavior."

Regarding mothers, researchers found that a mom's affection "physically changes the brain." According to *LiveScience*, "Brain images have now revealed that a mother's love physically affects the volume of her child's hippocampus [an area of the brain important for emotional recognition and coping with stress]. In the study, children of nurturing mothers had hippocampal volumes 10 percent larger than children whose mothers were not as nurturing."

When both a mother and father are in the home, "Children...are better off emotionally, socially and economically, according to a review of marriage research..." (*USA Today*).

Most savvy parents who want to help their sons and daughters be successful have read the statistics. They agree that effective parenting is a key to securing a positive future for their children. But what does this mean? In a world that is constantly bombarded with stresses that did not exist 50 years ago, how can parents rear truly balanced children?

Even though proper parenting may seem impossible in the 21st century, there are certain time-tested principles that can help you beat the odds.

Proper Foundation

Consider for a moment. What is the foundation of your knowledge on parenting? How your mother and father reared you? Books by psychologists? Past experience?

Each of these can have some merit, but you must be certain that the parenting advice is based on fact. You want to use a sure-fire *instruction manual* that clearly breaks down the basic principles.

Science has proven that a stable home with both a mother and father provides the best chance of success for children. While this research has supposedly been done by modern scientists, all they really have done is catch up to what was written about parenting thousands of years ago.

While it often sits collecting dust on bookshelves, the Bible contains everything needed to guide parents—and their children—to have happy and fulfilling lives. This Book—which can be likened to an Instruction Manual for mankind—is brimming with crucial principles that every parent should know.

As already established, mankind knows that a strong marriage produces children that “are better off emotionally, socially and economically.” A big reason for this is that a husband-and-wife team is better at taking on problems life throws at them. The Bible book of Ecclesiastes summarizes this principle: “Two are better than one...though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him...” (4:9, 12, *Revised Standard Version*). (To learn about this principle, read our booklet *You Can Build a Happy Marriage* available at rcg.org/ycbahm.)

A couple becomes even stronger when children are added. The last part of verse 12 makes this clear: “...A threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

In society today, there are times when single parenting is a necessity due

to circumstances. In such a situation, your child is not doomed. As a parent, though, you will need to work harder than ever to raise your child correctly. Focus on your strengths and accept your weaknesses. Tap your social circle to fill in where you may fall short. If you are a single mother to a son, seek out good examples of uncles, grandfathers, male teachers, and coaches who can teach your son what it means to be a man. Single fathers of girls can do the same thing. Aunts, grandmothers and the mothers of classmates can all help you guide your daughter on the path to womanhood.

Proverbs 22 contains the secret to successful childrearing: “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (vs. 6).

The key word here is TRAIN. Mothers and fathers must constantly and consistently teach their children everything they need to know, starting with right principles found in the Bible.

The following are seven training points to equip your child for success.

(1) Teach Loyalty

Parents, teach your children that they represent the family name. They should understand that their actions can bring either praise or disgrace to their parents, siblings and extended family.

Honoring the family name is part of the Fifth Commandment, which requires everyone, regardless of age, to honor his or her father and mother. Proverbs 19:26 expounds on this all-important command: “He that wastes his father, and chases away his mother, is a son that causes shame, and brings reproach.”

A child and young adult can “waste” his father’s name by not being conscientious, diligent and responsible. Likewise, a son or daughter can “chase away” his or her mother by rejecting her counsel and advice. The ensuing results bring both shame and reproach to the family name.

One way to have your children invested in their family name is to teach them their ancestral history.

Tell them about the accomplishments of your parents, grandparents and so on. As always, focus on examples of good character. Communicate to them the importance of responsibility and honor. Research your genealogy together and give your children the gift of knowing their roots.

The oldest son has a special place in the family and should set an example of upholding the family name. In ancient Israel, the eldest son received a double portion of a family’s inheritance (Deut. 21:17; Gen. 48:22; I Chron. 5:1). This did not mean that other siblings were of lesser value. Rather, for a firstborn son to earn his “double portion,” he had to work *doubly* hard!

Fathers should expect the oldest boy to set the standard among the children. They must prepare them to bear responsibility as soon as they are sufficiently mature. An eldest son can have a tremendously positive impact upon a family—or he can cause much harm! Teach him to make right decisions and to protect his sisters and younger brothers. Teach him the importance of honor and upholding high standards. His brothers and sisters will *naturally* want to follow him.

