

JULY-AUGUST 2003

THE

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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

The **PLEASURE SEEKERS**

*An Addiction
to "Fun"*



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VOL. 1 | NO. 4 | JULY-AUGUST 2003

A R T I C L E S

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Thinking Positive! More Than Just “Happy Thoughts”

In light of today’s escalating trials and pressures, is mere determination and “looking on the bright side of things” enough? Or is there more you need to know? You *can* truly live a happy, confident, much less stressful life—here is how!

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SARS—Only the Beginning?

Thousands were infected. Hundreds died. Many more will be infected. What is the cause? Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome—or SARS. Many fear that its global impact may soon rival that of AIDS! How can you be safe? What can be done to stop it?

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Can You Trust the News?

A recent wave of deceit, fraud and plagiarism has plagued the mainstream news media. How can you be sure that the news you receive is true?

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The Pleasure Seekers—Part One: An Addiction to “Fun”

For most, life is fast-paced and stressful. Many seemingly need more and more “fun” just to make it bearable. Have you been programmed to constantly seek pleasure?

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More and more people are assuming less and less responsibility for their actions. Why is this happening? Where will it lead?

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The Wrong Assumption

Modern science assumes evolution as the reason for man’s existence. But when nature is examined genetically, there is a language so complex that randomness and haphazard chance fall far short as explanations. You will be amazed at the signature hidden in every cell of your body!

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Mapping the Universe

In the late twentieth century, mankind made quantum leaps in its knowledge of the universe. Progress is underway to map the entire universe—with new insights into the vast unknown.

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ABOUT OUR COVER: For many today, the pursuit of pleasure has actually become a life-defining endeavor. And, at every turn, there are almost innumerable ways in which this craving is catered to and fed. But God’s Word shows that, while there is nothing wrong with pleasure and fun, there is much more to the human experience.

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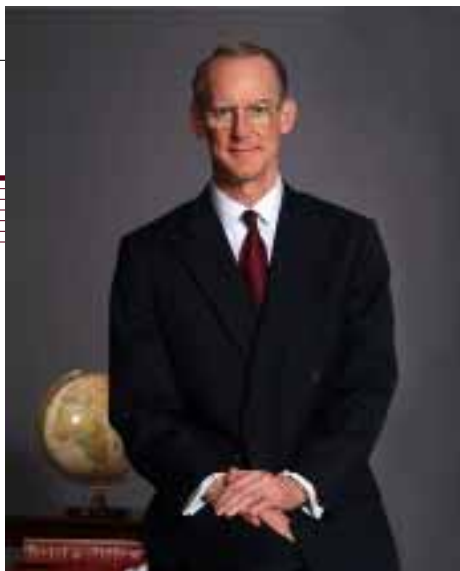
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Pack

Are There Laws to Success?

EVERYONE WOULD like to be—and be thought—a success. Yet most people fail without knowing why. There *are* basic LAWS TO SUCCESS. Do you know them? Did you know they exist? Do you know what success *is*?

Most people have no idea how to *define* success, let alone how to achieve it. Nor have they been taught the laws that govern reaching it. Almost no one has ever heard that such laws exist. Yet they do—and knowing them is priceless knowledge!

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

Just what *is* success? So many seek it, having never defined it. As a result, very few people ever really achieve TRUE success. And most never actually sit down and try to analyze the *reasons* for their failure. Most are certainly capable of recognizing they have failed—but they cannot explain *WHY*!

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

The idea of success carries common assumptions. Many believe success involves achieving a certain amount of WEALTH. Their only purpose for being is to accumulate money and material goods. As one man said, “The goal is to see who can die with the most

toys.” They seem to believe that only by having a significant “net worth” (and many possessions) can they say that they have “arrived.” Yet these same people never find true happiness at the end of the “money rainbow.”

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

Still others hope to achieve FAME. These people are often driven by a need to be known. The more people who are aware of who they are, the better. They seek “name recognition.” Of course, *everyone* would love to enjoy at least their “15 minutes of fame.”

But not everyone believes that fame equals success. And those who are famous represent probably the *most* miserable “success” category. Take a moment and think about what is even most commonly known about the private lives of the “rich and famous.” Tabloids and gossip columns are usually filled with unsavory stories about what is at least generally true in the lives of so many people who have been deemed successful.

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

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

Think for a moment! And be honest. How many people can you think of who you consider truly successful, but who do *not* fit into one of these categories? Probably few, if any.

What about people generally thought to have achieved success in their fields?

Some time ago, a great baseball player died. Whenever famous athletes die, sports writers delve into their accomplishments by examining their statistics in comparison to other “greats” in the same sport. Most sports writers and fellow baseball players considered this “hall of famer” to be the greatest hitter of all time. At age 19, he had openly stated, “I want to be the greatest hitter who ever played the game.”

and perform at the world-class level they once did. Eventually, their records were always broken by someone who was a little better, faster or stronger. Before long, most of their feats on the field of competition were forgotten.

Did recognition by peers, fans and sports writers of their era mean they were a success?

What about movie stars or popular musicians? Some achieve a level of worldwide fame practically unparalleled in any other endeavor. They are virtually viewed as gods and goddesses. They are pampered, continually written about and photographed, and often become extremely wealthy, having as many as five or six homes in various parts of the world. Yet, when many cannot find happiness within several marriages, they turn to alcohol, drugs, sex and, in many cases, suicide.

remembers their *names*? How many people today concern themselves with the net worth of J.P. Morgan? And how many even know who he was? How many remember Carnegie, Guggenheim or Mellon?

Were such men *truly* successful? In the end, what did their wealth and fame gain for them? If “they couldn’t take it with them,” and they have been largely or entirely forgotten, what *good* did it do them—what *permanent* success did it bring? Whatever “success” they achieved was temporary—at best a fleeting illusion.

I read recently of one multi-millionaire who proclaimed, “Ever since I was three years old, the only thing I wanted was to make money. I wanted to own more university properties than anyone in the world.” This man received a long prison sentence for drug-related charges and the govern-

“Were such men *truly* successful? In the end, what did their wealth and fame gain for them?”

He achieved his goal. He even went on to be one of the greatest sport fishermen of all time, holding records in various categories of fishing. Yet he was married three times and generally considered to be a very unhappy person. He maintained a love-hate relationship with fans in his city for over twenty years. He despised the press until the day he died because of a single item they wrote about him at the very beginning of his career. His children fought over his remains—with one son seeking to freeze and clone him into more *identical* great hitters. This son hopes to “bring him back to life.”

Is this success? Did his life reflect success?

Many great athletes achieved the records and resulting recognition that they did because they set out to accomplish them. But usually by their thirties, and certainly by their forties, they could no longer compete

and perform at the world-class level they once did. Eventually, their records were always broken by someone who was a little better, faster or stronger. Before long, most of their feats on the field of competition were forgotten.

Do these people’s lives reflect *true* success? Of course not—yet so many seek to emulate them. Consider the great captains of industry. Many command enormous salaries and wealth, and wield great power within multi-billion dollar corporations. They truly live lives where their enormous wealth drives their every decision. And yet, an almost endless string of unfolding daily scandals reveals that many of these “captains” wanted even *more* money and *more* power—and were willing to break laws and practice corruption in order to accumulate what they sought. In the end, they had no *principles*—and seemingly little or no CHARACTER!

Were these really a success? And what of the more respectable great business tycoons of just 100 years ago? After being gone so long, who remembers what they accomplished—assuming anyone even

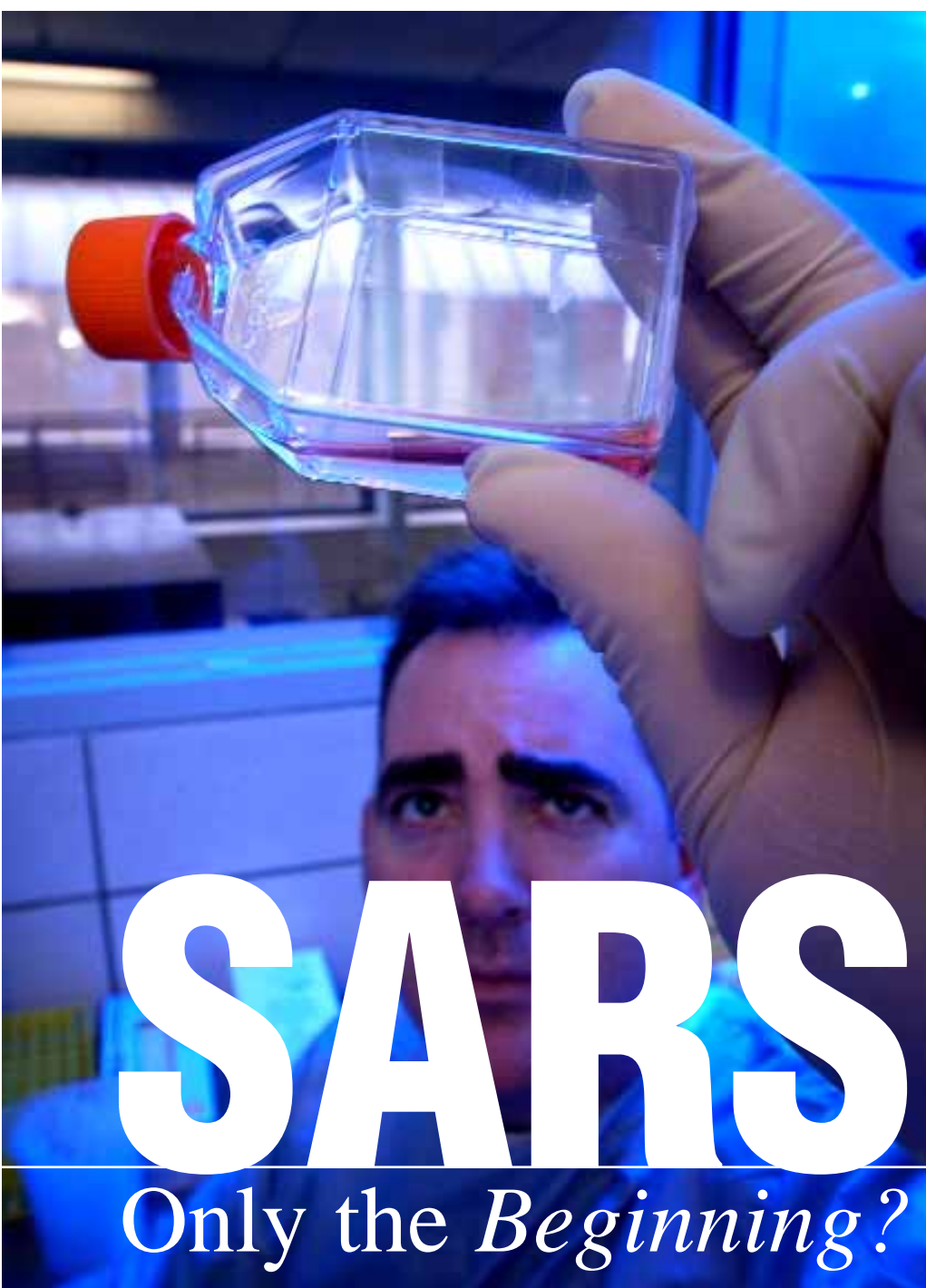
ment seized everything he had. Ultimately, where did his goals take him? What did they achieve for him?

Many years ago, my father sold one of his businesses to a man who had been one of my childhood friends. He told my father, “My goal is to be a *million dollars in debt*.” He explained that his reasoning was “if I am that far in debt, it means I have so many irons in the fire, something has to pop.” Because the nature of my father’s business had peaked, he sold it at the right time. My father enjoyed reminding me that he had certainly “helped your (my) friend toward his goal.”

This is an unusual example. But it shows how some people’s values and goals can become terribly mixed up.

Ask another question: Did famous *authors* or *inventors* truly achieve success, simply because their works

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SARS

Only the *Beginning?*

Thousands were infected. Hundreds died. Many more will be infected. What is the cause? Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome—or SARS. Many fear that its global impact may soon rival that of AIDS! How can you be safe? What can be done to stop it?

SARS—Is the worst over? Or is the panic caused by this disease only the beginning? What is the cause of this virus? How does it spread? What are its effects? Is SARS

a seasonal disease—and will it emerge every year? Who is safe? How can you be protected?

As killer diseases are on the march, these questions are paramount on the

minds of health specialists, the medical community, and even the average citizen. So far, scientists and doctors are unable to answer these basic questions about this mysterious new disease.

But this lack of information is not due to lack of effort. Top biotech companies and virologists from the United States, Canada, Germany, and other nations, are together trying to understand the complexity of what causes SARS.

In a recent public forum on SARS, Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), stated, “This is the new normal. We live in a world of emerging infectious diseases and emerging threats. And who can really say what the next challenge around the corner might be?”

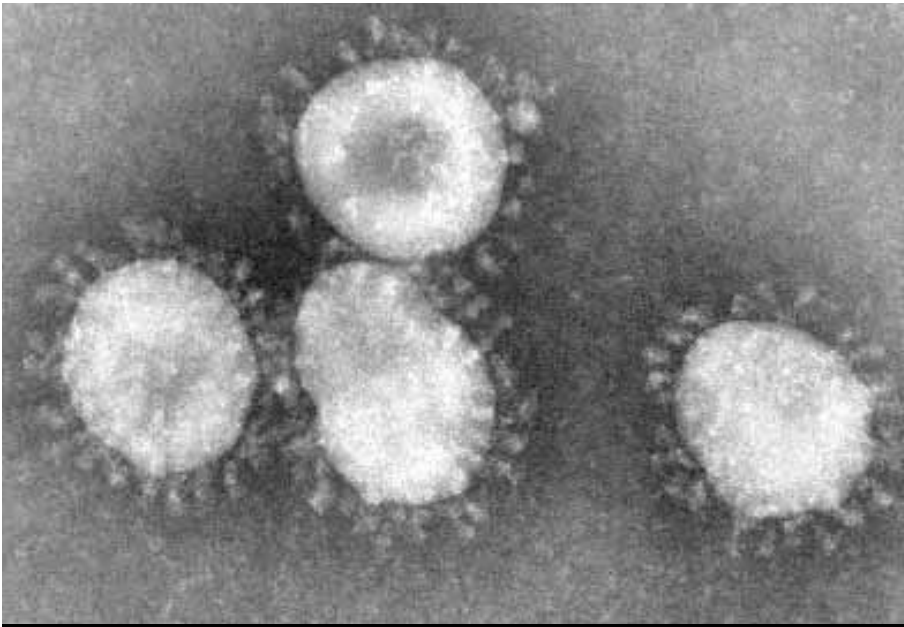
As society enters what some are terming “the epidemic age,” most hold similar fears of what the future will bring. The common understanding in the medical world is that SARS—the first new disease of the century—is only an *initiation* of this age of epidemics.

This article is not intended to increase fears of this new disease. In fact, studies show that SARS is retreating, and there are fewer infections and deaths than in recent months. However, as shown by the CDC’s health warnings, it is vital to inform the public by presenting clear-cut facts. One can then better understand how and why this disease is spreading, what the outcome of these outbreaks will be—and *why* future epidemics will follow in its wake.

Symptoms of the Disease

Most were surprised at the speed at which SARS spread to so many. The following is an example of how this virus is believed to have rapidly spread:

When Stephen woke up with a headache, sore throat, slight fever and a dry cough, he did not make much of it. His day seemed no different from any other—except that he felt like he was coming down with the flu. As he



MICROSCOPIC VIEW: Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that have a halo or crown-like (corona) appearance. Thus far, laboratory results have not provided conclusive evidence that the new coronavirus is the cause of SARS. Additional specimens are being tested to learn more about this coronavirus and its link to SARS.

rode the crowded subway on his way to work, he began sweating, feeling chills and slight abdominal pains. Within a few days, his fever boiled and his dry cough intensified. A few days later, Stephen was dead.

While Stephen *thought* he had the flu, because of his flu-like symptoms, he had actually been infected with *SARS*. Many hundreds like Stephen have suffered similarly painful deaths, caused by this mysterious disease.

Although scientists are scrambling to pinpoint the cause of this modern disease, the exact means of transmission is still unknown. However, scientists have discovered a common thread among many *SARS* cases—they were carrying a previously unrecognized *coronavirus*.

What is a coronavirus?

It is a family of viruses known to cause the common cold, and is commonly found in livestock, ducks and other domestic animals. The genetic code of the virus is based on single-stranded RNA molecules. Unlike DNA's built-in "proofreading" mechanism (which corrects errors in the replication process), when this virus-molecule reproduces itself, errors are

also generated—and new strains appear!

