

**WILL HOUSING
GO BUST?**

About the economic bubble

AMERICA VS. WORLD

Anti-U.S. abuse fills the pages of newspapers
around the world—including the U.S. Why?

**MAKE YOUR
MARRIAGE LAST**

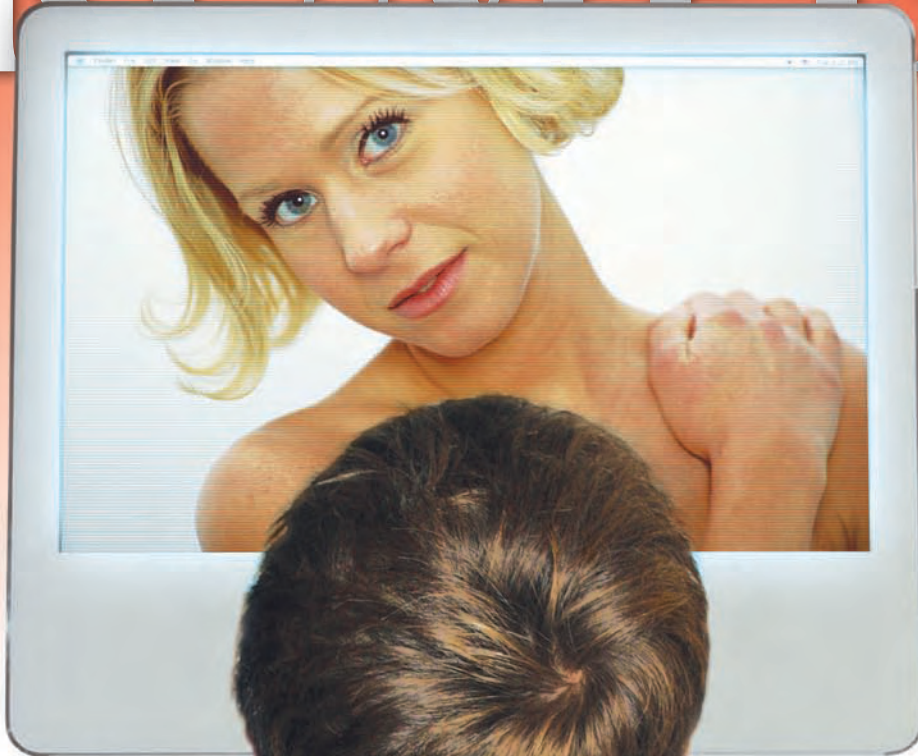
Hidden keys to success

NOVEMBER 2004

THE PHILADELPHIA

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TRUMPET



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COVER Though intended for adult audiences, pornography is getting into the hands of our youth. Photo illustration by Joel Hilliker/Aubrey Mercado/Liquid Library.

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Gerald Flury



How the *Trumpet* Is Different

HOW DOES THE MAGAZINE YOU ARE READING DIFFER from other magazines? If you can understand that difference, it could be the greatest discovery of your life!

In a letter on Nov. 29, 1971, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, “Two years ago, from our campus in England, I wrote a letter to all *Plain Truth* subscribers a few hours after watching, on television, a human foot step down on the moon for the third time. That started a train of thought. On the one hand I had to reflect on the question: How TREMENDOUSLY GREAT is the human mind? Not only can it devise and produce the means of flying to the moon and back—but also all the marvelous intricate mechanisms—such as the modern computer! Yet man has been unable to solve his own problems here on Earth! And today people are becoming more and more concerned over these problems and evils.

“People are bewildered!

“With such fantastic MIND-power ... with all the vast accumulation of KNOWLEDGE, man still has not brought world PEACE, happiness, universal abundant well-being.

“Science has not produced it—nor government, nor religion, nor education, nor sociology. As I wrote then, the crying need of this hour is a VOICE that can explain WHY—that can POINT THE WAY!”

And today the *Trumpet* magazine is that voice!

Our magazine focuses on the most important issues of this age. And we show you *why* these subjects are so critical to your life.

The world’s number-one problem is that of human survival. However, we show in many of our articles how humanity is *definitely* going to survive—but only after experiencing the worst suffering ever.

