July-August 2007

Five Keys to a Successful Marriage

China on the Rise



A personal message from the Editor in Chief, Roderick C. Meredith

Beijing, China—Here in the world's most populous nation, events are building which will have a dramatic effect on our lives. But for now, things are calm on the surface. My wife and I have found the people here to be very pleasant and extremely polite. The Chinese leadership is going all out to make the 2008 Olympic Games here a resounding success. The official policy now is for China to wage a "smile diplomacy" campaign. Therefore, as long as you do not in any way oppose the ruling elite, everyone is very polite and there are smiles everywhere.

However, the smog here is almost unbearable and it is even worse in Shanghai. Anyone not accustomed to high levels of pollution should not drink untreated water in Beijing. Tourists should *not* eat uncooked fruits and vegetables here. Below my hotel window, as I write this, the automobile traffic has slowed down to a crawl even in the middle of the day. Massive traffic congestion is the rule all over Beijing and Shanghai, as we have experienced throughout our six-day visit to China.

But these people are *tough*. Talking with some western engineers here in our hotel, we found that many Chinese work as many as 15 hours per day, sometimes six days a week. We have heard the jack-hammers pounding away, and have seen the work sites lit up even until nearly midnight.

There is no doubt about it—China is rising.

Already the world's most populous nation, China also has foreign financial reserves that dwarf those of other nations. Chinese financial reserves now exceed \$1.2 *trillion*! Most of these reserves are composed of United States government bonds and other U.S. securities. So, although little is usually said about it in the U.S. media, China will have increasing influence and even *power* over the financial destinies of every man, woman and child in America! For if China decides to "pull the plug" and sell large amounts of U.S. Treasury notes, a *massive flight* from dollar-related assets would quickly occur. With each passing year, as long as most people in the U.S. continue to live far beyond their means, China will increasingly have control over America's economic future. *Think about it!*

The Eternal God says, "The borrower is *servant* to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7).

Since most people in the U.S. no longer *truly believe and practice* what the Bible teaches, should we just forget God's financial warning? *No!* Nor should we forget this inspired warning He gave to the ancestors of the American and other British-descended nations, which in principle *applies equally* to us today: "The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail. Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He command-ed you" (Deuteronomy 28:43–45).

The Chinese, meanwhile, are quietly but vigorously using many of their resources to develop one of the most powerful military forces in human history. With the world's largest standing army-now estimated at about 2.5 million active personnel-China is continually increasing its military budget. In late February, U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney expressed grave concern about China's military buildup. The Chinese military budget has been growing at double-digit rates for years, with an 18 percent rise planned for 2007. As the well-respected Economist magazine reported earlier this year, "The People's Liberation Army is coy in the extreme about its capabilities and intentions, but in January a missile had been sent into space to destroy an old weather satellite. 'China's military policies,' Mr. Cheney said, 'were at odds with the country's stated peaceful aims'-suggesting perhaps that he did not really believe in those aims" (March 31, 2007).

The U.S. is in a weakened condition, especially as a result of its tremendous losses of money, military

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Jorld Government Is Coming!

By Roderick C. Meredith

The startling truth of Jesus' message has been buried long enough! You need to understand the reality of God's prophecies—and their special meaning for us today!

G

overnments all around the world are in chaos! No one seems to have the answer that would bring peace and prosperity to their peoples. *What can we do?*

Some look to a world government as the answer. Like the failed League of Nations before it, the United Nations was formed as a means to bring all nations together in harmony under a common law. But nearly everyone agrees: the United Nations has failed. Almost no one takes it seriously.

Can mankind's religions bring a world government? Thousands of Muslim extremists believe that through war and terrorism the whole world can eventually become the Daral-Islam—the "land of Islam." But even the religionists can agree on very little. There are dozens of competing Muslim sects, and hundreds upon hundreds of "Christian" groups with completely differing beliefs about "world unity." With so many competing messages, in our modern day, is it important which message we believe?

Today, many ministers say, "Just believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved." What you believe *about* Christ and His message is not so important—they will often say—as it is to believe on and love *Him* and His person.

What about this? Is it important to believe the very message that Jesus Christ preached? Did He not preach any certain message? Was His message broad enough so we can get so many conflicting denominational ideas and traditions out of that message?

An Inspired WARNING

The *inspired answer* to that question is found in the first chapter of Paul's epistle to the Christians in Galatia. The apostle of Christ was **alarmed** that these people were already turning aside—**not** from Christ's person, but *from His message*! "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a *different gospel*, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ" (Galatians 1:6–7).

Notice that Paul is alarmed because people were *perverting* the truth about Christ's **message**—not about His person. He continued: "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach *any other gospel* to you than what we have preached to you, *let him be* accursed." Then Paul repeated this denunciation made this a *double curse*: "As we have said before, so now I say again, if *anyone* preaches *any other gospel* to you than what you have received, let him be accursed" (vv. 8–9). In the Apostle Paul's mind, there was only one true gospel any other gospel was a *counterfeit* that demanded a curse by apostolic authority!

What was this true gospel that Paul was trying to keep in its pure state? What was the **truth** that God sent to this world by Jesus Christ His Son?

Christ Was a MESSENGER

Christ came with a *message* from God the Father that would solve the problems of this last generation on earth today!

Note the prophecy in Malachi regarding His first coming. "Behold, I send My *messenger*, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the LORD, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the *Messenger of the covenant*, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, says the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 3:1).

Actually, here is Christ—as the Logos or Spokesman of the Old Testament—saying that He would send a messenger before *His* face who would prepare the way for Him. Christ was to be the *Messenger of the Covenant*.

In Acts 10 we find a description of that *message* as it was first preached to the Gentile Christians. The first part of the chapter shows how Cornelius was chosen as the first Gentile to receive the true gospel of Christ, and how Peter was sent to his house to bring the truth of God. We read, "Then Peter opened his mouth and said: 'In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him'" (Acts 10:34–35). Here Peter acknowledges that now God is calling Gentiles to the *same truth* that had been opened to the Jews since the day of Pentecost.

He continues: "The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached" (vv. 36–37). Directly inspired of God to reach this first Gentile Christian, Peter immediately refers to the **truth** as the word *God* sent by Christ, to Israel, beginning from Galilee, after John the Baptist's preaching.

Peter referred to this as the message for *both* Israel and the Gentiles. So this was God's **message** for *all mankind*!

The MESSAGE Jesus Brought

What was Christ's message, and how and where did He proclaim it? Notice: "Now after John was put in prison [this was to be the *time*], Jesus [here is the *Messenger*] came to Galilee [the *place*], preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel'" (Mark 1:14–15).

Here we find the true Messenger, the time and the place. And here we find the true **message** of God! It is the *good news* or *gospel* of the *Kingdom of God*. The *Moffatt* translation calls it the "reign" of God. It is the happy message of God's Kingdom—His **rule**—His **government** that will finally bring peace over this earth!

Notice that this true gospel is not man's gospel about the person of Christ. It is Christ's message. It is the message He brought, from God the Father, of the coming government of God, or Kingdom of God on this earth. It is vital that you believe and obey this message! For Jesus said, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). So Jesus said you will be judged by His word—His message!

Jesus Christ **always** taught about the *Kingdom of God*. Luke records: "Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him" (Luke 8:1).

Even Jesus' parables were all concerned with the Kingdom of God. "Then His disciples asked Him, saying, 'What does this parable mean?' And He said, 'To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the *kingdom of God*, but to the rest it is given in parables, that "Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand""" (Luke 8:9–10).

Since Jesus Christ and *all* of the apostles and prophets spoke continually about the Kingdom of God, we need to understand *what a kingdom is*.

What Is a Kingdom?

Every kingdom has four elements. First, there is a king or ruling agent. Second, there is a territory over which the kingdom holds dominion. Third, there are subjects or citizens in every real kingdom. Fourth, every kingdom must have *laws* and a *form of government*.

This is how God's Kingdom is organized. Isaiah reveals who will be the king or ruling agent in the coming world government. "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him... He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes... But with righteousness He shall judge the poor... He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked" (Isaiah 11:1-4). Here is the well-known prophecy that *Christ*—coming from Jesse through David—will be the king over all the earth after His second coming.

Before Jesus' human birth, an angel gave this prophecy concerning His future rule: "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:32–33). Christ is going to literally reign on the *throne of* David. That throne is on this earth today! And He shall reign over the house of Jacob, or Israel. These are human beings here on this earth! If you do not understand the national identity of modern Israel, then write immediately for our free booklet, The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy.

Yes, *world government* is soon to come, with Jesus Christ as Divine **Ruler**! The Apostle John described one of the most tremendous events in all history: "Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms *of this world* have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Revelation 11:15).

Christ will show us how to have peace *on this earth*! This is the **only** way we will ever have peace!

God's Government on This Earth

Having *proved* that Christ is King of God's soon-coming Kingdom, let us now see *where* that Kingdom will be located. Did you notice in the above scripture that "the kingdoms *of this world*" are to be ruled by Christ?

This is substantiated in Daniel 2:44, the conclusion of Daniel's prophecy about the four great world-ruling kingdoms that would dominate the Western world. As nearly all Bible scholars recognize, the fourth great kingdom is the Roman Empire, which-with its various revivals-will hold sway until the end of this age. "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." This clearly indicates that God's Kingdom will be on this earth—Christ the "Stone" (v. 45) having crushed the other kingdoms and set up God's government to bring peace.

Isaiah's description shows that Kingdom will be *on this earth*. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain [*kingdom*], for the *earth* shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9).

You have probably noticed by this time that the *subjects* or citizens of God's Kingdom will be physical human beings still left alive on this earth! Isaiah 11:10 describes Christ as the "Root of Jesse" and says, that "the Gentiles shall seek Him." So here we find even the Gentile nations being ruled by Christ on this earth. Now continuing from verse 11: "It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt... and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

This will be the time of the glorious regathering of the Israelite peoples, who will be brought back from captivity at the second coming of Christ. They will then learn to *understand* and *appreciate* God's *rule*, His *laws*, His *government* and His *Way of life*! What a wonderful world that will be!

The Laws of God's Kingdom

God *alone* knows the way to *peace* and *happiness*! He reveals this *Way* from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation. It does not always agree with the way that "seems right" to a man, but it *is* the Way to real peace on this earth.

Throughout the prophecies, God shows that His Kingdom will be ruled by that Way, which is based on His law. Notice Isaiah's inspired description of God's Kingdom as it will be administered on this earth: "Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:3).

Yes, God's rule is *according to His Law*! The spiritual principles of God's Ten Commandments are the *way* to peace and happiness and everything this world really wants. But people today are running away from that Way as fast as they can!

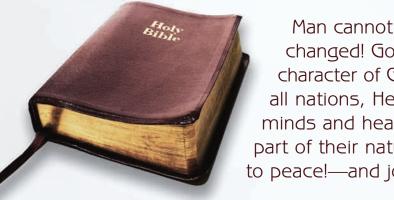
When Christ first comes, He will need to chasten the nations of the world, to teach them to *appreciate* His Way and His *law*! "He shall judge between the nations, and *rebuke* many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they God, and they shall be My people" (Jeremiah 31:33).