Dr. Gerberding further explains the nature of this virus: "...this is a single-stranded RNA virus, and that kind of virus, as it reproduces itself, doesn't have the zipper on the other side to match up perfectly, so it makes mistakes...so it is not surprising that we see new strains emerge over time. We haven't documented that yet with this virus, and I think the fact that the sequenced data from the isolate characterized in Canada and the U.S. are so close, suggests that large mutations are not occurring. But it's biologically plausible, and we'll be keeping our eye on these strains as we go forward."

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the coronavirus attached to the common cold mutated into a new strain, becoming deadlier to humans, thus creating the *SARS* virus. However, in a disappointing turn of events, Canadian microbiologists found that 40% of their *SARS* patients were *not* carrying the coronavirus!

This development raised two questions: (1) Is *SARS* even associated with this family of viruses? Or, (2) has

the coronavirus again mutated, now able to elude detection?

How SARS Spreads

Currently, the primary means of spreading is close person-to-person contact, such as touching the skin or direct contact with respiratory secretions (inhaling or touching residue from a sneeze or cough) from an infected person. Since *SARS* can be transported airborne, practically every person in close proximity of an infected person (in the above example, almost every person on the subway) can become infected.

The *SARS* virus can also survive up to 24 hours outside a host, so contaminated items, such as elevator buttons, hospital beds, clothing, face masks, etc., can continue infecting people without an infected person in the vicinity.

The main reason for *SARS*' high infection rate is that, since its symptoms are so similar to the flu, an individual infected with the disease is usually unaware that this has occurred, and continues in regular activities, instead of immediately seeking quarantine.

However, one of the greatest fears of the disease is still in question. Officials are uncertain whether someone *carrying* the disease, but not showing symptoms, can infect others. This hypothesis stems from one such case, in which a man infected with *SARS*, but not yet showing symptoms, visited someone at the hospital, and all the patients in the same room later came down with *SARS*. Before this case, health authorities had assumed that only symptomatic patients spread the disease.

In China, where the disease originated, *SARS* victims received lax medical treatment—instead of immediate quarantine. As far back as November 2002, *SARS* cases in the Guandong province of China were shuffled away, and were unreported to WHO. As *SARS* thrived in China, the Chinese Ministry of Health's secrecy no doubt increased panic and spiked the number of fatalities, while inhibit-

ing the world community's efforts to stop it.

For this reason, the CDC *immediately* issued warnings about SARS to the American public, which helped limit domestic cases (71 cases, 0 deaths), in ratio to the world (8,364 cases, 789 deaths)—and these numbers are changing almost daily! Health specialists realized that in order to prevent mass spread and hysteria, you must have an *informed* population, who know to seek quarantine if they begin showing symptoms. This also helped prevent the disease from promulgating overpopulated cities—as occurred in China, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Another aspect of the SARS spread is that most infections occurred in cities, where overpopulation is common. Cramped, overcrowded areas where more people live in spaces not suitable to house them (commonly sharing ventilation and sanitation systems), are *fertile breeding grounds* for disease. SARS is simply the most recent disease to take advantage of this, as evidenced by a massive SARS outbreak in a Hong Kong apartment building (transmitted through sewage pipes).

Once again, the lesson of infectious disease is obvious: It only takes *one* weak link to begin an OUTBREAK. It is just a matter of *when* and *where* it will begin.

Just a cursory glance at the world reveals another terrifying picture: Most of the world's population live in filth and squalor, often in densely populated areas, with primitive sanitation systems—if at all!

This has forced the baffled medical world to seek a way to advance the battle against disease, while helplessly waiting for the next generation of deadlier and genetically mutating diseases to strike.

As most disease victims and medical professionals are learning, there is no “cure-all”!

Tracking SARS Around the World

When a mysterious disease appeared in the Guangdong province of China in

November 2002, the world was completely unaware of what would happen in the months to follow. Health officials now wish that the Chinese Ministry of Health had reported the first outbreak to WHO.

Instead, a cover-up ensued, helping the disease to continue spreading. Had this new disease been reported, the how, what, when, where and why of SARS would have been known. The disease was finally reported on February 26, 2003—approximately three months after the first case—and, a few days later, WHO issued the first SARS warning.

Since that warning, the numbers of SARS infections increased, revealing a tangled web of spread. For example, in Toronto, almost every case of SARS can be traced to a twenty-six year old woman who died on March 5, 2003.

She had traveled to Hong Kong in February, and upon return, unwittingly caused a chain reaction: She passed it to her son, who passed it to at least two individuals sharing his hospital

room, who then passed it to family and friends.

The result? Toronto witnessed the infecting of 238 people, with 32 deaths, and WHO issued a travel warning to Toronto visitors.

In early June 2003, as 15 new cases appeared, health authorities in Toronto scrambled at the possibility of a SARS resurgence. One victim was a man from Raleigh, North Carolina, who was infected while visiting the Canadian city. However, the disease was not detected until he returned home. He and his family were immediately quarantined for ten days.

Following this cluster of outbreaks, fears of WHO issuing Toronto a new warning were high. This warning had severely affected the city, estimated to have cost \$30 million a day. However, at a recent conference, WHO did not re-issue Toronto a warning.

But with 33 reported deaths so far, and as the first spot to be hit by SARS in the Western World, Toronto will long be associated with the virus.

Before its partial containment, the



COMBATTING SARS: The CDC works closely with WHO and other partners, as part of a global collaboration to address the SARS outbreak. Above, a worker for the Special Pathogens Branch processes SARS specimens.

medical community was bracing itself for a catastrophe. While SARS-related deaths (789 so far) do not even parallel the number of AIDS deaths (3 million in 2002), the estimated 14-15% death rate for SARS cases is no laughing matter. In comparison to the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-19, which had a death rate of less than 3%—yet killed over 20 million people in just 18 months—if not contained, SARS could kill many more, in far less time.

Meanwhile, epidemiologists are tracking SARS as it appears in new locations, and reappears in areas where infections had been contained. If these partial containments fail, and SARS outbreaks continue, businesses and schools—even entire cities—will again have to shut down!

In an interview with *BBC News Online*, Professor John Oxford, a virology expert, stated, “There’s not much you can do to avoid this, unless you go and live as a *hermit*.”

and medical screening of people wanting to travel into the city, the quarantining of 29,000 people within two months (April and May 2003), as well as punishing healthcare workers attempting to cover up information about the SARS spread.

Over all, while unable to pinpoint the exact cause of the disease, the medical world is confident in the war to contain SARS. But many health experts understand that this could change from one day to the next.

In reference to SARS’ unpredictable nature, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), stated, “It’s too soon to count our chickens...This is an *evolving* epidemic, and we need to take it SERIOUSLY.”

The SARS virus may *seem* contained. However, as the century’s *first* new strain of mutating viruses, the global effects of this disease are lasting.

ty to discover an instant cure, this virus continues to puzzle scientists—leaving them unable to stop SARS, let alone permanently contain it.

But, unrealized by most, modern plagues were announced millennia ago by the world’s foremost newscaster—Jesus Christ.

In Leviticus 26, Christ—the God of the Old Testament—states, “And if you shall despise My statutes...so that you will not do *all* My commandments...I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you *terror, consumption, and the burning ague* [fever], that shall *consume the eyes*, and cause *sorrow of heart*...and you shall be *slain before your enemies*...” (vs. 15-17).

In Deuteronomy 28, God further warns today’s generation, “If you will not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book...Then the LORD will make your *plagues* wonderful [amazing], and the

“In terms of *economic* impact... SARS is the biggest disaster in 30 years.”

A Startling Reality

The CDC’s official SARS “czar,” Hitoshi Oshitani, stated, “In terms of cases and deaths, SARS does not even rank among the top 10 communicable diseases in Asia...In terms of *economic* impact, however, SARS is the biggest disaster in 30 years.”

Aside from Toronto’s estimated loss of \$30 million a day, WHO reports that the global “bill” left in the wake of recent SARS outbreaks has already exceeded \$30 *billion*! But with the lifting of health warnings for Toronto, the city’s ailing tourism industry is hoping to rebound. Asia’s economy, however, will need much more time to recover from SARS.

On the health front, the almost draconian measures employed by the Chinese government (after a shake-up in the governing ranks) seem to be curbing SARS. Some of these precautionary steps include 14-day isolation

As this world enters what has been termed “the epidemic age,” people wearing protective masks and fears of being infected while passing a hospital or a crowd—or riding in airplanes or touching a contaminated item—are seemingly *new, common realities for this age!*

A Biblical Pestilence?

As explained, when compared to other diseases such as Tuberculosis and Malaria, the numbers infected by SARS are much lower.

However, so many fear SARS because it is a relatively *mysterious* disease. Recall Dr. Gerberding’s statement: “This is the new *normal*. We live in a world of emerging infectious diseases and emerging threats. And who can really say what the next challenge around the corner might be?”

The CDC director’s statement is truer than most realize. While the world relies on the medical communi-

plagues of your seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance...Also every sickness, and every plague...they will the LORD bring upon you, until you be DESTROYED” (vs. 58-59, 61).

Can SARS actually be a biblical pestilence? While skeptics may dismiss this question as one asked by “doomsday watchers” or “end-of-the-world fanatics,” a quick look at prophecy—events written in advance—reveals something far different than most expect.

Do not dismiss the words of your Bible!

The apostle Paul wrote, “This know also, that in the *LAST DAYS perilous times shall come*” (II Tim. 3:1). Just a quick glance at world news evidences that we are truly living in perilous times! It is no coincidence that killer diseases, both old and new, are striking a society ignorant of God’s

Law (Jer. 6:19). This was prophesied to occur! Recent outbreaks of Monkey Pox (which migrated to the U.S. through an African rodent), and West Nile virus testify to this—and are fulfillments of these prophecies.

How Can One Be Safe?

With the threats of SARS, West Nile, anthrax, smallpox, monkey pox, tuberculosis, and the onslaught of mutating bacteria, not to mention bioterrorism threats, can one be safe from these pestilences? How can someone—anyone—be protected from this faceless enemy?

In Matthew 24:21-22, Christ

states, “For then shall be *great tribulation*, such as was not since the beginning of the world...And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved...” The proliferation of deadly pestilences is another telltale sign of this imminent time of trouble.

Recall Deuteronomy 28. God stated that the plagues He would send were conditional: “...*because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God*” (vs. 62).

These modern plagues directly result from humanity living *against* the way God intended!

But there is a way of *escape*! God

does not foretell these horrific events without providing an advance announcement of the WONDERFUL WORLD TO COME! While the *immediate* road ahead seems dark, there is light at the end of the tunnel!

God is bringing a utopian society, in which He will wipe away all fear, disease and sickness. While millions of scientists and doctors and the most educated of minds are helpless to bring this to pass, God *has* the power to remove all diseases (Ex. 15:26; Deut. 7:15; Psa. 91:5-10)—and *will!*

To learn more about this, read our free book *TOMORROW’S WONDERFUL WORLD—An Inside View!* □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

outlived them? If you answer “yes,” are you sure? On what *basis* were they a success?

Are you absolutely certain *your* definition of success is the correct one? If most people’s view of success is correct, then why is there so much misery in the lives of people who have achieved human wealth, power and fame? Why do they often change mates like they were changing shoes? Why are so many of these “success stories” quietly delving into drugs, alcohol, overwork, free sex, materialism, escapism and pleasure-seeking? Why are their lives empty—devoid of *meaning*?

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

Now let’s look at success in a different light. The general assumption is that success is largely a by-product of one’s *natural ability*. It is as though “you have it or you don’t.” Most think they have little control over their own success or failure. They have been programmed by common assumptions to believe they

cannot do much to change their level of achievement in life.

Is this true? Is success or failure entirely connected to talents one is *born* with? Past a point, I have learned that success or failure has little to do with ability or talent, and that people’s success was far more connected to the desire to produce, learn, grow and achieve than to any other reason.

Yet, I found that virtually all those who did not succeed, could have—if they had known and applied the *LAWS* to success. I came to realize that people fail by choice, not by inherited traits—their “genetics.” I learned that people have far more control over the direction of their lives than they realize, or are willing to admit.

So, most languish throughout their lives believing there is little or nothing they can do to achieve the success they long for.

Most do not understand that there are absolute, definite *rules*, which must be applied on the path to a specific, carefully established goal. Neither do most even try to figure out the one great goal toward which they should point their lives to achieve.

Eventually, everyone dies (Heb. 9:27)! In every case, the wealth, power and recognition of even the most famous of people die with them. Though some very few may be

remembered for some period beyond their lifetime, none have knowledge of this from the grave. And even the remembrance of the accomplishments of their lives is fleeting.

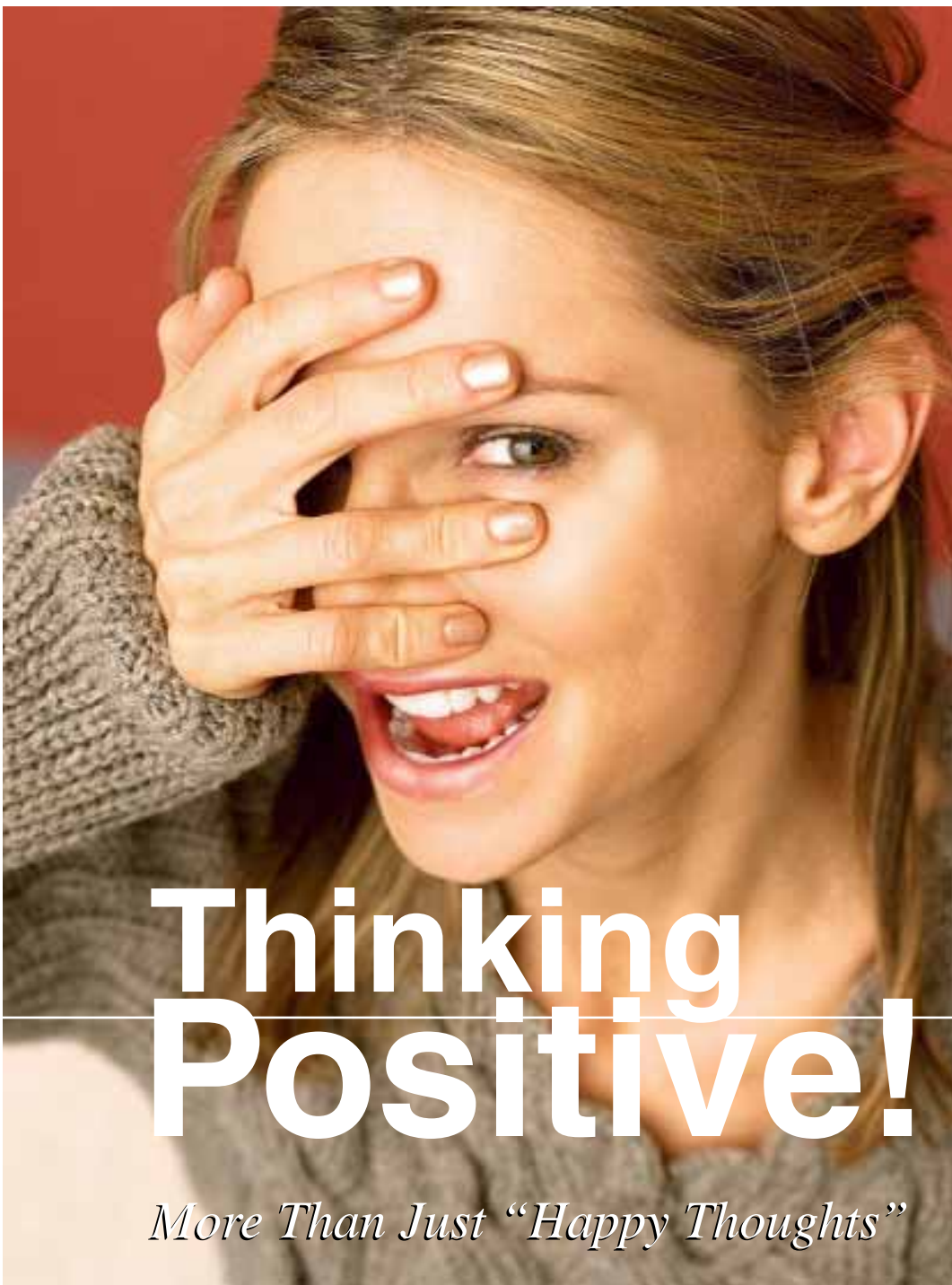
God intended that every human being become a success. In the greatest overall sense, fulfilling your incredible human potential is reaching the level of *TRUE* and *FINAL SUCCESS* vastly beyond anything possible in this life. While most *professing* Christians would probably agree with this statement, it has occurred to almost none of them that the greatest Author of success—*GOD!*—reveals *how* to achieve such *TRUE SUCCESS!*

This is what the wealthy, the famous, the powerful, the great—the supposedly “successful”—of this world never recognized!