Our writers explain the profound *meaning* behind world news. The *Trumpet* shows you where world events are headed. We describe the inspiring outcome.

That means there is a VAST DIFFERENCE between our magazine and those you see on the newsstands. We hope you understand the difference. Our regular readers certainly do.

Here is another excerpt from Mr. Armstrong’s letter: “For every effect there has to be a CAUSE! Human civilization seems

always to be ignoring the CAUSE and trying to eradicate the EFFECT. World War I was at the time called the war to END all wars. But wars do not abolish more wars.

“WORLD PEACE can come only by knowing the CAUSE of peace, and applying it!

“By the thousands, readers of the *Plain Truth* are beginning to understand some of the BASICS of right KNOWLEDGE—the CAUSES of peace, happiness, abundant well-being. They are learning THE WAY that MAKES SENSE—that WORK in their own lives. Lives are being turned right-side up. Lives are being enriched. They are finding the TRUE VALUES, discarding the false. They are learning HOW TO LIVE. They are doing better financially, learning how better to handle finances. They are finding the way to happiness!”

In the world today it seems almost no one is helping people to live better lives. The *Trumpet* magazine is a notable exception.

Here is the conclusion to Mr. Armstrong’s letter: “Our readers are unique among magazine readers! Their minds are on things that really count! The things that make life a joy! They

come to have UNDERSTANDING of world conditions—and their causes. Of world trends—not in a narrow or partisan political sense, but altogether ABOVE politics. And they come to face the future with CONFIDENCE. We are in a worldwide work of GIVING—with nothing to sell—but GIVING of the knowledge and the principles that make for better and happier living. And this activity is financed solely by those who, voluntarily and unsolicited, have become contributors—co-workers with us in free-will offerings—giving that we may GIVE.”

After Mr. Armstrong died, the powerful *Plain Truth* (it reached a circulation of 8 million) became like other magazines—only much worse than most. And today that magazine is virtually dead, as far as its circulation and impact are concerned.

However, the *Trumpet* is continuing in the tradition of the *Plain Truth* published by Herbert W. Armstrong.

We hope you have noticed how wonderfully different the *Trumpet* is. ■



“

A CENTURY AGO, anti-Semitism was called ‘the socialism of fools.’ Now something similar threatens to become rampant:

anti-Americanism. ... Like historical anti-Semitism, it transcends ideological boundaries and brings together economic, social, religious and national animosities in a murderous brew” (*Chronicle of Higher Education*, Sept. 28, 2001). It is a peculiar thing, this murderous brew. Whereas the Jew has been the target of such hatred for centuries, it is the Anglo-American who has increasingly borne the brunt of an illogical, international hatred in recent times.

Special Relationship Much has been made of the “special relationship” that the U.S. and British peoples have enjoyed: in particular during Winston Churchill’s prime, during the Reagan/Thatcher years, and, latterly, as demonstrated in the Anglo-American-led alliance against terror.

Of course, it was only 220 years ago that the Americans overturned British rule in their North American colonies and sent them packing in the war of revolution. Peace was concluded between the two nations in 1782. Yet out of this conflict was forged a bond of mutuality that was to affect the ongoing history of both nations to this day. As British historian Paul Johnson put it, “Once America was recognized as independent by the British, the two nations had far more to agree about than to dispute ...” (*A History of the American People*).

Though brotherly spats were to occasionally follow between the U.S. and Britain, it was from the point of American independence that Britain commenced its rapid rise to become the greatest imperial power ever. The United States, after the Civil War of 1861 to 1865, rapidly rose to become the greatest single nation ever in human history.

Any truly objective commentator would be forced to admit that, despite not-infrequent bungling by occasional inept administrations throughout the ensuing history, the British and American people have brought many more blessings to the nations of this world than have they curses. Statistical records prove this point. No other nations in history have reached out to the same extent to share their largesse with those unfortunate nations that are



Anti-U.S. invective fills the pages of newspapers all over the world—including the U.S. itself. What is the source of this startling rise in the hatred of America, and why is it happening now? BY RON FRASER

periodically caught in natural crises than the Anglo-Americans. No other nations have spread education, the knowledge of hygiene, modern medicine, the rules of effective administration and the rule of law as have the Anglo-Americans. No other nations have sought to educate the world in the Judaic-Christian theology of monotheism, the worship of the one true God, nor to spread the Word of God, the Bible, to so many peoples in so many languages, as have these Anglo-Americans.