Man cannot have peace until human nature is *changed*! God's law reveals the *nature* and *character* of God. After Christ returns to convert all nations, He will write God's *law* in the very *minds* and *hearts* of people. Thus, it will become *part of their nature*! Then they will **know** the *way to peace*!—and joy!—and **happiness**! Jesus Christ Himself revealed that God's law is the very **basis** of His Kingdom. He said: "The law and the prophets *were* until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and narrow guidelines for divorce (Matthew 19:9). For more on this topic, please request our free booklet, *God's Plan for Happy Marriage*.

That law is **binding** on us today! If we plan to be in God's Kingdom—a part of His government forever—we need to learn to keep and **obey** God's law here and now in this life!

How to Qualify for God's Kingdom

To help us understand this principle of **obedience**, let us turn to the very beginning of Jesus



Man cannot have peace until human nature is changed! God's law reveals the nature and character of God. After Christ returns to convert all nations, He will write God's law in the very minds and hearts of people. Thus, it will become part of their nature! Then they will know the way to peace!—and joy!—and happiness!

learn war anymore"(v. 4). As King of kings, Christ will have to **rebuke** the nations and literally *teach* them the way to peace—and the laws of God, which will bring peace.

Many people today are under the false impression that the New Covenant does away with God's law! However, in describing these very events that are to take place when Christ returns and sets up God's Kingdom, the prophecies reveal that God's law is the very basis of the New Covenant, and of the agreement Christ made with physical Israel-and makes with individual Christians of all nations as they are converted. "After those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their

everyone is pressing into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the **law** to fail" (Luke 16:16–17). Here we find Jesus' clear statement that the law of God is an integral part of the message of the *Kingdom of God*!

But was Jesus speaking of the law of the Ten Commandments? Yes, He was! For He continued in the very next breath: "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery" (v. 18). Here He showed that the law of which He was speaking included the *command* against divorce based on the Ten Commandments of God. Christ magnified that law, giving specific Christ's ministry and what He actually taught when He was here on this earth. When He was tempted by the Devil, He stated one of the most basic truths of all the ages: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"(Matthew 4:4).

Remember that the only written word of God at the time that Jesus said this was the Old Testament! This is the word that contains the law of God—the law so many ministers seem to hate today! Yet, Jesus said that we are to live by this inspired word!

After His temptation by Satan, Jesus began to preach the message of God's Government. "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'" (v. 17). Again, notice that it is *always* the message of God's Kingdom—or *government*—which Christ preached. He showed that men must **repent** of their ways and submit to that government.

The following three chapters in Matthew contain what is popularly called "The Sermon on the Mount." Few seem to realize it, but this *entire sermon* is filled with Jesus' exhortation to **obey** *God's law*!

Notice Matthew 5:17–19: "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill" that is to *do* or **perform**, *setting us an example*. "For assuredly, I say to you," Jesus continued, "till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled" or be *in effect*, as the original Greek indicates.

Then, Jesus concludes: "Whoever therefore breaks [Notice this is *future* tense] one of the *least of these commandments*"—no matter which men might call the least—"and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever **does** and **teaches** them, he shall be called *great* in the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus said that as long as heaven and earth stand, God's law will **never** be done away! And those who are to be *rewarded* in God's Kingdom shall both *do* and *teach* even the "least" of God's laws and commandments!

Is This the ONLY True Gospel?

Is this message of *obedience* to God's laws and preparation for His coming Kingdom—or world-ruling government—the **only** way of salvation? Or was some of this message just for the Jews of Jesus' day? Was there some **other** gospel introduced for Gentile Christians?

Here is what Jesus Christ commanded after His resurrection from the dead: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). Here Christ commanded His apostles to go to all the world and preach *exactly* the same message of obedience to God's Kingdom and laws that He had taught them!

We must **repent** of our ways and sins, *accept* Christ as Savior and **Ruler**, and begin to let Him through His Spirit—live a life of obedience in us to prepare us for *eternal life* in God's Kingdom and to be **born** as a member of His very family! This is the **very** gospel you must *believe* and *obey* in order to be saved!

Jesus told His apostles: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who *believes* and is *baptized* will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15–16). You must **believe** the joyous message of God's soon-coming government that will bring peace through His *ways*, and His **Law**! And you should *prepare* for your part in that Kingdom *here and now*.

What should you do, then? Showing the way to begin this life of obedience and surrender to God, Peter said: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

You must repent of **sin**. And God tells you in 1 John 3:4: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (*KJV*). The *Bible* says that sin is *breaking God*'s *law*!

You must **repent** of this—and of your entire attitude of disobedience and hostility toward God's rule and authority over your life. You should become humble, as a little child, and let God guide you and teach you day-by-day through His word. You should be *baptized*—as an outward symbol of your willingness to *bury* your old self under the water, and to give your life literally to God to use as *He* sees fit.

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Prophecy Fulfilled: God's Hand in History

God is arranging world events today, to prepare for an amazing future in Tomorrow's World. This eye-opening booklet will help you understand what God is doing—and why!



Write for our FREE booklet, Prophecy Fulfilled: God's Hand in History, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.tomorrowsworld.org.



Question: What is the role of the Holy Spirit in a Christian's life? What happens to those who receive the Holy Spirit but later reject God's calling?

Answer: Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44). One cannot enter the Family of God without receiving a calling from our Heavenly Father—followed by repentance, baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38–39). Christians receive the Holy Spirit from God through the laying on of hands by His true ministers (Acts 8:14–17).

After receiving the Holy Spirit, a Spirit-begotten Christian embarks on a life of training, testing, overcoming and growing spiritually (2 Peter 3:18). Christians grow spiritually by giving (Acts 20:35), and by faithfully doing God's Work and obeying His will (John 4:34). Jesus came that we might follow His example of service (Matthew 20:25–28) and abundant living (John 10:10).

With the help of the Holy Spirit, Christians must overcome their human nature and the ways of this world. It is not always easy; "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). But those who remain steadfast will receive eternal life. "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

Sadly, some Christians do not endure to the end; they give up on the lifelong process of repentance and growth, and turn back to the world and the sinful lives they once led. Those who have received the Holy Spirit, yet stand firm in rebellion against the God they once served, are headed for the lake of fire. "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:26–31).

How do we make sure we are drawing closer to God, and not slipping farther away from Him? We must constantly inspect ourselves. "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified" (2 Corinthians 13:5–6).

Does a Christian, who has received the Holy Spirit, still sin? Yes! But repentant Christians, truly sorry for sins they have committed, can be forgiven when they confess their faults to God and turn from those sins. Jesus Christ makes God's forgiveness possible. "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1–2). We should be deeply thankful for Christ, our Savior, as there is salvation in no other, and only by His name can any be saved (Acts 4:12).

To learn more about God's plan of salvation, please write for our free booklet, *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?* It will help you understand God's plan—not only for you, but for the countless billions who have lived and died without ever hearing the name of Jesus Christ.

Five Keys to a Successful Marriage

By Richard F. Ames

The family is the foundation of society. A successful marriage brings joy to the extended family and the community—but marriage can also bring challenging problems. How can you improve your marriage?

hen a man and a woman make the commitment to become husband and wife, there is often a joyous gathering to celebrate the establishment of the new family. A wedding is a joyous occasion, often accompanied with music, flowers, family and friends. Marriage is one of the most important events in a person's life. A formal, public commitment begins a lifetime together, and the bride and groom may even say traditional words such as, "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part." If you are planning for marriage, are you thoroughly prepared? And if you are already married, how are you doing with *your* commitment?

You may wonder: how are marriages doing nationally? Are they stable? Are they successful? The divorce rate can give us an indication. In 2001, in the United States, there were 9.8 marriages and 4.5 divorces for every 1,000 people. Australia had 6.9 marriages and 2.52 divorces per thousand people. The United Kingdom had 6.8 marriages and 3.08 divorces per thousand people. That means there was about one divorce for every 2.2 marriages in the U.S. and the U.K., and about one divorce for every 2.7 marriages in Australia (United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, April 2001).

These statistics do not bode well for the stability of our society. But *you* can apply strategies for a successful marriage in your own life.

We in the Western world need to strengthen our families and our marriages. The stability and health of the nation is greatly dependent on the stability and health of the family. In many societies, biblical values are being thrown out the window. But you and I can make a difference in our own community, and in our own family. The Bible reveals the causes of as well as the solutions to our problems. It reveals our purpose and our destiny. The Creator God is the One who instituted marriage. When you understand His divine purpose and plan through

our Savior, Jesus Christ, you will see the spiritual importance and significance of marriage. God's plan is to expand His spiritual, immortal family. He created the human family to prepare each and every one of us for a glorified future. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole *family* in heaven and earth is named" (Ephesians 3:14–15).

God's purpose is to create a spiritual family. That inspiring truth should motivate us to improve our family and marital relationships. When you acknowledge God in your marriage, when you apply the principles and strategies of successful family living, you can enrich, improve or even *save* your marriage!

There truly are proven, biblical keys for a successful marriage. You need to know them and apply them in your own marriage. Or you may want to share them with friends or relatives planning to marry in the near future. It may not be easy, but the effort can lead to great rewards and a loving relationship.

Key 1: Give 100 Percent

The old saying, "Marriage is a 50–50 proposition," is totally wrong! So-called modern, enlightened professionals may say, "Independence is our priority. We'll intellectually agree to work together, but I'll still reserve my personal escape route in case things don't work out right." One needs to ask, what is the framework for our marital relationship? Is it mutual convenience? Or is it a biblically based relationship that will grow in depth and character for the rest of our lives? What does the Bible say? Notice this

verse, which is foundational to happy relationships and the character that we need for all eternity: "And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35). Or, as the *Moffatt* translation puts it, "It is happier to *give* than to *get*."

One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time! Some years ago, when I was very active in sports, I tended to shortchange my wife in spending time together. I still remember the time when I determined to give my time to her

in some special activity that would please her. She wanted to go canoeing—that was not my favorite activity, but we went canoeing on an East Texas lake on a Sunday afternoon surrounded by pine trees, blue skies, water fowl, and peace! What I considered a sacrifice of my time, led to an improved relation-

ship—my wife enjoyed the activity and appreciated my effort. As Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

True love is giving without expecting anything in return. When two people both give *100 percent*, you have a strong bond, a strong overlap that is going to guarantee flexibility and the ability to cope with crises and problems. But accepting the 50–50 proposition guarantees a built-in weak link in your relationship!

God's way of life is a *giving* way—the mature approach to life and marriage. The Bible also instructs husbands and wives to give to one another sexually. In the first century, the Apostle Paul gave this instruction to Gentile

converts to Christianity, who were living in the sexually immoral city of Corinth: "Because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you



may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control" (1 Corinthians 7:2–5).