It is a great irony that most people ignore and reject the instructions of the very God they profess to serve—and from whom they hope to be given *eternal* success—salvation. Yet, in an additional ironic twist, these same people would probably line up by the millions if they could *buy* a copyrighted formula guaranteed to bring them success with no effort.

There is a formula—*SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS*—and you can know them. I urge you to read our booklet *The Laws to SUCCESS.*

You need not fail! □



Thinking Positive!

More Than Just “Happy Thoughts”

In light of today’s escalating trials and pressures, is mere determination and “looking on the bright side of things” enough? Or is there more you need to know? You *can* truly live a happy, confident, much less stressful life—here is how!

BY BRUCE A. RITTER

WAR, TERRORISM, genocide, child abuse, rape, murder, hunger, racism, disease, drought, ethnic cleansing, depleted oceans, global warming, pollution,

failing economy, unemployment, poverty—this is the world in which we now live. So much widespread suffering and tragedy abound, we often feel powerless and empty.

Add to these the difficulties most people experience in their personal lives: Marital or family problems, massive debt and ever-mounting pressures to keep up with societal expectations. These, and numerous concerns like them, often seem intractable, and paralyze many with fear and depression.

And then there are the day-to-day stresses—from getting the kids ready for school, dealing with your daily commute, to battling office politics—often squeezing out every ounce of joy, replacing it with bitterness and despair.

Is this the way life is supposed to be?

Though most people manage to go on, they find it difficult to stay focused on the positive. So, what is the solution? Is there a way to not just survive—but to *thrive*—in spite of the perceived problems and injustices in our lives and in the world around us?

“Don’t Worry, Be Happy”?

Many remember the popular song “Don’t Worry, Be Happy.” Pick up a magazine, go to a bookstore, or turn on the television—what ever the medium, a host of varying ideas on “the power of positive thinking” come at us in all shades and colors.

But, do any of these much-touted schemes and opinions really work?

In spite of all the talk, books and articles promising “sure-fire” ways to be positive in an age of hopelessness, clinical depression has reached pandemic proportions. Most people still feel stressed out, unable to find peace of mind or lasting contentment.

Where can one find true relief?

More Than Positive Thinking

Many try to think “happy thoughts” or will themselves to be happy or positive, in spite of all the troubles they see around them or pressures they experience. This often leads people to avoid the news or anything that might be a “let down,” causing them to become the proverbial ostrich with its head in the sand.

Others give themselves over to

risky behavior and habits such as alcohol and drug abuse. They live hard and play hard to distract themselves from the harsh realities of this human existence.

In the Western world, many feel insulated from the horror of what is happening beyond their cozy, tidy neighborhoods. They may feel bad for the less fortunate, and hope that everything will “work out” for them, but beyond this, they do not really like to think much about it.

Yet, some do turn to meditation, exercise or other physical stress-relief techniques to overcome negativity and pressures of life. These are psychological and largely ineffective ways to deal with the *symptoms* of problems—problems that are *spiritual* in nature. It is a vain attempt to treat the physical *effects* instead of recognizing and addressing the *cause*.

The Futility of Men's Religions

When life becomes too much to bear, hundreds of millions of people turn to religion. They give themselves over to the exotic mysteries of Buddhism, Taoism, Islam and other non-Western religions.

Yet, once their appeal wears off, people find themselves searching for something more.

Hundreds of millions seek the deity of the Catholics, Protestants and other professing Christians. They fall into the trap of simply “receiving”—getting—some long-haired, effeminate “god,” who will make everything in their pitiful lives turn out alright.

However, when personal problems escalate and pressures build and grow out of control, the “Christ” they have been taught to lay their burdens upon is revealed to be spiritually impotent. This is because the churches of this world do not know the one true God. As a result, they do not understand His Master Plan for mankind—the true purpose of why He created human beings in the first place. They do not teach why we exist or what is the ultimate purpose of life.

Often, people end up feeling emptier and more confused than before.

Thinking Positive

Since simply thinking “happy thoughts” is not enough—since man’s religions ultimately do not bring the relief people desperately seek—where does one find true relief, the kind that *lasts*?

The religions of men do not have the answers, but the God of the Bible does.

Humanity at large falls into two ditches: People either ignore the Bible, even to the point of openly despising it—or they profess great affection for God’s Word, but do not “live the Book.” Instead, they pick and choose what passages will make them feel good, while largely ignoring the fact that the Bible is a spiritual Instruction Book. It teaches mankind HOW TO LIVE.

Not only are both ditches wrong, but people end up cheating themselves from discovering the only *true* way to personal fulfillment, peace, lasting happiness and the *right* kind of positive thinking.

A wise man once said that the Bible is the foundation of all knowledge. God’s instruction manual reveals that “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness” (II Tim. 3:16). The Bible teaches us how to live and interact with others. One of its many purposes is to straighten out or correct the paths we take in life, helping us to reap the multiple blessings of living the only way that produces real and lasting happiness. As a spiritual mirror, the Bible points out areas where we need to change and grow.

Consider what God’s Word says about the trap of the “power of positive thinking.” This is a form of self-deception—deceiving yourself into believing you are getting “better and better, in every way, every day.” It is also tied to the mentality of attempting to “pull yourself up by your bootstraps”—or trying to overcome or improve by *your own* power. Doing this builds *self-confidence* and *self-reliance*.

Notice what the Bible calls people

who do this: “He that trusts in his own heart is a *fool*” (Prov. 28:26)!

God wants all people to live abundant, prosperous lives, filled to the brim with joy (John 10:10). Joy is but one of the nine fruits of God’s Holy Spirit: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance” (Gal. 5:22-23). God gives His Spirit to those who actively seek to obey and please Him (I John 3:22).

Have you ever been taught this?

Unfortunately, most have been taught to view God as harsh and His commandments as burdensome. Yet, those who fall for this cut themselves off from the relief—the freedom from overwhelming pressures and surmounting trials that beset all of us, at one time or another.

Thousands of years ago, King David, through a lifetime of experiences, learned to call God’s Word “a lamp unto my feet” (Psa. 119:105). The Bible says the same about God’s Law: “For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life” (Prov. 6:23).

God’s Law, which is based on outgoing love and concern for others (see Matthew 22:36-40), directs every aspect of our lives. It tells us which way to go—how to live—how to avoid life’s potential pitfalls, traps and snares.

And when things go wrong, God’s Word shows us how to deal with trials, sufferings and pressures.

The Example of Paul

The apostle Paul was one of God’s greatest servants—and he suffered greatly for following God and His Way. Paul summarized his many trials and sufferings in II Corinthians 11:23-27: “...in *labors* more abundant, in *stripes* above measure, in *prisons* more frequent...five times received I *forty stripes save one*. Thrice was I *beaten with rods*, once was I *stoned*, thrice I suffered *shipwreck*, a night and a day I have been in the *deep*...in perils of *waters*, in perils of *robbers*, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by

the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In *weariness* and *painfulness*...in *hunger* and *thirst*...in *cold* and *nakedness*.”

Of all people, Paul had a right to complain. Yet, despite the many trials he had endured, Paul’s life was filled with joy! He maintained a positive attitude and outlook on life—why?—how?

Paul saw the BIG PICTURE. He knew why he was born. He understood the overarching purpose for his human existence. He recognized what most people, even today, do not see: That the trials and pressures we experience in this life pale in comparison to our awesome human potential!

Paul’s letter to the Philippians, often called the book of positive thinking, reveals Paul’s mindset. In chapter four, verse 8, he writes, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true,

Notice: “But seek you first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness [which are His commandments—Psa. 119:172]; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33).

Putting God and His Way first—letting Him direct your life and protect you during trials and pick you up whenever you fall—is the key to real, lasting peace of mind and security. This is the true way to positive thinking.

Those who do this understand that “all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” (Rom. 8:28). Despite feeling overwhelmed in times of great difficulty, we can fully rely upon God. If you put Him first, He will put *you* first. He has promised to never leave or forsake those who trust Him (Heb. 13:5). And God always keeps His Word (6:18).

whatever comes our way.

But God also offers His divine help: “He gives power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increases strength...they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength...they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isa. 40:29, 31). God promises strength to those in need, giving us the optimism we crave for in the face of adversity.

Remember, He does this for those who strive to obey Him, who actively seek to please God with how they live. Those who are led by God’s Holy Spirit, and obey His Word—enjoy contentment and satisfaction. God’s gift of faith gives them the power to find solutions to problems, and to overcome fear, worry and discouragement. They show love, outgoing concern, sincerity and goodwill toward other people, instead of being self-consumed with over-interest in just themselves.

“God wants you to trust in Him, and He wants to bless you with a full life of accomplishment and fulfillment (John 10:10).”

whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.”

In other words, if we focus on the BIG PICTURE, fully understanding how we fit into God’s Plan, the worries of this temporary human existence are reduced.

Did you know that God knows more about you than you know about yourself? So says your Bible! God knows all that we ever need, and then some. That is why His Son, Jesus Christ, taught that we do not need to overly concern ourselves with the worries and burdens of this life (Matt. 6:25-32).

The key is to follow God’s instruction to recognize and focus upon *why* you exist, *why* God has given you life, and what He expects from you.

With this in mind, remember these words: “If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31).

What God Wants for Us

God wants you to trust in Him, and He wants to bless you with a full life of accomplishment and fulfillment (John 10:10). However, this does not mean that God promises “smooth sailing” through life. He allows tests and trials to come in order to help us grow and build character, which is tied to “seek[ing]...first the kingdom.”

Solomon understood that “In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also has set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him” (Ecc. 7:14). God wants all of His servants to learn from adversity and to grow—and to increase our reliance on Him. He knows that when we stay close to Him, we are best equipped to handle

God’s faith alone will not make money grow on trees, or give you an easy quick-fix for every situation. However, it does enable you to absolutely trust God for help. “There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it” (I Cor. 10:13).

Think of the Bible as a treasure chest of promises that God will pour out on you—IF you fully trust God and obey Him. Confident that He is on your side, you will not allow obstacles to dictate your attitude or outlook on life.

As Christ explained in Luke 1:37, with God, all things are possible!

(To understand more about God’s Plan for you and all of humanity, read our free book *The AWESOME POTENTIAL of Man.*) □

Can You Trust the News?

DARK TIMES have fallen upon the world of journalism. Far and wide, plagiarism, inaccuracies, misquotes and outright fraud have riddled the landscape of the mainstream press. Even America's most prestigious newspaper, *The New York Times*, which proclaims to publish "All the News That's Fit to Print," has been touched—rocked—by scandal.

An initial internal probe into the work of a *Times* reporter revealed fraud, plagiarism and inaccuracies in 36 of 73 articles. More accounts of deceit have been discovered since then. *The Times* published a 14,000-word, 4½-page statement explaining this man's plagiarism rampage.

Here is what the probe revealed:

When assigned to travel out of state to cover national news stories, this reporter hid at home. He then copied—stole—the hard work of other reporters, passing it off as his own. He also invented stories, making up details and fraudulently describing scenes and events as if he had actually witnessed them. He made up quotes as he saw fit, quoting people uttering statements they never spoke.

This man's disgrace and subsequent resignation created a ripple effect throughout *The Times* newsroom. Staff morale dwindled.

Less than a month after his resignation, the executive editor and managing editor of *The New York Times* were also forced to resign.

Is this reporter repentant? Far from it. When caught, he showed little remorse, choosing instead to blame his superiors and the daily pressures in his life. In interviews, he lashed out at *The*

A recent wave of deceit, fraud and plagiarism has plagued the mainstream news media. How can you be sure that the news you receive is true?

BY BRUCE A. RITTER

Times, laughing at its investigation of his past work. Referring to his former employers, he commented, "I fooled some of the most brilliant people in journalism." When he did blame himself, he said that he might have been too young to work for a "snake pit" like *The Times*. He also pointed to his long struggle with alcohol and cocaine.

In one interview, this man did apologize, somewhat, adding that he wants to write his side of the story. He has even hired an agent to shop around for book, movie and television deals, so that others would learn from his mistakes and "heal."

This *New York Times* fiasco has been the lowest point in the paper's 152-year history. It has also sparked endless discussions, debates, soul searching and hand wringing in newsrooms across the country and beyond.

What is amazing is that those who knew that this reporter had misquoted them did not bother to complain to *The Times*.

It soon came to light that another man, a Pulitzer Prize-winning *Times* reporter, submitted under his byline an article that was largely reported by an unpaid, uncredited freelancer. Upon suspension from work, he attempted to justify himself, claiming that other *Times* reporters routinely used freelancers without giving them a byline

credit. He immediately received an avalanche of e-mails from co-workers refuting his claim. Feeling the heat, he soon resigned.

Due to scandals such as the above, many simply conclude that reporters commonly make up the facts.

Do they?

Endless Debates

The recent *Times* scandal has led many—readers and newsmakers alike—to ask: "If it can happen at *The New York Times*, what about the rest of the news media?" In countless newsrooms across America, editors and reporters endlessly debate about how and why the *Times* fiasco happened.

Was it the paper's aggressive drive for newsroom diversity at any cost—including overlooking the glaring weaknesses of those being groomed for "stardom"? Was it youth? (Hired in his early twenties, the first reporter mentioned had been granted opportunities few ever receive at such an age.) Was it the paper's "star" system, which spotlights certain reporters while ignoring others? Was it the daily pressures of meeting tight deadlines, while being expected to produce Pulitzer Prize-winning material? (In 2002, *The Times* received a record seven Pulitzers.)

Or was it something deeper, more

sinister—yet basic to the very heart of human nature?

Whatever the blame, numerous news organizations are hunting for solutions. Many are turning to setting up fact-checking departments. Or hiring an *ombudsman*—a reader’s representative. Or devising better ways to nurture journalists and encourage open communication among the news staff (which is ironic, since their occupation is to communicate to the public).

In the end, however, none of these or other humanly-devised solutions will work. We will soon reveal *why*.

Not an Isolated Event

The vast majority of reporters do strive to live up to a strict standard of work ethics. They labor long and hard to dig up facts, conduct interviews and report the news with accuracy and detail.

Unfortunately, this is not always the case. Though rare, lies and deceit in journalism are not uncommon:

■ In the state of Washington, a jailed convicted murderer hired his former cellmate to burn down a house and commit murder in the process. However, the would-be contract killer informed the authorities of the plot. At the request of the sheriff’s office, a local newspaper published a false arson story in order to provide “proof” to the convicted murderer that his contract had been carried out.

Though the newspaper’s intentions were sincere, it intentionally deceived the public. Did the ends truly justify the means? Even journalists cannot agree.

■ An up-and-coming sports writer at a Missouri newspaper decided to broaden his career path by taking on the extra task of writing a weekly movie review. Unfortunately, he did it by stealing word-for-word film reviews from a nationally-known movie critic.

■ A Connecticut newspaper learned that one of its freelancers, a popular food writer, plagiarized recipes and their histories, as well as websites featuring them, nearly word-for-word. Just five months earlier, the same newspaper had suspended one of its sports reporters for copying articles from another newspaper.

■ In 1961, a prominent writer for *The New Yorker*, wrote “Letter from Barcelona.” In his article, he described Spaniards sitting in a “small flyblown bar,” openly jeering a televised speech by Spanish dictator Francisco Franco. Yet, 22 years later, the reporter admitted that the bar had been shut down years before the article was written. Apparently, he used “literary license” in order to reach a “higher truth.”

■ Several years ago, a popular television journalist stood in front of a news camera wearing an overcoat, and intentionally gave the impression that she was reporting in front of the U.S. Capitol. In truth, her televised report had been taped *inside*, at an ABC News studio. The network later apologized for misleading its viewers.

■ On the cover of *National Geographic*, a photo of Egypt’s Great Pyramids was digitally manipulated in order to move one of the pyramids to a “better” position.

■ During the recent war in Iraq, a *Los Angeles Times* photographer digitally altered two news photos. Both were different pictures of a British soldier holding a rifle as he stood above a kneeling crowd of Iraqis. Without his editors’ knowledge, the photographer combined the two photos together to create a composite, and then transmitted it to headquarters. When it was discovered that the photo, which ran on the front page, had been altered, the *Los Angeles Times* immediately published an apology.

■ Two Salt Lake City reporters were fired for secretly selling to a national tabloid \$20,000-worth of rumor and information about a prominent kidnapping case.

■ In exchange for maintaining privileged media access to sources inside Iraq, CNN deliberately did not report its knowledge of horrendous crimes committed by the Saddam Hussein regime—including mass torture, murder, rape, disappearances and assassination plans. CNN’s silence lasted 12 years. Had these crimes been publicized, more countries may have

been swayed to ally with the U.S., Britain and Australia in their invasion of Iraq.

■ In 1994, *Time* and *Newsweek* published on their front covers a police mug shot of O.J. Simpson after he was arrested for the murder of his wife and her friend. However, *Time* intentionally manipulated Simpson’s image to darken his face, bringing out a “five-o’clock shadow,” making him more sinister-looking than the *Newsweek* cover.

