

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

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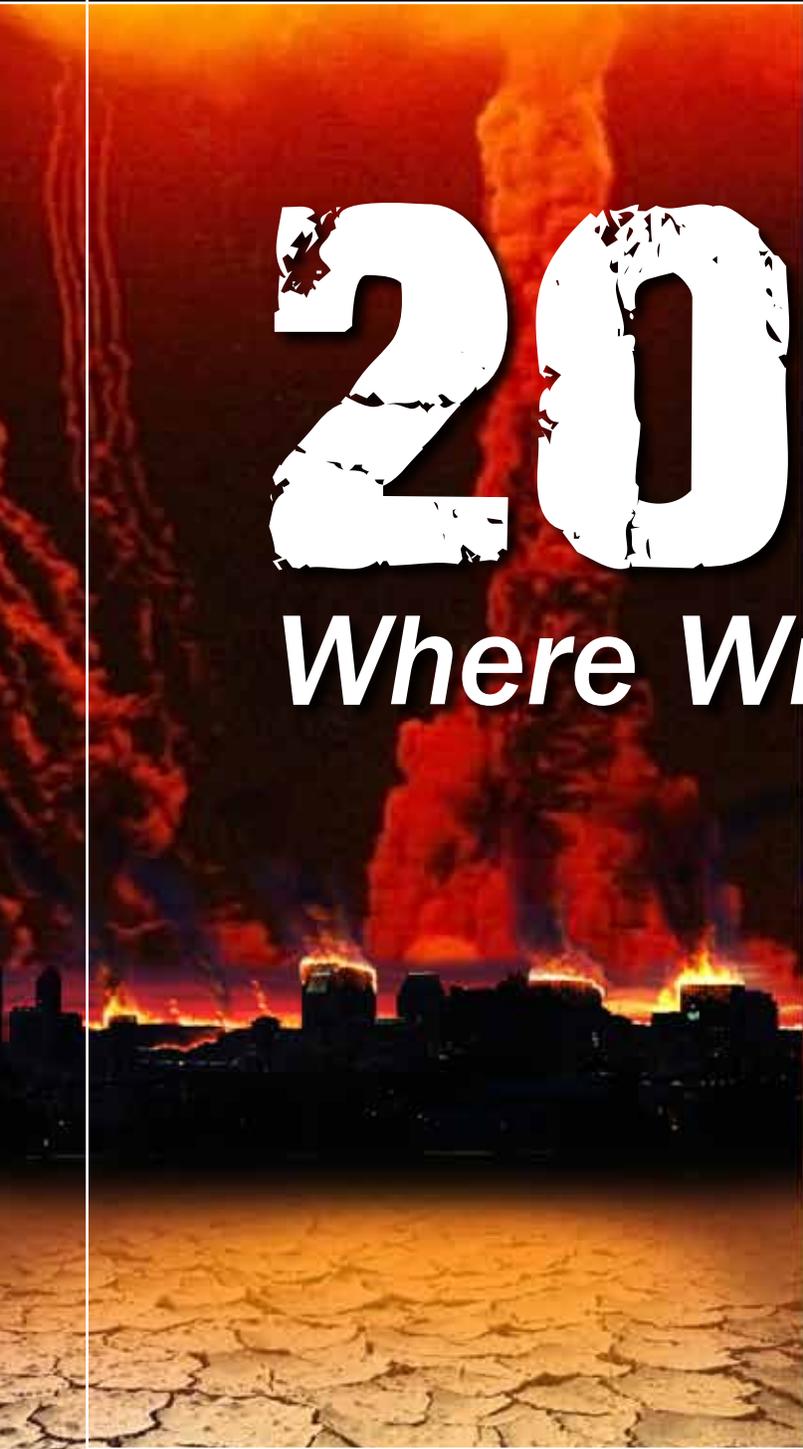
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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

2050

Where Will We Be?



THE REAL TRUTH

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■ **PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI:** Haitians crowd a ship after the devastation of a 7.0-magnitude earthquake caused severe damage, leaving many homeless, injured and hungry (Jan. 16, 2010).

PHOTO: U.S. NAVY VIA GETTY IMAGES

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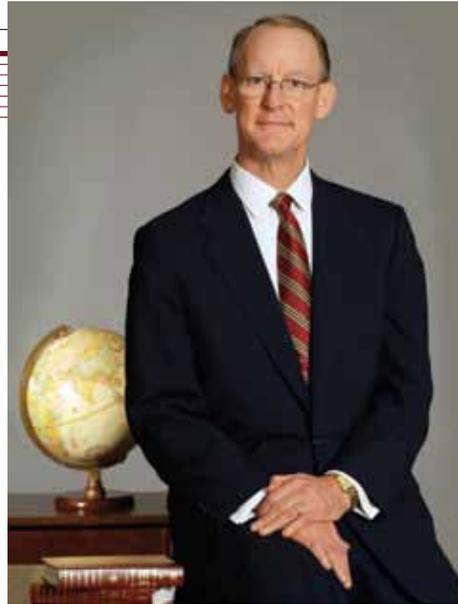
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



The New World Order – How Peace Will Come!

THE WORLD IS FILLED with war, terrorism, and threats of more war and terrorism. This has been a constant for 6,000 years. Yet all nations long for peace. Leaders negotiate for it. Millions pray for it. Of course, armies fight for it. *Everyone* wants it. Yet it remains more elusive than ever.

War is the primary means by which nations have settled disputes throughout history. It is considered a natural state of affairs, while peace has been considered a time of recuperation from the previous conflict, and when preparation is being made for the *next* war. Georges Clemenceau, the WWI French statesman, said this: “I do not know whether war is an interlude in peace, or whether peace is an interlude in war” (*Policies and Opinions at Paris, 1919*).

General Douglas MacArthur stated man’s dilemma in stark terms: “We have had our last chance. If we do not devise some greater and more equitable system Armageddon will be at our door” (*The Reports of General MacArthur*).

But the Bible says world peace will come—and soon.

The presidential historian and columnist Peggy Noonan summarized the jumbled, ugly course that has been man’s history: “In the long ribbon of history, life has been one long stained and tangled mess, full of famine, horror, war and disease. We must have thought

we had it better because man had improved. But man doesn’t really ‘improve,’ does he? Man is man. Human nature is human nature; the impulse to destroy coexists with the desire to build and create and make better” (*The Wall Street Journal*).

While men have created many amazing technological inventions, they cannot “create” peace. Scientists have unleashed the power of the atom, but are powerless to “unleash” peace upon Earth. Astronomers have discovered much about the size, majesty and precision of the universe, but they cannot “discover” the way to peace. They can find galaxies far away throughout the universe, but they cannot “find” peace here on Earth. Neither can leaders end famine, disease, poverty, overpopulation, religious confusion and hatred, as well as every other misery, evil and woe that unchecked human nature can produce.

I repeat: the Bible declares that peace, and solutions to all these troubles, *will come*—and *soon*.

Men today are planning a world government behind the scenes—a new world order. Discussions are well underway in certain corners of Europe toward this end. Various treaties are beginning to point the way. The pope is calling for what he called “a true world political authority,” and he added, “with *real teeth*.”

One World Government?

In 1966, as God began to reveal His truth to me, I had the opportunity to meet with my United States con-

gressman. I had applied to attend the United States Naval Academy. All applicants were required to have a personal interview with their congressman prior to acceptance. When the interview ended, he asked if I wished to ask any questions.

I had only one.

I was learning about a world-ruling supergovernment to be established at the Return of Jesus Christ. So I asked the congressman's opinion of one world government—if it were in the hands of men. His answer was immediate and emphatic: "I do not believe it would work, but if I did, I would shout it from the housetops."

This made a lasting impression. I never forgot what a congressman of over 30 years' experience in the world's most powerful government stated.

Since that time, many have suggested *one world government* IS the only way to world peace and stability. But many questions arise. *Who* would bring it? *How* would it be phased in? *What laws* would it administer? How would they be *enforced*? Would sovereign nations relinquish authority to it? Would it succeed, or would it eventually oppress and enslave all mankind? These questions always stop thinkers, planners, leaders and scientists in their tracks!

Therefore, world peace remains elusive as ever. Seemingly everyone yearns for it, but no one knows how to obtain it. Why?

Why cannot the experienced leaders and intelligent thinkers of our time find the way to peace? Why do people understand the only solution that could bring peace is one world government yet, at the same time, acknowledge this is utterly impossible if left in the hands of men? If men are incapable of governing their own individual lives, how could they possibly govern the entire world?

WHY Men Cannot Find Peace

Man, in his rebellion against God, likes to present his own versions of civilization in the best possible light. In this regard, Ezekiel foretold that modern false religious leaders will declare, "Peace; and there [is] no peace" (Ezek. 13:10). God shows that peace will continue to evade those who forsake His ways.

It has been said that all nations are either *preparing* for war, *at war* or *recovering* from war. It has also been noted that history has recorded over 14,500 wars. Someone took the time to carefully count them. But this was in the mid-1960s. How many more have come since? Men seem to invariably go to war in search of peace. Eventually, wars usually come to a truce, which always fails to yield permanent peace. This is because men cannot, and never will, find the way to peace *on their own*—without outside help. In reality, they have *no chance* to achieve world peace. *Why?*

As part of an extensive prophecy about world conditions in our time, the prophet Isaiah answers: "The way of peace *they know not*; and there is *no judgment* in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goes there *shall not know peace*" (Isa. 59:8). The solutions of men always lead to more wars, ruin, misery, death and destruction. The apostle Paul quoted Isaiah: "And the way of peace have they *not known*" (Rom. 3:17).

Recently, I stood at the very lectern in the United Nations General Assembly where so many presidents, prime ministers, dictators, kings and popes have called for world peace. I could not help but ask which one had ever made a difference—from 1946 in San Francisco when that institution was founded in the wake of World War II.

The governments of men—all of them—simply do not work. They have *never* succeeded in finding permanent solutions to what are, for them, *insoluble* problems. They do not have any of the answers to mankind's biggest questions. It has not been given to men to understand the path to peace—or, for that matter, the way to abundance, happiness, health and prosperity. No wonder the greatest thinkers, leaders, educators and scientists have failed miserably in their quest for peace on Earth! God has not yet *revealed* to the vast majority of mankind the solution to its unending wars and world troubles.

What Is the Gospel?

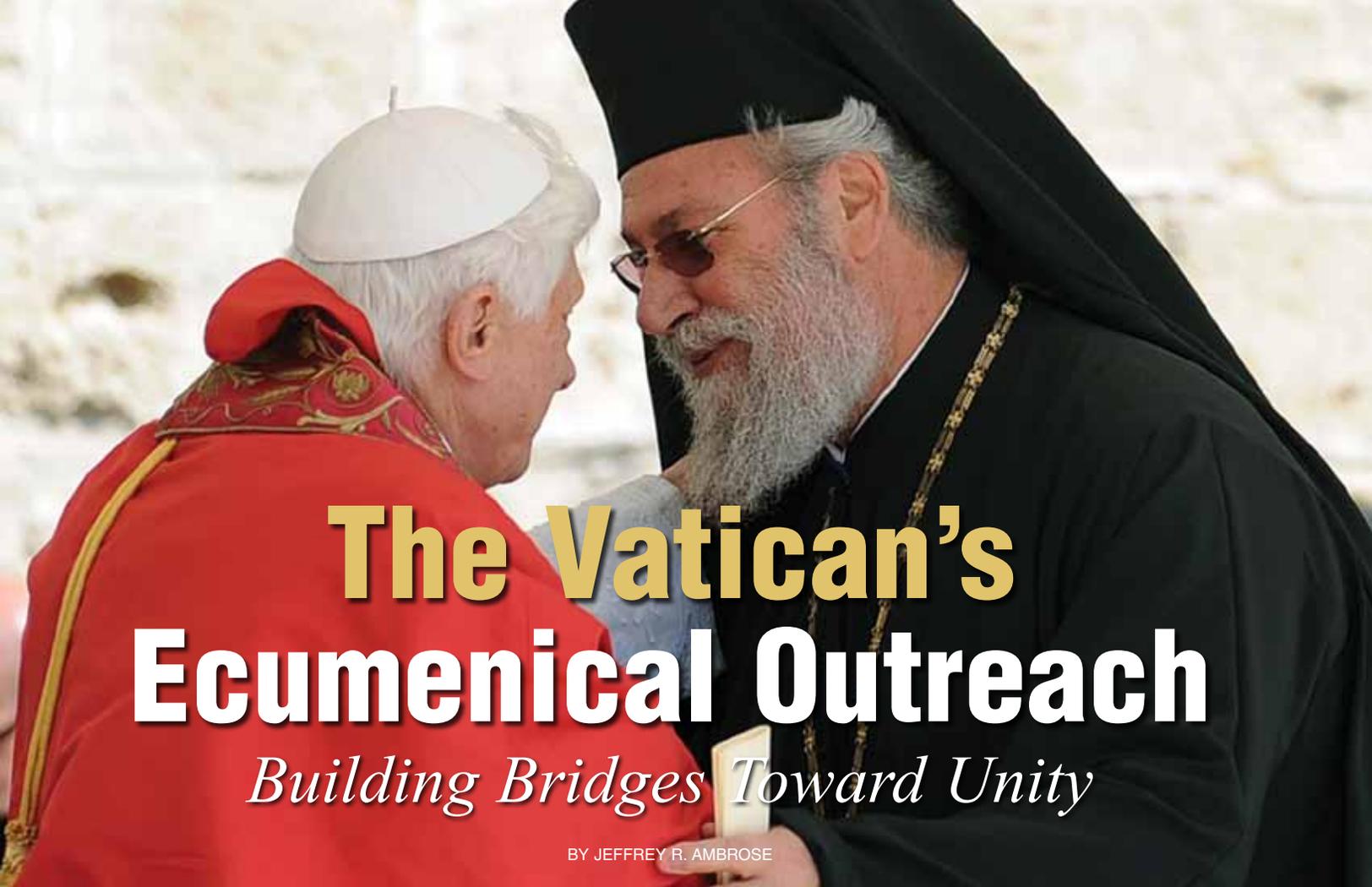
Jesus stated, "Repent you, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). But just what *is* the gospel? Most never concern themselves with the answer. The truth of the gospel has remained hidden from the vast majority of professing Christians. Since the first century, there has been a conspiracy to deceive would-be Christians about the meaning of the gospel. Shocking as it seems, this *has* happened.