Are you willing to follow this instruction? Do you express affection to your husband or wife? Simple hugs and kisses when you leave for work, and when you return, are important. A German insurance company issued a report a few years ago, concluding that men who kiss their wives every day are less prone to accidents, and are generally more successful financially than men who do not kiss their wives every day. So I made sure to kiss my wife every morning before leaving for work. One day I forgot, and backed my car into a

tree. Needless to say, I make sure I kiss her every morning!

Commenting on the problem of selfishness, Dr. John A. Schindler wrote, "The only person capable of true affection is the perrepent of selfish ambition and conceit. Turn your attitude around. Treasure your mate as a potential child of God. And, as the saying goes, "Don't sweat the small stuff." Look for and appreciate the posi-



son who can forget himself and his own immediate interest while he places the welfare and interest of someone else foremost. When both husband and wife can do that, they will have no domestic nor sexual trouble" (*How to Live* 365 Days a Year, p. 142).

How many husbands and wives actually practice that principle? And how many *Christian* husbands and wives actually practice that principle?

Key 2: Honor and Respect Your Spouse

Do you really value your spouse? Do you respect him or her as a human being made in the image of God? Notice God's instruction regarding our relationship with others: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each *esteem others* better than himself" (Philippians 2:3).

Yes, you need to esteem—to value—your spouse better than yourself. To vain, self-indulgent individuals, that sounds awfully archaic, but it is a living law. So tive values you find in each other! And if you have been abusing your spouse, physically or verbally, you need to repent! You need to humble yourself before God and ask His forgiveness, and you need to apologize to your mate! I know it is sometimes

difficult to say, "I'm sorry." But

an apology can go a long way in healing and restoring a relationship!

How do you demonstrate honor and respect to your husband or wife? There are many ways, such as giving special gifts, listening carefully, expressing thanks and using common courtesy in your

words and the tone of your voice.

How patient are you with your family? Patience is a way of expressing love, as we learn from 1 Corinthians 13, often called the "love chapter." We read: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NRSV). Read that chapter. Pray that God will give you the ability to live

by those qualities and grow in those qualities.

You can improve your marriage by listening, by understanding, and by giving space to one another. You can improve your marriage by honoring and respecting your spouse! Notice this vital instruction God gives to husbands: "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:7).

God instructs the husband to *honor* his wife. Keep in mind that you are "heirs together of the grace of life." Perhaps the most important key is to understand how God values every human



being, and particularly your mate, regardless of your opinion of him or her. Every human being on earth has the potential of being born into the divine family of God as a glorified, immortal child of God. The Apostle Paul reminded us of God's plan for us: "I

will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:18).

Key 3: Set a Positive Example

The Apostle Peter gave instructions for Christians to set a good example even to their non-Christian mates: "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear" (1 Peter 3:1–2).

Remember, you cannot change another person against his or her will, but you can change yourself!



We all have God-given responsibilities in our marriage and family. God tells husbands: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Ephesians 5:25). Are you, as a husband, fulfilling your responsibility? Some husbands and wives place great emphasis on judging their mate's conduct, to excuse their own lack of faithful service. Remember, we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, as it tells us Romans 14:10. Be sure you are fulfilling your own God-given responsibility as a husband or wife!

Years ago, Tomorrow's World magazine Editor in Chief Roderick C. Meredith wrote two very helpful articles outlining the Christian responsibilities of husbands and wives. His article "What All Husbands Need To Know!" has helped me greatly in the more than 40 years of my marriage. Summarized briefly, a husband's five areas of responsibility to his wife are: love and respect, support and encouragement, leadership and guidance, help and protection, and inspiration to grow (Plain Truth, June 1966).

A few months earlier, he had written a similar article, "True Womanhood—Is It a Lost Cause?," outlining qualities that will help a woman help her husband and the whole family. Those areas are: responsiveness and service, tenderness and beauty, intelli-

> gence and understanding, Christian virtue, and faith, hope and courage (*Plain Truth*, November 1965).

When we apply these biblical characteristics in our lives, we enrich the lives of others, and we strengthen our marriage and family.

The book of Titus outlines biblical responsibilities for Christian women, explaining

that the older women should teach and "admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children" (Titus 2:4). Are you wives and mothers who are reading this article fulfilling your God-given responsibilities? If you are, you will be a positive example to your husband. God will bless your efforts, if you acknowledge Him in your marriage, and if you ask Jesus Christ to live His life in you. With God's help, strive to be the best husband or the best wife you can be.

Key 4: Communicate in Love

How often do couples "tune one another out" in their conversations? Effective communication means effective listening as well as speaking. We should listen for understanding—try to understand the other person's point of view. Try to understand the other person's feelings and needs! Demonstrate respect by giving your full attention.

The Apostle Paul gives us a fundamental principle in communicating effectively. "But speaking the truth in love, [we] may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ" (Ephesians 4:15). Some people speak the truth in hate. But Christians who are maturing in Christ will care about how their words affect those who listen to them.

When you talk with your husband or your wife, do you demonstrate concern and care? Do you communicate respect? Certainly we need to be patient with one another. "Charity suffereth long, and is kind." (1 Corinthians 13:4, *KJV*) The *NIV* states it this way: "Love is patient, love is kind." Be conscious always to speak the truth in love!

In our fast-paced lives, husbands and wives may be going in different directions and hardly have time to speak to one another.

(Continued on page 29)

God's Plan for Happy Marriage

You truly can have the joy and satisfaction in your marriage that God wants you to have! God's word gives vital principles for husband and wives to live in love and harmony!

Write for our *FREE* booklet, *Gods Plan for Happy Marriage,* or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site *www.tomorrowsworld.org.*





Droughts and Famines Increasing

In our modern, secular age, most people are focused on themselves—on their work,

entertainment and the acquisi-

tion of material things. Few understand, or make any connection between, widespread weather-related events and ancient Bible prophecies. Yet those sobering prophecies are *coming alive today!* Around the globe, long-predicted environmental plagues are beginning to affect millions of people's lives. We appear to be approaching a *critical juncture* in the history of human civilization—one that is clearly mentioned in Scripture.

End-Time Prophecies and Weather

When Jesus was asked, "what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?", He said His return would occur at a time characterized by "wars and rumors of wars... famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:3-8). The Apostle John saw a vision of four horsemen that would usher in the end of the age (Revelation 6:1-8). A white horse pictures false religion. A red horse pictures war and violence that will spread around the earth. A black horse, with a rider holding a pair of scales, pictures a time of scarcity, soaring food prices and famine. A pale horse portrays death by, hunger, disease and natural disasters that will affect one quarter of the earth! The prophet Joel predicted that the Day of the Lord-Christ's return—would bring unprecedented disasters, including a devastating period of *drought* in which "the grain is ruined, the new wine is dried up... the harvest of the field has perished... all the trees of the field are withered... Is not the food cut off before our eyes?" (Joel 1:10-16). The prophet Jeremiah spoke of a coming time of judgment that would include "droughts... because the ground is parched, for there was no rain in the land... no grass" (Jeremiah 14:1–6). Isaiah prophesied that in Egypt "The waters will fail from the sea, and the river will be wasted and *dried up*... and everything sown by the River [the Nile] will wither... the fishermen will also mourn" (Isaiah 19:5–8). Reports from around the globe reveal that these conditions are *increasingly evident today* and are *predicted to grow worse*—aggravated by global climate change!

Global Drought Conditions

During the last decade, drought and severe weather conditions have afflicted a number of areas in the United States. Arizona is in its twelfth year of drought and southern California has just experienced its driest autumn and winter in over a century. One Palm Springs news report even stated, "We've had wind storms and a wicked winter frost [which severely damaged citrus and other crops], but no significant rainfall... this is one of the worst droughts in about 100 years." Forecasters see this drought expanding into Nevada, Utah, western Colorado and New Mexico. Drought conditions also persist in Wyoming and western South Dakota, and in the Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas regions. High temperatures and little rainfall have also afflicted southeastern states, including northern Florida, Georgia and Alabama. In April, a hard frost nearly wiped out the entire fruit crop (apples, peaches, plums and nectarines) and much of the grape crop in Missouri and Indiana, and severely damaged winter wheat crops in central Kansas and Alabama.

In eastern Australia, the Murray-Darling basin (an area about four times the size of the United Kingdom) has experienced "the worst drought in the nation's history" (*www.timesonline.co.uk*, April 19, 2007). The 55,000 farmers in this region grow nearly all of the country's stone fruits, vegetables, rice and cotton (*www.timesonline.co.uk*). These weather-related crop failures foreshadow *dramatic increases in food prices*. The drought cut Australia's winter wheat crop in 2006

es Alive

by nearly 60 percent. Since Australia is the secondlargest wheat exporter in the world, after the United States, this means lower revenues from exports and less grain for Australia's primary markets in Asia and the Middle East (www.stuff.co.nz, March 24, 2007).

News stories report, "More than 5.5 million people are short of drinking water because of *acute drought* in southwestern China" (*www.news.bbc.co.uk*, March 24, 2007).

Low rainfall in China also affects

six million livestock and half a million hectares of land. In northwest China, hundreds of thousands of people are in need of emergency water supplies due to a *lack of rain*. To complicate matters, billions of tons of untreated chemical and sewage wastes pollute China's major river systems, making the water undrinkable and toxic to aquatic life in the rivers.

Major parts of Africa are plagued by serious drought conditions. South Africa, normally an exporter of maize to other African countries, is being forced to import maize due to "the worst drought in 40 years. Some old-timers say it is the worst drought ever" (Mail and Guardian, March 17, 2007). As maize prices rise, many farmers will be forced to slaughter much of their stock. One farmer "curses the bad weather, which he believes is the worst in his farming career." He states, "My harvest is gone... It's ugly" (ibid.). Forecasters fear this drought is the beginning of a long dry spell for the summer rainfall regions of South Africa-that could become worse with climate change. Other parts of southern and eastern Africa have been grappling with drought conditions for several years. In addition, water levels in Lake Victoria-a source of the Nile River, the longest river in the world-have been dropping at an

alarming rate. About 45 percent of the drop is due to *drought* and 55 percent to poorly planned hydroelectric dams that now control the outflow from the lake. The growing demand for electricity and irrigation in the ten countries that comprise the Nile Basin (which covers 10 percent of the African continent and is home to millions of people) could generate *conflicts and*

water wars over access to this dwindling resource (www.irn.org).

Ancient Warnings!