■ In 1997, *Time* and *Newsweek* ran on their covers an image of a mother who gave birth to septuplets. This time, *Newsweek* was guilty—it digitally altered the woman’s photograph to straighten and lighten her teeth. As in the Simpson incident, journalists howled, complaining that it is just as wrong to alter *visual* news as it is to alter news that is written.

When journalists lie, contrive facts or even slant the news to fit their own preconceived notions, they betray the trust of the public. When they plagiarize—“steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own; use (another’s production) without crediting the source; commit literary theft; present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source” (*Merriam-Webster*)—they, in effect, taint the image of the mainstream press, and give honest, hard-working reporters, photographers and editors a bad name.

What Makes a Journalist?

When a licensed professional, such as a doctor or lawyer, transgresses—intentionally breaks his profession’s rule of ethics, harming patients or clients in the process—his license is taken away. He is no longer able to legally practice his profession. And he is no longer in a position to harm future patrons.

But what happens when a journalist turns sour? How is he punished?

Journalism is not a profession—it is a trade. Though a great many reporters and editors are college graduates (and, in some cases, earn salaries comparable to that of licensed professionals), many become journalists without ever earn-

ing a degree. As a trade, journalism is a hands-on occupation—learned through tough, on-the-job experience. When a reporter or editor is found guilty of lying or plagiarizing, he need not worry about losing his license to practice journalism—such a license does not exist!

However, he can expect to be suspended or even lose his job. Deemed “damaged goods,” he may be shunned by every news organization in the land.

In 1981, one reporter, while at the *Washington Post*, wrote “Jimmy’s World,” a heart-wrenching article detailing the life of an eight-year-old boy. Jimmy’s dreary existence was caught in a cycle of heroin addiction, violence, misery, hopelessness and despair. Her story generated much controversy and widespread attention, even leading to winning the Pulitzer Prize.

able in their field, others are still able to find work as journalists. Some even profit from lucrative book deals.

Another reporter was forced to resign from his high-profile columnist position at the *Boston Globe* after it was discovered that he had plagiarized other people’s work several times, passing it off as his own. Yet today, he is a commentator for MSNBC news, sometimes filling in as host for *Hardball With Chris Matthews*. He is also a columnist for the *New York Daily News*.

Fired from *The Dallas Morning News* for plagiarizing, another reporter has since written for *New York* magazine, as well as *The New Yorker*. She is also the best-selling author of *Prozac Nation*.

Another reporter was guilty of fictionalizing and embellishing details in several articles for *The New Republic* magazine. Yet, his disgrace did not

newspaper, published two articles “proving” that U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair fabricated compelling reasons for invading Iraq and deposing Saddam’s despotic regime. The stories were later retracted when *The Guardian*’s charges were found baseless.

In her popular *New York Times* column, another female reporter chastised President Bush for being smug and overconfident in a speech, in which he declared that “Al-Qaida is on the run,” just days before the terrorist organization carried out a major bombing in Saudi Arabia.

She wrote, “Busy chasing off Saddam, the president and vice president had told us that al-Qaida was spent. ‘Al-Qaida is on the run,’ President Bush said last week. ‘That group of terrorists who attacked our country is slowly but surely being deci-

“The press often refers to conservative republicans as ‘right-wingers’—yet liberal democrats are rarely, if ever, called ‘left-wingers.’”

Unfortunately, there was one problem—“Jimmy” never existed. He was an invention of this reporter’s mind. A piece of fiction. A lie.

Upon her admission, she resigned. Humiliated, the *Post* returned the Pulitzer. Since her disgrace, Cooke’s days as an on-the-rise journalist have long been over. Though she managed to sell her story to Hollywood for a substantial amount of money (the movie was never made), when last heard from, she was working as a sales clerk in a Michigan department store.

Like most journalists who give in to the temptation to steal, lie and deceive, this woman was penalized by her peers.

But this is not always the case.

Profiting From Plagiarism

Though some frauds and plagiarists are shunned in journalistic circles, and become permanently unemploy-

keep him from getting his recent book published—a “fictionalized” novel about a reporter who shades the truth.

As you can see, being a discredited journalist can sometimes mean reaping even greater financial rewards.

Biased News Media?

For years, many have accused mainstream news of being politically biased, and tainting everything it reports with a liberal slant. But is this true? Consider the following:

The press often refers to conservative republicans as “right-wingers”—yet liberal democrats are rarely, if ever, called “left-wingers.”

During the recent Gulf War, *The New York Times* was accused of slanting its front-page news to match the largely liberal views of the paper’s editorial section.

The Guardian, a left-wing British

mated...They’re not a problem anymore.”

A closer examination reveals that this woman used ellipses to omit what President Bush had actually said—completely changing the meaning of his remarks.

Removing the ellipse reveals what the President actually said: “Al-Qaida is on the run. That group of terrorists who attacked our country is slowly but surely being decimated. *Right now, about half of all the top al-Qaida operatives are either jailed or dead. In either case, they’re not a problem anymore.*”

When he said, “they’re not a problem anymore,” the President was clearly referring to the al-Qaida terrorists who were already imprisoned or dead. He was *not* talking about al-Qaida as a whole. Yet, the column left readers believing otherwise.

During the recent Gulf War, the BBC was accused of repeatedly slanti-

ng its news coverage to match its anti-war stance. Even some of its reporters, who were embedded with allied troops, complained that the stories they reported and sent in from the frontlines were not accurately reflected by what was later released by their editors.

Their constant anti-war slanting of news reports became so problematic, the British royal navy removed the BBC from reporting aboard one of its warships.

In coming out of retirement to write a weekly opinion piece, television news legend Walter Cronkite revealed that he considered himself a social liberal. He also admitted to a liberal bias in the mainstream press, quickly adding that he thought this was overstated by conservative critics.

The executive editor of *The Los Angeles Times* wrote an internal memo and *ordered* editors under his authority to stop putting a liberal slant on politi-

which is lesser, which is frivolous. This requires news judgment.

Seven days a week, editors at daily newspapers meet at least once a day to discuss which of their cache of articles should occupy the front page. What should be the centerpiece, the story that dominates the page. What photos should be used. What stories should be “above the fold,” the top half of the newspaper, which the public sees displayed at newsstands and magazine racks.

Making the right decisions requires experience and knowing one’s audience. In other words, good news *judgment*. And, by definition, judgment involves *opinion*, tempered by experience. Part of news judgment (for good or bad) is that topics grow cold and are no longer touted as top news.

Have you ever noticed how certain topics are continuously touted as “big news”—yet mysteriously disappear

because of just plain journalistic sloppiness and failure to follow through.

Take this for example: During the recent Gulf War, a British Royal Marine commando noticed that his Kevlar helmet was riddled with four bullet holes, thanks to fellow soldiers who were busy trying to hit an anti-tank weapon. Seeing him wear his bullet-ridden helmet, reporters on the scene jumped to conclusions and, without properly interviewing him, assumed that the helmet must have just saved the marine’s life during a fierce firefight. As photographers snapped pictures of the soldier wearing his helmet, neither he nor his fellow marines said anything to stop the reporters from jumping to the wrong conclusion. Dubbed the “miracle marine” and “the luckiest soldier,” the young man’s picture was shown in newspapers and television news programs around the world. Only later did he confess the truth.

“Because of the deceitfulness of the carnal mind, many journalists choose to steal, lie, or slant the facts to reflect their own personal opinion.”

cally-charged hard news stories, such as abortion.

Dick Morris, former political consultant for President Clinton and political commentator for Fox News, recently made a startling revelation. According to Morris, the top editor for *The New York Times* essentially implied that if then President Clinton would grant an interview, *The Times* would not publish stories regarding several scandals that were becoming issues during the President’s 1996 re-election campaign. The president gave *The Times* its interview, and, apparently, the paper followed through on its implied promise.

Presenting the News Requires Judgment

Journalism is a craft, not a science. It involves obtaining hard facts and making sense of them. It involves determining which topic is more important,

after a few days or weeks, usually unresolved, only to be replaced by another “hot” story?

For example: Just before and at the start of the recent Gulf War, the North Korean threat of nuclear weapons was a big issue. Now, there is barely a whisper of the situation. Did North Korea’s nukes suddenly go away?—Is their dictator leader no longer a threat?—What changed? Nothing, except that news editors around the world collectively decided that it was no longer a hot-button issue—that there were plenty of red-hot stories to replace it.

So goes the daily news cycle, run by the engine of experienced news judgment, mixed with personal preference, bias and opinion.

Jumping to Wrong Conclusions

Sometimes, the press gets things wrong *not* because of fraud or plagiarism, but

When researching stories, reporters often rely on Lexis-Nexis, a valuable database of legal information (business transactions, run-ins with the law, etc.) and a virtual storehouse of archived news from newspapers, journals and magazines around the globe.

Sometimes, problems arise when, for example, a reporter looks up past press clippings of a political candidate. Suppose the candidate was reported as having been arrested for drunk driving in another state. The reporter will dutifully note this, but may not discover that this was a false report, corrected some time later.

Case in point: The misquoting of President Bush’s speech (mentioned previously) was published by other news organizations, who were not aware of her misleading omission. As a result, *more* readers were given the wrong impression of what the President actually said.

“No New Thing Under the Sun”

Lies, fraud and literary theft are nothing new to the press. Journalism has a long history of shading the truth, slanting news coverage to fit certain political biases, and, at times, inventing “facts” out of fiction.

Some have credited newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst with starting the Spanish-American War. Amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and Spain, Hearst’s newspapers published stories that worked to continually fan the flames, eventually leading to armed conflict. Reportedly, Hearst told one of his sketch artists, “You furnish the pictures, I’ll supply the war.”

H.L. Mencken, considered one of journalism’s greats, boasted of dreaming up false news stories while reporting for the *Baltimore Herald*, at the start of the twentieth century. He bragged of publishing weekly stories about a Baltimore “wild man,” which he had invented. Another time, he wrote a straight-faced article that celebrated the 75th anniversary of the bathtub. In it, Mencken noted that Millard Fillmore, when vice-president of the U.S., became a champion of tubs. Though pure fiction, the article was presented as fact, and fooled a great many.

In 1932, a *New York Times* reporter won the Pulitzer Prize for writing in great length about the Soviet Union.

However, history has shown that he intentionally ignored Stalin’s infamous campaign of manmade famine, which starved as many as seven million Ukrainians!

Mencken, along with A.J. Liebling, Joseph Mitchell and other greats of journalism, lived in a time when telling tall tales and “dressing up” the facts to make a better read were the norm. This is reflected in the 1931 film *The Front Page* and its remake, *His Girl Friday*. Both films give a humorous—and many say accurate—picture of the early twentieth-century press, in which journalists are portrayed as inventing the news

while ignoring the bare facts happening right before their eyes.

As King Solomon once wrote, “...there is no new thing under the sun” (Ecc. 1:9).

Why Plagiarism, Deceit and News Bias?

Why so many accounts of lies, fraud and deceit? Why is there so much bias and slanted news coverage in the media?

The answer is simple: Human nature. Because of the deceitfulness of the carnal mind, many journalists choose to steal, lie, or slant the facts to reflect their own personal opinion. A reporter is trained to look for *facts*, not the TRUTH. Journalists who do search for the truth do so with built-in biases.

God’s Word is TRUTH (John 17:17)—and His Word is the Bible. Think of it as God’s point of view (His will, thoughts and desires) in written form. The Bible also can tell you about yourself, and what drives your thinking and actions (Heb. 4:12).

God’s Word reveals that *all* people (including journalists) walk according to the ways of this world. And this is because they are actively and continually being influenced by the “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4). As the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2), this powerful, deceitful being—the author of raw, base carnality—broadcasts wrong attitudes, desires, impulses, mindsets and thoughts. Remarkably, he has even deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9) into believing that he does not exist! This being is so effective at this massive worldwide deception that most people *laugh* at the notion that he could actually exist—much less be ruling over the earth!

Yet, Jesus Christ called him “the father of lies,” the originator of all lust and murder (John 8:44). To know the identity of this malevolent being and how he influences the world, read our free booklet *Did God Create HUMAN NATURE?*

Since the time of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, this being has led

people to set themselves up as their own judges. Each man wants to decide *for himself* right from wrong, good from evil. He wants to create his own personal rules. No one wants to learn what God, our *Maker*, thinks. People do not want our *Creator* and *Master Potter* to tell them what to do.

And because people cannot agree—cannot perfectly walk together in peace and harmony, because it does not live the same standards in every corner of life—mankind has continually reaped violence, strife, misery, war, suffering, pain and death.

Men think they know everything they need to know to live joyful, successful, peaceful lives. But here is what God’s Word reveals about man:

“The heart is *deceitful* above all things, and *desperately wicked*” (Jer. 17:9).

“O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: It is not in man that walks to direct his steps” (10:23).

“There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of *death*” (Prov. 14:12; 16:25).

“All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes” (16:2).

“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is *death*; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is *enmity against God*: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8:5-7).

No wonder some resort to fraud and deceit in reporting the news! Man *cannot*—of and by himself—determine right from wrong. He *cannot* trust himself to truly know and judge the difference between good and evil.

The result? To one man, fabricating the facts is *wrong*. To another, it is “literary license.” And to another, certain *degrees* of “dressing up” the details are acceptable.

Man is naturally attuned to the ways of carnal nature, which are described in Galatians 5:16-21. But those who are led—whose minds are

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The **PLEASURE SEEKERS**

PART ONE: An Addiction to “Fun”

THERE IS an old saying, “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” Seemingly, this has been replaced today by “Work hard, but play harder.” Although the first half of the current saying (working hard) is sound advice, most do not foresee the potential *imbalance* that this saying implies—that working hard also permits one to “play” harder.

What about time for family, rest and other things? Are these lumped under “play”? Unfortunately, that is unlikely. Most would agree that the pace in Western societies permits little time to “stop and smell the roses.” There are seemingly only enough hours in each day to work, “play” and perhaps sleep.

But is this healthy? Is this wise?

The Basic Premise

This is all driven by one thing—today’s world is extremely adept at making people feel as if they *need* more. This is the premise on which

For most, life is fast-paced and stressful. Many seemingly need more and more “fun” just to make it bearable. Have *you* been programmed to constantly seek pleasure?

BY MARK P. DENEÉ

man and all his systems currently operate.

These “needs” include: “I just *need* that bigger television”—so one is conned into a “no-payments-and-no-interest-until-next-year” purchase from the local electronics store; “I just *need* that latest car model”—so one trades in an otherwise perfectly good vehicle; or, “I just *need* to see that latest movie, or wear that latest fashion”—so one spends endless dollars and time keeping “up-to-date” and “in-the-loop.” In other words, some people are driven by this mentality, and seem

to live solely to satisfy their desire for physical possessions and sense of completion. Even those who have the financial means to do this ultimately find that happiness is still elusive.

This endless cycle—in which the lives of many remain empty and meaningless—creates a desperate need to escape. Typical of human nature, this void or this need to escape is often filled with something “easy,” “pleasant” and “readily available.”

While not necessarily wrong of and by themselves, just consider some of the almost endless pleasures at our

beck and call: Satellite dishes and the Internet bringing images from around the world into our homes; restaurants serving up every kind of food; bars and liquor stores packed with alcohol of every flavor; shopping malls and stores as far as the eye can see—and easy money with which to buy it all. These are among what is considered “tame”—not to mention drugs, gambling, pornography and prostitution, satisfying every illicit and perverted sexual desire.

This addictive pleasure-seeking is driven by three things: The modern “play harder” mentality, the vacuum created by a meaningless life, and the creation of a desperate need to escape. These are all the result of *greed*—living the way of GET.

Tremendous Blessings Squandered

Most in the U.S., Britain, Canada, and most of the western European countries, are oblivious to the fact that the riches we enjoy today are a result of the blessings God promised to the descendants of the patriarch Abraham. In fact, they are even unaware that they *are* his descendants. (This is detailed in our free book *AMERICA AND BRITAIN IN BIBLE PROPHECY*.) These blessings were unconditional; yet, generations of having lived the opposite of *God’s Way*—the way of GIVE—have led to a society in which most people cannot manage these riches properly.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (part of the U.S. Department of Commerce) shows how disposable income (defined as: Personal income less personal tax and non-tax payments) per capita has dramatically increased since World War II (see chart). Note particularly the per capita amounts; note also the drastic drop in personal savings as a percentage of disposable personal income from 1981 to 2001.

It is a commonly held economic theory that as disposable income rises, so does spending on eating out, entertainment and recreation. The same source shows how this disposable income is spent and indicates that as a percentage of the total, recreation has

increased from 2.5% in 1981 to 3.9% in 2001.