But what has been the response of the world to the outflowing, magnanimous generosity of these two nations? In this early 21st century, most particularly concerning the United States, it has incredibly become a *blind hatred!*

Anti-Globalists and Intellectuals “Anti-Americanism is becoming the way people think about the world and position themselves within it. It is a mindset that extends beyond politics to economic and cultural realms” (*Foreign Policy*, September-October 2004). Why such a phenomenon? Who is influencing and shaping this seeming *global anti-American*

mindset? Someone has to be culpable.

Commentator Jean-Francois Revel blames the *anti-globalist* lobby. “In spreading the lie that globalization impoverishes the most needy, the protesters simply act upon their twin enthusiasms: anti-American and anti-capitalism” (*American Enterprise*, June 2004). Revel makes the point that the thousands of demonstrators who seek to disrupt meetings held by representatives of global business and commerce are merely acting out their “frustration of having seen all the socialisms and all the revolutions fail.”

On the other hand, Paul Johnson sees the *intellectuals* in society as playing a significant role in the creation and perpetuation of the great anti-American lie. “Anti-Americanism is the prevailing disease of intellectuals today. Like other diseases, it doesn’t have to be logical or rational. But, like other diseases, it has a syndrome—a concurrent set of underlying symptoms that are also causes.” Johnson’s summation? “Anti-Americanism is factually absurd, contradictory, racist, crude, childish, self-defeating and, at bottom, nonsensical”

Land of the Free Home of the Hated

(*Forbes*, July 21, 2003). What a brilliantly simple definition that is of classic 21st-century intellectualism! Then Johnson cuts to a root cause of this blind hatred of America. “It is based on the powerful but irrational impulse of envy—an envy of American wealth, power, success and determination.”

Rampant Jealousy Understandably, given the essence of human nature, jealousy of the blessings enjoyed for so long by the Anglo-American people in large part contributed to the demise of the British Empire. Stimulated by certain intellectuals and socialists, subjects of the Crown within British colonies clamored for the seizure of the wealth created under British rule. A subsequent revisionist rewriting of British history succeeded in largely brainwashing whole post-Victorian era generations into believing that the largely benign rule of the British was the very opposite to its reality.

This once global, anti-British mindset has, since the U.S.’s emergence as the greatest single national power, translated itself into a rising hatred of America.

Author and professor Francis Fukuyama maintained, upon the cessation of the Cold War, that we had realized the end of history. By that he meant that every form of government known to man had been tried and the only one that had effectively survived to be increasingly embraced by nations around the world was liberal democracy. This is that form of government which Churchill termed the best of the worst—the implication being that, based on the reality that all human forms of government are faulty systems, liberal democracy had been proved through history to be the least of all evils.

That being the case, it is interesting to note the observation of a *Wall Street Journal* writer as he witnessed the opening ceremony at the recent Olympic Games in Greece. “It occurred to me watching this pageant of superb sportsmen and sportswomen that much the same true freedom of spirit could be seen on the faces of athletes from a list of nations with familiar names—Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Afghanistan, Grenada, Kuwait, South Korea, the former captive nations of Romania, Bulgaria, the Czechs, Slovakia,

Estonia, Lithuania (all holding elections since the early 1990s), and the other former Soviet republics.

“These Olympians have one thing in common: They come from the nations the U.S. has liberated since the end of World War II.

“Across the past half century, the United States used the power of its soldiers, its financial power or its diplomatic power to liberate these people from authoritarian and totalitarian governments or invaders” (August 20).

This journalist then went on to pose the question, in respect of two European hotbeds of emerging anti-Americanism, “How many nations have free France and free Germany liberated since 1945?”