(2) Understand Them

Society today is nothing like 30 years ago, or even 10 years ago. For example, 49 percent of boys and 47 percent of girls between the ages of 15 to 19 years old have engaged in oral sex, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Fifty years ago, most teens did not even know what that term meant!

Fathers and mothers must *understand* their children. Listen to them when they come to you. “...be swift to hear, slow to speak” (Jms. 1:19). Heed the lesson of Proverbs 18:13: “He that answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame unto him.” Applying these verses will pay immeasurable dividends in your relationships with your children.

Fathers should empathize and feel compassion for their children. Such empathy usually comes more naturally to mothers, but fathers should strive to

develop these qualities if they want to connect with their children.

A man's compassion toward his son should be *genuine*, with care taken not to overreact and coddle him. For example, a good father will feel the pain of his child's cut or skinned knee and wish in his mind that he could put himself in his son's place. Yet he should be an example of self-control and show his son how to manage his emotions.

Listening to and understanding your children will yield positive results and help them build character.

(3) Teach Morality

Young people should strive for high moral standards. God always blesses virtuous behavior, though it may not be immediately evident. Conversely, sin may *seem* "fun" for the moment, but it always leads to pain, misery and death (Prov. 16:25).

Children today battle tremendous pressures that encourage them to take shortcuts—to take the "easy way." The expression "take it easy" sums up the current generation's attitude toward hard work and honesty.

For example, many students of all ages believe cheating is acceptable. According to *The New York Times*, "Eric Anderman, a professor of educational psychology at Ohio State University, has been studying cheating in schools for decades. He says research shows that close to 85 percent of all kids have cheated at least once in some way by the time they leave high school (boys tend to cheat a bit more than girls, although they might just be more likely to admit the transgression; otherwise, cheating is fairly uniform across demographic groups)."

Sexual activity among teenagers today is common, with those abstaining prior to marriage a shrinking minority.

Many think that teenagers use recreational drugs as a quick fix to cure unhappiness and depression. But a study published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* showed conclusively that teenage sex and drug use *increased* depression.

This report confirms God's Word that sin both **CAUSES** and **SPREADS** misery.

While teenagers are under tremendous pressure from their peers and society to act immorally, the responsibility lies with parents to teach their children right from wrong, good from evil. This education must start when they are young and should continue until adulthood.

Guard your children—especially when they are still younger—from evil influences. In I Corinthians 15:33, Paul clearly states that association with poorly behaved children will corrupt your own: "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals'" (*New American Standard Bible*).

While they should strive to be well-rounded, do not allow them to socialize with those who may have a negative influence on them. Teach your sons and daughters to associate with peers who strive for excellence in how they speak and behave.

Make your children aware of the evil around them through life's daily lessons and the news. Instruct them to avoid destructive activities. Guide them and encourage them.

(4) Both Parents Nurture and Admonish

Ephesians 6:4 exhorts fathers to be balanced: "...fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Some interpret this to mean that a father should never be stern or resolute with his children. But that is *not* what this verse is stating!

"Admonition" means discipline, yet always tempered with mercy. "Nurture" refers to teaching. A father's habitual hostility toward his children will "provoke a child to wrath." A bitter father who continually heaps unreasonable demands and punishment upon his children can be 100 percent assured that they *will* be provoked to wrath—if not broken in spirit! A father who does not listen to his children and empathize with them is *unwise*. He is sure to bring misery upon his family and himself.

Fathers and mothers must *work together* to rear children, which

includes teaching them and disciplining them when necessary. Parents must *share* this responsibility.

There can be a tendency for mothers to overly rely on fathers when it comes to administering discipline. While a father should not shirk this responsibility, it is best if a mother is also involved to create one "parental voice" in the household.

Children should never witness arguing or intense disagreement between parents. Such disagreements should be handled privately. Psalm 133:1 states, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" While this exhortation speaks of unity between Christians, it certainly should be practiced at home.

(5) Instruct Children About Their Roles

There are (or should be) distinct differences in how males and females think. Parents should work to develop and nurture the characteristics and strengths that naturally apply to males and females.