Also, little thought is given to the economic consequences of living the way of GET. Consider for a moment that most corporate companies are encouraged by their boards and stockholders to “make more money.” One method is to procure goods of lower cost and quality, and then seductively promote these goods, creating an artificial need in consumers’ minds. One effective television advertisement for an electronics superstore screams a theme song of “I want more!” This fuels sales of more big-screen televisions, VCRs, DVD players, stereo systems and home theater systems—all to feed the need to play harder, escape and fill that empty feeling.

The reliance of the U.S. economy (and most other western nations) on a citizenry addicted to seeking pleasure became so obvious during the weeks and months that followed the September 11 tragedy.

What was the government’s rally-cry to the U.S. consumer?: “Continue to spend. Go out with the family to dinner and a movie. Plan a vacation to

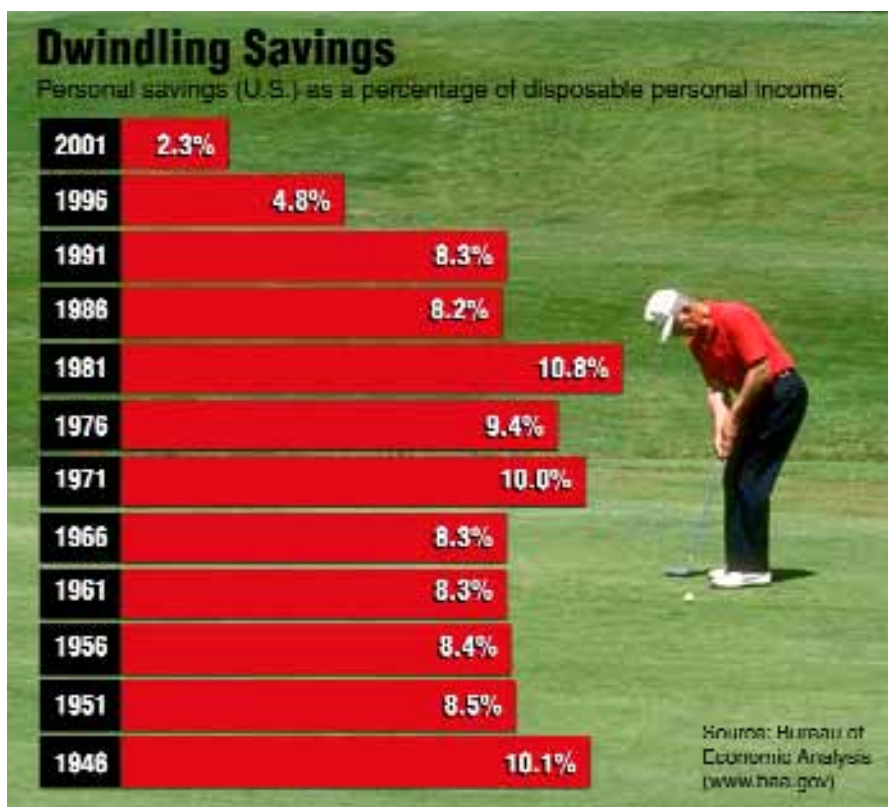
see the country.” Spend, spend, spend. Escape, escape, escape.

The economic keywords since that fateful date have been “consumer confidence.” The U.S. economy, and the nation, will not survive without the consumption of goods and services—without the addiction to the seeking of pleasures.

Unfortunately, the adage that “the only lesson learned from history is that no one learns from history” is also true in this case. Prior great civilizations fell not long after their citizens turned from building great nations to seeking pleasures. Whether it is the luxuries of the English Victorian age or the materialism of Rome during the third century, both immediately preceded the fall of those great empires. It would appear that the United States is headed in the same direction.

Addiction Begins Early

Tired parents quickly depend on “quick and easy” forms of keeping their children occupied, thus beginning this addiction at an early age. This includes an excess of television viewing, eventually leading to countless



hours of movies and video games. Seemingly gone are the days of family walks, picnics, pursuing hobbies, daily chores and developing skills. (For more information on childrearing in this troubled age, read our free booklet *Train Up Your CHILDREN.*)

From childhood, people are programmed to demand and expect instant gratification. Need entertainment? Turn on the television and watch whatever you want, *now*. No time to cook? Stop by any number of fast-food drive-thrus and eat, *now*. Need to surf the Internet? Start up your high-speed connection and see whatever you want to, *now*.

Gone are the days of learning patience. We need it now, we want it now, and we get it now—PLEASURE!

Once people become bored with whatever was pleasing them, they may seek something more intense or extreme. As if to accommodate this, each new movie or television season becomes increasingly more explicit. If there is not “a little more skin,” or “a little more sex,” then it is nothing more than “last season.” Just scanning television channels during prime time demonstrates this point.

In its “2002 U.S. Movie Attendance Study,” the Motion Picture Association indicated that the number of moviegoers increased 6% in 2002, to 165.9 million, and that “frequent” and “occasional” moviegoers make up 63% of the total U.S. population and account for 99% of all ticket sales. Those aged 12-24 comprise 29% of moviegoers, while those aged 25-39 comprise 30%. Like other corporate giants, Hollywood continues to feed the “need,” and the nation continues to squander its blessings.

“Eat, Drink and Be Merry”

In addition to increased television and movie viewing, notice another growing trend. A 1994-95 study by the Food Surveys Research Group (a subsidiary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture) found:

■ The number of Americans who eat at least one food or beverage obtained away from home in the

course of a day is 33% higher than in 1977-78.

■ Fast food establishments have surpassed restaurants as the most frequent source of outside food.

■ American households have spent nearly 40% of their food dollar on food away from home since the mid-1980s, compared with only 20% in the early 1970s.

While it is not wrong to go to dinner with family or friends, many go out for a meal or to have a few drinks as an excuse to get “dressed up” and appeal to their sense of vanity, seeking the attention of others. Going out almost becomes secondary, as sexual promiscuity becomes the pleasure of the day. King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, wrote, “Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant” (Prov. 9:17), and “He that loves pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loves wine and oil shall not be rich” (Prov. 21:17).

A Time Long Past

Even just a few generations ago, people did not pursue pleasure as they do today. The focus was on family and building strong relationships. Not only did families share meals together—life revolved around the family unit.

Following World War II, Western nations understood how pleasurable the family could be. Even *working* together around the house was considered a joy, not the burden that many view it as today. The tragedy of war made many realize how important their family was, even if that meant merely having meals together or even doing housework.

That was then and this is now. Many have become complacent in times of prosperity and peace. Growing bored of the simple pleasures of life, they have begun to look for anything to give them greater pleasure and tantalize the senses.

But with the serious problems plaguing the world, you would think people would return to those core values—and to the truly important things in life.

The world has moved into the

Information Age. Everything operates at lightning speed. People have no time to stop and consider. They have become so consumed with their own lives, that even war, terrorism and the threats of weapons of mass destruction are not enough to change their focus. There is just “not enough time” to spend together as a family and even to rest.

The human body was designed so that it needs to rest, to recharge one’s internal “batteries.” Studies show that the human body quickly deteriorates when it does not receive enough sleep—something commonly overlooked in this fast-paced society.

This rest is so important to our happiness and well-being that, from the time of creation, God instituted a weekly day of *rest*: “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a *delight*, the holy of the LORD, honorable; and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words: Then shall you *delight* yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father: for the mouth of the LORD has spoken it” (Isa. 58:13-14).

Notice the rewards of keeping the Sabbath day. These could easily be described as pleasures. Yet man does not rest or consider as he should, and cities are full of people attempting to “recharge” in other ways. They live their lives *their way*—not the way God intended. God inspired Solomon to write, “There is a way which *seems right* unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12).

The fruits of those ways are evident: Breakdown of the family, adultery, partying, gluttony, etc. These conditions were foretold millennia ago: “For as in the days that were before the flood they were *eating* and *drinking*, marrying and giving in marriage [Adam Clarke’s Commentary: “That is, they spent their time in rapine, luxury, and riot”]...so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matt. 24:38-39).

Two ancient cities parallel our modern age and actually show where society is headed.

Modern-Day Sodom and Gomorrah

For extreme examples of carnal pleasures, look no farther than the average North American city. Strip clubs and porn shops are essentially a “dime a dozen.” Cities like New York and San Francisco are no less than a modern-day Sodom and Gomorrah, where “pleasure” is seemingly the main impetus for each day. People “work for their weekends,” which are often filled with parties, drinking and sexual exploits.

The spirit of tolerance is a main theme, and many are taking it to an extreme. All forms of “pleasure” are not only tolerated, but actually encouraged. With all this pleasure-seeking, one would think that there would be joy and happiness. Yet people’s lives

ly be that the devil is the source of these lustful pleasures and that man pursues them because he is deceived?

That is what your Bible says!

People have turned from the Source of true happiness—God—and followed another god (II Cor. 4:4). And the “god of this world” has programmed people to look out for themselves: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be *lovers of their own selves...lovers of pleasures* [Clarke: “i.e. pleasure, sensual gratification, is their god; and this they love and serve”] *more than lovers of God*” (II Tim. 3:1-2, 4).

Even humanly speaking, there is a better way to create self-fulfillment. When you look on your own matters, focusing only on yourself, only *one* person is looking out for you—YOU!

Conversely, if everyone would look out for others—God’s GIVE way—then

feel void of meaning. They use physical things to attempt to fill that void. As you look around you, it should be obvious that this is not working. How sad that in choosing its own way to happiness, mankind has found war, famine, broken families, addiction, etc., instead of truly happy and fulfilling lives.

If man would simply look to God, all the physical needs and pleasures in life would be given to him. He would not have to grope and grab for new things. There would be no need to fight his way up the corporate ladder to experience the finer things. God wants to give these to people—all that He requires is that we seek “first the kingdom of God...and *all these things* shall be added” (Matt. 6:33)—all of them!

The answer is so simple, yet this world remains blind to it. It will take the Return of Christ to teach the entire world what true, real pleasure entails.

“There is a connection between being ‘deceived’ and ‘serving diverse lusts and pleasures.’ But the question arises: Who is doing the deceiving?”

are filled with problems of every shape and form.

Hoping that pleasure will bring happiness, people live “in *pleasure* on the earth, and been *wanton*” (Jms. 5:5). They have lost sight of what would truly make them happy.

However, there is a solution for the thousands groping for fulfillment and *true* pleasure. Like happiness, there is a cause for the problems so many experience. Changing the CAUSE will create a different and fulfilling EFFECT. Many are “...foolish, disobedient, *deceived*, serving *diverse lusts and pleasures...*” (Titus 3:3).

There is a connection between being “deceived” and “serving diverse lusts and pleasures.” But the question arises: Who is doing the deceiving?

Notice: “And the great dragon was cast out...called the Devil...which deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9). Could it be that simple? Could it real-

ly be that the devil is the source of these lustful pleasures and that man pursues them because he is deceived? In blindness, mankind has chosen a way that, even humanly speaking, is illogical!

God’s Irony

As the Creator of the universe and mankind, God knows what would make people happy. He understands the proper route to pleasure. But choosing its *own* way, mankind has sought pleasure and, in the end, become “wanton.”

It was not meant to be this way. All people *should* experience a happy and eventful life. God *wants* man to experience the finer things in life: “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

But because they do not live God’s Way, people feel empty.

They were designed to be fulfilled. Lacking that fulfillment, their lives

are filled with problems of every shape and form. At that time, emptiness will cease, and happiness and fulfillment will literally “break out” around the world!

People will no longer be addicted to self-gratifying “fun” and empty “pleasures.” They will finally understand and be “addicted” to *true* HAPPINESS.

The Great Escape

As we have seen, there is a void in people’s lives. Since they are unaware of their potential, this ever present vacuum leaves them constantly feeling in need. They attempt to fill this need with “pleasures”—but that only works for a short time.

The vacuum and the reality of the failing world returns, and people again turn to “fun” as a solution to their problems. Man wants—almost needs—to escape from this reality.

That escape and its consequences will be covered in Part II. □

The Culture of VICTIMISM

WHILE RUNNING an errand during his lunch hour, John gets caught up in a traffic jam in a section of town known as the “French Fry District,” thus named for its many fast-food establishments. Since it is a pleasant day, John has his windows down, and the enticing aroma of burgers and fries, fish and chips, pizza, and tacos drifts his way.

This sparks the voice of hunger pangs, and at the next intersection, John decides to give in to the cravings. Five minutes later, he is exiting the drive-thru with a double cheeseburger, large order of fries and a soft drink.

Five years later, having maintained this daily lunchtime regimen, John visits his doctor for his annual physical, and is given a not-so-clean bill of health. He is told that, unless he determines to make drastic changes in his eating habits, he will not have very long to live.

“But it’s not my fault,” John argues. “It’s those deceitful fast food places. They didn’t properly warn me of the danger they were subjecting me to. And they knew I would be unable to resist, so they built their facilities too close to the highway and my car just naturally turned in to the drive-thru.”

Though this scenario may sound ridiculous and far-fetched to some, recent litigation involving the tobacco and fast-food industries has brought to light an aspect of human nature that had previously been seemingly suppressed. In this day and age, it has become a visible, dominant part of society.

More and more people are assuming less and less responsibility for their actions. Why is this happening? Where will it lead?

Increasingly, in today’s society, people are shunning personal responsibility for their actions. Every wrong thing that they do—resulting in harm to themselves or others—is always “somebody else’s fault.”

Almost invariably now, when things go wrong in people’s lives, or do not turn out exactly the way they would prefer, they seek a “scapegoat,” someone else to point the finger at and shoulder the blame. This is especially true when people experience negative consequences because of their own failure to conduct themselves in a responsible manner or to handle matters in the right and proper way.

The Blame Game

The world is witnessing the rapid disappearance of human willingness to accept even any semblance or degree of personal responsibility. Popular psychology has programmed people to “pass the buck,” to automatically take a defensive stance when confronted with negative consequences resulting from their own actions. They are routinely taught to place the blame on anything and anyone other than themselves.

Accepting responsibility, they are taught, would merely lead to feelings of guilt, which are “unproductive and

unfulfilling.” In order to “move on,” one must learn “self-forgiveness,” placing the blame where it “properly belongs,” whether it be a bad childhood, a rotten marriage, stress on the job, physical/mental impairment, and so on.

Common sense has also seemingly disappeared from the scene. This is evidenced by human willingness to accept such perverted arguments in justification of practically every form of wrongdoing. (The very proliferation of such arguments is, of itself, proof of their social acceptance. If people knew that their “justifications” would fall on deaf ears, why would they feel compelled to tell their “side of the story”?)

The absence of judicial prudence is also demonstrated by a legal system in which anybody can sue anybody over anything. (To learn more, you may wish to read our free trend report *The Worldwide CRIME WAVE*.) The following article excerpts are but a few examples of this perversion of justice:

“A Phoenix mother who admitted lacing her daughters’ ice cream with prescription tranquilizers is suing a health care provider and others, saying they are responsible for her drug-induced delirium at the time. [The mother], 38, who was acquitted in July of attempted murder charges, filed a

medical malpractice claim in Maricopa County Superior Court against Jewish Family Services, a nurse practitioner and ValueOptions, a mental-health care provider” (“Mom who drugged kids’ ice cream sues,” Carol Sowers, *Arizona Republic*).

“In Australia, ‘[a] man who broke into a house and attacked the home owner when he was discovered has launched a civil action against his victim for compensation.’ [Perpetrator] says he is still suffering ‘physically and emotionally’ from the aftermath of the 1997 incident, in which he scuffled with [homeowners] and was attacked by the couple’s dogs” (“The thief who sued his victim,” *Daily Telegraph* [NSW, Australia]).

“Columnist Mona Charen comments on two auto safety suits, one of them the child-left-in-hot-van case discussed in this space Oct. 20. In the

this sort foreseeable enough to trigger a legal duty of care, but the family’s lawyer...is appealing to the Nebraska Supreme Court” (“Murder victim’s parents say flat set off tragic events,” *Fremont Tribune*).

The above article reported that the defendant in the case was convicted and sentenced for the crime. Hence, the victim’s family’s pursuit of monetary compensation from the two manufacturing companies is not a matter of seeking justice, but rather an attempt to capitalize on her tragedy.

Flawed System

This is one of the many side effects of a justice system incapable of identifying and addressing CAUSE and EFFECT. That the perpetrator of such a heinous act against another human being should be punished accordingly is not the question.

However, the idea that a family’s

by the companies named as defendants in such civil court cases, in the event that they are deemed partially responsible and required to pay damages (for something that they could not possibly foresee, much less prevent). To compensate for their losses, and in order to remain in business, such companies are forced to raise prices, which directly affects consumers.

Think of it this way: Should manufacturers be required to address—as part of their product development process—every potential misuse and abuse of their products and/or every possible scenario that could arise from the failure of their products due to such misuse/abuse or to other circumstances completely beyond the manufacturers’ ability to control?