The Bible records that God long ago issued very sobering warnings to Israel warnings that they were to share with the world (see Deuteronomy 4:1–10). God warned that "if you do not obey Me and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes... I will

make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze... for your land shall not yield its produce" (Leviticus 26:14-20). God later repeated these warnings: "If you do not obey the voice of the LORD... all these curses will come upon you... your heavens... shall be bronze, and the earth... shall be iron... The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust... until you are destroyed" (Deuteronomy 28:15-24). Scripture reveals that "all these curses shall come upon you... because you did not obey the voice of the LORD ... to keep His commandments and His statutes... because you did not serve the LORD ... with joy and gladness of heart" (Deuteronomy 28:45-47). As mankind exceeds the environmental limitations of the earth, and ignores God's spiritual laws against idolatry, theft, adultery, murder, abortion and other abominations, we should not be surprised that these ancient and significant prophecies are coming alive today!

—Douglas S. Winnail

European Union: Changes Ahead?

By Douglas S. Winnail

What does the 21st century hold for Europe? How will changes in Europe affect our world? Bible prophecies reveal the future!

n March of 2007, the European Union celebrated its 50th anniversary and rehearsed its achievements. Since the signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1957, Europe has put an end to Cold War divisions, opened borders, established a common market, a single currency, a European Bank, a European Court, enhanced the prosperity of its citizens and enjoyed nearly five decades of peace. Today, war is said to be "unthinkable" within the borders of the European

Union—the world's largest internal market and a major source of financial aid for many countries. Considering these accomplishments some see the European Union as a powerful force of good and a unique model that will transform the world in a "New European Century" (*Why Europe Will Run the 21st Century,* Leonard, pp. 4, 19). However, former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has said the 21st century "belongs to Germans," and American strategists see America's influence extending well into the 21st century. Others envision China and India playing bigger roles on the world stage as this century unfolds.

But what does the future really hold for Europe and countries that interface with this historic continent? Will the European Union be the key agent that will usher in a new global age of "peace, prosperity and democracy" (Leonard, p. 7)? Will Europe's liberal social model, its secular society and penchant for generating reams of legal regulations provide the basis for a brave new world of the future? Or will the days just ahead see a major transformation of the European experiment that will surprise even the secretive bureaucratic planners in Brussels? While the builders of "Europe" publish no blueprints and claim that "Europe is a journey with no final destination" (Leonard, p. 10), Bible prophecies have long indicated what lies ahead for Europe as we approach what the Scriptures refer to as "the end of the age" (Matthew 24:3). You need to understand the crucial events that are about to radically transform Europe and the world in which we live!

A Fragile Union

During the last fifty years the architects of the European Union have attempted to bind the diverse nations of Europe together with numerous treaties and myriads of regulations designed to produce "a deeper and ever closer union." However, the European Union is a project of the *political elites* that has *failed* to capture the hearts and imagination of the average person in Europe. Nearly half of the populations in the 27 countries of the European Union are *negative*

about the project (BBC News, March 25, 2007)—including the people of Germany. Few citizens even bother to vote in elections for candidates to the European Parliament. In 2005, the citizens of France and the Netherlandstwo of the founding memberssoundly rejected the proposed European Constitution. Although the elites behind the European Union hope to enable Europe to speak with one voice, in order to play a bigger role on the world stage, European summit conferences are often plagued by personal confrontations between Europe's national political leaders and by the zealous defense of national interests-in spite of plenty of rhetoric about "shared" sovereignty. Highlighting the internal divisions within the European Union, the European Parliament-which

(economictimes.indiatimes.com, March 5, 2007).

Long ago, God gave the prophet Daniel a vision of the future. Daniel foresaw the appearance at the end of the age of a European power with historical links to the ancient Roman Empire. This end-time political entity is portrayed as the feet of a great image-the feet made of a *mixture of iron and clay*—that is "partly strong and partly fragile... they will not adhere to one another" (Daniel 2:40-43). This is precisely what we see forming in Europe today-a potentially powerful, but fragile union of nations attempting to "share" sovereignty, yet reluctant to give up any national advantage. Bible prophecies indicate this arrangement will be short-lived and will be ended by the returning Jesus Christ-it will

What does the future really hold for Europe and countries that interface with this historic continent? Will the European Union be the key agent that will usher in a new global age of "peace, prosperity and democracy"?

has been likened to a modern "tower of Babel"-will spend nearly 1 billion euros a year on translation services because each of its 27 member nations insists that its language be officially recognized. The flagship European airline manufacturer Airbus is another example of the pitfalls and difficulties "sharing" sovereignty. Airbus, created to challenge the American giant Boeing, and once touted as the ideal model of European cooperation, has struggled due to the *destructive rivalry* between the French and German management groups and its unstable public/private structure

not dominate the 21st century (Daniel 2:44–45).

Surprises Behind Closed Doors!

From its inception, the architects of European unity have operated under a cloak of secrecy. Meetings are held and decisions are made—usually behind closed doors and primarily by un-elected officials. This lack of transparency has served to alienate significant portions of national populations. When voters are asked to express their feelings on an issue and they disapprove of a decision the European Union wants approved (such as the European Constitution), they have been asked to *vote again*—until they get it right! This essentially makes any vote meaningless—unless it delivers the right results! It also sends a message to the average European that their opinions do not really matter, because their political leaders will do whatever

they want. Today, it is estimated that between 50 and 80 percent of the laws passed by national parliaments originated from Brussels, and national parliaments are merely "rubber stamping" legislation generated by European

bureaucrats. This process fosters apathy and discourages people in Europe from taking an active interest in European Union affairs. While European political leaders talk about democracy, the real *power* in the European Union does not reside with the people, but rather with un-elected bureaucrats in Brussels and with the un-elected members of the European Court. Even the recent attempts to revive the European Constitution have been carried out in private discussions between Angela Merkel and individual national delegations instead of holding open debates on this crucial issue that affects the lives of all Europeans.

What the architects of Europe have created is a governmental and administrative structure that makes plans and decisions in secrecy behind closed doors by unelected officials who are not accountable to the people they supposedly serve. This is a system that has the *potential of being hijacked* for other purposes and taken in a *different direction* than where many assumed it was going. Bible prophecies describe this endtime political system as an animal (a beast – Daniel 7:7; Revelation 13:1–10), that will actually *surprise* the world when it is revived in its final form (Revelation 13:3).

> The Scriptures indicate this political creature will arise in Europe as a tolerant, peace-promoting endeavor, but it will eventually be *trans*-

formed into a much more intolerant, militaristic beast that will persecute Bible-believing Christians (Daniel 11:36–39; Revelation 13:14–15). This is what Bible prophecy indicates is in store for Europe!

Germany's Emergence

The European Community was originally conceived by French planners as a way to bind Germany to Europe and prevent it from ever again dominating the continent. However, the last several decades have witnessed the emergence of a new, united, prosperous and more assertive Germany that is no longer content to merely play a subservient role in Europe. The European Union has been Germany's path to rehabilitation after the disasters and defeats of two World Wars. The German economy is now the most powerful in Europe. German

Chancellor Angela Merkel served as the President of the Council of the European Union for the first six months of 2007 and is serving as the President of the G-8 (leading industrialized nations) for all of 2007. She has also been called the most powerful woman in the world (ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice), and she has been portrayed in the German press as the "Queen of Europe" for her diplomatic abilities (*www.spiegel.de*, March 12, 2007).

This resurgent Germany has called for the formation of a European army with a single unified command center—ostensibly for defense against terrorism and for peacekeeping duties abroadand floated ideas about Germany developing its own nuclear weapons-again for defensive purposes (www.telegraph.co.uk, January 27, 2006). The German army is currently undergoing a major restructuring program to provide a rapid reaction force that can be deployed anywhere in the world. At the same time the EU is trying to create a European coastguard capable of stopping and searching vessels (which some fear is a European navy "by the back door"), Germany, Italy and Greece have ordered new. stateof-the-art attack submarines (www.telegraph.co.uk, May 21, 2006; naval-technology.com, March 14, 2007). In recent years Germany has begun dispatching troops to serve on missions in Afghanistan, the Middle East and in Africa—where they are gaining real-life combat experience.

Within the Euro-zone, Germany has gained a position of prominence. The single currency of Europe (the euro) is patterned after the German deutschemark. The European Central Bank is located in Frankfurt, Germany. A



positioning her nation for increased

European influence.

German financial firm recently attempted to take over the London Stock Exchange. Germany is the biggest financial contributor to the European Galileo satellite project (that will compete with the American GPS system) and the Germans have succeeded in having the main control center of the satellite system located near Munich, Germany (euobserver.com, December 6, 2005). Germany has also announced plans for a mission to the moon to explore its mineral resources-"without the help of its European neighbors" (www.spiegel.de, March 12, 2007).

The emergence of Germany as the leading power in Europe is also consistent with Bible prophecies about the end time. The Scriptures indicate that the Assyrians (the modern German nation; for more on this topic, please request our free reprint article, A Fourth Reich?) will play a major role at the end of the age as an instrument in God's hands (Isaiah 10:5–14) to correct His backsliding peoples who have failed in their God-given role to be lights to the world (Deuteronomy 4:1–10; for more on this topic, please request our free booklet, The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy). Modern Germany is indeed moving into this longprophesied position as an instrument in God's hand!

Religious Roots Revived

Perhaps the most sobering comment coming from a German in recent years was the statement by Cultural Minister Bernd Neumann that "The medieval, Europe-wide German Reich [the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation in the Middle Ages] is a *valid model* for the union of European countries today...

[and] a valid model of the functioning of a superstate" (www.german-foreign-policy.com, September 1, 2006). The Holy Roman Empire was a multi-national, multi-ethnic construction that dominated central Europe (large parts of Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic) for more than 800 years. The Holy Roman Empire was held together by the *combined influence of both church* and state. It was headed by an emperor who was crowned by the pope in Rome. It remains to be seen what sort of relationship will develop between Pope Benedict XVI, the first German pope in more than 1,000 years, and Angela Merkel, who has been promoted as the "Queen of Europe." They have met and both share the idea that religion should play a more prominent role in the unification of Europe.

For decades, popes in Rome have promoted the construction of a United Europe. They have offered the services of the Roman Church to help bring together the diverse peoples and nations of Europe. Pope Benedict and his predecessors have also spoken of the need to "re-evangelize" modern secular Europe. In fact, it was Pope John Paul II, speaking in Santiago de Compostella—the site where the re-conquest of Spain from the Muslims began—who urged Europeans "to discover their [religious] roots." This appeal to return to Europe's Roman Catholic religious roots has been a reoccurring theme in papal addresses in recent decades. Angela Merkel has also been a proponent (along with leaders from Poland, Spain, Italy and Austria—all heavily Roman Catholic countries) of including a clear reference to Europe's Roman Catholic heritage in the European Constitution.

Bible prophecies clearly indicate that as the end of the age approaches, Europe will see the *revival* of a political system that has historical links to the ancient Roman Empire (Revelation 17:10). Many leaders involved in the construction of a unified Europe have openly acknowledged they are trying to recreate the unity of the Roman Empire. The Scriptures also indicate this political system will *revive* its historical ties with the Roman Catholic Church and that an influential religious figure will play a pivotal role in this process (Revelation 17:1–7). This religious figure is prophesied to use supernatural powers to convince people to follow this European political "beast" (Revelation 13:11–15; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12). Bleeding

(Continued on page 28)

Who or What Is the Antichrist?