Teach boys to be strong—mentally and physically. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 20:29, "The glory of young men is their strength..." At the earliest age possible, insist that your sons perform heavy work such as cutting and hauling wood for burning, helping with landscaping, painting a house, working on automobiles, or other activities that will cause them to sweat! Do not be afraid to push them—expect them to perform. However, be keenly aware of their *real* limits (not just when they might say they are tired). Also, recognize that some boys need more coaxing and supervision than others.

Along with strength and determination, teach boys to have a gentle nature and that "gentleness" is a part of godly character (Gal. 5:22). Some events and circumstances in life should be met with muscle and a square jaw, but toughness must be tempered with gentleness, especially when interacting with girls and women.

Girls should also be taught to be strong, but not to dominate. I Peter 3:7 reveals that women are

physically weaker: “Likewise, you husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the *weaker vessel*, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

This does not mean that women are inferior to men. This verse shows that boys and young men must never “bully” or manhandle women, but rather be gentle and treat them with respect.

Girls must be taught to be emotionally and mentally strong. They need to understand that, though a wife’s role is to work under her husband’s authority, she should never allow herself to be abused—emotionally, physically or otherwise.

Regarding sexuality, Song of Solomon in the Bible addresses the difference between a young girl who is a “wall”—a virgin—and one who is a “door”—sexually promiscuous.

Parents should ask themselves: “Have we sat down with our daughter and taught her to save herself for marriage? Have we explained what Solomon meant and how she should be a wall and *not* a door? Or, have we made the mistake of assuming that she already knows?”

Teach your sons the same principles, and that being sexually active before marriage is NOT a sign of manhood. Both sons and daughters should be taught to save themselves for their future spouses. How tragic that we live in a world that views traditional family values as antiquated and old-fashioned!

Teach your daughters to be strong and self-motivated like the highly valued woman described in Proverbs 31:10-31 as a “virtuous woman.” This woman, whose value was placed above rubies, knows how to properly handle money and organize and manage her household—not to mention her own business. She also nurtures her children, so much so that they call her blessed.

Help your daughters understand the importance of modest, yet elegant clothing choices, and to not flaunt herself with what she wears. In this way, a mother should be an example

and not wear clothing that is too tight or revealing as well.

Expect femininity from your daughter. A father should especially be aware of his daughter’s appearance and regularly compliment her. If properly trained and encouraged, daughters will naturally desire to be beautiful. They will understand what *real* beauty is as opposed to how Hollywood and the fashion industry define it.

Boys should also be encouraged to keep themselves well-groomed and to seek out classic fashions rather than modern trends that include pants that sag past the hips or are too tight.

If you teach your children their proper roles and responsibilities early in life, you will save them—and yourself—grief later.

“Make sure to lead by example. Your sons and daughters should see you honoring your own parents and others in positions of authority.”

(6) Be Honorable

The Bible commands all children to honor their parents (Deut. 5:16) and you should teach your children to do just that. Make sure to lead by example. Your sons and daughters should see you honoring your own parents and others in positions of authority. Teach them that even though leaders make mistakes, they still deserve respect.

Be approachable. Your children should feel comfortable coming to you with questions and concerns. If and when your children confide in you—even if there is some criticism in the message—*listen!*

The phrase, “I hate you,” spoken at any age and directed at any family member, should be dealt with swiftly by parents. Such words should not be allowed in any home. Modern psychology encourages parents to tolerate outbursts of anger from their children—but God does not!

Honoring parents is *not* optional.

(7) Draw Together in Crises

Crises, which are sure to come, should bring parents and children together as one resolute unit. Notice: “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for *adversity*” (Prov. 17:17). Even if your childhood was filled with bad conduct and unpleasant experiences—determine to make your children’s experiences better. Rearing them into adulthood can be difficult at times, but it can also bring some of the greatest blessings.

Prepare your family to meet and overcome difficulties by implementing these seven points into your daily lives. Constantly TEACH them to your children!

That said, parents must recognize when it is time to begin letting go. Children do grow up to become adults and must eventually make their own decisions. Prepare your children for life, but do not meddle in their affairs after they leave the nest. You can be sure that, if your relationship with them has been good, they will want your advice often and will come to you no matter how old they are.

As society continues to fall to pieces morally, all who desire to protect and strengthen their families must maintain biblical standards. No matter the circumstances, God will always help those who seek to obey Him.