EU Motivations Why have these European “allies” of the U.S. turned against the hand that freed and then fed them during their post-war recovery barely half a century ago?

Take a look at the resumés of some of the highest-profile movers and shakers in the EU. For instance, consider EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, EU Commission President Manuel Barroso. All were left-wing radicals in their youth. All of them rose through the ranks of the 1960s disestablishment age, an age of rebellion against the norms of capitalist Jewish/Anglo-Saxon Protestant society. Theirs was a youth in rebellion against anything that exemplified the Anglo-American conservative tradition. These men were simply anti-American from their youth. Do leopards change their spots? Or, rather, does such radicalism just morph into a more careful and subtle means of expression, in the political arena, as youth matures into adulthood?

Consider the outcome. These leaders either preside over or vote for an EU budget that sponsors anti-Jewish terrorism! A report released recently by the Funding for Peace Coalition reveals that European taxpayers’ contributions have “been diverted toward graft, terrorism and anti-Israel incitement” (IsraelNationalNews.com, September 3). You can read our related article on page 8 of this issue.

The same leaders sponsor and endorse a major pop-art exhibition in Brussels, the EU’s capital city, which startlingly publicizes the extent of anti-Americanism within the Union today. The London-based *Telegraph* newspaper reported that this exhibition casts “the

United States as the villain of modern times.” It observes that such anti-American views “can be heard every day in the corridors and canteens of the Union’s institutions” (September 14).

When called upon to support the U.S. in its third campaign in Iraq, against a leader who terrorized his *own people* with weapons of mass destruction (let alone his proven efforts to build an arsenal of such weapons to use against other nations), Germany’s leaders, these “former” anti-U.S. radicals, make the boldest of political statements, revealing their *true colors*, by refusing to join the alliance against terror!

At that point we should have remembered that those hate-filled Islamic extremists who slaughtered thousands of lives in New York and Washington on Sept. 11, 2001, came out of the hotbed of a radical Islamic terrorist enclave tolerated by Germany in the city of Hamburg! Perhaps, at that point, we should have remembered 1972, when Jewish Olympians were slaughtered by Islamic extremists at the Olympic Games in Munich, Germany! Perhaps we should have remembered that it was the German authorities, under the administration of Chancellor Willie Brandt, who let these anti-Jew, anti-American murderers go scot-free! The German government simply released these terrorists, thus enabling them to return to their anti-American, anti-Jew networks to continue with their evil work. The lesson for the terrorist inner circle? If you want a safe haven within which to hatch and perpetrate your dirty business, then Germany will roll out the welcome mat!

Think about this! There have been terrorist strikes within the EU in recent times—in France and in Spain. Terrorists with suspected Islamist links have struck hard also in Russia. But Germany has been spared such agony. Why? If the Islamic terrorists want to make a point of their concern about a coming crusade against Islam emanating from a European Union dominated by German leadership, then why not strike at Germany? The answer should be obvious. As long as German governments tolerate the seeding of Islamic extremist anti-Jew, anti-American movements within the confines of their borders, Germany remains safe from terror strikes by these extremists.

This is not dissimilar to London. As long as the “silly dove” Britain (Hosea 7:11) allows London to profit as chief banker for anti-Jew, anti-Anglo-Ameri-

While harmless American grannies in wheelchairs are being frisked at U.S. airports, Islamic extremists simply walk across America’s southern borders.

can terror, the city of London will remain generally safe from Islamic terror strikes of a major nature.

But there is yet a third factor that is causing the rise of hatred from *within* the United States, and significantly elevating the risk of terrorist hits *within* the nation.

Porous Borders and

Leftist Natives There is continuing growth of the radical Islamic element *within* American society, much of it dormant, awaiting the signal to act. This has a lot to do with the porous borders to the north and south of the U.S.

The challenge posed by any effort to effectively police the vast U.S.-Canadian border territory is obvious. But it’s from the south, from increasingly unfriendly Latin American countries, that Islamic extremists are penetrating the U.S. While harmless American grannies in wheelchairs are being frisked at U.S. airports, Islamic extremists simply walk across America’s southern borders.