Most believe the gospel is about the *Person* of Jesus Christ. Certainly, Jesus' role *is* enormous, but He is *not* the gospel. The Bible shows that Christ is preached in conjunction *with* the gospel.

Others believe gospels of "salvation" or "grace," or "miracles," or a "social gospel," or one about "healing" or "faith." These are all manmade ideas—NOT what the *Bible* says!

Mark's account says this: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the *kingdom of God*" (Mark 1:14). That is the gospel Jesus preached. It was in this context that He had said, "Repent, and *believe the gospel*." What gospel?—

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The Vatican's Ecumenical Outreach

Building Bridges Toward Unity

BY JEFFREY R. AMBROSE

WHEN CARDINAL Joseph Ratzinger was chosen to succeed Pope John Paul II, he made one priority clear. His first written message as Benedict XVI on April 20, 2005, as reported by the official Catholic news agency, *Zenit*, stated “a primary commitment” was “to work without sparing energies for the reconstitution of the full and visible unity of all the followers of Christ.”

“Full and visible unity”—in a world grown so accustomed to thousands of Christian denominations and more arising each year, this may sound naive. Most would consider this a nice platitude or pleasant ideal, but ultimately impossible to achieve. Since the Great Schism of 1054 (separating Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox adherents) and the Protestant Reformation in the 16th and 17th centuries, visible *disunity* has defined Christendom.

What did Benedict mean when he made this statement? Did he have in mind merely “spiritual” unity, evidenced by friendly visits and joint efforts—all while keeping historical separations in place—or something more?

Unity, Catholic-style

More recently, the meaning of unity from the Catholic perspective has been clarified: “In the past 30 years, the Vatican

has moved strongly to reassert the authority of a traditional, even orthodox Roman Catholicism—to bring the notion of a ‘one true church’ to Europe and then the larger world. The intent was to reverse the ‘open’ or liberalizing trend of the church represented by Vatican II...[it] has cracked down on liberation theology, affirmed traditional sexual morality, and is now quietly supporting ultradevout Catholic groups such as Opus Dei and the Legions of Christ—while curbing ecumenical outreach and describing Protestant churches as not authentic.

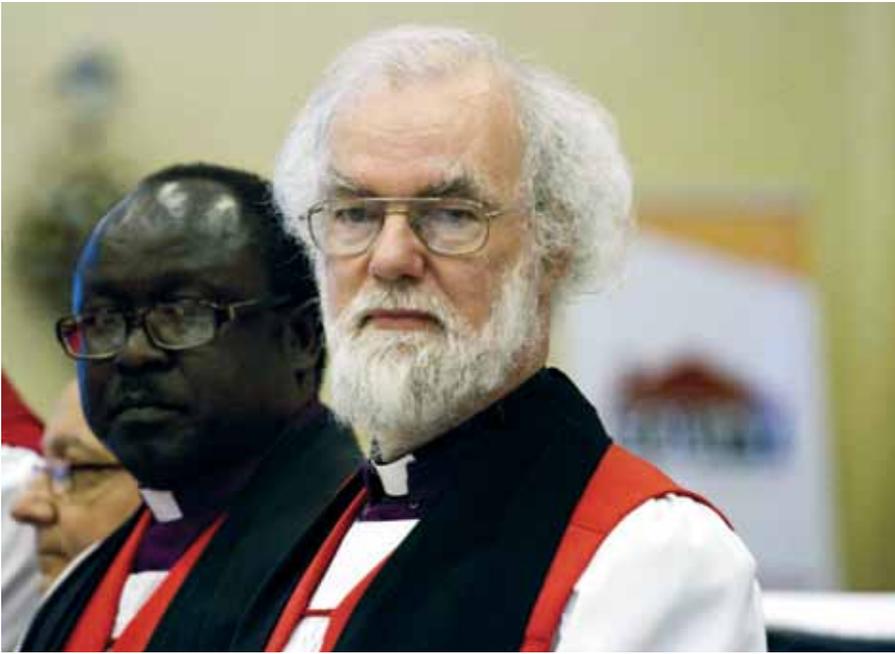
“The most constant, diligent, and serious champion of these moves is a shy but brilliant German theologian, [Joseph] Ratzinger—now Pope Benedict XVI.

“‘There is no great issue, no direction in Catholic theology, not dominated by Ratzinger over the past three decades,’ says Hermann Haring, a liberal Jesuit theologian who studied with Ratzinger and has written a book about his theology” (*ABC News*).

This pope is championing an old but revolutionary idea—“one true church.” How is this being received by the rest of the traditional Christian world? Are Protestant churches recoiling from such a seemingly radical suggestion?

■ **PAPAL VISIT:** Pope Benedict XVI (left) meets with Orthodox Archbishop of Cyprus Chrysostomos II at the church of Agia Kyriaki Chrysopolitissa in the town of Paphos during the pope’s first visit to the mainly Greek Orthodox Mediterranean island (June 4, 2010).

PHOTO: ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



■ **DISUNITY:** Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the worldwide Anglican Communion Rowan Williams (right) attends a continental conference in Entebbe, Uganda (Aug. 24, 2010). The archbishop has been criticized by some church leaders, as well as the Catholic church, for his tolerant stance on homosexuality.

PHOTO: MARC HOFER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Rome and the Lutherans

Although the Vatican's *doctrinal* ecumenism may have been curtailed since reaching its high-water mark at the Second Vatican Council (known as Vatican II), the current pope has been highly active in building bridges to other denominations, increasing dialogue and strengthening ties.

On February 10, 2010, he "invited a Lutheran delegation from the United States to treasure the accomplishments of ecumenism and work so that full unity can one day be realized.

"The Pope made this invitation while greeting Lutheran Bishop Mark Hanson and the delegation accompanying him at the general audience in Paul VI Hall.

"Since the beginning of my pontificate, I have been encouraged that relations between Catholics and Lutherans have continued to grow, especially at the level of practical collaboration in the service of the Gospel'... He expressed hopes that 'continuing Lutheran-Catholic dialogue both in the United States of America and at the international level will help to build

upon the agreements reached so far.'

"The Bishop of Rome concluded citing words from Pope John Paul II, 'during whose pontificate so much was accomplished on the road to *full visible unity* among Christians [emphasis added].'

"He said: 'You are most welcome here. Let us rejoice that an encounter such as this can take place. Let us resolve to be open to the Lord so that he can use this meeting for his purposes, to bring about the unity that he desires. Thank you for the efforts you are making for full unity in faith and charity'" (*Zenit*).

Consider that the Lutheran church is named after Martin Luther. His public criticism of the Catholic church opened the floodgates of European dissent, setting the stage for the Protestant Reformation. In light of the new friendliness between Lutheran leaders and the Vatican, some staunch Protestants are convinced that the Reformation is now being reversed.

Reaching Out to Orthodox Leadership

June 2010 saw the pope address two branches of the Orthodox church. He

received a delegation from Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I at the Vatican:

"Benedict XVI says that dialogue between Catholics and Orthodox is at a 'crucial point' and invited heartfelt prayer to the Holy Spirit for progress to continue.

"The visit reciprocates the habitual exchange of delegations for the respective patronal feasts in which the patriarch of Constantinople sends a delegation to Rome on June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, and the Pope sends a delegation to Istanbul, Turkey, on Nov. 30, the feast of St. Andrew."

"Today, the Orthodox delegation was led by Metropolitan Gennadios of Sassima (Limouris), who is the co-secretary of the International Mixed Commission for Theological Dialogue Between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. [The pope] made reference to Tuesday's feast of Sts. Peter and Paul as testifying to 'a time when our communities were living in full communion with one another.' Orthodox and Catholics celebrate the feast on the same day.

"He added that today's visit, along with the 'many meetings that have already taken place in the course of this year' show how the 'relations between us are characterized by sentiments of mutual trust, esteem and fraternity.' This, the Pontiff said, 'gives grounds for hope that Catholic-Orthodox dialogue will also continue to make significant progress'" (*Zenit*).

This topic of discussion is noteworthy, since it has been the primacy of the pope (also called the bishop of Rome) that has been the main issue of contention between Orthodox and Catholic believers.

"With all our hearts we pray that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, the members of the commission will continue along this path during the forthcoming plenary session in Vienna, and devote to it the time needed for thorough study of this delicate and important issue,' he said" (*ibid.*).

This meeting was preceded by an unprecedented visit to the island nation of Cyprus.

“Benedict is the first pope to visit Cyprus and this was his first trip to an Orthodox country, which raised eyebrows among more traditional religious men in the country and threats by some of them of a boycott [some hard-line Cypriot Orthodox clerics consider the pope a heretic].

“But his first stop after leaving the Paphos airport was the nearby ancient church of Agia Kyriaki Chrysopolitissa, where he was to take part in an ‘ecumenical celebration’ with [Orthodox Archbishop of Cyprus] Chrysostomos, who has called on people to welcome him” (*Zenit*).

Chrysostomos himself warmly welcomed the pontiff, saying in his greeting, “Your Holiness, Despite the small numbers of its flock, the Church of Cyprus holds an eminent position in Orthodoxy and enjoys fraternal relations with all the Churches. Indeed, as we enter the 21st century, which is the century of dialogue, approach and mutual understanding, we are determined to continue this course, in the belief that this is the will of the All-Merciful Lord. Once

again we express our joy and sense of honor at having you here among us today” (*ibid.*).

Anglican Church in Crisis

Catholic overtures toward the church of England, which arose from a rift between English King Henry VIII and Pope Paul III in 1534, have arrived in an entirely different context. The Anglicans have seen divisions within their ranks over the issue of ordaining women and homosexuals as priests, and now there is further opposition to females holding the position of bishop.

“At a meeting of the Synod in York last month, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York failed in a last-ditch attempt to avoid a damaging split by making more concessions to traditionalists.

“As a result, many Anglo-Catholics are now considering whether to cross over to Rome en masse, under the terms of a new Anglican Ordinariate proposed by Pope Benedict XVI. This will allow them to enter into full communion with the Vatican while retaining parts of their Anglican heri-

tage. Others may convert individually, as hundreds did when women priests were introduced.

“But the draft legislation decided upon in July must still be agreed by all 44 dioceses in England, and then voted through by a formidable two-thirds majority in each of Synod’s three ‘houses’—groups of laity, clergy and bishops—in 2012.

“The pastoral letter signed by the traditionalist bishops—including those of Chichester, Blackburn, Burnley and Whitby as well as [other] bishops—has been sent to 1,000 clergy in the Forward in Faith group who signed an earlier open letter warning of a mass exodus over the move to allow women prelates.

“It says these are ‘grave times’ in the Church and, although plans for a compromise have been rejected, they detect a ‘measure of disquiet in the majority about proceeding without a provision acceptable to traditionalists.’

“The bishops say some ‘trailblazers’ have already resolved to join the Ordinariate and that many more will need to ‘consider seriously’ crossing the Tiber [a term describing those who leave Anglicanism to become Catholic] if the current plan to introduce women bishops goes ahead, with the first female expected to don a mitre in 2014 at the earliest” (*The Telegraph*).