Even in an unhappy world, happy families can still be built and maintained. To learn more about how you can bring up your child “in the way he should go” according to the standards outlined in the Bible, read David C. Pack’s *Train Your Children God’s Way* at rcg.org/tuyc. This fact-filled book breaks down the complexities of 21st-century parenting and clearly outlines how to arm your child for success! □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 3

announcing of God's kingdom to the world?

The answer: nowhere!

Do not miss God's intent. It describes—in five ways—how completely all of God's people—all true Christians!—should be unified. Again, human reasoning cannot spiritualize away such plain instruction.

Let's go further. Verse 13 begins with the rhetorical question: "Is Christ divided?" When people ask rhetorical questions, no one actually responds because the answer is obvious. In Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" is left unanswered for this reason.

The Bible declares, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints" (I Cor. 14:33) followed by, "Let all things be done decently and in order" (vs. 40). This condition is impossible if God's Church is divided into many organizations, let alone thousands.

Next is the Philippian congregation: "...stand fast in one *spirit*, with one *mind* striving *together* for the faith of the gospel" (1:27) and "...be *like-minded*, having the *same love*, being of *one accord*, of *one mind*" (2:2). These passages teach that complete unity is the only condition acceptable to God!

Now the Colossians: "...being *knit together* [meaning, "compact," "unite," "force," "drive together" "gather"] in love, and...the *full assurance of understanding*..." and "...established in the faith, *as you have been taught*..." (2:2, 7). This also describes total unity—brethren "together," assured of the right "understanding" they "have been taught" by Christ's duly appointed ministers.

Protecting Unity

We might ask: *How* does Jesus preserve His Church? What if one tries to teach something other than the truth delivered from its Headquarters?

The congregation in Rome was experiencing false doctrines entering

and dividing it. Notice how they were instructed to address this problem: "Now I beseech you, brethren, *mark* [take note of] them which cause divisions and offenses *contrary to the doctrine* which *you have learned*; and avoid them. For they...by good words and fair speeches *deceive* the hearts of the simple" (Rom. 16:17-18).

Look at this: "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw yourselves from every brother that walks disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us...And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, *note* that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed" (II Thes. 3:6, 14).

These passages introduce the truth of the biblical doctrine of disfellowshipping (sometimes described as shunning or excommunicating) those who depart into false doctrines, seeking to take others with them—to divide the Church. This principle demonstrates how God views straying from the truth into manmade ideas.

Additional scriptures amplify this principle. They represent a Bible teaching that the true Church practices to maintain unity. Churches that will not obey it—and almost none do—are full of division, discord and disagreement, which inevitably leads to splits within the church or congregation.

Disfellowshipping is neither abusive nor an act of hate! It is actually a form of God's *love* administered to awaken those who have drifted into error. It also protects surrounding brethren. It certainly requires a greater level of faith—that most find too difficult—to obey God and protect the Church as He commands. Persecution can result.

Think. The identity of the true Church must be known to its members so they will know who has the authority to administer this protection—and who does not!

Peter also taught the oneness of God's Church: "But you are *a* chosen generation, *a* royal priesthood, *a* holy nation, *a* peculiar people..." (I Pet.

2:9). These four phrases are in the singular—meaning *one*, not several, of each term. If a nation is split into several nations, no one would consider it a *single* nation—it would be multiple nations, not "a" nation. The same is true of God's Church.

There is but one!

Christ Left No Doubt

People often write us asking if we can recommend an "affiliated church" or a "similar church" they can attend in their area. There is no such thing. God's Church is one organization, completely undivided. All other churches are outside that one Church.

Jesus Himself taught the need for unity: "...Every *kingdom* divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every *city* or *house* divided against itself *shall not stand* [meaning, survive]" (Matt. 12:25). This is *Christ's* own answer about whether He and His Church are divided. His instruction is fascinating since He is describing *Satan's* kingdom! Jesus taught that even *the devil* is smart enough to know his kingdom cannot survive divided!

Surely, the great God of heaven and Jesus Christ are at least as wise as Satan the devil.

Can a divided marriage continue indefinitely? Could even the most powerful company survive if its board of directors were divided? Could a winning professional sports team continue winning if the coach regularly challenged decisions from the team's corporate management? Could a school survive if decisions made by the principal were repudiated by its faculty, and groups of teachers regularly broke away to form other schools? Certainly not!