Events in Europe are setting the stage for the final fulfillment of end-time prophecy. Are you watching? Will you recognize the appearance of the Antichrist? This powerful booklet will help you know!

Write for our FREE booklet, Who or What Is the Antichrist?, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.tomorrowsworld.org.

The "Sex Age"

Archaeologists and anthropologists have come up with names such as the "Stone Age" and the "Bronze Age" to label earlier eras of human society by their most distinctive features. Given the prominence of sex in our current society, it would not be a wonder if future anthropologists were to label our culture the "Sex Age."

We are surrounded by sex. Its assault on our senses and our minds is almost inescapable. Images that were once confined to magazines sold in brown paper wrappers to adults only, are now publicly displayed, for all ages to see, in

larger-than-life advertisements on billboards and shopping mall walls. Marketers use sex to sell everything from potato chips to radial tires.

This widespread display of sexual imagery damages our culture in more ways than we can count. Women are objectified, and feel pressured to judge their physical beauty by the stan-

dards of the airbrushed, digitally and surgically enhanced women they see in the media. Men are harmed, too—trained to see women as mere sources of sexual pleasure, rather than as equals and partners they can love and respect.

Our children also suffer. Marketers have discovered the lucrative KGOY formula—"Kids Growing Older Younger." The sexually revealing and enticing fashions little girls see on television, and are at first taught to want for their dolls, become the styles they demand to wear for themselves as they grow a little older.

God designed sex (cf. Genesis 1:27–28), and He meant it to be a powerful force in the lives of married couples. The sexual union provides not only for the creation of children, but also for the intense emotional bonding He wants husband and wife to experience. The Bible describes the "way of a man with a maiden" as almost too wonderful for words (Proverbs 30:18–19, RSV), and in the context God intended, it truly is. Sex is a wonderful and joyous part



of married life, when used as its Creator intended!

But, as my wife's grandfather used to say, God did not design sex to be a spectator sport. In this present age, under Satan's influence (2 Corinthians 4:4), it is no surprise that advertisers want to exploit this powerful force that can move the human mind at its deepest levels. What once stayed in the private confines of the marital bedroom is now commonly found on public display, to adults and children alike, just to increase some business's profits! The consequences have been disastrous for society—and

> for individual families. Sexually transmitted diseases now run rampant. Children are "sexualized" even before reaching puberty.

> God Almighty wants us to find sexual satisfaction in the powerful bonding intimacy between husband and wife. Today, however, many seek sexual satisfaction through "technique" or "experimentation." They search for an

"experienced lover" in the bedroom, but never experience true love there. What a shame.

Thankfully, the Bible tells us that a day is coming—called the "restoration of all things" (Acts 3:21)—when all will be as God intended. Like a beautiful gemstone in a perfectly fashioned setting of gold, sex will take its proper place where its God-designed potential finds its fullest and most powerful expression: in the happy marriage of husband and wife.

But you do not need to wait for the Kingdom of God to experience a happy marriage. Marriage is a gift from God, and you can learn today to make your marriage the gift it was intended to be. You can read more about that in the article "Five Keys to a Successful Marriage" on page 10 of this issue. Write to the address nearest you, listed on page 30 of this issue, to request your free copy of our inspiring booklet, God's Plan for Happy Marriage, or order it online at www.tomorrowsworld.org.

-Wallace Smith

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your recent advertisement, promising, "You can be protected from the dangerous times ahead," is just another false promise and exaggerated claim made by the superstitious and fanatical. Or are you paranoid, or is this another charlatan scheme to relieve the weak-minded public of their money? As Saul Bellow wrote, "A great deal of intelligence can be invested in ignorance when the need for illusion is deep.

J.S., Shreveport, LA

Please know that you are indeed doing a wonderful work. The truths from God's word in your booklets and magazines have been shared with people from my village as well as the neighboring villages. As far as your work is concerned, peoples' eyes are being opened to the truth in this part of the world.

J.Y, Wewak, Papua New Guinea

We are enjoying all articles in your magazines, and are now sharing them with our 16-year-old son who is taking a world religions class in eleventh grade. He never seemed too interested before, but we are taking full advantage of his class and are infusing him with the truth so he does not get confused by the other religions he is now studying. Your magazine is a very welcome and most powerful tool in this endeavor. Thanks for the reinforcements with every edition.

G.M., Fredericton, NB, Canada

Your literature of Bible truth has given our family hope and peace. For seven years we were so confused as to why we were "church hopping" and weren't satisfied with what we were hearing and seeing in the churches. Because we were reading our Bibles, we just knew that something was terribly wrong when it came to the truth of the Gospel. We started to feel as outsiders! So we prayed for the truth. Thank the Heavenly Father for our divine connection of *Tomorrow's World*. We are really enjoying hearing the truth about the real God for the first time. This is what tough love is about; we may not want to hear it, but if we really value the truth, then we must also take seriously that our very lives depend on it. We thank you all for your effort and hard work.

D.B., Burntwood Staffs, United Kingdom

I am now 88 years old. Several months ago, I realized my memory was becoming very erratic. That really frightened me! But what really delighted me is that the *Bible Study Course* lessons have helped my memory tremendously. The lessons have also refreshed my knowledge of how to study the Bible (which I do daily); therefore, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your wealth of knowledge and generosity in providing the lessons to me.

M.W., Lawrenceburg, KY

January of last year, I couldn't decide if I should go back to a church I had attended or not. Because every Sunday in November and December, all everyone kept talking about was Christmas, Since I've been receiving your magazine this last year, what a life-changing experience! Your booklets on the true Sabbath, the true Holy Days and the *Bible Study Course* have changed my life. What a joy it is to finally read my Bible and truly understand what I am reading. Please continue, as I will with my children and grandchildren.

D.L., Hot Springs, AR

Your magazine is very interesting and always leaves you wanting more. Even when I don't agree on everything, like the subject of your article "Who Is Burning In Hell?" I do believe that you try to give the Holy Scripture its real dimension and interpretation, and not the one we have inherited from the false church. Anyway, get on the job and keep on fighting the good fight!

G.C., Chicago, IL

We encourage you to share with us your reactions to *Tomorrow's World*. Please direct your correspondence to "Letters to the Editor" at our United States address, or send e-mail to *letters@tomorrowsworld.org*. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Remember to include your name, address and daytime phone number.

Did They Die in Vain?

By Dibar Apartian

raq? Just where is Iraq?" would have been many Americans' question before September 11, 2001. Very few would have been able to identify Iraq's capital, Baghdad.

Today, after the U.S.-led coalition invasion, both Iraq and Baghdad are part of our daily vocabulary—along with the constant tragic reports of death and destruction. Who would have thought that four years later, as of June 1, 2007, more than 3,470 American soldiers would have given their lives for a purpose many did not understand—and that most Americans do not understand today. Sadly enough, to that figure must be added more than 25,200 young American soldiers who were once healthy and strong, filled with hope and dreams for a future they will never have, and are now on the list of the wounded—most of them for life.

Why? That question has been asked millions of times throughout history, but has remained unanswered, and will continue to remain unanswered as long as people disdain the true Way of Life guided by love, God's love. In the interim, under Satan's surreptitious rule, we are reaping the fruits of man's inhumanity against man.

I was not born a U.S. citizen. I acquired my citizenship after my immigration nearly five decades ago. I counted it then—as I still do—a great privilege and blessing to be an American. "The United States is the melting pot where people of all nations form one nation," I was told when I passed the test for my citizenship. Today, with the constant degeneration of our culture and

the degrading of our values, that saying is hardly true. The melting pot is not melting anymore. In many ways, we are divided among ourselves.

Have you ever seen an American cemetery abroad? There, the divisions do not seem so great. Do you know that there are a few American cemeteries in Europe, where thousands of young American soldiers are buried thousands of miles away from their homes, their families and their friends—almost forgotten by those for whom they sacrificed their lives?

Nearly 20 years ago—in April 1988—I returned to Europe as an editor of the *Plain Truth* magazine, and visited one of those cemeteries, located in Saint-Avold, France, not far from Germany. The article I wrote then about my visit was titled, "Did They Die in Vain?" That question remains as meaningful today as it was then, and to this day, I can hardly control my emotions when thinking of the immense sacrifice those American soldiers made.

Only the dull fall of a light rain broke the silence at the American cemetery at Saint-Avold in northern France, as I stood on top of the main stairway of the Memorial Building.

The cemetery grounds cover 113.5 acres and contain 10,489 headstones—nearly all in the shape of a cross, except for 200 that are in the form of the traditional Star of David, for the dead who belonged to the Jewish faith.

The grave area consists of nine plots laid out about the axis of a symmetrical pattern divided by carved paths. The headstones, made of white Italian marble, are set in straight lines in each of the plots.

What a moving and imposing sight!

This was my first visit to the largest American cemetery in Europe, the "home" of brave American foot-soldiers and pilots, most of whom lost their lives during the campaign along the German frontiers during World War II.

What do you say—what can you say—at a time like this? How do you contain your emotions when thousands of headstones look at you in silence? So many lives, mostly young, once full of dreams and hopes, now lay buried under these headstones!

"Why wars?" is perhaps the question most asked by visitors as they witness this tragic site.

Of course, there are other American cemeteries in Europe. And there are numerous other cemeteries around the world, containing the burials of soldiers of all nationalities and races. They too have given up—for peace and freedom—the most precious gift they had: their lives!

Peace and freedom? What a paradox—what euphemisms! Who would have thought, back in 1945, that more than 150 more wars would be fought in less than 50 years following the end of World War II? Who would have believed that millions of other soldiers of all nationalities would also die—and they still die today—for peace and freedom?

But where is peace? And what is the freedom or liberty for which people are willing to die? At Saint-Avold, directly in front of the Visitors' Building, to the west, the range of hills contains part of the fortifications of the Maginot Line.

Most *Tomorrow's World* readers are probably too young to remember the major role the Maginot Line was supposed to play in France's defense after World War I. Many might not even know that it stood as a pillar of peace, an impenetrable barrier that no army could cross or tear down! Yet the Maginot Line fell—just like the soldiers who were assigned to defend it!

West of the Memorial forecourt pylons is the Chapel and Memorial Building. Inside the building, beneath the five sculptured figures that represent the seemingly eternal struggle for freedom, typified by religious and military heroes, is inscribed: "Our fellow countrymen—enduring all and giving all that mankind might live in freedom and in peace. They join that glorious band of heroes who have gone before."

As I meditated upon these words, I wondered what all these heroes—who "died for peace and freedom"—would now have said if they could speak!

On the north wall are color photographs of six other American military cemeteries in Europe, and above the photographs are General Dwight Eisenhower's words: "Here we and all who shall hereafter live in freedom will be reminded that to these men and their comrades we owe a debt to be paid, with grateful remembrance of their sacrifice and with the high resolve that the cause for which they died shall live."