This is a remarkable development—an unprecedented arrangement in modern times for such large organizations. It in effect creates a “church within a church,” a situation that is ultimately unsustainable. These “Anglo-Catholics” cannot remain both Anglican (acknowledging the English monarch as head of the church) and Catholic (submitting to the pope). They will eventually have to choose.

Beyond Christianity

While Benedict has now engaged some of the largest Protestant and Orthodox denominations, relations with other major religions have been strained.

He drew an angry reaction from Muslims in 2006 when, speaking at his alma mater, the University of



■ **ORDINATION CEREMONY:** A 35-year-old married teacher from Milan at a mass for her ordination as Italy’s first woman priest, in the All Saints Anglican Church near Rome’s famous Spanish Steps (May 22, 2010). The Catholic church remains implacably opposed to the idea of women priests, and Pope Benedict has emphatically ruled out the possibility.

PHOTO: VINCENZO PINTO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



■ **PRIVATE AUDIENCE:** Pope Benedict meets with the general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation at the Vatican (June 26, 2010).

PHOTO: OSSERVATORE ROMANO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Regensburg, he quoted an old text that described Islam as irrational and violent. He has made efforts to atone for this in the years since: “Vatican spokesman... Federico Lombardi was asked afterwards whether the Pope’s view on Islam has changed since Regensburg. ‘It’s a journey, there’s progress,’ he said. ‘We have to learn from what the Muslims tell us about Islam’” (*Time*).

During his visit to Cyprus, the pope said that “the murder of the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Turkey earlier this week should not cloud dialogue with Islam” (*Agence France-Presse*). The slaying, perpetrated by a man with a history of mental illness, is not believed to have been motivated by religion. But it has not helped Muslim-Christian relations in predominantly Islamic Turkey.

Jewish leaders have also found reason to be upset with the Vatican, as the process of naming wartime Pope Pius XII a saint proceeds, pushed along by Pope Benedict himself. Many in the Jewish community contend that Pius did not put forth sufficient effort to help

European Jews trapped under the Nazi jackboot in Europe during World War II. The Vatican’s spokesman commented that the move toward his sainthood “is in no way to be read as a hostile act towards the Jewish people, and it is to be hoped that it will not be considered as an obstacle on the path of dialogue between Judaism and the Catholic Church” (*The New York Times*).

Mideast Focal Point

The pontiff’s interest in all of Christianity, as well as Islam and Judaism, has naturally led him to focus on the region in which these three belief systems meet—the Middle East.

After he received the Orthodox delegation, the pope “went on to speak of the importance of the theme of unity for the synod on the Middle East, which will be held in Rome in October.

“The difficulties that the Christians of the Middle East are experiencing are in large measure common to all: living as a minority, and yearning for authentic religious freedom and for peace,” he said” (*Zenit*).

On the way to Cyprus, Benedict spoke of overcoming differences between peoples—his visit followed the Gaza flotilla incident in June—and divides between religions as well.

“Referring to the latest troubles in the Middle East, the pope told reporters aboard his flight: ‘In all of these episodes we have been living through, there has always been the danger that people lose patience and say: ‘I no longer want to seek peace.’

“In the face of each instance of violence, you must not lose patience or courage... You always have to begin again afresh in the certainty that you can go forward and achieve peace.’

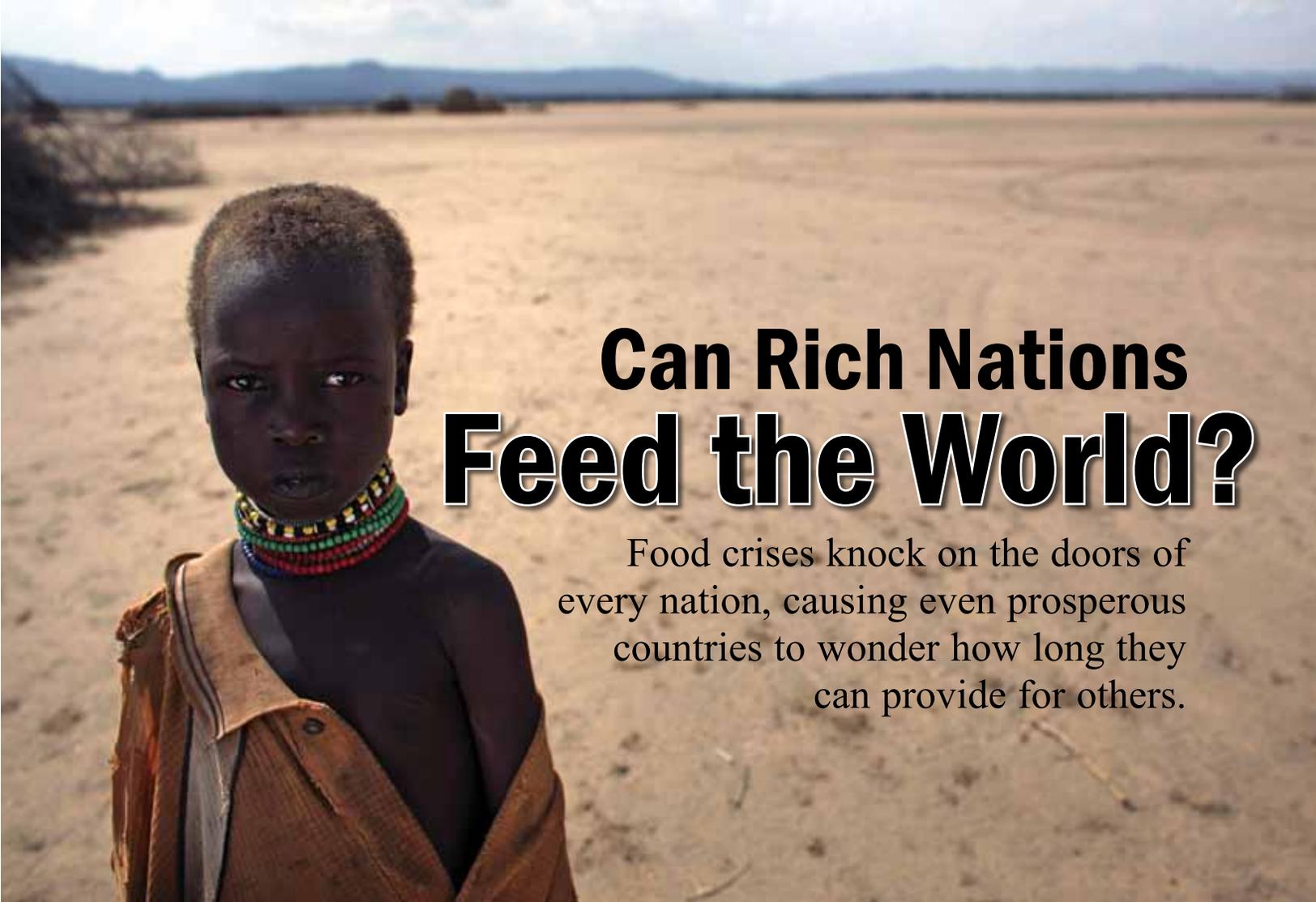
“Unveiling the pope’s program, Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said ‘peace will be the key of this trip,’ emphasizing unity among Christian churches and ecumenism” (*ibid.*).

Real Unity!

When the pope speaks of unity, he means *unification*. Beyond dialogue, cheerful greetings and warm sentiments, Rome will move to heal centuries-old rifts, and bring many Orthodox and Protestant followers back into the Catholic fold.

Difficult? Yes, but not impossible. The process will involve a number of pressures and developments converging: the prospect of Europe becoming a majority-Muslim continent; the global economic crisis, prompting the rise of a new stabilizing force to replace the United States; and striking, miraculous displays of power that will convince many that God is only working in this universal church.

Keep watching as historical divisions dissolve, bringing to pass Pope Benedict’s intent of “full and visible unity.” □



Can Rich Nations Feed the World?

Food crises knock on the doors of every nation, causing even prosperous countries to wonder how long they can provide for others.

BY JUSTIN T. PALM

AN AFRICAN CHILD in a dusty rural village wakes up hungry. Malnourished, thirsty, tired and sickly, he reaches out to his parents, hoping they will be able to give him sustenance. With faraway looks in their eyes, they shake their heads, clutching their own stomachs as he pulls his hand back—empty. They are unable to provide for him. After extreme drought destroyed their crops, his family must now rely on government aid that is often insufficient—if it comes at all.

This is life for 1 billion people worldwide who suffer from chronic hunger, with most in developing nations forced to swallow their pride and request aid—often struggling in situations over which they have no control.

Sadly, their governments, cash-strapped and lacking adequate food supplies, have little to offer. Even they must turn to a different source—aid groups funded by wealthier, industrialized nations.

In the past, when poorer countries struggled to feed their peoples, other nations stepped in and provided assistance. But with wildfires, insect infestations, plant diseases,

floods, droughts and other nature-related disasters wreaking havoc on essential food-output regions worldwide, some of the most fertile and historically productive agricultural areas are facing devastation—one disaster at a time.

Wildfires in Russia, locusts in Australia, floods in the Midwestern United States and record freezing temperatures in the nation's southern citrus-producing regions are quickly bringing higher-income nations to a point where they are no longer able to provide for nations experiencing food shortages. Add to these problems the prospect of the world's population growing by another 3 billion in the next four decades. Clearly they are at an impasse in their ability to help others.

According to the U.S. State Department, "Global food supplies must increase by an estimated 50 percent to meet expected demand in the next 20 years."

Wealthier nations taking care of less developed ones has long been one of mankind's best—and often only—methods of fighting world hunger. The question must be asked: can the world's richest nations, some of which are unable to end

■ **LODWAR, KENYA:** A child from the Turkana area of Kanukurdio waits to meet relief workers to find out when the next aid delivery will arrive (Nov. 9, 2009). Over 23 million people across East Africa face a critical shortage of water and food.

PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

hunger for their own citizens, realistically continue to support billions of others?

Aiding Developing Nations

Hunger is one of the worst crises facing humanity today, yet it is one of the least publicized.

In an effort to develop effective solutions to combat the situation, 400 of the world's top scientists created the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), which produced a controversial 2008 report addressing how to solve man's food-security problems.

Having studied global agriculture for years, the experts involved in the project concluded that the real crisis—how mankind will feed itself in the future—has been pushed aside in favor of other pressing issues, such as extreme weather, disease, war and terrorism, creating a now impossible-to-contain situation.

“The way the world grows its food will have to change radically to better serve the poor and hungry if the world is to cope with a growing population and climate change while avoiding social breakdown and environmental collapse,” the report stated.

The study warned the world has little time to act, and that without implementing drastic changes now, the future of the next generation is at stake.

An IAASTD statement said the authors of the report “conclude we have little time to lose if we are to change course. Continuing with current trends would exhaust our resources and put our children's future in jeopardy.”

The statement quoted Professor Judi Wakhungu, who said, “We must cooperate now, because no single institution, no single nation, no single region, can tackle this issue alone. The time is now.”

Just one year after the study's publication, world leaders again discussed the issue of food security during the G8 summit in Italy. During the meeting, a three-year initiative to develop poorer nations was agreed upon. It involved a commitment by the world's wealthiest

nations to provide \$20 billion in aid to those who are impoverished.

Initially, the United Nations issued a Millennium Declaration in 2000 to cut in half the number of people across the globe facing poverty and undernourishment by 2015. But at the G8 summit, leaders concluded in the final declaration that “the world is very far from reaching this goal according to the alarming data provided by the relevant international bodies.”

With such little progress, where does this leave less self-sufficient nations?

Problems at Hand

Leaders of higher-income nations recognize that financially assisting poorer countries allows them to develop themselves.

“We do not view this assistance as an end in itself,” U.S. President Barack Obama said in a *BBC* article. “We believe that the purpose of aid must be to create the conditions where it's no longer needed, to help people become self-sufficient, provide for their families and lift their standards of living.”

While developing nations are often told that in order to move out of poverty they must learn to provide for themselves, it is a concept that has yet to breed success. For example, in many poorer nations, desert or mountainous land does not support increased farming.

Another problem affecting food production is the dwindling availability of fresh water. “Current estimates indicate that we will not have enough water to sustain ourselves in 25 years time...when the current food crisis may turn into a perpetual crisis,” *ScienceDaily* reported.

On top of increased world population, arable land is continually pushed beyond its natural production capacity. Once crops stop growing, land is often sprayed with a chemical concoction that forces even more productivity. After it has been completely devastated, the vast acreage is then sold for a profit and plowed, paved and built upon. As cities spring up and more farmland disappears worldwide, so

does mankind's ability to feed large numbers of people.

With food becoming harder to find, wars over resources will become commonplace, as seen in the Darfur and Rwanda conflicts. And as nations compete for disappearing resources, environmental refugees will then be forced to flee to neighboring countries.

Bleak Picture?

Financial cutbacks have forced most Western nations to focus inward—and dramatically decrease their level of aid to other countries.