Let’s ask the question bluntly. Should they have to look ahead and consider the following?:

“Hence, the victim’s family’s pursuit of monetary compensation...is not a matter of seeking justice, but rather an attempt to capitalize on her tragedy.”

other case, \$2 million went to the survivors of a Texas man who’d left a truck running on a hill and walked behind it. ‘You don’t need an owner’s manual to tell you that it’s dangerous to walk behind a running, driverless vehicle on a steep hill. This used to be known as common sense. But so long as juries return such verdicts, the concept of individual responsibility gets hammered ever lower...the trial lawyers’ wallets grow corpulent, and the populace is increasingly infantilized” (*Jewish World Review*).

“A 19-year-old woman, having stopped to change a flat tire at the side of the road, is taken away and murdered by a local man. According to a lawyer for her family, the Ford Motor Co. and tiremaker Bridgestone/Firestone should be made to pay for the murder. A court dismissed the case against the two companies on grounds that they could not have found harm of

grief over the loss of one of its members can be alleviated by any amount of money (and that not even from the one responsible for the crime)—and that such sentiment is even the motivation behind such lawsuits—is reprehensible. This reduces justice to a mere “buyer-seller” transaction and grossly dishonors the memory of the victim.

Rather than focusing on the true victim of this crime, and on the senseless waste of human life, the above-mentioned family paint themselves as the victims (as if mental and emotional distress, while to be expected, outweighs the finality of death). Since their legal actions obviously cannot bring their loved one back to life, the underlying motive becomes transparent.

A further side effect of such irresponsible greed is an increase in the cost of goods and services produced

“What if someone falls victim to a violent crime while operating/using our product? We have to make sure that our product does not directly or indirectly contribute to the possibility that such a crime could take place. Or, we must at least prominently display disclaimers that protect us from liability in the event that the operator/user does fall victim to a crime during operation/use of our product, or commits a crime using our product.”

Or: “Let’s consider every possible way our product could be used for anything other than its intended purpose and make sure we have adequate financial resources in place to cover ourselves in the event of litigation against us by those who are injured when using it in those ways (since there is obviously inadequate space on our product for warning labels advising against all such uses).”

What nonsense!

Where would the madness end? For example, should a drunk driver be able to blame auto manufacturers for his actions?—"If they hadn't made the car, I couldn't have driven it." Or perhaps he should blame the liquor store that provided the alcohol that he later abused. Or even the police, who could have prevented his accident, had they only "done the right thing" and arrested him earlier. Notice the following account:

"A teen-age driver seriously injured in an accident is suing the city because a police officer failed to arrest him for drunken driving minutes before the crash." [The teen-age driver] of Bradenton, Fla. alleges that officers told him to drive home rather than taking him into custody despite his intoxication, which makes it their fault that he got into a serious accident minutes later" ("Fla. DUI Teen Sues Police," *AP/Yahoo News*).

the premise of "justice for all." After all, it is such abuses that lead to their own "victimization," as end-users.

The following two cases also exemplify the growing trend of "guilt by association":

"A Fort Lauderdale jury has awarded \$7 million to [victim], 43, who was badly hurt when her car was hit broadside by a drunk driver six years ago. The drunk driver...who was 23 at the time, served nearly two years in prison. However, the ones being ordered to pay the bill are [company], which owned the sport utility vehicle [defendant] was driving, and [company], which leased it to him" ("Woman gets \$7 million in DUI case," *AP/New York Times*).

"[Last] month the mother of late National Football League star [name] went to court to blame various organizations for his death following a crash in which he had been speeding on an

already overloaded courts assume the additional burden of such cases, which are often championed by various advocates of consumers and "victims" rights, as well as lawyers seeking to advance their own careers.

Time and again, jurisprudence is thrown out, in order to accommodate more publicly favorable positions. Common sense is exchanged for political correctness. Once a precedent is established, the vicious cycle is set in motion. "Victims" start lining up, ready to place the blame for all their problems on anyone and anything, in hopes of a "cash payoff."

Origin of the Problem

When and where did this problem start? The Bible, God's Instruction Manual for mankind, shows that men have been playing "the blame game" for almost 6,000 years, ever since Adam and Eve's wrong choice in the

"Notice Jeremiah 17:9: 'The heart [mind] is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?'"

"It Doesn't Affect Me, So Why Should I Care?"

Most people have a "live-and-let-live" attitude when it comes to such matters as long as those things *do not directly affect them personally*. They would not ordinarily take a personal interest in one isolated incident, such as the murder case cited earlier. But most people *do* take notice when certain events affect their "buying power."

Therefore, one would think that, even if such cases do not generate public outrage on the *moral* level, they should, at the least, concern people on an *economic* level. In other words, humanly speaking, if people cannot get angry at such displays of *blatant disregard for human life*, and seek justice accordingly, they should at least be able to shake their heads in disbelief and dismay at the outright *abuses of a system* that was at least *founded upon*

icy road without wearing a seat belt. The lawsuit names General Motors Corp. as a defendant as well as local ambulance service Emergency Providers Inc. and Liberty Hospital, both of which tried to save [NFL star] after the accident and may now have reason to be sorry they got near him" ("Derrick Thomas' mother sues GM," *Jefferson City News-Tribune*).

Many more examples could be cited to demonstrate the fact that we are indeed witnessing the disappearance of personal responsibility. We feel that enough evidence is presented here to give the reader a sense of the clear pattern that has been established in today's society—a pattern that will only escalate as this age draws to a close.

Impact on Court Systems

As alluded to in one of the examples, one effect of this mindset is that

Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:6-7).

Notice how Adam and Eve answered God after they had sinned by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil: "And the man said, The woman whom You gave to be with me, *she gave me of the tree, and I did eat*. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that you have done? And the woman said, *The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat*" (Gen. 3:12-13). Instead of admitting that they were wrong and taking personal responsibility for their sin, the first man and woman sought to vindicate themselves by pointing fingers.

This attitude was also evidenced in their first son, Cain, whose jealousy and anger led him to murder his brother Abel. Cain's justification of his own actions probably started with the rationale, "If Abel's sacrifice hadn't been better than mine, I wouldn't have had to kill him."

Millennia later, after the Israelites had sinned against God by worshipping a golden calf during their encampment at Mt. Sinai, Aaron's defense before Moses was, "You know how the people are, they insisted that I make them an idol...So we melted some gold and out popped this calf."

Instead of taking responsibility for his actions, Aaron blamed the people for his own failure to exercise proper leadership, even going so far as to suggest that the molten idol had somehow formed itself (Ex. 32:22-24).

The Cause

Whether blaming fast-food chains for their obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol or general bad health—or blaming tobacco companies for their cancer, smoker's cough, lack of self-control, etc., human beings have mastered the art of "guilt management" and self-justification.

We must ask: *Why* do people always seek to blame others for their

problems or shortcomings, or to clear themselves of wrongdoing when they are obviously at fault? What is it about their human nature that causes them to seek self-justification, and avoid taking personal responsibility for their actions?

Notice Jeremiah 17:9: "The heart [mind] is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" The human mind has the natural tendency to paint oneself in the best possible light. As this verse shows, this results from an art that all have mastered—*self*-deception. This makes it easy to blame others for the negative consequences of one's own actions.

Proverbs 21:2 further demonstrates the human tendency to whitewash oneself: "Every way of a man is *right in his own eyes*..." These verses show why we see a growing trend of self-acquittal and resultant finger-pointing.

Ending the Blame Game

How does one come to the point of not blaming others for the negative results

of his own actions, and having the willingness to accept personal responsibility? It is a process that involves honest self-examination, and admitting "...that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walks to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). This can only begin after one stops justifying his actions. (Notice Job 9:20; Luke 10:29; 16:15.)

One must then look to God and pray, as did King David, "Wash me thoroughly from *mine iniquity*, and cleanse me from *my sin*" (Psa. 51:2). Only after acknowledging his own faults and beginning to take personal responsibility for his own actions, giving "credit where credit is due," can one start down the path toward truly overcoming (Rev. 3:21)! □

The WORLD TO COME program, presented by David C. Pack, sheds light on the causes of the world's problems and ills affecting every corner of society—including you! Listen at: www.RealTruthMag.org

TRUST THE NEWS?

Continued from page 15

empowered—by God's Holy Spirit live according to God's ways (Rom. 8:14, 9; Gal. 5:22-23).

News You Can Trust!

For the most part, reporters, photographers and editors strive to present the facts without bias. But they are, after all, just human beings. Despite sincere intentions, journalists sometimes make mistakes. All people are different. Each person has his or her own set of internal rules of right and wrong. No two people completely agree on every issue and concern in life. Journalists are no different.

At their best, reporters can report the facts and strive to get them straight. At their worst, reporters are biased and slanted, and have agendas—just like all other human beings.

Sometimes, whether consciously or subconsciously, journalists do taint the

news to fit their political views. They do sometimes turn fiction into fact in order to reach a "higher truth." They sometimes fail to ask the right questions or follow up on leads. Some even fail to ask questions at all, choosing instead to jump to conclusions.

And a few journalists plagiarize and lie, because they lack character—they are either too lazy or too morally weak to do the right thing.

In light of this, can you trust the news?

Yes. But only with watchful eyes—and only if you know *what* to look for.

Herbert W. Armstrong, founder and editor-in-chief of *The REAL TRUTH* magazine's predecessor, *The PLAIN TRUTH*, wrote about the kind of news you can trust. This news speaks of declining world conditions, political upheaval, terrorism, religious confusion, cultural degeneration, broken families, unhappy marriages, escalating divorces, sexually transmitted diseases, drug-resistant plagues—the list goes on.

But it also speaks of GOOD news—training up healthy, happy children—understanding the BIG PICTURE and the purpose of life—finding the way to lasting peace and real joy—living happy, abundant lives.

This good news, as Mr. Armstrong often wrote and spoke about, was "reported" almost 2,000 years ago. It points to a future time of universal peace and prosperity, which mankind has never known. That good news is the gospel of the soon-coming kingdom of God. The word *gospel* literally means "good news"—and is the *only* news you can fully trust!

If you would like to learn more, read our free booklet *Which is the REAL GOSPEL?*

You may also wish to listen to *The WORLD TO COME* program, presented by David C. Pack, editor-in-chief of *The REAL TRUTH* magazine. You can access this program and archived broadcasts, as well as current and archived issues of this magazine, at our website: www.RealTruthMag.org. □

THE WRONG ASSUMPTION

WHEN YOU woke up this morning, you made a series of assumptions. Many of them were done unconsciously. When you reached for your alarm clock, you assumed it would be there. While getting ready for your day, you assumed many things as part of your morning routine. You did not plan for anything out of the ordinary—such as no hot water, or even something as extreme as your roof caving in.

The same can be said about *many* aspects of life. Anytime one does not plan for every possible result, he is making some type of assumption. Obviously, one cannot plan for *every* possible course of *every* possible action. So naturally, many make assumptions.

So basic are assumptions in human thinking that various fields of science use them when creating a theory or hypothesis.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the field of archeology. The foundation of studying ancient cultures is based on certain assumptions, be it about their culture, intelligence or technological advancements. These assumptions are usually based on facts that have already been collected through archeological digs.

But the premise that something was created by man is assumed. Through the obvious planning and design of a broken arrowhead, piece of pottery or writing tablet, a conclusion is reached.

In a similar way, if you are walking along a beach and find a soda pop bot-

Modern science assumes evolution as the reason for man's existence. But when nature is examined genetically, there is a language so complex that randomness and haphazard chance fall far short as explanations. You will be amazed at the signature hidden in every cell of your body!

BY BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER

tle, you would not make the wrong assumption. You would not deduce that because this glass bottle is in sand, and since glass is nothing more than compressed sand, that the bottle gradually formed due to pressures and environmental changes.

Obviously, you realize that the bottle was made in a factory and once contained a beverage. You may not have realized, but you unconsciously ran a series of scientific experiments, involving geometry, linguistics, chemical analysis and probability.

If broken into actual experiments, this process may have happened as follows: (1) You picked up the bottle and noticed the shape and texture of the bottle—GEOMETRY; (2) when examining the bottle, you recognized the writing as English—LINGUISTICS; (3) the sweet smell and perhaps any residue in the bottle indicated the beverage that was once inside—CHEMICAL ANALYSIS; (4) finally, you realized that the PROBABILITY of all three of the above traits happening naturally was so low that

this bottle *was* what it was: a *manufactured* pop bottle.

Of course, you do not carry out this series of experiments each time you pick up a similar item. Based on previous experience—and proof—you assume the result. In such a case, you are making a correct—provable—assumption because you are basing it on existing, proven facts.

But without existing facts, there is no foundation on which to base your assumption. Such an assumption is not provable and is nothing more than a *guess*.

This same process appears in basic rules of logic. You cannot fabricate something and then base a conclusion on that illusionary foundation. Anyone can understand that doing such is silly. These rules of logic are applied to nearly every discipline of science except one—biology!

Instead of looking at the facts and applying simple rules of logic, many convoluted and confusing “theories” are created. But when you wipe away

all the *wrong* assumptions, the real data is both fascinating and inspiring.

While amazing facts and details are found throughout the universe, perhaps the most amazing is inside you—the cell. In fact, there are approximately 100 trillion cells in your body and inside *each* of those cells is enough information to fill the largest libraries in the world. As we will see, an obvious and telltale signature identifies their origin even more conclusively than the previously-mentioned glass bottle. And it is hidden in the blueprint of the cell—DNA.

Baseless Assumptions

To properly frame the subject of DNA, you must first understand the false assumptions upon which biological science is based. These assumptions form the foundation of evolution. While the purpose of this article is not to disprove evolution, examining just two of these

formed the beginnings of the universe. From that initial explosion, this early universe expanded into what we know today. To further understand the fallacy of the Big Bang Theory, read our article “Mapping the Universe,” in this issue.

Secondly, evolutionists theorize that at some point in this expanding universe of non-organic matter, an environment formed that allowed a “soupy goop” to make the transition from inorganic—non-living—matter into organic—living—matter.

While modern science can give no explanation as to why this transition would happen—or is even possible—it is supposed that all living cells evolved from this organic goop.

The first major obstacle for evolutionists is the biological law of Biogenesis: “Historically the point of view that life comes only from life has been so well established through the facts revealed by experiment that it is

meaning that a simple chemical process could be applied to their creation and replication. But times have certainly changed!

With more powerful technology, we have been able to look deep into cells and their fundamental building blocks. Cells can be likened to microscopic factory-cities. There are waste removal highways, power factories, amazingly selective “force fields,” allowing flow of certain items in and out of the cell, and many more independent, yet highly cooperative, machines. This whole process is controlled by the nucleus of the cell, which has been described as a complex supercomputer.

(Remember, in spite of all the complex cellular processes, evolutionary theory states that ALL things happened because of chance and necessity.)

But this initial cosmic goop did not form directly into a working cell. First,

“By their very nature, amino acids have to be specifically arranged to form functioning proteins. Could this happen by chance?”

assumptions does disprove it and shows why modern science completely misses the reason behind the complex design that appears in every living cell in existence.

Evolution basically states that two “unknown or undetermined” events happened billions of years ago, beginning the process of organic evolution. The first of these processes is commonly called the Big Bang Theory. This event supposedly was the force that created the known material universe.

When modern society discovered radiation, we were able to determine that all matter is deteriorating. Once understood, this proves that there must have been a point in time at which matter did not exist—otherwise, the deterioration process would have already been completed.

To explain this, scientists devised the Big Bang. It basically states that a major explosion of plasma-type gasses

called the Law of Biogenesis” (*Biology: A Search for Order in Complexity*, Moore and Slusher). A footnote in the same textbook states, “Some scientists call this a superlaw, or a law about laws. Regardless of terminology, biogenesis has the highest rank in these levels of generalization” (Ibid.).

While evolutionists freely admit that this law forms the basis of modern biology, many conveniently disregard this fact when applied to evolution. But if we, even for a moment, assume that some “unknown spontaneous event” caused the first essential ingredients of living matter—amino acids—there still remains another colossal hurdle to overcome.

Complexity From Chaos

When first discovered in the 1920s, cells were thought to be simple “homogeneous globules of plasma,”

amino acids must link together to become more complex structures—proteins. This also presents a problem. By their very nature, amino acids have to be specifically arranged to form functioning proteins.

Could this happen by chance?

If you randomly type keys on a computer, there is a chance that throughout the sequence, you may type a *word*. But what are the odds that you will type a proper *sentence*? Or what about a *poem* or a *novel*?

Because of the extremely specific layout needed to form proteins, no “typing” errors can be made. This means that hundreds of amino acids would have to randomly—yet simultaneously—come together in a perfect configuration to form a working protein.