Meaningful words, indeed! A solemn resolution! But where are we today?

History Speaks

Since the beginning of mankind, wars have become more cruel and costly with the advance of civilization.

A few years ago, a Dutch professor took time to calculate the cost of an enemy soldier's death at different epochs in history. He estimated that during the reign of Julius Caesar, to kill an enemy soldier cost less than one dollar. At the time of Napoleon, it had considerably inflated—to more than \$2,000. At the end of World War I, it had multiplied several times to reach the figure of some \$17,000. During World War II, it was about \$40,000. And in Vietnam, in 1970, to kill an enemy soldier cost the United States \$200,000.

Washington economist Scott Wallsten recently calculated that the cost of the U.S. war in Iraq will exceed \$1 *trillion*! Linda Bilmes, a public policy expert at the Kennedy School of Government, puts its cost as greater than \$2 trillion, after figuring the many indirect costs of war. One would suppose that no nation would ever be able to afford another war! Why then is the whole world preparing for one?

In Hiroshima, on August 6, 1945, the combined heat and blast of the atomic bomb pulverized everything in the immediate vicinity. It generated spontaneous fires some distance away, produced winds that fanned the flames in Hiroshima's craterlike configuration so powerfully that they burned almost 4.4 square miles of the city. That bomb—with its yield of only 12 kilotons—killed at least 80,000 people, besides injuring more than 70,000 others.

A second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, on August 9, 1945. It killed at least 40,000 people, injuring a like number, and devastated 1.7 square miles.

It is sad to say but despite the testimony of history, human beings have not learned that wars cannot solve problems; they never have. One evil added to another evil equals two evils—they do not eliminate each other. Wars destroy. They do not construct.

The Cause of Wars

Why then do we have wars? Why do individuals or nations fight? Nearly everyone agrees that wars must cease, but no one has discovered yet a way to eliminate them. The numerous conferences of peace—most of which have been held during the 20th century—have neither prevented wars nor slowed down their pace.

How strange! Throughout history, human beings have soughtin vain-to understand the real cause of wars. They have failed to find it because they have not turned to the right source: the Bible. The Apostle James wrote, "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures" (James 4:1–3).

Quarrels and wars are byproducts of human, carnal, selfish sentiments of jealousy, lust and envy. Human nature is first of all interested in its own comfort—in its own gain to the detriment of its neighbor's.

Before God, all human beings are equal. But equality can only be achieved if we all walk together led by the same loving spirit regardless of race and nationality.

What will the end be? If wars in the past have left behind winners and losers, the fact remains that during World War III, there will only be losers—no winners or victors.

Governments are aware of this. Military experts, in turn, are warning the world of what may be ahead! Perhaps you remember the powerful words of General Douglas MacArthur spoken right after World War II, when he said:

"We have had our last chance. If we do not devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at our door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence and improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advance in science, art, literature, and all material and cultural developments of the past 2,000 years. It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh."

History repeats itself because people do not learn their lessons. They continue to live the way they want to live, to seek peace after their own understanding, to practice justice according to their carnal reasoning. We all reap what we sow.

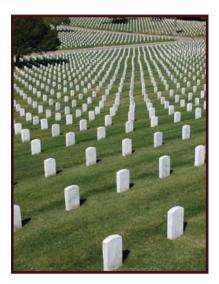
Indeed, history repeats itself because people do not turn away from sin! Ever since the beginning, humanity has followed the way of rebellion. And today, after nearly 6,000 years of civilization, human beings still prefer to follow the way of rebellion.

Why? Because, just as General MacArthur warned, the change has not been of the spirit.

The word *discipline* is not liked today; it never was. Young and old, men or women, nearly everyone seeks freedom without wanting to respect the rules that govern it. Most do not seem to realize that *true* freedom is the right to do what God's law permits.

Freedom is synonymous with obedience to God's law. We enjoy freedom when we submit our will to His. The Apostle James calls God's law a perfect law of liberty: "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:25).

As a reader of *Tomorrow's World*, you should know that, according to Bible prophecy, we are now living in the last days of



civilization as we know it. We have long passed the point of no return, and unless God intervenes—miraculously—human life will be wiped out from the face of the earth.

How memorable were the words of a French newspaperman who wrote, "If men fail to find the way of cooperation and goodwill, their awesome inventions will end by becoming the ingenuous elements of a gigantic industry of death!"

Regrettably, there is no indication that the present civilization will ever find the way of goodwill and cooperation.

Many ask: "Can't religion help us solve our problems? Can't religion put an end to wars?"

Just what do you mean by "religion"? There are today, far more religions than nations—and traditional Christianity itself is composed of several hundreds of sects and denominations, all of which claim to proclaim the truth.

Throughout history, men and women have been massacred, hanged, burned alive and tortured in the name of religion. Why? Because mankind has created and conceived its own religions, its own beliefs, and turned its back to revealed eternal truth. Consequently, neither mankind's efforts nor its religions can bring peace on earth. "Destruction and misery are in their ways," God says, "and the way of peace they have not known" (Romans 3:16–17).

The Dead Shall Arise

The 10,489 foot-soldiers and pilots buried under the white marble headstones at Saint-Avold will one day be brought back to life and they will write a new chapter in history.

But this time the history they write will not be made of wars; it will be made of peace—universal peace! Together with the millions and millions of other soldiers who also died "for peace and freedom," they will be resurrected to live in a new world, an entirely different world where the change will finally be of the spirit.

You are living today in a dying world. A new civilization will

soon arise where all people will be taught to respect God's laws and teachings.

A miracle? Yes, but it will take place because Jesus Christ Himself will be King of kings and Lord of lords on earth. He will "judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Micah 4:3).

This is the gospel Jesus Christ brought—the ultimate hope of all mankind. In the wonderful world tomorrow, "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9). At Saint-Avold, during that rainy day, as I stood in silence looking at the 10,489 headstones, my thoughts dwelled on those words.

The story of these soldiers just like the story of all soldiers around the world who died for peace and freedom—is not finished. They will live again, after the resurrection. And what they were unable to accomplish by their death "for peace and freedom," they will be able to accomplish by their life for peace and freedom—true peace and liberty in Christ.

Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

A time is soon coming when wars will cease and all the world will learn the way of peace, under the rule of Jesus Christ. Do you know how to recognize the signs of His imminent return?

Write for our *FREE* booklet, *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return,* or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site *www.tomorrowsworld.org.*

Tomorrow's Youth

The Deception of Abortion

By the time Norma McCorvey was 21 years old, she had already experienced more tragedy than some people know in a lifetime. A ninth-grade dropout who had spent time in reform school, Norma grew up in a household where she was emotionally and physically abused. Raped as a teenager, she married an abusive boyfriend at age 16, and had already given birth to two children when she found herself at the epicenter of a

seismic event that would shake the moral foundations of American culture.

Most of us know Norma McCorvey by her pseudonym, Jane Roe, chief plaintiff in the landmark legal case known as *Roe v. Wade*, which led to the legalization of abortion in the United States, and no doubt sped the acceptance of abortion in other Western nations.

Many today take abortion for granted, assuming that if it

is legal, it must be moral and right. After all, very intelligent and honest people have looked into the question of abortion and determined that it is okay, and that no real harm or pain comes either to the mother or to the "tissue" within her—right? Surely Norma McCorvey is a hero who paved the way for millions of young women to lead their lives the way they want—right?

Wrong! Today's youth need to understand that a previous generation was manipulated and duped by dishonest people with an agenda, and even some of the perpetrators of this fraud were led astray by their own ignorance, greed or lack of moral character.

Abortion proponents who fight to preserve the *Roe v*. *Wade* decision rarely acknowledge that the Jane Roe of the lawsuit—Norma McCorvey—is today a fierce opponent of abortion, even to the point of filing a class action suit in 2003 to have *Roe v*. *Wade* overturned. In this suit, "Among her 5,437 pages of evidence were affidavits from more than 1,000 women who testified that having an abortion had devastating emotional, physical, and psychological effects on them. Today McCorvey is passionately and publicly committed to undoing the damage she did in her earlier years and ending legalized abortion in America" (*The Marketing of Evil*, Kupelian, p. 210).

Also rarely mentioned is the fact that McCorvey did not seek out an abortion at the start of the legal process that led to *Roe v. Wade*. In the course of arranging an adoption for her unborn child, her attorney put her in touch with two attorneys who wanted to find a "test case" to establish abortion rights. McCorvey was not some young crusader for reproductive rights; she



was a frightened young woman who believed what her lawyers told her. Thankfully, because the legal process took so long, the child she was carrying was born—not aborted and was put up for adoption. But her lawsuit led to the deaths of millions of other children—a fact she now regrets.

And McCorvey is far from the only one with regrets. And regrets are

not just found among those who have had abortions—some who have *performed* abortions have also reconsidered their role. In 1969, the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws was founded by physician Bernard Nathanson and abortion advocate Lawrence Lader, with help from noted feminist Betty Friedan. NARAL set out to convince the American public that abortion should be legalized, but how could such an audacious task be accomplished? How did Nathanson and his co-conspirators sell an unsuspecting American public on abortion? Was it with truth? Was it with science? Was it with medical expertise? What about the morality of it? In Nathanson's own words:

"We persuaded the media that the cause of permissive abortion was a liberal, enlightened, sophisticated one.... We announced to the media that we had taken polls and that 60 percent of Americans were in favor of permissive abortion. This is the tactic of the self-fulfilling lie. Few people care to be in the minority. We aroused enough sympathy to sell our program of permissive abortion by fabricating the number of illegal abortions done annually in the U.S. The actual figure was approaching 100,000, but the figure we gave to the media repeatedly was 1 million.

"Repeating the big lie often enough convinces the public. The number of women dying from illegal abortions was around 200-250 annually. The figure we constantly fed to the media was 10,000. These false figures took root in the consciousness of Americans, convincing many that we needed to crack the abortion law" (The Marketing of Evil, Kupelian, p. 191).

There were other confessed lies, but you get the point. Nathanson tells us, "At the end of the two years that I was the director, we had done 60,000 abortions. I myself, with my own hands, have done 5,000 abortions. I have supervised another 10,000 that residents have done under my direction. So I have 75,000 abortions in my life. Those are pretty good credentials to speak on the subject of abortion" (*ibid.*, p 192).

Today Nathanson is doing everything he can to reverse the horrendous tragedy he helped to start. What changed him? New technologies that revealed the truth about life in the womb: real time ultrasound, electronic fetal heart monitoring, fetoscopy and cordocentesis. These advances in medical science allowed Nathanson to see inside the womb, eyeball the baby, diagnose illnesses and treat its diseases. Suddenly, the fetus was no longer a mass of unviable tissue. It was a baby, and he knew it! Nathanson awoke from his self-induced deception. Eager to share with others what he had come to learn about the developing child in the womb, he produced *The Silent Scream*, a film that graphically shows what happens to a baby being aborted. Bernard Nathanson, Norma McCorvey and thousands of others, whether the manipulators or the manipulated, are part of a greater deception. The Bible speaks of a time in which we have all "walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2).