“In recent years, only about 4% of foreign assistance from the world's rich nations has been given to poor nations for agricultural development—such as installing irrigation systems and training farmers—compared with 18% in the late 1970s,” *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

Additionally, the *Guardian* reported that millions could starve as a result of food aid cuts.

“The US, by far the world's biggest contributor to food aid, has so far pledged \$800m less than in 2008; Saudi Arabia has paid only \$10m in 2009 compared with \$500m in 2008; and the EU has given \$130m less. Britain's promise of \$69m (£43.5m) this year is nearly \$100m (£63m) less than 2008, and, if nothing more is given, will be its lowest contribution since 2001.”

“Even under our best scenarios, we will end the year \$2bn short,” World Food Programme Director Josette Sheeran said. “Many of our funders do not feel that they need to give on the level of last year. They think the world food crisis is over, but in 80% of countries food prices are actually higher than one year ago” (ibid.).

Even if some Western nations bounce back and provide increased funds for poorer nations, how long would this last before another inevitable economic downturn?

An example of the fragility of richer nations' food production is the drought affecting Russia, which the country's Grain Union considers the worst since record-keeping began 130 years ago.

Extremely dry conditions combined with wildfires have severely affected the country's crops, causing world wheat prices to rise to levels not seen since 1973. One senior trader told the *Financial Times*, "There is full blown panic in the European grain market."

The crisis in Russia has led Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to impose a ban on exports. In a cabinet meeting, Mr. Putin stated, "I think it would be expedient to introduce a temporary ban on export grains and other agricultural goods. We cannot allow an increase in domestic prices..." (ibid.). The ban, implemented August 15, will last until December 31.

When wealthier countries struggle to provide for their own populations, how can they be expected to support others?

In an editorial first published in *The Australian*, author Julian Cribb summarized the crisis:

"Resolving this issue is the scientific challenge of the Age...It requires nothing less than the reshaping of the way humanity produces food, feeds itself and manages the Earth's natural resources—a system mired in 7000 years of cultural tradition and contemporary economic and political power. According to IAASTD, farmers will not simply have to feed the world—a task requiring a doubling in the already immense global food supply—but also to restore its forests, cleanse its waters, protect its wild species, [and] improve its soils..."

In short, solving the food crisis involves an entire rewrite of society as we know it.

Overlooked Source

Scholars, scientists and experts—with the most knowledge man has ever accumulated—continue to seek solutions. So too do Christian groups, who sponsor regular missionary programs to nations unable to support themselves.

Christians are expected to help those in immediate need when the situation arises, as shown by the parable of the good Samaritan: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho,

and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead... But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him" (Luke 10:30, 33).

Yet the traditional Christian world misunderstands this parable and misses a huge element of what Jesus repeatedly instructed to give to the poor.

Notice what He says in Luke 4:18: "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." He said the same thing in Matthew 11:5 and Luke 7:22.

Christ said to give the *gospel* to the poor. What *gospel*? The only one He preached—"the kingdom of God" (Mark 1:15).

Jesus foretold that this kingdom—a world-ruling SUPERGOVERNMENT—will be established at His coming. This prosperous government will be able to provide the means for the entire world to be taken care of and fed.

The prophet Isaiah recorded how God will begin to solve the problems of global hunger: "...and the government shall be upon His [Jesus Christ's] shoulder...Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end...to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever" (Isa. 9:6-7).

God's kingdom is also foretold in the book of Daniel: "And there was given Him [Christ] dominion, and glory, and a *kingdom*, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His *dominion* is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:14). To learn more about God's kingdom, read our booklet *What Is the Kingdom of God?*

In the near future, this government will be able to solve man's problems with food production and management. Mankind will then be taught the proper way to care for the land.

How? Passages throughout the Bible, overlooked by almost all, reveal a loving God's Plan for His Creation.

■ Land will become usable after Earth's topography is reformed: "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain..." (Isa. 40:4). This reshaping of the planet will make possible a much larger world population.

■ Abundant water sources will spring forth, meeting mankind's needs: "...for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water..." (Isa. 35:6-7).

■ All nations—rich and poor—will be taught proper farming methods: "Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; but in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: you shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard" (Lev. 25:3-4). When the land is permitted to rest and recharge, populations will enjoy incredibly abundant harvests.

This will forever put an end to famine and hunger: "...I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that you shall receive no more reproach of famine...And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden" (Ezek. 36:29-30, 34-35).

Incredibly, even in the face of mounting problems confronting man, God reveals that the ideals of the UN and the world will eventually be realized. ALL nations will be provided for! At that time, everyone will receive constant aid from a government that *always* meets its commitments and teaches its citizens how to provide food for themselves.

No longer will a hungry child's hand remain empty! □



Border Violence Fuels U.S. Unrest

AS THE MEXICAN drug war intensifies south of the Rio Grande, so does the political debate over the effects on the United States side of the border.

The U.S. government remains divided on the issue, with some saying the drug wars have not affected crime levels significantly, while others argue that they are threatening to turn America into a war zone.

“...as gunmen and Mexican authorities exchanged gunfire in Juarez, police in El Paso shut down several miles of border highway,” *The Associated Press* reported. “Border

Patrol spokesman Doug Mosier said his agency asked for the closure—a first since the drug war erupted—‘in the interest of public safety.’

“No one was injured on the U.S. side, but one bullet came across the Rio Grande, crashed through a window and lodged in an office door frame at the University of Texas at El Paso. Police are also investigating reports that another errant round shattered a window in a passing car. Witnesses at a nearby charity said at least one bullet hit their building, too.”

Bullets from guns in Juarez can travel the several hundred yards across the Rio Grande, landing up to a mile from where they were fired.

The continued threats to Mexico’s livelihood, security and infrastructure have caused many citizens to flee to America in search of work and a better life. Currently about 11 million illegal immigrants live in the U.S., making up slightly more than 4 percent of the entire adult population.

The immigration issue has bitterly split the country, prompting protests nationwide, with some even calling for boycotts of states that treat illegal immigrants as criminals.

One law that has divided the country is the Arizona anti-immigration law. The legislation, which continues to be enforced by Arizona authorities, allows police officers to require proof

Mexican Drug War Reaches New Levels

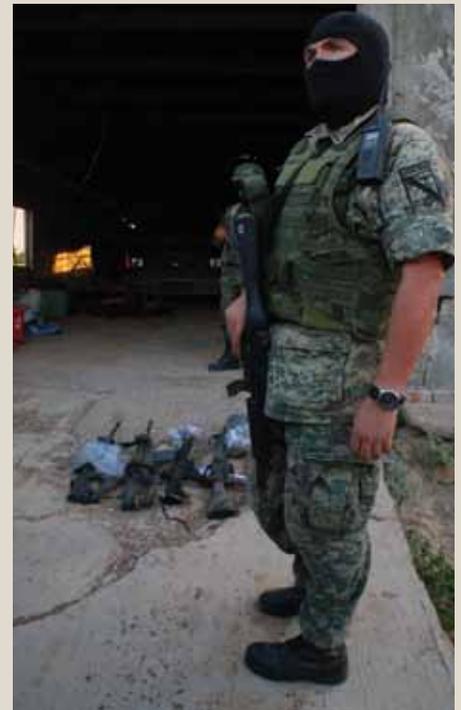
THE FIGHT to contain escalating drug-related violence in Mexican border cities is becoming fiercer, with the discovery of 72 corpses—the largest body-dumping ground found since President Felipe Calderon declared war on the cartels in 2006.

“Four years ago the battle was against organised crime, but now it has taken on the form of something approaching a civil war,” the *Guardian* reported. “Areas that were once relatively stable have been dragged into the conflict.”

To increase and protect their territories, many of which are situated along the United States border and function as bases of operation for drug exportation, cartels are employing ever-more brutal tactics, including remote-detonated car bombs similar to those used by Islamic terrorists.

In one incident, the armed wing of the Juarez cartel, La Linea, killed four people and injured 20 using a cell-phone-triggered car bomb. The device contained 20 pounds of explosives and three-inch drywall nails to inflict maximum damage. A law-enforcement officer, a doctor and a bystander were among the dead.

Cartels have violently fought to maintain their stake in the \$38 billion



■ **DRUG WAR:** Soldiers stand next to weapons seized at a warehouse following a clash in the town of General Trevino, Nuevo Leon State, bordering the U.S. (Sept. 2, 2010).

PHOTO: DARIO LEON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



■ **PROTESTS IN CALIFORNIA:** Immigration-rights activists stage a rally calling for the U.S. government to act on immigration legislation, outside the venue of President Barack Obama's Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee fundraiser in Los Angeles (Aug. 16, 2010).

PHOTO: MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

of residency if someone is legally detained.

“Hundreds of marchers protesting Arizona’s hard-line stance against illegal immigration took to the streets [July 30] even as the local sheriff launched raids to arrest illegal migrants—vivid signs that the court ruling stopping most of a controversial state law will

not quell the furious debate over immigration here...The protesters began marching well before dawn, fanning out across the city, staging acts of civil disobedience and arguing that Arizona remains inhospitable to immigrants. Dozens of protesters were arrested.”

Those who argue against the law say it permits racial profiling and

harassment of individuals based only on the suspicion that they may be in the country illegally, while supporters say it cuts down on cross-border violence. Cities in states on the border, such as Phoenix, rate among the top 10 most violent in America.

It has become so dangerous that the Bureau of Land Management sent the Arizona government signs to post near the border, warning those traveling through the area that it is a place of frequent human smuggling and drug trafficking.

“Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu, whose county lies at the center of major drug and alien smuggling routes to Phoenix and cities east and west, attests to the violence,” *The Washington Times* reported. “He said his deputies are outmanned and outgunned by drug traffickers in the rough-hewn desert stretches of his own county.

“‘Mexican drug cartels literally do control parts of Arizona,’ he said.

Please see UNREST, page 25



■ **DRUG WAR INJURIES:** A man is carried onto an ambulance after a blast in Reynosa, Tamaulipas State (Aug. 28, 2010).

PHOTO: RAUL LLAMAS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

drug industry. Estimates show that up to 90 percent of all cocaine consumed in the U.S. is supplied by six main cartels.

So far, more than 28,000 people have died, according to 2010 estimates from Mexican National Intelligence Chief Guillermo Valdes. Just this year,

more than 7,000 have been killed. Many of the victims were law enforcement officials whose bodies were left openly in the streets to send a clear message to those in opposition to the cartels.

Residents in and near Mexico’s border towns live in fear of the constant violence, often locking themselves in the safety of their homes at night.

Such is the case in Monterrey, Mexico.

“The consequences of violence drag on into everyday life,” *The Wall Street Journal* reported. “Locals say they host parties in the afternoon now, so guests can avoid driving at night. Many Monterrey residents say they won’t travel to South Padre Island, a popular resort on the coast of Texas, for fear of passing through Reynosa, a city where hundreds of murders have occurred this year. This summer, Monterrey’s high-end Palacio de

Please see DRUG WAR, page 25

WHERE WILL V

Scenario I

A World in Ruins

Problems of every kind plague society, prompting the question: what is in store for the world in 2050? This series presents a picture of the future in light of today's trends.

BY KEVIN D. DENECE

WHAT DOES THE future hold? What will the world look like in decades to come? What will life be like for our children—and *their* children?

These are perhaps some of the biggest questions that confront humanity. Almost everyone at some point in life contemplates them.

Hollywood has its own predictions. Futurologists paint fanciful pictures, with flying cars and robots to assist every human need. Doomsayers see the world being destroyed. Even some of the most renowned minds in the scientific community now urge people to *abandon* Earth before it is destroyed by nuclear war or by natural disaster. Others see global warming as a contributing factor to man's supposed destruction.

What picture do current facts and trends paint for the future?

What People Think

In April 2010, the Pew Research Center and *Smithsonian* magazine polled a group of Americans for their perspective on what the world will be like in 2050.

A majority of people polled believe that advanced scientific development is certain. Eighty-one percent feel computers will probably be able to converse like humans. Concerning cancer, 71 percent think man will find a

cure. Sixty-six percent believe artificial limbs will most likely outperform real ones. A majority also believe that space travel will be commonplace for the average person in 40 years.

In addition, most believe that an extinct animal will be brought back to life and mankind will find evidence of life somewhere else in the universe. Forty-eight percent think that a human will be cloned in the decades ahead. Forty percent even believe the technology to read people's thoughts will exist by 2050!

As to the areas of energy and environment, a large majority believe that our energy will not come from coal, oil and gas in four decades. A similar number—72 percent—believe the world will face a major energy crisis. Sixty-six percent feel the earth will be warmer mid-way through this century.

Regarding war, most of those polled feel that the world will descend into another world war by 2050. A majority also believe America will be attacked with a nuclear weapon.