Why then do millions believe that the most important organization on Earth—the Church of God—can be divided into thousands of denominations? Why do they presume God cannot figure out what even the devil knows?

We are left to ask: how long could God's people survive in a state that a family, a company, a sports team, or a school could not endure—and are not foolish enough to think they could?

In John 15, Jesus explained an analogy picturing Himself as the “Vine” and Christians as “branches” (vs. 5). He instructed, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you, except you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches...without Me you can do nothing” (vs. 4-5).

Individual Christians *must* be connected to Christ, meaning to His one, organized, unified Body and Church, to produce fruit (Gal. 5:22-23). The true Christ is not divided—meaning there is only one Church and one true Work of God where Christ leads! Until you find *that* Church, you cannot have contact with the living Jesus Christ who heads it, and only *it*!

Jesus Built His Church

The true Church is also depicted as the Mother of its members (Gal. 4:26; Heb. 12:22-23). Like any Mother, she cares for and feeds her children. You must know—have sure knowledge!—of who holds the authority to feed you.

Additionally, the Church is pictured as a bride prophesied to marry Jesus Christ at His Return (Rev. 19:7-9). She is described as having “made herself ready” for this glorious event!

I ask: will *you* make yourself ready?

God thunders, “Wherefore come out from among them [the world], and *be you separate*...and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty” (II Cor. 6:17-18).

What Will You Do?

Men’s churches follow men’s ideas. While some do tithe, keep the Sabbath, avoid pagan holidays such as Christmas and Easter, or have other points of truth, this does not mean they are led by God. A few do teach a little truth, while always rejecting the great majority of truths in God’s Word.

The true Church is different. It is *God’s* Church and not only carries His name, but also teaches His truths—all of them. And it is the *only* place this is done. Those in this Church diligently strive to keep God’s Law, support preaching the gospel, as well as believe and practice all doctrines of God.

Our special book *Where Is the True Church? – and Its Incredible History!* available at rcg.org/thogtc addresses all parts of this series in detail, and also takes the reader into the fascinating history of God’s Church. I urge you to read it.

The Church of God has ministers available to answer any questions you might have about the truth you are learning. But they will not call on you

unless you request it. God does not pressure, persuade, beg, cajole or force anyone to obey Him. He has made all human beings free moral agents—and this includes you. The all-knowing, all-wise, loving Creator has given men the choice, and ability, to decide for themselves. He leaves it up to us to *act* on knowledge given. Thus, we never pressure people into joining us. But you may freely contact us.

God intended His people be a model of His Way—and to reflect the blessings of happiness, peace and unity in truth that He intends all peoples to ultimately enjoy. Jesus taught, “You are the *light* of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid...Let your *light* so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and *glorify your Father* which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:14, 16).

People are to see vibrant, happy, productive lives in those living God’s Way—and they do. So the Church itself—collectively—becomes a visible city on a hill. For a little while longer in this age, God is still calling residents to this city.

What will you do with the precious knowledge learned in this series? You *must* take a position. You must make a decision—to support one of the churches built by men, or the **ONLY ONE** built by Christ. □

PHILIPPINES

Continued from page 14

at rcg.org/aabibp, answers these questions and more.

(3) They do not understand the order of events. In order to understand the complete prophetic timeline, one must allow the Bible to interpret itself. It is a puzzle, with pieces found throughout its text.

Notice Isaiah 28: “For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little” (vs. 10).

Careful reading of prophetic clues that are “here a little, and there a

little”—while allowing the Bible to interpret itself—clears up many misunderstandings.

(4) They do not understand the magnitude of events. Knowing the size and scope of foretold occurrences is crucial.

(5) They do not understand the speed of events. Some happen right after another and others are spread out.

(6) They do not understand the general timing of the last days. Most are not even sure whether mankind has already entered the “last days”! You can know this by reading the booklet *Are These the Last Days?* found at rcg.org/attd.

Armed with the correct understanding of all six of these points, a proper

prophetic landscape will emerge—as will your place in it all! Terrible events such as Typhoon Haiyan and the other problems in the Philippines will take on much deeper meaning.