Revelation 12:9 tells us that this spirit, this prince of the power of the air, is

so powerful that he has deceived the whole world.

Thankfully, not everyone has been deceived about the abortion issue. Several years after the Supreme Court ruling, a 15-year-old rape victim found herself in a situ a t i o n l i k e N o r m a McCorvey's. But there was an important difference; the law now gave her the right to abort her child. Yet this brave young person chose to give birth to a

baby daughter and turn her over for adoption to a couple who could care for her better than she could. The girl she brought into this world grew up in a loving family, went to university, became a social worker, married and had children. Today, millions of young people know of Pam Stenzel, an inspirational speaker and powerful advocate for abstinence, who teaches young people the price of having sex before marriage. When it comes to her own birth, in Pam's own words, "I did not deserve to die because of the sin of my father."

Every human being has a truly remarkable potential—not only in this life, but beyond human existence. This is another subject about which the "prince of the power of the air" has deceived mankind. Very few people today have been told the truth about life after death. Your incredible potential is *far* greater and more exciting than you can imagine. To learn more about the very purpose for your existence, write or call for our free booklet, *Your Ultimate Destiny*.

—Gerald Weston

World Government Coming! (Continued from page 8)

Then God **promises** to place in you, His begotten son or daughter, His precious Holy Spirit, so that you may develop His very nature and His character.

Notice that even the Holy Spirit is received through obedience, because Peter describes "the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that **obey** Him" (Acts 5:32).

After *repentance* and *baptism*, a Christian can begin a life of overcoming and *obedience* to God's law and His Kingdom here and now. This is done through the Holy Spirit and its *power* within him. This was the message **all** of God's servants preached throughout the early inspired New Testament Church!

The Gospel Never Changes

Notice what Philip preached when he went down to the Gentile

city of Samaria, "But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the *kingdom of God* and the *name* of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized" (Acts 8:12).

The Apostle Paul preached this gospel to the Gentile Christians at Ephesus. He told them on his last visit: "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more" (Acts 20:25).

At the very *end* of his ministry, Paul continued to preach *this same message*! "Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the *kingdom of God* and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him" (Acts 28:30–31).

The *message* of the sooncoming Kingdom of God was the **only** message of Jesus Christ! That message is the gospel of peace (Romans 10:15; Ephesians 6:15). It is the gospel of salvation (Ephesians 1:13). It was the *only* message His inspired Church and apostles taught the world! It has been the *message* of God's true Church through the ages!

Jesus Christ said His *true Church* would be preaching that very message as a last "witness" to all nations in our very day just before He returns again! "And this *gospel of the kingdom* will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and *then the end will come*" (Matthew 24:14).

You are receiving that gospel this very instant! Through the *Tomorrow's World* telecast and magazine, this message of Christ is being taken to all nations as a last "witness" to the world, before Christ returns to establish His beneficent world government over all mankind. May God help you to *understand* and heed!

European Union: Changes Ahead (Continued from page 19)

statues and visions of the Virgin Mary appearing on hillsides and buildings could be a *foretaste* of the types of "miracles" that are to come.

The current European Union is made up of 27 nations. However, unless the European nations can agree on reforms contained in the Constitution, the Union may not be able to function in an effective manner. The French are already having difficulty adjusting to the increasingly dominant role played by Germany. The expansion of the Union into Eastern Europe (an area of traditional German influence) further weakened the ability of France to determine the future direction of the EU. When Angela Merkel encountered reluctance on the part of the French to support an EU position, she indicated that Germany had *other friends* in Europe with whom they could work—the Italians. It is also significant that the Italian leader Romano Prodi has indicated that if Britain is reluctant to forge ahead with plans for more European integration, the British could be *left behind*.

One idea that continues to surface every time the EU nations encounter difficulties working together is that a "core group" of nations should move out ahead of the others to pursue a deeper integration. The Treaty of Maastricht actually has a provision that allows a group of eight or more nations to work together in specific areas and move out ahead of the rest. If the attempts of 27 nations to work together falter, this *core* group will eventually emerge-and in all likelihood it will be led by Germany. This is exactly what Bible prophecy has long indicated. The Apostle John wrote that "ten kings [nations or national leaders]... will give their power and authority [surrender or share their sovereignty] to the beast" (Revelation 17:12–13). The prophet Daniel, in describing this same end-time system, compares it to the two feet of a great image-and those feet have ten toes that he likens to

ten kings (Daniel 2:40–45). These prophecies clearly indicate that the end-time revival of a political system in Europe that has historical links to the Roman Empire will have a *core of ten nations*. The stage is being set in modern Europe for the fulfillment of these long-pondered prophecies!

The months ahead will be filled with vitally important events. Powerful forces are working behind the scenes to influence the course of events in Europe. What most people today do not realize—even the secretive planners in Brussels and the long-range strategists in the Vatican—that God has revealed the future of Europe in the pages of the Bible

Successful Marriage (Continued from page 13)

Some studies have shown that many couples average less than 20 minutes a week in conversation! Authors Leonard and Natalie Zunin have suggested the "fourminute rule" as a way to capitalize on the brief time you may have together. They point out that the success or failure of a marriage "can depend on what happens between a husband and wife during just eight minutes of the day: four in the morning upon awakening, and four when you are reunited after the working day" (Contact: The First Four Minutes, p. 133).

The Zunins correctly point out that your language, attitude, or expression at the beginning of the day can affect your whole relationship. Learn to express a positive, loving attitude for the first four minutes you are together at the beginning of the day. If you make this effort, you can avoid an accidental argument or an unnecessary grudge that will last all day. And pay particular attention when you get together at the end of the day. Even if you are tired, a positive word of encouragement or appreciation-a hug or a kiss can make a big difference in your relationship for the whole evening.

Key 5: Pray Together

Many of you reading this article may be married to an unbeliever. If so, you may not be able to pray with your spouse—but you can pray for your spouse, and for your successful marriage! As mentioned earlier, you can be a Christian example to your mate. Scripture gives this instruction to wives who have non-Christian husbands. "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives" (1 Peter 3:1). Your loving, giving, Christian example can go a long way toward positively influencing your mate. Notice the emphasis is on your conduct, not on trying to argue your mate into your religion!

Of course, if both you and your spouse pray, you can pray together. When my wife and I pray together, I normally begin the prayer, then after a short while nudge my wife. She will then pray, and when she is done I will conclude our prayer together. It is just amazing how intimate and personal thoughts come out in our shared prayers. In that way, we are sharing with one another, and with our God.

(2 Thessalonians 2:9–12). God has provided this revelation so His servants can warn this world about what is actually going to happen (Amos 3:7; 2 Peter 1:19–21) and that those who heed these warnings will not be *surprised or deceived* by the swirl of events that will precede the second coming of Jesus Christ. This is one reason why Christ tells us to *watch* world events in the light of Bible prophecy (Matthew 24:42–44). The question is, will *you* recognize the significance of what is really happening in Europe and how these events tie into end-time prophecies recorded in the pages of your Bible?

One of my wife's favorite expressions is, "Let's pray about that." I appreciate her willingness to involve God in our marriage and in our life together. We all need to acknowledge God and our Savior in every aspect of our lives. Scripture exhorts us: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in *all your ways* acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5–6).

A marriage requires work, effort and continual nourishment to be successful. It means giving all you can in following your Godgiven responsibilities as a husband or as a wife. There will be obstacles, differences, and even conflicts. But with God's help, you can improve your marriage—and even save your marriage if it is in danger!

Ask God to help you apply these principles in your own life. Remember, you cannot force your spouse to change-you can only change yourself. But your example of love and service can be a tremendous influence on your mate. And remember, you cannot do it on your own. You need the help of your Savior in your own life. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). May God bless you, your marriage and your family as you strive to live by His word!

China on the Rise (Continued from page 2)

equipment and manpower in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. So it is in a poor position to challenge China militarily—or in *any other way*—in Southeast Asia. If China did decide to "reclaim" Taiwan, what could the U.S. possibly do? It is time for America to face the facts. The U.S., as a nation, is declining economically, militarily and as a moral power in the world. But China is *moving ahead*!

However, in spite of its growing economic and military power, China is beset with enormous problems. Although the huge building booms in Beijing, Shanghai and a few other major cities employ millions of workers, additional hundreds of millions of Chinese people in the countryside are being left far behind. They often lack sufficient food and pure water to make life merely bearable. In recent years, there have been *thousands* of protests and riots in the smaller cities and villages all across China. This represents a monumental problem for China's political elite. With the Olympic Games coming soon, and their desire to show off their nation, China's leaders do not want any kind of mini-insurrection to get underway.

Could this happen amid so much Chinese prosperity? There are, in fact, "two Chinas." Foreign tourists and business people usually see only the glitzy wealth and material progress obvious in the major cities. Meanwhile, in China's hinterlands, hundreds of reports indicate a growing restlessness among the masses. So will there be some type of political upheaval that will set back China's push to become the truly *major* world power?

Will the growing power of a united Europe—*led by a resurgent Germany*—swiftly move that continent to the front in the race for superpower status? Most longtime readers of *Tomorrow's World* know the answer. But this does not change the fact that China's economic and political influence is increasing, and that America's truly *monumental debt* to other nations—*especially China*—will set the stage for the Eternal God to "break" the pride of power America has enjoyed for so long (Leviticus 26:19).

Even so, we should realize that *both* the U.S. and China lack a genuine awareness of the Creator of the universe. Regarding the Chinese, the *Economist* magazine recently reported, "A constant theme heard from thoughtful Chinese is that China's rise lacks a moral underpinning, and that a moral vacuum lies at the heart of Chinese life. The Dalai Lama puts the blame on the Communist Party's 'radical atheism' and predicts that 'sooner or later, a spiritual or moral culture will have to come to fill an internal emptiness; externally, there will have to be rule of law, democracy, freedom of the press" (*ibid.*).

Regarding the U.S., most of you reading this magazine are all too aware of the truly tragic state of America's morals. Television screens across the U.S. continue to be saturated with illicit sex. Violence, drug use and extreme misuse of alcohol are on the increase. Increasingly, Americans are allowing their legislators and judges to "put God **out** of the public square." For the U.S.—as for any nation that does not return to its senses and truly begin to "seek" the God of the Bible—the wave of the future is *downward*.

Those of you who have studied Bible prophecy know that the Eternal God shows how the American and other British-descended peoples, who were given the "birthright" promises made to Abraham, will continue to see their tremendous material blessings removed, step by step, unless they truly *repent* and come back to our Creator and His righteous ways.

The rise of China and its awesome economic, political and military power will certainly play a major part in humbling the American and other British-descended peoples. We all need to think of the "Big Picture" as we watch world events and see the *purpose* of Almighty God being worked out. Remember, after describing the final events of this age, Jesus said: "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).