In summary, people foresee technology advancing, while at the same time they acknowledge that real threats of energy crises—and even world wars—loom on the horizon.

Of those polled, 64 percent are still optimistic about the future, but this number has dropped from 81 percent

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The REAL TRUTH

PHOTO: MAKSYM FILIPCHUK | DREAMSTIME.COM

WE BE IN 2050?

Scenario II

Beauty and Harmony

Although every kind of evil affects mankind, the hope offered to humanity is stunning beyond belief. This is part two of a series that looks ahead four decades.

BY WILLIAM H. BEHRER

THE ALARM CLOCK rings as John listens to birds singing through his open ground-floor window. *What a wonderful way to live*, he thinks. While preparing for work, he recalls the multiple locks on every door of his parents' home, and smiles as he realizes the only ones his grandson will ever see are on display in a museum.

When John was a boy, his city was rife with crime and civil unrest. Homes were virtual fortresses against roving bands of criminals, and police were needed everywhere. Children were often kidnapped or raped. It seemed that no matter where one looked, the earth was corrupt and filled with violence.

Now all that has changed.

In his early 60s, John finally sees hope for humanity—and enjoys living peacefully side-by-side with his neighbors. He works as a building supervisor on new energy-efficient housing complexes in the center of what used to be the capital of a prominent, war-torn Middle East nation. The project is part of a major reconstruction initiative following widespread destruction caused by an earth-shattering battle, now only a distant memory. In fact,

much of the equipment he uses on the job has been fashioned from the very weapons that once caused widespread terror.

Rather than hot, barren mountains and desolate desert, the area where John lives is now a fertile valley, yielding lush agricultural products. His beautiful, newly constructed village is filled with citizens who, like him, recently returned to the area after it was restored to a more arable state. The fields around his dwelling, once littered by radioactive debris resulting from nuclear war, are now covered with trees and fields of flowers. Each home also has land around it and gardens where people can comfortably sit in the shade of their own trees and enjoy the natural surroundings.

Unlike the broken down, scattered parks and recreation areas of his childhood, playgrounds are commonplace. Each is full of laughing boys and girls, enjoying activities—free of teasing or bullying. Even wild animals, which once violently competed with humans over dwindling food resources, now have plenty of space to roam and pose no threat.

Absent from his village—and villages everywhere—are hospitals, nursing homes, emergency care facilities and prisons. As everyone has access to clean water and healthful

Please see **SCENARIO II**, page 17

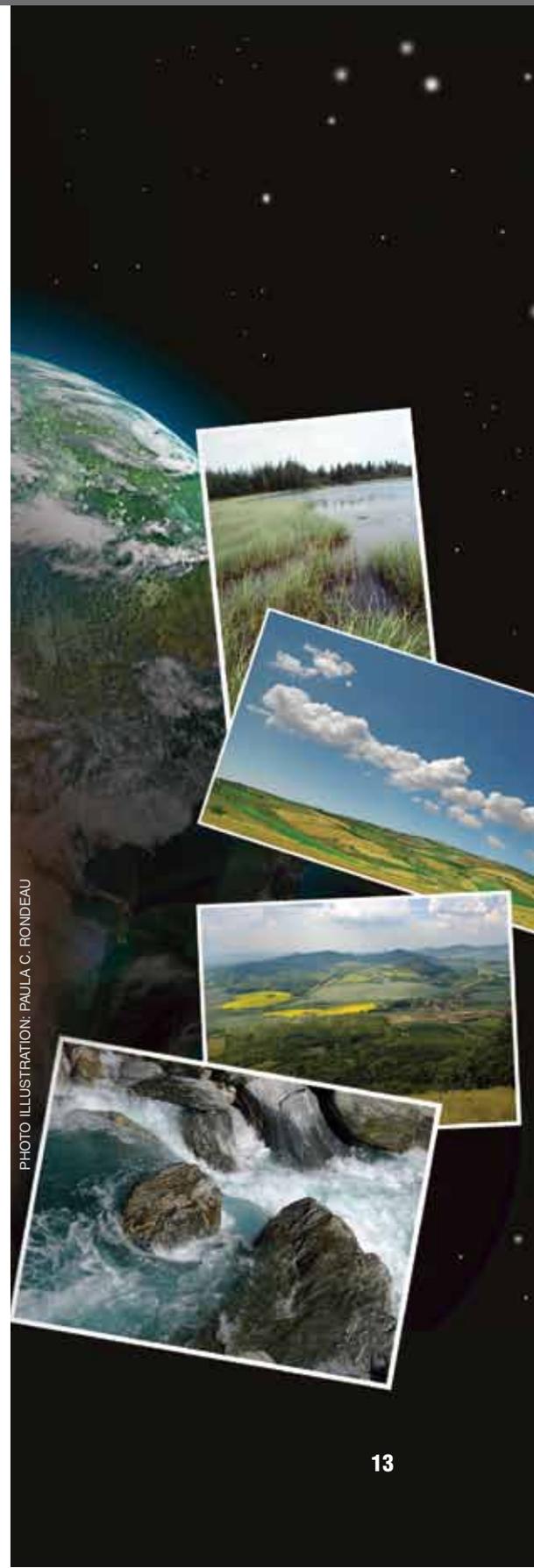


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: PAULA C. RONDEAU

SCENARIO I

Continued from page 12

in a similar poll conducted in 1999. Meanwhile, the number of people who believe the coming decades will be bleak has doubled. Attitudes about the future of the United States and its economy are also becoming more pessimistic.

Finally, 41 percent polled believe Jesus Christ will return within the next 40 years, but even more—46 percent—feel this will not occur.

Starting with the assumption that Jesus Christ will *not* return by 2050, the questions must be asked: *Where will we be by 2050?* What do authorities, planners, scientists, educators and global think-tanks foresee? What do today's trends reveal for the world tomorrow?

While space does not permit a detailed look at every facet of society, let's paint a picture—a figurative snapshot of Earth, dated AD 2050.

Population

To understand where the world is headed, we must examine how many human beings are on Earth today—and how many will be in 2050.

But to fully appreciate these trends, some basic history is required. First consider that 210 years ago, in 1800, the world population was under 1 billion people. By 1900, the population had grown to 1.65 billion. Fifty years later, the population was over 2.5 billion.

We are currently growing at a rate of 1 billion people every 12 years! And by 2050, the United Nations estimates that the number of human beings on Earth will be over 9.1 billion. In just 100 years, the number of people will have more than tripled! In other words, for every human being that existed just after the Second World War, there will be three—only 40 years from now!

In 1950, there were on average 19 people per square mile. (Realize that much of Earth is uninhabitable, so in actuality this number is far greater.) By 2050, the number of people per square mile will increase to 67.

But many areas of the Western world are not projected to grow nearly as fast as others. For example, Africa was 227 million in 1950, yet it is projected to be almost 2 billion by 2050! For every human being in Africa in 1950, there will be nine in 2050!

This alone provides a glimpse of the challenges mankind will face in the decades ahead.

Changing Demographics

As immigration continues in an increasingly global-village society, the demographics of nations will continue to change, some dramatically. *The Associated Press* reported, "Minorities make up nearly half the children born in the U.S., part of a historic trend in which minorities are expected to become the U.S. majority over the next 40 years.

"Census projections suggest America may become a minority-majority country by the middle of the century. For America's children, the future is now," said Kenneth Johnson, a sociology professor at the University of New Hampshire..."

Similarly, Europe faces significant demographic changes in the next four decades. *The Telegraph* reported in an article titled "Muslim Europe: the demographic time bomb transforming our continent": "Britain and the rest of the European Union are ignoring a demographic time bomb: a recent rush into the EU by migrants, including millions of Muslims, will change the continent beyond recognition over the next two decades, and almost no policy-makers are talking about it.

"The numbers are startling. Only 3.2 per cent of Spain's population was foreign-born in 1998. In 2007 it was 13.4 per cent. Europe's Muslim population has more than doubled in the past 30 years and will have doubled again by 2015. In Brussels, the top seven baby boys' names recently were Mohamed, Adam, Rayan, Ayoub, Mehdi, Amine and Hamza."

Such change is already impacting politics, with right-wing politicians receiving more and more votes. For example, in the Netherlands, Geert

Wilders and his Party for Freedom did well in the 2010 national elections. The party came in third, and increased their seats from nine to 24 (of a total of 150 seats in the Dutch Parliament). Mr. Wilders is known worldwide for his anti-Islamic views, including having compared the Koran to Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.

What instability will such dramatic demographic changes cause by 2050? If Dutch voters are already reacting, what will occur in the years ahead with all nations experiencing such changes?

The Telegraph article continues: "The study for the US Air Force by Leon Perkowski in 2006 found that there were at least 15 million Muslims in the EU, and possibly as many as 23 million. They are not uniformly distributed, of course. According to the US's Migration Policy Institute, residents of Muslim faith will account for more than 20 per cent of the EU population by 2050 but already do so in a number of cities. Whites will be in a minority in Birmingham by 2026, says Christopher Caldwell, an American journalist, and even sooner in Leicester. Another forecast holds that Muslims could outnumber non-Muslims in France and perhaps in all of western Europe by mid-century. Austria was 90 per cent Catholic in the 20th century but Islam could be the majority religion among Austrians aged under 15 by 2050, says Mr Caldwell."

Think about the previous sentence! Will the Catholic church ultimately tolerate such a dramatic shift? Having traveled to Austria and Bavaria (the birthplace of Pope Benedict XVI), and having walked through its enormous cathedrals (including where the current pope served as Archbishop of Munich), I can attest to the fact that this area of Europe is *intensely Catholic*. Again, will such demographic changes be accepted? If not, what will happen in the decades to come?

Children in Need

Consider the current state of the world's children. Over 25,000 under age five die each day! One of the goals of the UN is to reduce child mortality. Since child death rates have decreased over

the past few decades, one could reasonably estimate they will continue to decline.

The UN estimates the child mortality rate will fall from 71 per 1,000 births to 31. While one could argue that this view is too optimistic, this still means that over 3.7 million children will die each year at the midpoint of this century!

The cumulative number of deaths from 2010 through 2050, taking into account the decrease stated above, is over *250 million children*—more than a quarter billion.

Consider other UNICEF statistics:

- 2.5 billion people still lack access to improved sanitation facilities
- 1 billion children are deprived of one or more services essential to survival and development
- 129 million children under five in developing regions are underweight for their age
- 500 million to 1.5 billion children have been affected by violence
- 163 million children lost one or both parents in 2008
- 70 million women and girls in 29 countries have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting

Is there any doubt all of this will continue through 2050?

Water Scarcity

Water is one of the most important resources on Earth. Across the globe, nations are preparing for water scarcity. India, one of the most populous countries in the world, is bracing itself for shortages as it expects its demand to double by 2050. IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre reports that almost every Arab country will face water shortages in the coming decades.

Sandia Lab News, a publication connected to the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration, revealed, “By 2025 more than half the nations in the world will face freshwater stress or shortages and by 2050 as much as 75 percent of the world’s population could face freshwater scarcity.”

The article quoted Mike Hightower and Suzanne Pierce, two Sandia water

experts, from a report they published in the journal *Nature*.

“This growing international water crisis is forcing governments to rethink how they value and use and manage water, especially because economic development hinges on water availability,” they stated in the article. “Drinking water supplies, agriculture, energy production and generation, mining, and industry all require large quantities of water. In the future, these sectors will be competing for increasingly limited freshwater resources, making water supply availability a major economic driver in the 21st century.”

A July 2010 study by the Natural Resources and Defense Council revealed that nearly one-third of counties in the continental United States will face higher risks of water shortages in the future. Demand may exceed supply in the following states: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

The *National Geographic* April 2010 article “Water Is Life,” stated: “Civilization has been similarly slow to give up on our myth of the Earth’s infinite generosity. Declining to look for evidence to the contrary, we just knew it was there. We pumped aquifers and diverted rivers, trusting the twin lucky stars of unrestrained human expansion and endless supply. Now water tables plummet in countries harboring half the world’s population. Rather grandly, we have overdrawn our accounts.”

The article also states: “With 83 million more people on earth each year, water demand will keep going up unless we change how we use it... Women in developing countries walk an average of 3.7 miles to get water... In 15 years, 1.8 billion people will live in regions of severe water scarcity.”

Feeding 9 Billion People

Food production will be another mammoth challenge in 2050. Studies reveal that food production will need to increase by 70 percent to feed the over 9 billion people on Earth. While many planners are cautiously optimistic that

this can be done, one must understand that *today* people are starving all over the world.

More than one-sixth—over 1 billion—of the world population is hungry, World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Josette Sheeran announced in 2009.

“Today is world food day,” Ms. Sheeran said, while holding an empty cup, “but for one out of six people on earth they are not even sure that they can fill this cup today. So I am going to rename this as the ‘no food day’ and call upon the world to remember that there are people who have nothing in the cup. One out of six people on earth will go to bed hungry tonight” (*euronews*).