There is even another degree of complexity required to form proteins. Not only do these amino acids have to

come together as described above, they must bond in “an extraordinarily complex and irregular three-dimensional shape—a twisting, turning, tangled chain of amino acids” (“DNA and Other Designs,” Stephen C. Meyer). It has been estimated that the odds of forming just *one* protein naturalistically is approximately 1 in 10,125—not to mention the *numerous* proteins required for a living cell.

If you take into account that most proteins are made up of *more* than 100 amino acids, you begin to see why evolutionary researchers often downplay chance, asserting that some “unknown” natural method gave rise to their formation. Yet, *chance* is exactly what hundreds of millions of students are conditioned to accept as fact.

Obviously, one can see that creating a novel or poem by chance is impossible. Why then does the scientific community at large fail to understand that something exceedingly more complex could also not form by happenstance?

Can you believe that *anyone* would consider this? However, this is only the beginning of the wrong assumptions science has afforded in the quest to maintain evolution.

The fascinating point to notice in protein formation is the specificity required for them to function. Even at this very early stage, we notice “informational content” present. Because random organization does not form proteins, there is an existing structure—a blueprint—that must be followed to create them.

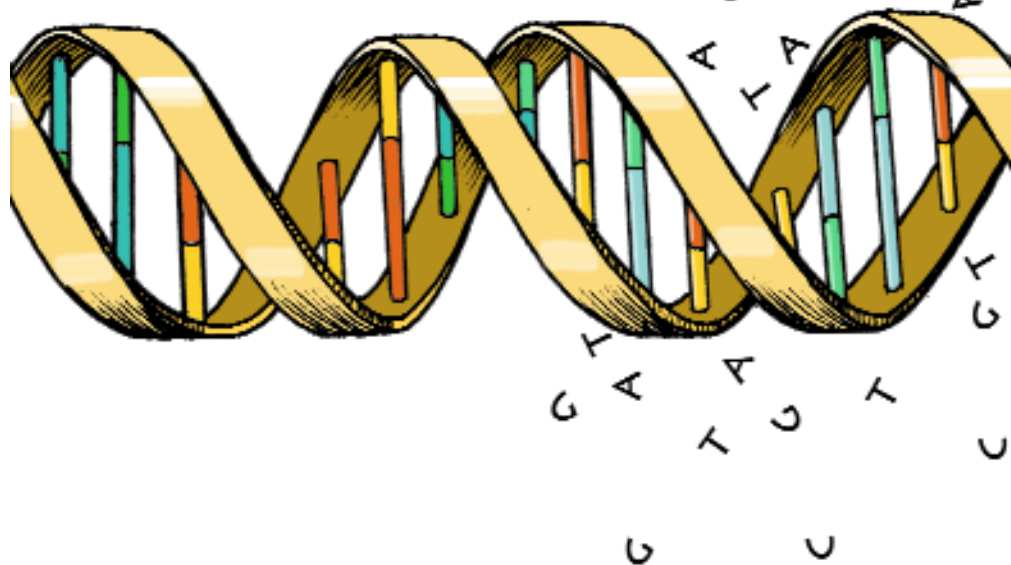
In all historical forms of science, information content implies a creator of that information. Even in these simple proteins, this blueprint begs the question: Who or what created the informational blueprint for these proteins?

But the signature on that blueprint becomes obvious—not when we look at the building blocks—but when we look directly at the cellular “building.”

Cellular Machine Code

The cell is the most advanced engineering marvel ever discovered.

What the DNA Ladder Reveals



Humanity has never created anything that functions nearly as efficiently as the cell. In fact, aspects of the cell are even used when designing complex and redundant systems.

Each part contains highly complex, three-dimensional structures. The formation of these proteins is the direct impetus behind their function. Certain amino acid configurations form each “mini-machine,” which regulates various parts of the cell.

The most complex of these proteins are found in the nucleus—the supercomputer—of the cell. Not only does the nucleus control how the mini-machines interoperate and when new machines need to be manufactured, it contains the complete blueprint for every machine in that cell.

But in the cells of each human being, the nucleus contains the blueprint for not only each specific cell, but for every cell in the body. Truly a super-blueprint!

This blueprint is contained in deoxyribonucleic acid—most often called DNA. Because of the way DNA is encoded, the amount of information it contains is phenomenal! And it has to be; even the most simple forms of life are highly complex. Take, for instance, *E. coli* bacteria.

This “simple” bacterium has over one trillion bits of information stored in its DNA.

If you counted every letter in every book in the world’s largest library (10 million books), you would approach one trillion “bits of information.” Yes, it requires THAT much information for even a single bacterium to exist.

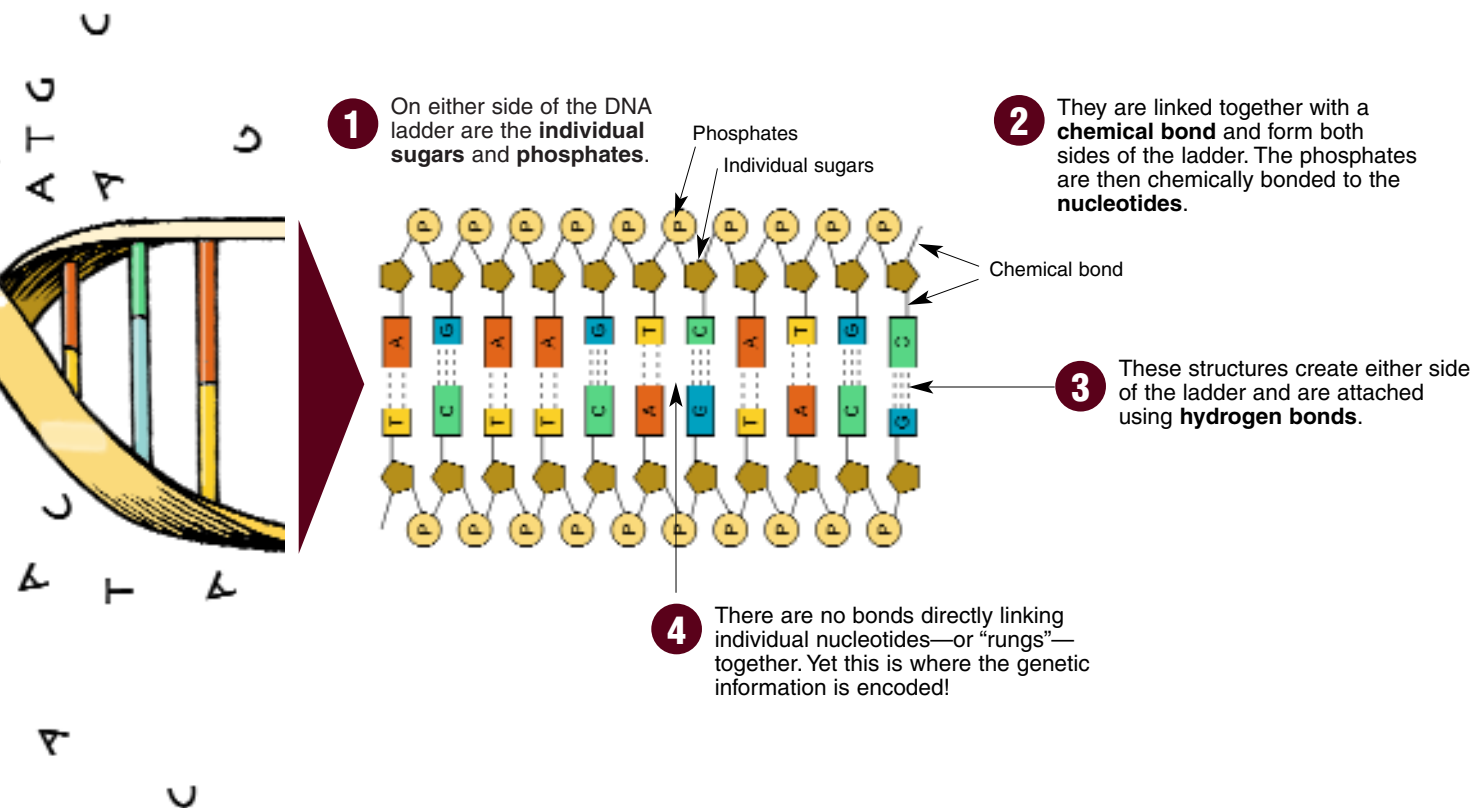
Imagine how much more information is needed to control and reproduce the approximately 100 trillion cells in your body. Yet all this information is stored in this microscopic structure called DNA.

How does so much fit in such a little space? The answer is found in the encoding of DNA. Its structure and encoding method are nearly as fascinating as the amount of information it contains.

The Double Helix

No doubt, you have seen pictures of a double helix. It is this incredibly efficient structure that allows DNA to encode so much. Understanding this structure deepens the question of how such information came to be present.

As displayed in the illustration, DNA looks like a spiral ladder. A close-up of the individual rungs



shows the amazing complexity of this microscopic marvel. On either side of the DNA ladder are the individual sugars and phosphates. They are linked together with a chemical bond and form both sides of the ladder.

The phosphates are then chemically bonded to the nucleotides (designated by A, T, G and C, and located in the center). These structures create either side of the ladder and are attached using hydrogen bonds.

But as the above informational graphic shows, there are no bonds directly linking individual nucleotides—or “rungs”—together.

Yet this is where the genetic information is encoded!

There is no natural explanation for *how* information could form on this chemically unconnected axis—but there is a *reason* for it. Chemical bonds are very common in nature. A salt crystal is one such example. Any crystalline structure is made up of a series of *repeating* chemically bonded elements. That is the key!

Chemical bonds create patterns. As can be seen on either side of the DNA ladder, the sugars and phosphates are repeated. If the nucleotides in the spine of the DNA molecule were connected via any sort of bond,

they would be limited in the amount and complexity of the information it could contain.

Like crystals, the pattern encoded into DNA would repeat. Every time guanine (G) appeared, there would be adenine (A) following it. But the lack of any chemical bond means that any of the four bases can attach to any location on the spine. All are accepted and none is preferred!

Not only does chemical bonding explain why crystals and related substances form in the way that they do, it makes the information encoded in DNA all that more amazing. There is NO natural way to explain how such highly detailed and complex information “appeared.”

Repeating patterns create mantras, not messages!

Finding the source of these messages is the “holy grail” of evolutionary science. Yet the answer is plain.

Modern science has ignored the evident signature sitting right before their eyes.

The Information Inference

Now that the basics are covered, you may be asking the question: Where and how did this information form? Some assert that necessity caused

DNA to grow more and more complex. This assumption happens largely because they confuse order with information.

Scientists properly connect the complexity within DNA to having an order. But this is usually where “origin of life” studies confuse the distinction between these two characteristics.

There is no argument in science about the fact that organic systems show order. Any can look around and see it in nature. Such things as the rotation of planets causing seasons, animal migrations, etc., are a study in complex order.

But order does not automatically imply information.

For order to become information, there has to be a highly improbable, aperiodic, yet highly specified series of sequences. As we have seen, this is exactly what is required to build even the simplest proteins right up to super complex cellular structures.

A commonly used analogy to compare the difference between order and information is as follows:

Compare the two sequences “ABABABAB ABA ABABABAB”

Please see **ASSUMPTION**, page 31

MAPPING THE

IN 1986, a significant leap in the science of astronomy and astrophysics occurred, introducing a new frontier: Positions of galaxy clusters were represented on a computer model. Although dozens of surveys had already been conducted to chart the distribution of galaxies in particular segments of the universe, none attempted to cover so broad an expanse.

For the very first time, scientists were able to obtain a visual concept of what the universe looks like. According to the Big Bang Theory, accepted by the majority in the scientific community, a vast explosion supposedly propelled matter hurling in all directions away from this creative nucleus. As this theory would have it, the larger structures such as galaxies and galaxy clusters would necessarily be distributed in random fashion.

What did this new vista of the broad expanse of the universe reveal? Anything but random fashion!

Upon confirming the shape these galaxies and galaxy clusters formed, the scientific world was shocked! This new panorama revealed a particular structure consisting of over 1,000 galaxies, reflecting the shape of a man. Not only was the theory of random distribution discredited, but to add insult to injury, the evolutionary-minded scientists beheld that the galaxies in the universe formed in the shape of a man!

Of course, none of the scientists attached any significance to the shape of this structure. However, it prompted some scientists to seriously question the Big Bang Theory, which was

In the late twentieth century, mankind made quantum leaps in its knowledge of the universe. Progress is underway to map the entire universe—with new insights into the vast unknown.

BY GEORGE C. ROGERS

put firmly on the defensive by this new evidence.

Visualizing the Grand Scale

Astronomers at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts had innovated this new technique of visualizing data and reducing it in scope to a computer model. Yet the representation was relatively accurate, given such vast distances!

For the first time, man was able to visualize structures of the universe spanning a spectrum of 500 million light years. He was able to view on the largest scale, structures in the universe consisting of great wall-like formations of galaxies surrounded by voids or areas of empty space. The very first formation discovered in the near universe was an image resembling a human. Because of its long torso, scientists named this grand figure “the stick man.” It was grand not only in dimension, but also in the sense that it literally changed man’s understanding of the universe.

Some scientists reluctantly acknowledged that the Big Bang Theory had lost some credibility and possibly needed serious revision. However, most were not yet ready to

loosen their embrace on what was fashionable to believe—although their faith in the Big Bang came to be, admittedly, somewhat in *disarray*.

Smithsonian astronomer Dr. Margaret Geller acknowledged that the stick man “constituted compelling evidence that galaxies were congregating on two-dimensional structures, as though they had condensed out of cosmic *nothingness* on the surfaces of invisible bubbles. Indeed, when Geller later wrote up the results of the CFA [Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics] galaxy survey, she described the distribution of galaxies in the universe as looking like a slice through suds in the kitchen sink. Her metaphor implied that astronomers were *mightily confused* about how the universe had formed” (“Beyond the Soapsuds Universe,” Gary Taubes, *Discover*, emphasis ours).

Terms used in Geller’s frank admission pertaining to these galaxy structures appearing to have “condensed out of cosmic nothingness” sound as if scientific evidence is giving more weight to creation as research advances.

A few facts about the stick man stand out as unusually fascinating. Some of its 1,000-plus galaxies are as

THE UNIVERSE

near as 30 million light years, while others are as far away as 650 million light years. The survey that contained the stick man covered the northern sky as viewed from earth. The torso of the stick man is in the center and closely aligned with true north—in line with the axis of the earth's rotation.

A commonly held observation among various open-minded astronomers and cosmologists was well expressed by Dr. Craig Tyler, at Fort Lewis College in Colorado: "The 'stick man' – this first survey result made it look like there was a message here for us, galaxies arranged in the shape of a human. But other slices of the sky have no such feature, and different scale plots of the same slice show no such feature. These features are interesting, because they seem to suggest that we occupy a central position in the cosmos."

Pertaining to the distortions of this image that led Geller's team to label it the "stick man," Dr. Tyler continued, "In fact, the linear arrangements of galaxies appear to be artificial—based on our flawed way of computing their distances. This effect would make the stick man's torso look taller than it really is, and it would exaggerate the walls that appear to surround us" (*faculty.fortlewis.edu*).

Understand that we are not endorsing this discovery as a "divine message" for all mankind. But it is interesting that it is causing some few scientists and evolutionists to re-examine their preconceived ideas. It is fascinating that the Creator has left a trail throughout the heavens for those who

will look. After all, the Bible says that only "the fool has said in his heart, there is no God" (Psa. 53:1).

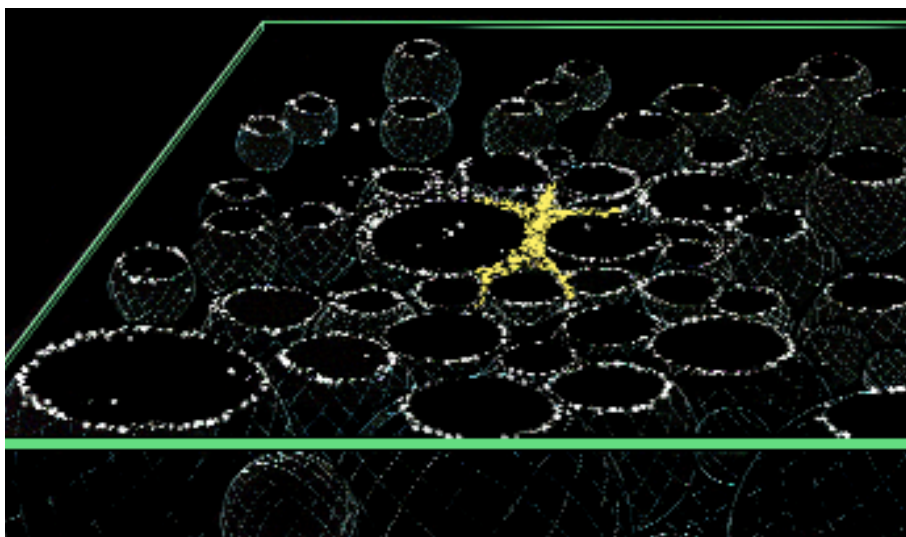
Redshifts and the Far Universe

The distance of specific galaxies from our location in the universe can be precisely determined by measuring the degree of "redshift" in the light spectrum. Once the optical light from given galaxies are run through a spectrograph (the instrument used to separate light into its component colors), the bright and dark lines of these separated colors are the signatures of oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, potassium,

sodium and the other elements. Analysis using spectroscopy can easily identify all the elements and resulting compounds involved, whether in the turbulent state of combustion or quiet equilibrium.