Instead of a worrisome, chaotic spiral of global events, a grand purpose for mankind will become clear. To understand this complete prophetic backdrop, read David C. Pack’s *The Bible’s Greatest Prophecies Unlocked! – A Voice Cries Out*, available at rcg.org/tbgpu. This essential book powerfully lays out what is coming for the world in **PLAIN** language—and cuts through the prophetic confusion.

Read it today. It will change you forever! □

HEALTH ISSUES

Report: 10 Percent of Global Population to Have Diabetes by 2035



■ **SUGAR RUSH:** Bottles of soft drinks are displayed on a shelf in New York City. In September 2012, the city passed a ban on large sodas, which have been linked to diabetes and obesity (Jan. 23, 2013).

PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

One in 10 people will have diabetes worldwide by 2035, the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) reported in the sixth edition of its *Diabetes Atlas*. The organization estimated that by the end of 2013, 382 million adults between 20 and 79 years old will have the disease—a number that will increase to 592 million in the next 22 years.

The report stated that one person dies from diabetes every six seconds. Yet 175 million cases are currently undiagnosed, which means “a vast amount of people with diabetes are

progressing towards complications unawares.”

The IDF found that the condition is not “a disease of the wealthy,” but rather “a staggering 80% of people with diabetes live in low- and middle-income countries, and the socially disadvantaged in any country are the most vulnerable...”

In addition, the organization stated, “In 2013, roughly half of all deaths due to diabetes in adults were in people under the age of 60, and in less-developed regions like sub-Saharan Africa, that proportion climbs to 75%.”

Other findings in the report include:

■ \$548 billion was spent on diabetes treatment in 2013.

■ North America spends more healthcare dollars on diabetes than any other condition.

■ In Southeast Asia, almost half of all cases are undiagnosed.

■ The Western Pacific has the largest number with diabetes in the world.

■ In the Middle East and North Africa, one in 10 has diabetes.

■ In South and Central America, there will be a 60 percent increase in diabetes cases within a generation. □

Disease Decimating Bat Colonies

The fungus causing white-nose syndrome (WNS), which is devastating bat populations across north-eastern Canada and the United States, continues to spread, according to a study from the Illinois Natural History Survey at the University of Illinois.

“After taking an in-depth look at the basic biology of a fungus that is decimating bat colonies as it spreads across the U.S., researchers report that they can find little that might stop the organism from spreading further and persisting indefinitely in bat caves,” a press release from the university stated.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the fungus wiped out at least 5.7 million to 6.7 million bats in America and Canada from 2006 to 2013. The U.S. Geological Survey’s Wildlife Health Center estimates that the bat population in the Northeast has declined by 80 percent since the emergence of WNS.

The Fish and Wildlife Service explained the effects of the syndrome: “First documented in New York in 2006, the disease has spread quickly into 16 states and four Canadian provinces. Bats with WNS exhibit unusual behavior during cold winter months, including flying outside during the day and clustering near the entrances of caves and mines where they hibernate. Bats have been found sick and dying in unprecedented numbers near [hibernation areas].”

In addition, the service reported that mortality rates “reach up to 100 percent at many sites.”

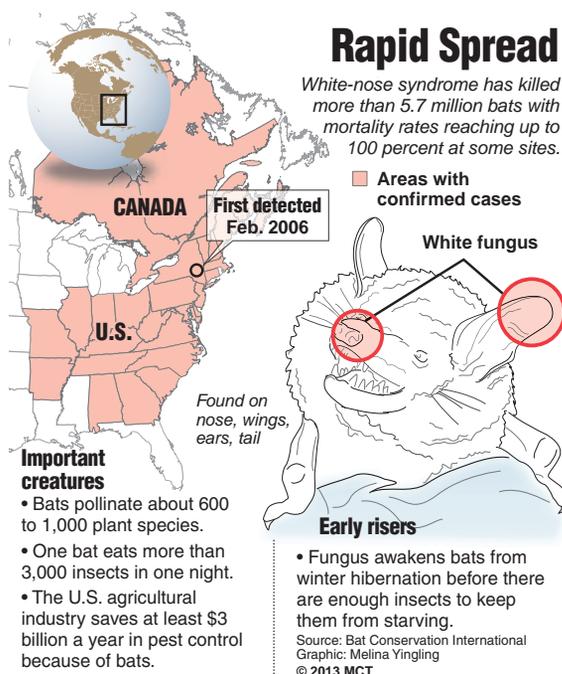
Farmers rely on the flying mammals to pollinate crops and keep insect populations in

check. According to a 2011 study by the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, the value of bats on the North American agriculture industry is estimated to be \$22.9 billion.