In 2008, the crisis became apparent after the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP reported 100 million more people became undernourished—the highest number in four decades.

According to the UN, Asia and the Pacific Region have the most starving people: 642 million. Sub-Saharan Africa is second with 265 million, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean islands with 53 million, then the Mideast and North Africa with 42 million. The number of starving people in developed countries make up the remaining 15 million.

Children appear to be the hardest hit by the catastrophe. Dr. Otiye Igbuzor, head of International Campaigns for ActionAid International, reported that a child dies of malnutrition every six seconds. Dr. Igbuzor calls it a world emergency requiring immediate action from both developing and developed nations.

Although the UN achieved gains in the battle against hunger in the 1980s and early 1990s, the number of undernourished people began skyrocketing in 1995, reaching 1.02 billion this year. (Meanwhile, the same number of people on Earth are *overweight!*)

To avert the crisis, UN agencies estimate developing nations will need over \$82 billion in agricultural aid for developing countries if the world’s projected 9.1 billion people by 2050 are to be adequately fed. To avert disaster,

the world must increase agricultural production by 70 percent in the next 41 years.

But the FAO warned that the UN Millennium Development Goals, which aim to halve the number of malnourished people by 2015, can only be met through a more focused, broad-based approach with worldwide investment in agriculture and economic safety nets for poorer countries.

Ask: how many more will starve in the years beyond 2015?

Some of the other problems predicted for the near future include limited and diminishing arable land, deforestation, urbanization, disappearing family farms, degradation of land and water, irrigation problems, waste, the extinction of certain types of crops, the increased intensity and frequency of severe weather (which causes flooding and seasonal loss of crops), and changes in climate. At the same time, 1.6 acres of rainforest—often called the “lungs of the world” as they produce so much oxygen—are disappearing through logging *every second*. Almost half of the Amazon rainforest will be gone by 2050!

Other Problems

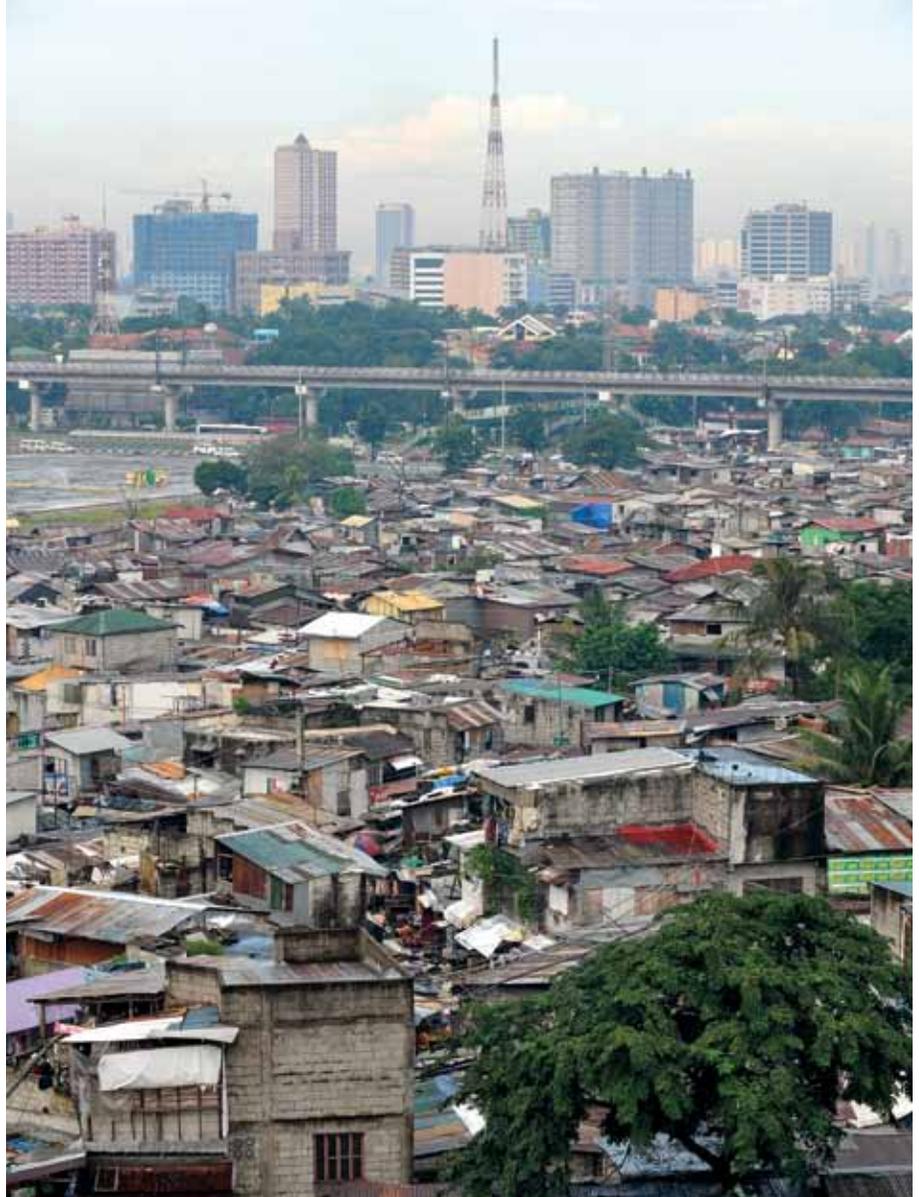
Consider the crimes that will be committed from now until 2050. How many robberies—rapes—murders will take place?

Also, how many abortions will occur? Today, approximately 46 million abortions are carried out yearly. If the current trend continues, 1.8 billion unborn babies will be murdered in the next 40 years!

Then there are divorce rates. How many families will split up in the next four decades?

Which superbug will break out and cause the next crippling pandemic? How many millions will die from this alone?

What about these fundamental questions: What if another world war breaks out, as many in the survey previously referenced believe? What will happen if a rogue nation uses a nuclear weapon on a populous city? How many millions—or tens of millions—will be vaporized



■ PHILIPPINES: A sprawling shantytown contrasts with high-rise office buildings in the background in Quezon City, a suburb of Manila (Sept. 1, 2010). Statistics show that a third of the country’s 92 million people live on less than a dollar a day.

PHOTO: MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

in an instant? How many lives will be cut short with modern weapons of war?

Intangibles

Now consider the intangibles—which cannot be explained through statistics, facts or projections. How much suffering takes place each year? How many uncounted rapes occur daily? How many tears do human beings shed as a result of untold pain and anguish? What will be the cumulative effect of all of this misery by the year 2050?

Think. World events are creating a perfect storm of destruction. Newspaper headlines trumpet financial woes, increasing disease and starvation, worsening weather conditions, political upheaval and nations on the brink of

war—all worse than ever before.

The ultimate question is: will any of this change by 2050? Looking at the path we are following, the answer is NO. While some conditions may temporarily improve, the overall trends always evidence that humanity as a whole is on a downward spiral. This fact cannot be denied, as the track record of history proves.

The figurative caption for the snapshot of 2050 is the same as it has always been: *mankind cannot solve its problems*. (Read our booklet *Why Man Cannot Solve His Problems – Unknown Until Now*.)

For a different picture of 2050, see Scenario II of this series.

There is hope. □

SCENARIO II

Continued from page 13

food, disease is non-existent and such institutions are no longer necessary.

This situation describes the world that man has attempted to bring about for millennia, but failed. Drastic change is necessary to make this happen. War will have to end. The environment will need to be cleaned up. This will ensure people are happy and productive, leading fulfilling, abundant lives.

Unlike the sad state of affairs and dire predictions outlined in Scenario I, you *can* expect a peaceful 2050! But how will such dramatic change occur?

Lesson of History

Look at the results of successive societies, governments and civilizations of man. Not one has survived the passing of time. The continual tragedies of countless wars, rampant pollution, ever-present unhappiness and scourges such as disease, slavery and corruption, should bring any person to ask, “Why?”

Examining this flawless track record of failure, one can surmise that mankind *cannot* solve its problems. But this begs the same question: “Why?”

To this, there is truly only one answer—one that most will never bring themselves to admit.

Consider an analogy. Suppose you bought a house that was in need of a new coat of paint, but during further inspection, you discovered it had a cracked and unsure foundation. Would you continue with plans to paint the house? Of course not!

You would fix the foundation, understanding that no matter how beautiful you made the outside of your home, a structure built on a faulty foundation would not last. If the damage was so severe that repair was impossible, the only solution would be to demolish the structure, lay a new foundation and start fresh.

Now look back to the history of mankind. Unknown to almost everyone, economies, governments, social structures and religions of man have been built on a *wrong* foundation. No

matter how hard people try to change society, solutions of lasting value are never found.

It is this fact that lies behind the continuous failures of mankind. With every successive attempt, from monarchy to democracy, only different “coats of paint” are applied to the “structures” of society.

Nothing man alone can do will remove the bad effects plaguing the world. This should be the towering lesson of history. For him to survive, the foundation upon which he has built his ideas, attitudes, governments and religions—his very way of life—must change.

Vain Attempts

Examine nearly every plot of novels or Hollywood motion pictures. The core motivations of the characters in these fictional accounts are the same: vanity, jealousy, lust and greed. Sometimes, the protagonists in these stories want something better for themselves and others, but are hindered by these four characteristics.

The real world is no different. Vanity, jealousy, lust and greed are everyday evils, whether on the streets of New York City or the plains of Sudan. These inherent characteristics of human nature stop any real progress toward creating a better society.

There is an oft-quoted saying: “The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.” This idea has long been found in the pages of the Bible: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Prov. 14:12, New King James Version).

Mankind has tried the same solutions over and over again, with the same results—always missing the vital key to permanent change. With every attempt to remove evil from the world, man fails to realize that he is not merely trying to alter world conditions, but rather striving to *change* human nature itself.

This cannot be done on human steam alone! Here is why: the fundamental problems plaguing him are not *physical*. They are *spiritual*. Though he may be well-meaning, man *is not* equipped of

and by himself to solve these problems. He is *unable* to see the true problem.

To stop this cycle of failure, man must first look long and hard at himself by examining the only spiritual source that truly explains human nature—the Bible: “There is *none* righteous, no, not one: there is *none* that understands, there is *none* that seeks after God. They are *all* gone out of the way, they are *together* become unprofitable; there is *none* that does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: their feet are swift to shed blood: destruction and misery are in their ways” (Rom. 3:10-16).

These facts must be accepted before any real change can occur.

Global Deception

Yet there is an even deeper problem that stands in the way of progress toward the positive society detailed above. This knowledge makes plain the faulty foundation man has relied on for thousands of years.

Read II Corinthians 4:4: “In whom the *god of this world* has blinded the minds of them which believe not...”

Ephesians further describes this being: “Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the *prince of the power of the air*, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others” (Eph. 2:2-3).

Who is the “god of this world” and “prince of the power of the air” who blinds the minds of men? The answer is in Revelation 12:9: “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world...”

Realize what you just read. Satan—the god of this world—has successfully deceived the entire world. In reality, human nature is actually *Satan's* nature, as he influences the thoughts

and actions of mankind. Blinded by this evil being, man has stumbled in darkness for thousands of years, trying every form of solution only to find that new coats of paint will not fix a faulty foundation. (Read our booklet *Did God Create Human Nature?*)

True Foundation

The concept of Satan's power is illustrated through the well-known confrontation between Jesus and the devil. During a tremendous battle of wills, Satan took Christ to a high mountain and, in a vision, showed Him all the kingdoms and powers of the world (Luke 4:5). Satan then said to Him, "I will give You all their power and grandeur, for it has been made over to me and I can give it to anyone I choose" (vs. 6-7, Moffatt translation).

How did Christ respond? Did He dispute or deny the devil's claim of possessing world-ruling authority? Did He say, "What are you talking about, Satan? You can't give Me what doesn't belong to you! God rules this world, not you?"

No. Jesus simply said, "Get you hence, Satan: for it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve" (Matt. 4:10).

But there is more to the exchange between Satan and Christ than meets the eye. In overcoming Satan, Jesus qualified to replace him on the earth's throne, which He will possess at His Return. It is at this time that He will remove the current ruler of the world, change human nature, and implement and enforce laws that will bring peace, happiness and contentment. This will allow true change to take place.

While one might think human beings will welcome Christ's Return, the world will not immediately receive its new ruler with open arms. Notice verse 18 of Revelation 11 says at that time that "the nations were angry."