Robert Meredit

UNITED STATES: P.O. BOX 3810 • CHARLOTTE, NC 28227-8010 • www.tomoirtowsworld.org • Phone: (704) 844-1970. Australasia: PO Box 300 • CLARENDON, SA 5157, AUSTRALIA • PHONE: (61) 8-8383-6288 • FAX: (61) 8-8127-9667 CANADA: P.O. BOX 409 • MISSISSAUGA, ON L5M 2B9 • PHONE: (905) 814-1094 • FAX: (905) 814-7659 New Zealand: P.O. Box 2767 • Auckland, New Zealand • PHONE/FAX: (09) 268 8985 Philippines: PO Box 492 • Araneta Center Post Office • 1135 QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES • PHONE: (63) 2-723-0499 • FAX: (63) 2-414-5349 SOUTH AFRICA: PRIVATE BAG X7 • HATFIELD, PRETORIA, 0028 • PHONE: (27) 58-622-1424 • FAX: (27) 58-623-1303. • UNITED KINGDOM: BM Box 2345 • LONDON, WC1N 3XX • PHONE/FAX: 44 (0) 844-800-9322

OMORROW 'S Television and Radio Log

INTERNATIONAL:

NSW, Sydney: TVS—Ch 31, SUN 6:00 am QLD, Brisbane: Briz 31-Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am SA, Adelaide: Access—Ch 31, SUN 11:30 am; THUR 8:30 pm VIC, Melbourne: MCC—Ch 31, SUN 11:30 pm WA, Perth: Access 31—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

St. Michael: CBC-Ch 8, SUN 9:30 am

Reykjavik: Gospel Channel—MON 7:00 am Satellites: Eurobird—Ch 770, Thor II

Kingston: TV|-Ch 7, 9, 11 & 13, SUN 9:00 am Nationwide: PRIME TELEVISION—SUN 8:00 am

Naga City: PBN—Ch 5, SUN 8:00 am

Randburg: CSN—SUN 5:30 pm Trinidad, Port of Spain: CCN-Ch 6, SAT 3:30 pm

United Kindom: WORD Network-SKY-TV—Ch 771, FRI 6:30 am The Gospel Channel: Sky—Ch 770, NON 7:00 pm EUROPE NORTH ASSICA MIDDLE ASSIC Europe, North Africa, Middle East: Hotbird 6 FRI 6:30 am UTC

UNITED STATES:

AK, AL, AL, AR, FL, FL, FL, FL, FL, FL, Ocala: Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am Orlando: Bright House—Ch 21, SAT 9:30 pm Pensacola: WPAN—Ch 53, SUN 7:30 am Pensacola: WPAN—Ch 53, SUN 7:30 am Pompano: Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 7:30 pm South Broward: Comcast—Ch 79, SUN 8:00 am Tampa: WITA—Ch 38, SUN 8:00 am Atlanta: AIB—Cable, THUR 9:30 pm; SAT 1:30 am Atlanta: PTV—Ch 24, FRI 2:00 pm, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am Macon: Cw Cable—Ch 18, FRI 2:00 pm, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am Savannah: Comcast—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am Davenport: Mediacom—Ch 19, MON 4:30 pm; WED 8:30 am Des Moines: Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am FL, FL, FL, GA, GA. GA, GA, IA, IA, SUN 11:00 am Sov T1:00 am Dubuque: MediaCom—Ch 16, THUR 8:00 pm; MON 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am; WED 2:00 pm Boise: TVTY—Ch 11, SUN 9:30 pm; MON 11:30 am Bloomington: Insight—Ch 20, SUN 1:00 pm; IA, ID, IL. Bioomington: Insight—th 20, SUN 1:00 pm; MON 10:00 pm Chicago: WGN—th 9, SUN 5:00 am Moline: MediaCom—th 19, MON 4:30 pm Peoria: Insight, th 20, SUN 7:30 pm Bioomington: (AIS—th 3, MON 5:30 pm Fort Wayne: Comcast—th 57, MON 3:00 pm Indianapolis: Comcast—th 72, SAT 8:30 pm; SUN 7:00 pm IL, IĽ,

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Chanute: Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm Latonia: PEG 17—Ch 17, WED 5:30 pm; THUR 12:00 am Lexington: Ch 14, Check Local Listing Louisville: Insight—Ch 2, SAT 12:00 am Baton Rouge: KZUP—Ch 44, SUN 8:00 am Lafayette: KATC—Ch 3, SUN 9:00 am New Orleans: WHNO—Ch 20, SUN 8:30 am Shreveport: KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am Shreveport: KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am Boston: WBPX—Ch 68, WED 7:00 am Cambridge: CCTV—CH 22, FRI 11:00 am; SUN 3:00 pm, WED 9:00 am KS, KY, KY, KÝ, LA, LA. LA, LA, MA, MA, WED 9300 am
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Everett: Community Media—Ch 75, SUN 11:00 am
Baltimore: Community Media—Ch 175, SUN 9:00 am
Rockville: Community Media—Ch 175, SUN 9:00 am
Rockville: Community Media—Ch 19, THUR & FRI 10:00 am
Auburn: GITV—Ch 19, SUI 9:00 an; SUN 8:00 pm
Brunswick: Cable 7—Ch 7, SUI 9:00 an; SUN 8:00 pm
Brunswick: Cable 7—Ch 7, SUI 9:00 an; SUN 8:00 pm
Suptifield: Concast—Ch 7, SUN 7:30 am
Saginaw: Charter Media—Ch 16, Chet Kolcal Listing
Traverse City: TOT2—Ch 2, SUN 5:30 pm
Bird Island: BICC—Ch 7, MON 6:30 pm, WED 6:30 pm
Duluti: Public Access—Ch 24, SUI 1:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm
Hutchinson: KIVN—Ch 10, FRI 4:00 pm; TUE 4:00 pm
Minneapolis: Mtv Codub—Ch 6, SUI 8:30 am
Minneapolis: Mtv Codub—Ch 6, SUI 8:30 am
Minneapolis: KIVG—Ch 13, SUN 8:30 pm
Columbia: RKG-FT—Ch 13, SUN 6:30 am
Joplin: KMM—Ch 4, SUN 7:00 am
Kansas City: KCWE—Ch 29, SUN 8:00 am
St. Paul: SPN—Ch 44, SUN 7:30 am 8 9:00 pm
St. Louis: WRBU—Ch 44, SUN 7:30 am
St. Louis: WRBU—Ch 45, SUN 6:00 pm; HUR 7:00 pm; FRI 1:00 am 6:200 am
Charlette: WHXM—Ch 64, SUN 7:30 am
St. Houis: A 6:00 am 6:120 pm
Hanover: CAT—Ch 5, SUN 6:00 pm
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- Fairborn: CAC—Ch 23, TUE 12:00 pm Tulsa: KHYT—Ch 41, SAT 12:30 am Ashland: KTVT—CH 15/31/95, SUN 10:00 pm Portland: MCTV—CH 13, SIN 12:30 pm Oregon City: WFTV—CH 23, FRI 4:00 pm; SAT 8:00 am; SUN 8:00 am; WED 4:00 pm Allentown/Bethlehem: TV2—Ch 50, FRI 4:30 pm Altoona: Atlantic Broadband—Ch 9, SUN 9:30 am Johnstown: Atlantic Broadband—Ch 9, SUN 9:30 am Sayre: Time Warner—Ch 13, SUN 10:30 am Sayre: Time Warner—Ch 18, MON-FRI 5:00 pm Scranton/Wilkes-Barre: F0X56 & WOLF—Multi Channels, THUR 5:00 am; SAT 5:00 am Providence: WPXQ—Ch 69, MON 11:30 am Chattanooga: WDEF—Ch 12, SUB 8:30 am La Follette: WLAF—Ch 12, WED 6:00 pm Memphis: WPTY—Ch 17, SUN 6:30 am Austin: Community Access—Ch 11, WED 7:00 pm PA, PA, PA,
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- Montpelier: Community Access-Ch 15, TUE 8:30 pm; Montpelier: Community Access—Ch 15, TUE 8:30 pm; WED 2:30 pm Richmond: Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 6:00 am, 9:00 am, 12:30 pm, 7:00 pm; MON 7:00 am, 1:00 pm Springfield: SAPA TV—Ch 8, THUR 10:00 pm; MON 12:00 pm Everett: Concast—Ch 77, WED 4:30 pm Kennewick: Charter—Ch 13/99, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm Seattle: Community Access—Ch 29, SAT 9:30 am Spokane: AT&T—Ch 14, MON 8:00 pm Yancouver: FVCT—Ch 10, SUN 11:30 am Wausau: Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am Casper: KTWO—Ch 2, SUN 10:00 am
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RADIO STATIONS:

Argentina, Bahia Blanca: Vida—107.7 FM, MON 8:00 pm; THUR 12:00 pm; SAT 2:00 pm Argentina, Buenos Aires: Radio General San Martin—610 AM,

- SUN 10:00 am

SUN 10:00 am Chile, Santiago: Radio Arcolris—105.3 FM, MON, WED, FRI at 12:00 am & 1:00 am Costa Rica, San Jose: Radio La Gigante—800 AM, SUN 8:00 am Guyana, Georgetown: NCN—560 AM, TUE 7:30 pm Mexico, Monterrey: XEMR-1140 AM SAT 4:00 am; SUN 11:00 am Peru, Lima: Radio Santa Anita-105.1 FM, SUN 9:00 am; MON-SAT 9:00 pm Philippines, Cebu City: DXUA—909 AM, SUN 6:00 am Philippines, Ozamiz City: DXUG—1494 AM, SUN 5:00 am USA, La Follette, TN: WLAF—1450 AM, SAT 3:00 pm

- Nationwide Cable WGN—SUN 6:00 am ET WORD—FRI 1:30 am ET
- DirecTV WGN-CH 307, SUN 6:00 am ET
- WORD-CH 373, FRI 1:30 am ET
- Canada

VISION—SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON—FRI 3:00 am ET



WGN: SUN 6:00 am ET WORD: FRI 1:30 am ET VISION, Canada: SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON–FRI 3:00 am ET

New U.S.A. Television Stations:

CA, Chatsworth: *Time Warner*–CH 34, SUN 9:00 pm CA, Redding: *RCAC*–CH 11, SUN 8:30 am IL, Springfield: *Insight*–CH 4, TUE 10:00 pm KY, Lexington: *WUPX*–CH 67, FRI 1:30 pm NY, Glens Falls: *Time Warner*–CH 18, FRI, MON-WED 8:00 pm NY, New York: *WRNN*–CH 62, SUN 8:30 am WV, Charleston: *WLPX*–CH 29, TUE 7:00 am

CANADA

ON, Toronto: The Christian Channel-Cable, SUN 4:00 pm (ET), WED 12:00 (ET)



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