“All in all the news for hibernating bats in the U.S. is pretty grim,” Andrew Miller, who directed work on the Illinois Natural History Survey study, said in the University of Illinois press release.

The National Wildlife Health Center stated that even if WNS were eradicated—which is highly improbable—the bat population would take many years to normalize: “It is unlikely that species of bats affected by WNS will recover quickly because most are long-lived and have only a single pup per year.”

In contrast, Mr. Miller stated that the fungus “can live perfectly happily off the remains of most organisms that co-inhabit the caves with the bats,” which “means that whether the bats are there or not, it’s going to be in the caves for a very long time.” □



Social Media Increasingly Playing a Role in Self-harm Incidents

Teenagers are turning to a dark corner of the social media landscape for disturbing advice. Self-harm bloggers, according to researchers from the University of Oxford, are sharing pictures of cutting wounds to details of the latest suicide techniques.

Their review of 14 worldwide studies assessed whether Internet forums did more harm than good. *NPR* subsequently reported, “Social media and online groups can provide support for young people at risk of self-harm and suicide...But they can also increase the risks...exposing teenagers to cyber-bullying and endorsements of self-harm.”

The findings also linked Internet use to more violent methods of self-harm.

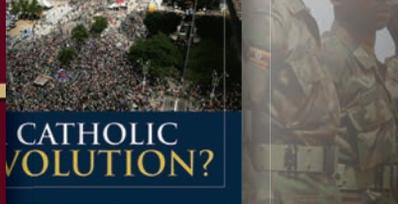
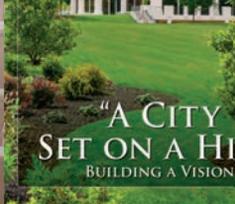
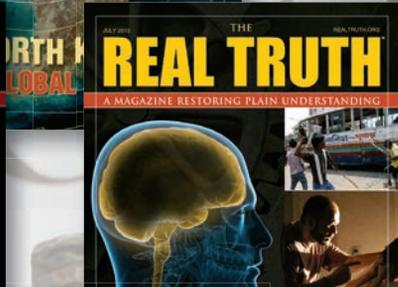
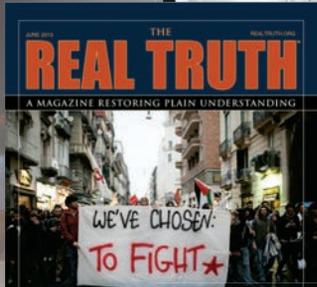
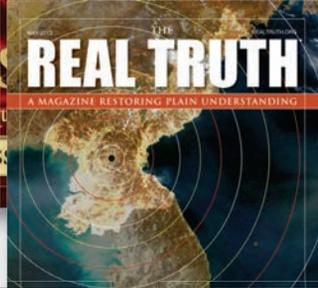
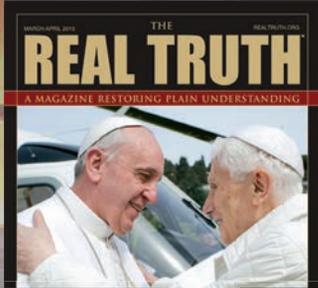
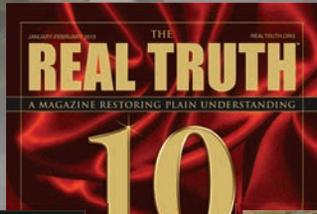
“The studies found a strong link between online forums and increased risk of suicide...In one study, 60 percent of the 429 participants said they had learned suicide techniques online. In another study, 80 percent of teenagers who had seriously injured themselves said they had gone online to research self-harm” (ibid.).

According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people between the ages of 10 and 24, which totals about 4,600 lives lost each year.

“We are talking about vulnerable young people who are going online specifically to find out more about harming themselves or because they are considering suicide already,” said Paul Montgomery, co-author of the study, in a press release. “The question is whether the online content triggers a response so that they self-harm or take their own lives and we have found that there is a link.” □

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