God's Word reveals that the nations of Earth will not be happy, because they will not be ready to accept, or understand, what is happening. Raw human nature will explode into the open. Enormous armies will actually try to attack and destroy Jesus Christ

(Rev. 17:14). People will have been taught—even programmed to believe—that the real Christ is the *antichrist!* This will result in a final climactic battle near Jerusalem (Zech. 14:1-2). (To understand more about this misunderstood conflict, read our article *What Is Armageddon?*)

Christ's Return is detailed in verse 3: "Then shall the LORD go forth, and *fight against those nations*, as when He fought in the day of battle"—completely defeating them. Verse 4 states, "His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives..."

Yet, with Christ's victory, the words of Revelation 11:15 will ring true: "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever."

World to Come

When Jesus Christ returns to Earth, a total transformation will begin. He will bring with Him a restoration of God's way of life. The peoples of all nations will sit before Christ on His throne. The GOVERNMENT OF GOD will be restored to Earth. Mankind will be in the process of rebuilding and learning how to apply God's Law.

Early on, a new language will be taught around the world. "For then will I turn to the people a pure language that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one consent" (Zeph. 3:9).

Imagine how this process might be reported in the media of tomorrow, as shown by *The Worldwide News*, one of the predecessors of *The Real Truth*: "Re-education and literacy made great strides this month, as thousands of additional schools continued instituting the [Pure Language] program, as directed by [Jesus Christ from Jerusalem,] the world capital.

"Rapidly dropping out of the vocabulary are myriad paganisms..."

"Since telling the ABSOLUTE truth is held as the ONLY STANDARD for earth now, and no protestations, affirmations, assurances, repetitions or recapitulations are necessary, many other useless old expressions are

passing into retirement. Among them: 'You don't say???' (when he just did say it!), or 'Is THAT SO?' (when he just said it WAS SO), or 'Is THAT RIGHT??' (when he just said it WAS right), and 'REALLY?,' 'Are you SURE?' and 'NO KIDDING?'"

World conditions today and the nightmare predictions for 2050 in the previous article are based on the continuation of Satan's way of life—rebellion, strife, competition, jealousy, lust and greed. In contrast, with Christ ruling from the world headquarters in Jerusalem, mankind will live in a world under God's Law.

All false gods will have been exposed for what they are, removed and destroyed. The entire world will worship the true God.

All wars will come to an end—along with every form of violence and hate.

Relationships will be happy for life, with adultery becoming nonexistent. All children will obey and honor their parents, who will teach them God's Way from birth.

Every form of dishonesty will disappear. This means a world without locks, keys, security systems, and bank vaults—and where nothing ever needs to be kept in a safe. There will be no sickness or illness of any kind, and all people will enjoy perfect, robust health as they were intended (III John 2).

The landscape will be beautiful and clean, with no urban blight or slums. No portion of humanity will be degenerate or backward because of religious superstition, poor health conditions or illiteracy. Everyone will be concerned with *giving* instead of *getting*, which will ensure all people have more than enough for themselves.

Unlike the bleak picture previously painted about 2050 in Scenario I of this series, a bright new world is just ahead.

Sound too good to be true? It is as sure as the rising of tomorrow's sun. Read David C. Pack's book *Tomorrow's Wonderful World – An Inside View!* □

True Faith

What God Says!

Do you have real faith? Is it sufficient for salvation? Can you know?

BY DAVID C. PACK

WHY ARE MOST people trapped by fears and worries? Because they lack faith! But what is faith? Is it positive thinking? A certain feeling? One's church affiliation? Is it confidence? Or hope? Or the simple belief that Jesus died for your sins?

Or is faith something far more?

The Bible states that "without faith it is impossible to please [God]" (Heb. 11:6). This is an incredible statement, yet it is in the Bible! Take it for exactly what it says. Just think! Anything a person does, in attempting to be Christian, means absolutely nothing, if he lacks faith. For without faith, he has no hope—no possibility—of pleasing God. Any who are not pleasing God are Christians in vain. So having real faith is serious!

When speaking of our time—the last generation before His Return—Jesus asked, "When the Son of Man comes, shall He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). Think of the incredible implications of this question! Is it possible that true faith could be completely gone from Earth at Christ's Second Coming? Jesus was able to look forward, into our time,

and know that conditions would exist allowing this to be true—almost!

Jesus said He would build His Church and He promised it would never be destroyed. His Church—God's Church—is where people do have faith according to the Bible definition. Therefore, the presence of God's people on Earth will ensure that at least a few people will be found to have faith when Christ returns.

Real faith comes from the Spirit of God. It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23). No one can have faith or even be a true Christian without God's Spirit.

Here is God's definition of faith: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). Did you notice that faith involves "evidence" of things "not seen"? The marginal rendering of "substance" is "assurance." Faith involves an assurance "of things hoped for." But, if something is hoped for, that something has not yet been received. Therefore, where faith is involved, there is an assurance that it will be received!

Consider this verse: "For we walk by faith, NOT by sight" (II Cor. 5:7). Practicing true faith means learning to disregard what you see. Literally, sight does not count in relation to what God has promised to do or when He will do it. This verse reveals that Christians do not walk by what they see!

What about you? Do you lack faith to know that God is with you? To overcome sin and guilt? To be healed of disease? To believe all things in His Word? To know that "all things [will] work together for good" (Rom. 8:28) if you are serving God? To believe God will work out injustices you suffer? To believe God will provide for you? To believe that you can endure severe trials and persecution? Or that God will deliver you from them? Do you lack faith to see the soon-coming kingdom of God more clearly and that you can be in it?

The Bible says that you need not lack faith in any of these! You can develop real faith!

To learn much more about the subject and what true faith is, watch *The World to Come* two-part series "True Faith—What God Says!" at www.worldtocome.org. □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

of the “*kingdom of God*.” Mark added, “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ” (Mark 1:1). The gospel of Jesus Christ was about the *kingdom of God*—not something else! One must believe and understand *that gospel* to be saved—not a counterfeit or substitute.

Christ’s Message—an Advance Announcement

Like a newscaster way ahead of his time, Jesus came to make an announcement about a *complete change* in the way the world would one day be governed. With this change would come unprecedented world peace—and happiness, harmony, universal health and prosperity.

Everywhere He went, Christ spoke about the kingdom of God. It was the subject of most of His parables. When He commissioned and sent His 12 apostles to preach, the instruction was to preach about the kingdom of God (see Luke 9:1-2). When He later sent His 70 disciples (Luke 10:1), He also commanded *they* preach the kingdom of God. Paul preached the same message everywhere *he* went.

The terms *kingdom* and *kingdom of God* are found scores of times through the New Testament. Yet, it is astonishing how nearly everyone has lost the knowledge and true meaning of what this kingdom *is!*

The word “gospel” is an old English word meaning “god spell” or *good news*. “Kingdom” is also an old English term simply meaning *government*. In other words, Christ preached “the GOOD NEWS of the *government* of God.” The coming of world peace, happiness, health and abundance *will* be good news for a mankind that has never known it.

Christ’s disciples asked what would be the *sign* of His Coming and the end of the age. He warned of deception from *many* who would come “in [His] Name,” saying, “Christ was Christ” (Matt. 24:5; Mark 13:6; Luke 21:8). He meant that they would put an

emphasis on His *Person* instead of the *message* He brought. But He also foretold that “this gospel of the *kingdom* shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and *then* shall the *end come*” (Matt. 24:14).

We are *now* in the time of the end. Remember, if the kingdom of God had been preached through the centuries, from Jesus’ time to the present, proclaiming it today could not be a sign the world has reached the end of the age. Grasp this!

Impostors and false leaders suppressed the preaching of the true gospel to the world until the 20th century. Starting in 1934, Herbert W. Armstrong began the fulfillment of this prophecy. It continues today—through The Restored Church of God.

Message About Government

Prior to Jesus’ birth, an angel appeared to His mother, Mary. Here is what she was told: “...the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto...Nazareth, to a virgin... and the virgin’s name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, you that are highly favored... you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the *throne of His father David*: and He shall *reign* over the house of Jacob *forever*; and of His *kingdom* there shall be *no end*” (Luke 1:26-33).

Jesus told Pilate, “My *kingdom* [government] is not of this world.” Pilate asked, “Are you a king then?” Jesus responded, “You say that I am a king. *To this end was I born*, and for this cause came I into the world” (John 18:36-37).

Jesus Christ was born to be a *King!*

Here is what was foretold in Isaiah about Christ: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the *government* shall be upon His shoulder: and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, *the Prince of Peace*. Of the increase of His *government* and *peace* there shall be no end, upon the *throne of David*, and

upon *His kingdom*, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even *forever*” (Isa. 9:6-7).

When Christ establishes God’s government on Earth, it *WILL* usher in peace for all nations!

Soon the whole world will see this verse fulfilled: “The kingdoms of *this world* are become the kingdoms of *our Lord*, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever” (Rev. 11:15). Just as there is no doubt that countries today represent real, literal, physical governments (kingdoms), this passage leaves no doubt that God’s coming government is also real and literal.

Jesus Christ was born to rule all nations of the earth forever. This is the central theme of the entire Bible. Notice: “And out of His [Christ’s] mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should smite *the nations*: and He shall *rule them* with a rod of iron...and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (Rev. 19:15-16).

Have you ever been told about these passages? I never learned or even heard of them in the church of my youth—yet here they are, available with unmistakable clarity.

City of Peace, Finally

The capital city of the modern Jewish nation of Israel is *Jerusalem*. Though this city has known nothing but war, strife and bitter division throughout its history, its name means “*city of peace*.” This is because Christ will return there to establish His kingdom. The Prince of Peace will *rule* from the city of peace. Beginning in this single city, peace will spread around the world. Eventually, it *will* “break out” everywhere!

Final, true world peace and prosperity will come in *your* lifetime. It is as certain as the Word of God! In the end, the world will *not* be disappointed! Awesome news lies ahead.

Most assume God is trying to save the world now—that *today* is the only opportunity for salvation for all mankind. The whole world has been deceived about salvation and the most important questions and answers of

life. Most people have no idea *why* they were born—*why* they were put on Earth. No wonder they do not understand why man cannot find peace, happiness, health and abundance on his own.

Saints Rule with Christ

Matthew 24:27 states that Jesus will come like lightning shining from the east to the west. This will be an earth-shattering event no one could miss. But will He come to rule *by Himself*—or will there be *others* with Him? We could ask: When Christ establishes His world-ruling government, who else might be part of the structure He establishes? If the governments of men require the efforts of many, who assist a supreme leader, is God's government different? No!

Let's examine some of what the prophet Daniel recorded about God's kingdom.

Just before Jesus' Return, God officially grants Him the authority to rule the world He is returning to. Notice: "There was *given* Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:14).

Again we ask whether Christ rules alone, or are others to rule with Him? Exactly how does God intend to manage all the peoples and nations of Earth?

More verses in Daniel 7 are critical to understand. Notice: "But *the saints* of the Most High shall *take the kingdom*, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever" (Dan. 7:18).

BELIEVE THIS VERSE FOR WHAT IT SAYS! The ultimate calling of Christians is to join with Christ to share rulership in the kingdom of God over *all* nations and *all* peoples. Truly, Christ will be "KING *of kings* and LORD *of lords*" (Rev. 19:16).

These other kings and lords can be you or anyone willing to accept God's terms for entering His kingdom.

Daniel's prophecy concludes with further confirmation of the marvel-

ous potential ahead for all the true saints of God: "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, *shall be given to the people of the saints* of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him" (Dan. 7:27).

What could be plainer? No wonder Jesus stated, "And he that *overcomes*, and keeps My works unto the end, to him will I give *power over the nations*: and he shall *rule them* with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of My Father" (Rev. 2:26), and He added, "To him that *overcomes* will I grant to sit with Me *in My throne...*" (Rev. 3:21).

The phrase "in My throne" is used because Jesus understood His throne is on this earth, unlike the Father's, which is in heaven. Luke 1:32 revealed Christ will sit in Jerusalem on the throne of David. (Take time to read this verse.) When Christ returns, the saints will rule with Him—*on Earth!*—as spirit-composed beings in the kingdom of God.

WHEN Will the Kingdom Come?

All want to know *when* Christ will return. Recall the disciples asked Him, "What shall be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matt. 24:3).

The entire remainder of Matthew 24 is Christ's answer detailing many events—in sequence—that would precede His Coming. Referring to the exact time of His Coming, He stated, "But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Matt. 24:36).

Just a few weeks later, in Acts 1, prior to Jesus' final ascension back into heaven, the disciples proved they still did not either understand or really accept His previous explanation. So they probed further. Notice: "...they asked of Him, saying, Lord, will You *at this time restore* again the kingdom to Israel? And He said unto them, *It is not for you to know the times or the seasons*, which the Father has put in

His own power" (Acts 1:6-7). Christ gave them the same answer as in Matthew—"it is *not for you to know* the times or the seasons."

Think. The New Testament Church was to be established just *10 days* after this encounter (read Acts 2:1). Why would Christ answer, "it is not for you to know the times or the seasons" if God's kingdom was going to be the Church—as millions believe!—which was to be almost immediately established on Pentecost—just 10 days later?