In analyzing the spectra of galaxies, the patterns of the colors are stretched to longer wavelengths. The stretching is simply called redshift. The further away the galaxies, the greater the redshift. Thus the redshift represents a relatively accurate measure of the distance of any galaxy from our vantage point.

With technology to instantly evalu-



A FASCINATING PATTERN: This artist's rendering of galaxy distribution throughout the universe serves to illustrate what appears to be the "condensation" of galaxies in repeating circular patterns upon a two-dimensional plane. The metaphor used in describing this phenomenon has been compared to that of "slicing through soapsuds in the kitchen sink." The distinguishing factor of this depiction of the survey of the northern sky is the human form at the center of the two-dimensional plane, highlighted in yellow for purposes of illustration. This is the image found in the computer model from the galaxy distribution patterns in the near universe (less than one billion light years from earth). The spheres below the slice of the two-dimensional plane have been illustrated to coincide with the universal circular pattern of galaxy distribution.

ate redshifts, efforts to explore beyond the near universe become greatly accelerated. When Geller and her colleagues mapped the universe (a few hundred million light years away) and discovered the stick man, they were only able to view in the range of a single galaxy in every square degree of the sky. (A square degree is about 5 times the area of the moon.)

Shifting the focus 5 billion light years out into the universe, you will see more than 1,000 galaxies in that same square degree of sky. This demonstrates how vast the universe actually is!

Greatly improved instrumentation has made it possible to simultaneously plot hundreds of these galaxies. Using newly developed multiplexing instruments, astronomers are now well along in their goal of mapping all the known galaxies in the universe, including, as much as possible, the far universe. Even with this instrumentation, it is expected to take about a century to complete this ambitious project.

Incredible as it sounds, man is now well along in his quest to understand the geometry of the universe. With each passing decade, the process of mapping the universe is improved by quantum leaps—literally. The three-dimensional pattern of the universe is analogous to bubbles or foam, as mentioned earlier. Galaxies collect in a two-dimensional pattern near the rim of these bubble-structures in repeating patterns.

Spotting and recording the billions of galaxies in the universe is greatly expedited by use of the Multiple Mirror Telescope (MMT) at Mt. Hopkins, Arizona. This telescope covers a relatively large portion of the sky. The new instrumentation greatly accelerates the recording process, mapping (using fiber optics technology) many millions of distant galaxies well beyond the near universe.

Milestones in Understanding the Universe

Consider how far science has progressed in the past century. It was 1929 when Edwin Hubble demon-

strated the extent of our expanding universe. He was able to prove that galaxies were moving away from us and that their relative speed increased in proportion to their distance. Hubble's findings fully agreed with Albert Einstein's theory of relativity that took into account the vast space separating the galaxies.

In the 1960s, Fritz Zwicky and his colleagues plotted many hundreds of sky survey plates, which identified over 30,000 galaxies. Our understanding of the universe continued to expand.

We now understand that the galaxies plotted by Zwicky and others were within a billion light years of our sun—our own neighborhood in the near universe. We also understand that this known universe extends about 15 billion light years in all directions.

By the 1970s, the Zwicky catalog of galaxy surveys was looked upon as the pioneering project deserving much credit. But one major drawback was that it was merely two-dimensional—containing latitude and longitude, but lacking depth. The missing quality was provided by the measurement of redshift in the light upon its passing through a spectrograph, as discussed earlier. Redshift supplied this missing third dimension. Although redshift was understood during the time of Hubble (about 1929), it was a long and tedious task to analyze and measure this phenomenon. Today, that process is automatic and far more accurate.

Made in the 1980s, the first three-dimensional visualization of the near universe was chosen from the northern sky. Although that survey covered a spectrum of over 500 million light years, Geller likened this panorama to trying to visualize the structure of the continents and oceans of the earth by examining a map the size of Rhode Island—hardly enough area to make generalizations of the overview. Yet, there is reason to believe that this first slice of the universe was typical of the universe observed to a far greater depth into space more recently.

By 1989, the view was over four

times deeper than the initial survey in 1986. Astronomers Geller and Huchra were able to map the Great Wall spanning the northern sky over a stretch of 800 million light years. By other mappings throughout the 1990s, it is understood that such structures are a common feature of the universe.

Note some of the amazing capabilities that now exist: "Teams of scientists based in Australia and in the United States have undertaken ambitious mapping projects that rely on the new technology. The Australian project goes by the name of the instrument that enables it, the 2DF, for a 2-degree field. The 2DF on the 4-meter Anglo-Australian telescope returns nearly 400 redshifts [terms used for distant galaxies with distinct redshift characteristics] at a time for galaxies distributed across a 2-square degree region of the sky...The patterns in these impressive maps are similar to the ones we [Geller and colleagues] discovered. Because the maps are more extensive than ours, they contain many dark voids, along with a multitude of thin walls and filamentary structures where galaxies are."

The publication continues, "A consortium of universities in the United States has undertaken an even more audacious project; they plan to image a quarter of the sky digitally and to acquire spectra for one million galaxies. The first slices of these large surveys give the same message as the ones before them: Dark voids, thin walls, and filaments define the bubble- or sponge-like tapestry of our neighborhood in the universe" ("Beyond Earth," *National Geographic*, p. 180).

Dark Matter

Enough evidence has surfaced to better understand the general nature and distribution of matter in the universe. The observations noted thus far pertain to matter that emits light. This summary of man's quest to understand the universe would be incomplete without noting the mysterious element of dark matter. As interesting as the visible universe of light-emit-

ting galaxies has become, this visible matter comprises only 10 percent of the universe. More than 90 percent of the universe is composed of dark matter!

Exactly what is dark matter? Dr. Geller's answer gives the best assessment of our understanding of that issue: "This conundrum [puzzling, unknown] has been with us, unresolved, for nearly 70 years. Knowing the nature of the dark matter is crucial for a complete understanding of the formation of galaxies. The cosmic microwave background radiation... that pervades the universe carries our earliest glimpse of the clumping of matter in the universe... In remarkable agreement with the analysis of redshift surveys, study of the miniscule fluctuations in the cosmic background radiation tells us that only about 10 percent of the matter in the universe is the normal baryonic stuff that makes up the objects we observe: stars, planets, and human beings. The other 90 percent is something still mysterious and dark" (Ibid., pp. 180-181).

The Continuing Quest

Man's desire to better understand the universe continues. In the year 2009, the ability to see farther and deeper into space will be realized by the launch of the Next Generation Space Telescope. By the year 2100, scientists plan for the entire known universe to be digitally mapped. The detailed geometry of the universe is expected to be understood by that time.

Man's achievement of simulated computer models of the visual structures of the universe may be accurate to the degree that a map represents a territory. But Dr. Geller expresses the inadequacy of such simulations as true representations of what they picture: "From an aesthetic point of view, for me, at least, there is exquisite beauty in the natural world that simulations cannot match" (Ibid., p. 184).

The beauty of the heavens is greatly magnified by the powerful telescopes far beyond what the naked eye can fathom. The wider and deeper the

field of vision, the more breathtaking this creation appears. In the physical universe, we find convincing proof that only a Supreme Creator could have fashioned it all together in such a wondrously unified whole. This is precisely why most senior astronomers such as Dr. James Van Allen have rejected evolutionary philosophy (ingrained into them in their youth), to become creationists.

We challenge you to prove this for yourself as well. Our free booklet *Does God Exist?* provides ample proof of the existence of a Creator God.

One of the foremost scientists of the first half of the twentieth century—Albert Einstein—made this keen observation about the order, laws and forethought that God put into His creation. Einstein expressed the following (condensed and paraphrased here): He was fully confident of the existence of a superior intelligence that he perceived to be at work in the universe. He expressed belief in a God who revealed Himself in the orderly harmony of what existed. His perception of religion as a scientist took on a "rapturous amazement" at the harmony of natural laws, which revealed an intelligence of such superiority that all the collective systematic thinking of human beings was an utterly insignificant reflection (*Out of My Later Years*).

It would be interesting if we were to someday find that God has left many messages within the universe, leaving mankind utterly without excuse in rejecting the existence of God.

From the forces that bind atomic nuclei to the principles that run these great galaxies, we find the signature of the same Creator. From the existence of law to the law of existence, from the fullness of the earth to the vastness of space, that Creator is known by His handiwork. From the breathtaking beauty of the creation to a mind that can comprehend it—all these things testify to the majesty of a supreme, all-wise Creator God and His boundless creative forethought! □

ASSUMPTION

Continued from page 27

and "the price of rice in China." Both are highly ordered and complex series of characters. Yet there is an obvious difference between the two sequences.

The second is highly specific. Informational researchers often refer to this as "specified complexity." Sequences that show specified complexity always imply underlying information.

And there are only two methods in which information can form. Either the medium from which they are delivered generated them or, if the information transcends the medium, it was intelligently designed.

As we have seen, the bonding structure of DNA does not allow it to generate its own information. In such a case, the information transcends the medium. The only logical conclusion is that the source of the information is an intelligent force—a Creator—as the source of that information.

This conclusion can be drawn not just because natural systems cannot explain the origin of biological information, but because of the signature and hallmarks that biological systems, such as DNA, contain.

Design is based on the principle of CAUSE and EFFECT. It is understood in science that every action has an equal and opposite reaction. For every cause, there is an effect!

This also applies to the origin of life—it must have a cause!

Given the proper facts, human beings are naturally able to deduce a cause—a SOURCE—behind the things around them. This is why, as the original example showed, we are able to understand that the glass bottle was designed and created by the hands of men.

You have seen some of the facts hidden in the 100 trillion cells in your body. You should now be able to see that you—and the entire universe—were designed and created by the hands of GOD! □



NORTH AMERICA

U.S. Remains Isolated

Although not completely unexpected, a poll conducted in May by the non-partisan Pew Research Center, indicated that the successful and relatively quick war in Iraq has widened, not narrowed, the rift between the U.S. and the rest of the world. The rift is particularly deep among Muslim nations, but has also widened to include far-flung nations

such as Nigeria and Indonesia.

In addition, although Europe's image of the U.S. has improved since a poll done in March, it is still far below what it was last year. More interestingly, this poll shows a significant loss of faith in two major international institutions—the United Nations and NATO. Majorities in several European countries favored a more independent

approach to defense. Not a single country polled had a majority that believes the UN still plays a significant factor in solving international disputes.

Source: *The International Herald Tribune*

U.S. Natural Gas Shortage

In addition to a potential oil crisis, the U.S. also faces a natural gas shortage. Supplies have reached critical levels (lowest since 1976) and may not be adequate to meet demand during a hot summer. The U.S. Energy Secretary, Spencer Abraham, called an emergency meeting of the National Petroleum Council in June to address

this urgent but less publicized issue. Prices have reportedly increased as much as 700% over the last three years.

"No company, no industry, no consumer can absorb a threefold increase in major raw material prices and continue to compete in the global marketplace," said Greg Lebedev, president of

the American Chemistry Council, the largest industrial users of natural gas. Natural gas supplies and prices affect several industries, from steel to petrochemicals.

Source: *The Financial Times*

Grasshoppers Invade U.S. West

The *Drudge Report* reported swarms of grasshoppers in the western U.S.

Agricultural experts are warning of damage "unparalleled in decades." The states of Nevada, Utah and Idaho are particularly bad, with no signs of easing. Expert Mike Cooper, in *The Idaho Statesman*, cited records that indicated the current swarm to be the largest since World War II. Utah authorities estimate that the plague could devour 2.5 million hectares. Environmental groups have filed lawsuits to prevent the use of any insecticides by state officials.



EUROPE

Blair Defends New Europe

A seemingly never-ending part of Prime Minister Tony Blair's political career is that of defending the new Europe. The term "Eurosceptic" has been around for quite a while, but has in recent months and years been particularly popular and of issue in the UK. Many British citizens are rightfully frightened at the appearance of a new and mighty superpower on just the other side of the Channel.

Unfortunately, their leader believes otherwise: "My passionate belief in Europe is not born of any diminishing of my belief in Britain... anti-Europeanism is not British patriotism, it is an out-of-date delusion."

This strong belief, however, may be largely due to the economic reality facing the UK: Remaining outside the EU may be just as troublesome, or even more so, than joining or remaining inside. Blair continues, "We want a union of nations, not a federal superstate, and that vision is shared by the

majority of countries and people in Europe."

This may indeed be the case, but it is unfortunately not what some in Europe envision, and ultimately not what Bible prophecy indicates. The minority who do seek a superstate are waiting patiently and will, in time, be used to fulfill that part of God's Plan. Tony Blair—and the UK along with him—is, in the meantime, caught between two drastic decisions: Continue the EU course and slowly give national powers to Brussels (ultimately Berlin), or face the economic



crunch of withdrawing.
Source: *BBC News*

Berlin Receives New Power

Berlin has emerged from EU constitutional haggling with increased power. Most significantly, Germany has been given greater voting weight in a new system that replaces one in which they were on par with Britain, France and Italy. Peter Ludlow, an expert on European politics in Brussels, called Germany's new voting strength "a major geopolitical development in the history of the Union."

Ironically, as Thomas Fuller of *The International Herald Tribune* pointed out, Germany's current economic

weakness may have worked in its favor, making it less of a concern to former enemies, such as France and others with historical concerns. However, the new voting mechanism will not take effect until 2009.

In addition, Germany's position has been—and will be—further strengthened by the arrival in the Union of Poland and most of the other seven East European nations next spring. The economies of these countries are more closely connected with Germany than any other. "Poland, the Czech

Republic and Hungary have no illusions about needing to remain in step with Germany," Ludlow said in reference to the most influential of those set to join the EU.

Finally, Britain's decision to remain outside of the Euro further shifts the EU center of political gravity toward the east.

Source: *The International Herald Tribune*

EU Deploys Troops in Africa

The EU made history last week as it deployed troops beyond its continent for the first time. At the UN's request, the EU force arrived in Congo to support the peacekeeping mission Operation Artemis. Prior to this, the only other EU military operation was in Macedonia, which received significant support from NATO. A French general who still reports to Paris commands this current force, but all strategic direction comes from Brussels. His men wear blue and yellow EU insignias on their national uniforms, and their headquarters will fly an EU flag. This current operation comes just weeks after EU defense ministers announced that their 60,000-soldier rapid-reaction force is now ready, although still lacking some equipment.

Source: *The Guardian*



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The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the website www.RealTruthMag.org. The page header includes the magazine's name, volume and issue information (VOL. 1 | NO. 4), and navigation links like 'Contact Us', 'Help', 'Site-Map', and 'Search'. The main content area is titled 'The WORLD TO COME' and lists 'ARTICLES FOR JULY-AUGUST 2003'. Several articles are featured with small images and titles:

- Thinking Positive! More Than Just "Happy Thoughts"**: In light of today's escalating trials and pressures, is more determination and "looking on the bright side of things" enough? Or is there more you need to know? You can truly live a happy, confident, much more successful life—how is that?
- SARS—Only the Beginning?**: Thousands were infected. Hundreds died. Many more will be infected. What is the cause? Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome—or SARS. Many fear that its global impact may soon rival that of AIDS! How can you be safe? What can be done to stop it?
- Can You Trust the News?**: A recent wave of thefts, fraud and plagiarism has plagued the mainstream news media. How can you be sure that the news you receive is true?
- The Pleasure Seekers Part One: An Addiction to "Fun"**: For most, life is fast-paced and stressful. Many seemingly need more and more "fun" just to make it bearable. How have you programmed to constantly seek pleasure?
- The Culture of Victimism**: More and more people are becoming less and less responsible in their actions. Why is this happening? Where will it lead?
- The Wrong Assumption**: Modern science assumes evolution as the reason for man's existence. But when nature is examined genetically, there is a language so complex that mathematics and topological change fall far short as explanations. You will be amazed at the signature hidden in every cell of your body!
- Mapping the Universe**: In the late twentieth century, mankind made quantum leaps in its knowledge of the universe. Progress is underway to map the entire universe—with new insights into the vast unknown.

At the bottom of the page, there is a 'WORLD NEWS DESK' section.