The same is true for us today. We cannot know *exactly* when Christ's kingdom will come, but we can know a close approximation. At the end of Luke's long prophecy that parallels Matthew 24, Jesus stated, "*when* you see these things come to pass, know you that the kingdom of God is [near] at hand" (Luke 21:31).

He *did* want them to know that "you shall receive *power*, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you"—but *not* to know when the kingdom would arrive (Acts 1:8). The same is true for all who are converted today. We cannot know the date of Christ's Return, but we *can* know that we will receive *power* now to grow and overcome—and to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God, until He does return.

False teachers almost universally proclaim that the kingdom of God is now on Earth. Jesus said otherwise—that it would come at His Return.

Men's Efforts Cannot Bring World Peace

True Christians are not activists seeking to "make *this* world a better place"—thereby bringing God's kingdom to Earth. They have their "*feet shod* with the preparation of the *gospel of peace*" (Eph. 6:15). They walk through life having their "feet" covered with the knowledge of how the true gospel spells the *only way* to final world peace. They understand with certainty that the kingdom of God—bringing "government *and peace*"—is coming. They know what lies ahead for this world. They do not go off to serve and kill in the endless,

futile wars of men and nations—or participate in the affairs of failing, doomed governments.

They do not take matters into their own hands, and try to supposedly “spread the kingdom,” thereby attempting to neutralize God’s purpose, which is to show man that he is not capable of governing himself!

How can one spread what is not here?

Paul was inspired to write: “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord [the time of God’s wrath] so comes as a *thief in the night*. For when they [leaders and religionists] shall say, *Peace and safety*; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall *not escape*. But *you, brethren, are not in darkness*, that that day should overtake you as a thief” (I Thes. 5:2-4). Others, yes—true Christians, no!

All who understand these truths need never again be “in the dark” about God’s Plan—or their awesome potential role within it. A new world order IS coming—but it is far from what *men* are planning.

Citing Isaiah 52:7, Paul also recorded, “How beautiful are *the feet* of them that preach the *gospel of*

peace, and bring glad tidings [good news] of good things” (Rom. 10:15). He further cited Isaiah: “But they have not all *obeyed* the gospel. For Isaiah said, Lord, *who has believed our report?*” (Rom. 10:16).

Sadly, most people will *not* believe “God’s report” of what lies ahead for civilization. They will *not* believe that they are unable to bring world peace through human effort. Many will shout “Peace, peace; *when there is no peace*” (Jer. 6:14; 8:11)—and most will continue eagerly believing their false predictions, even in the face of abject failure.

The professing Christians of this world will continue desperately striving to bring about the kingdom of God and world peace through organizations and efforts of men. Deceived religious leaders will tell them that this is their “Christian duty.” Vast numbers will see this as the sole mission of their church.

Millions are looking for peace and security around every corner—but they will be bitterly disappointed—in the *short term*. This is because world conditions, leading into a final devastating period of worldwide calamity, will get *infinitely worse* before they ultimately get better.

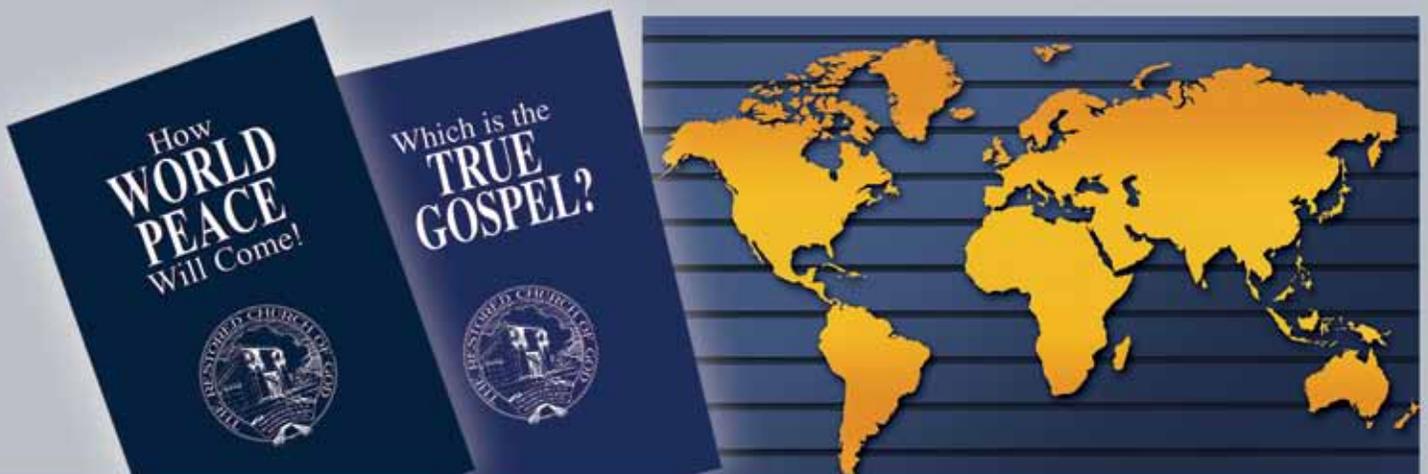
Most people know of what is called “The Lord’s Prayer.” Many can recite it from memory, having practiced this without understanding it is simply a *model* or *guideline* for how to pray. I learned it at age four. It begins, “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. *Thy kingdom COME*. Thy will be done in earth...” (Matt. 6:9-10). But, of the masses who recite it, how many actually think about the phrase “Thy kingdom *come*”—or, for that matter, God’s “*will* [His Master Plan] be[ing] done on earth”?

For 2,000 years, countless millions have sought to follow Christ’s instruction, praying, “Thy kingdom come” without ever really pondering the staggering *meaning* behind this small phrase. Almost none know He stated just a few verses later, “But seek you *first* the kingdom of God, and His righteousness” (Matt. 6:33).

I ask: will you do this?

I have barely scratched the surface of this subject. You should want to know more about it—including how you can fit directly into the coming world peace.

To learn much more, take time to read our inspiring booklet *How World Peace Will Come!* as well as *Which Is the True Gospel?* □



“The New World Order – How Peace Will Come!”

Broadcast available at www.worldtocome.org

WEATHER & ENVIRONMENT

New Zealand Earthquake Catches Scientists Off Guard

The magnitude 7.1 earthquake that struck New Zealand on September 4, 2010, which left thousands of inhabitants without power and severely damaged at least 500 buildings, resulted in \$1.4 billion in damages.

Scientists place the quake among the 10 strongest ever recorded in the nation and the most powerful in 80 years. In some locations, it moved the earth 11 feet, demolishing roads, houses and buildings.

One survivor told the *Telegraph*, “It was like a giant hand had picked up our

house and was just shaking it, shaking and shaking.”

The temblor, which was caused by the Pacific and Australian tectonic plates colliding, occurred on a previously undiscovered fault line.

According to geologist Tim Davies, associate professor at the University of Canterbury, “The fault that ruptured causing the shake was previously unknown. A fault beneath the Canterbury Plains capable of generating an earthquake of that size is a major surprise.” □



■ **DEVASTATION:** Left, the historical Deans homestead in Canterbury, not far from the quake’s epicenter, was destroyed. Right, building rubble is strewn across a street after a 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck the area near the city of Christchurch.

PHOTOS: JOSEPH JOHNSON (LEFT), KURT LANGER (RIGHT)/GETTY IMAGES

MIDDLE EAST

Mideast Peace Negotiations on Fragile Ground

After two years of silence, a new round of Middle East peace talks began on September 2 between Israel and Palestine. The initial meetings were hosted in Washington by United States President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Also in attendance were Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, King Abdullah II of Jordan and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

During the meeting, participants emphasized creating a “framework agreement” to resolve difficult issues such as disputed borders, security, the political status of Jerusalem, the building of Israeli settlements and Palestinian refugees’ rights.

Many roadblocks threaten to derail the process. On August 31, the evening prior to the leaders’ arrivals in Washington, Hamas gunmen claimed responsibility for shooting four West Bank Israeli settlers in their car.

Due to the continuous violence and repeated failed attempts to broker peace, government representatives are unconvinced the process will succeed.

BBC News reported that Israeli Foreign Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, who lives in the West Bank, stated on army radio, “I do not believe that a comprehensive agreement with the Palestinians is possible within a year, nor even during the next generation.” □

ASIA

Update: Floods in Pakistan

With roughly one-fifth of Pakistan submerged by massive flooding, more than 17 million people have been affected. At least 8 million need clean water, shelter and other life-saving emergency assistance in what has been described as the nation's worst natural disaster.

Officials warn that millions of flood victims are at risk of food shortages and waterborne diseases, such as cholera.

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reports that flooding has led to more than 1,700 deaths, injured 2,865 people and damaged more than 1.8 million homes. Over 1 million people have been rescued so far.

The floods, which resulted from heavy monsoon rains in late July, began in Pakistan's northwest region. From there, they swept southward, destroying thousands of towns and villages and millions of acres of crops in the Punjab and Sindh provinces, which are considered Pakistan's "breadbasket," according to *The Associated Press*.

The Pakistani government has ordered nearly half a million people to evacuate.

"There is no electricity, no water, no sanitation, no food. The only thing there are in numbers is mosquitoes," said one protester. "We cannot bear the screams of our children. They are hungry" (*AP*).

Pakistan has accepted \$5 million in relief supplies from neighboring India, its longtime rival. India's UN ambassador assured, "We are willing to do all that is in our power to assist Pakistan in facing the consequences of floods" (*BBC*).

The European Commission, which has already given \$50.7 million in emergency relief assistance, has pledged an extra \$38 million.

Meanwhile, public criticism is growing over what is viewed as a

HEALTH ISSUES

"Alarming Resurgence" in Bed Bugs



■ **GROWING MENACE:** A glass vial containing live bedbugs, tiny blood-suckers that specialize in feeding off sleeping bodies.

PHOTO: STAN HONDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Bed bugs are on the rise, according to a report by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"Although bed bug populations dropped dramatically during the mid-20th century, the United States is one of many countries now experiencing an alarming resurgence in the population of bed bugs," it stated. "Though the exact cause is not known, experts suspect the resurgence is associated with increased resistance of bed bugs to available pesticides, greater international and domestic travel, lack of knowledge regarding control of bed bugs due to their prolonged absence, and the continuing decline or elimination of effective vector/pest control programs at state and local public health agencies."

The Christian Science Monitor reported that since 2004, bed bug complaints have dramatically increased.

slower-than-expected international response. Demonstrations in Pakistan, some violent, have erupted in or near affected areas.

"According to New York City's Housing Preservation and Development department, bedbug complaints in the city have skyrocketed over the past five years, from just over 500 in 2004 to over 10,000 in 2009."

The rise in the number of reported bedbug infestations is not only occurring in the U.S., but also worldwide.

"We just finished a global survey of about a thousand pest control companies in 43 different countries," University of Kentucky entomology professor Michael Potter told *The Christian Science Monitor*. "They see the same thing that we have here."

While bed bugs do not transmit disease, the CDC is concerned about the blood-sucking pests as their bites can result in serious mental and physical effects, including mild to severe allergic reactions, skin infections, anxiety and insomnia. □

Thus far, the United Nations has only raised roughly 70 percent of the needed \$460 million in emergency funds. □

UNREST

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“They literally have scouts on the high points in the mountains and in the hills and they literally control movement. They have radios, they have optics, they have night-vision goggles as good as anything law enforcement has... This is 70 to 80 miles from the border—30 miles from the fifth-largest city in the United States.”

According to a July 2010 Gallup poll, Americans are divided on the issue of immigration: 50 percent believe the focus should be on stopping the flow of illegal aliens entering the U.S., while 46 percent believe a plan should be developed to assimilate those already in the country.

Congress recently approved an additional \$600 million in funding for increased border patrol staff, unmanned drones and other infrastructure along the U.S./Mexico border. But with drug-war violence continuing to escalate, many are doubtful these efforts will be sufficient. □

DRUG WAR

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Hierro shopping mall was held up by gunmen for the third time this year.”

“We are afraid of getting in a car, getting in a taxi, walking in the street alone,” a Mexican woman whose brother was kidnapped and killed by a drug gang while on a date in Mexico

City said on the television program *60 Minutes*.

Approximately 50,000 soldiers and policemen are involved in Mexico’s narcotics war, but even with arrests and huge seizures of drugs and weapons, there is no end in sight to the violent problem, which continues to paralyze tourism and business and compromise the safety of those living in the area. □



■ **NEWS MEDIA UNDER ASSAULT:** In Mexico City, journalists place pictures of murdered reporters on the ground in protest against violence toward the press (Aug. 7, 2010).

PHOTO: RONALDO SCHEMIDT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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