But it is not only those of Arabic or Persian extraction who, with evil purpose, are wandering across the border, having gained prior entry to Latin American countries. A literal flood of immigrants from neighboring Mexico is building into a real headache for the U.S. “As the number of Mexicans living in the U.S. has ballooned (growing from 2 million to 23 million over the past 30 years), so have the feelings of anti-Americanism among them. ... Worse, it is being aided and abetted by the anti-Americanism of native American leftists” (FrontPageMagazine.com, Dec. 6, 2002).

David Montgomery, who wrote the article in *FrontPage*, attributes the blame for the self-hating anti-American leftist mindset to an amalgam of educationalists, media personalities and those who peddle such views while holding political office. “Is it any wonder that so many of our immigrants have contempt for our country and its traditions, when such a large number of native-born Americans feel the same way? From our schools, to our television shows, to the seats of our political power, widespread disdain is

shown for many aspects of our nation’s culture and heritage. We are setting a very poor example for the newcomers to our country, regardless of their predispositions” (ibid.).

Root Cause Yet there is something that is even more germane to all of this anti-Americanism—something operating at a higher level of reality than that of the human plane. It is, in fact, the ultimate root cause of both this reviving anti-Semitism and increasingly overt anti-Americanism.

Commenting on the innate tendency of human beings to stir conflict and hatred among themselves, the Apostle James declared, “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? You lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts” (James 4:1-3).

But what is it that influences human behavior in such a negative way? It is simply that which one of the original signers of the United Nations charter, a former Lebanese diplomat named Dr. Charles Malik, labeled as being the source of all human conflict. During an interview at the 40th anniversary celebrations of the founding of that institution, he pointed to an “ancient wisdom” that still exists in the Middle East, which declares that there is such a power as the devil, or Satan, who influences the minds of men and of nations to engage in conflict with each other. He spoke of a truism revealed in your Bible as to the existence of “that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world ...” (Revelation 12:9).

This statement is contained within a prophecy that goes on to predict a time when this great negative spiritual presence raises his foaming rage against mankind to fever pitch: “[F]or the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath ...” (verse 12).

If you have been a longtime reader of this magazine, if you have watched the *Key of David* television program, blown the dust off your Bible and checked the currency of end-time Bible prophecy, you will know that *this* is that time! A time when Satan is gearing himself to trigger the greatest international conflict in this world’s history. It is a time that portends such great global havoc that, except for the intervention of an



TRYING HARD

American-donated wheat is unloaded in Afghanistan.

all-merciful supreme God, all life on the planet would face total annihilation! (Matthew 24:22).

Just Where Do You Fit? Chief of all targets in Satan's mind, as he views the nations, are the Judaic and Anglo-American peoples! You need to understand why. This shocking truth is explained in Gerald Flurry's booklet *The Key of David Vision*, which we offer to you free upon request.

Anciently, Judah was one tribe of 12 within the nation of Israel. Those tribes were prophesied to become nations. Those 12 nations figure hugely in God's plan to bring salvation to all mankind. Who are these peoples today? Can we find their descendents living in this age? Yes, we can! Believe it or not, large portions of their descendents are today to be found possessing the choicest locations on the planet—just as God prophesied it would be when He blessed the old patriarch of Judah and Israel, Abraham (Genesis 22:15-18).

But there were to be *two nations in particular* that would descend from Israel and be given special blessings in the closing centuries of man's civilization. These are the descendents of Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph, himself the great-grandson of Abraham (Genesis 48). It is a fact that, at this particular moment in history, with many in the West seeking to trace their family roots, interest is reviving in the study of the de-

scendants of these Israelites. For proof that the British peoples are descended from Ephraim, and that the descendents of Manasseh now populate the United States of America, write immediately for your free copy of the book authored by Herbert W. Armstrong titled *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

What many within the increasing ranks of those who understand the identity of the U.S. do not realize, however, is that Bible prophecy actually predicts the great fall from favor of America, this greatest single nation on Earth! It depicts a U.S. caught in a pattern of disobedience to the God who granted its tremendous blessings, falling out of favor with God and, as a result,

falling from great power and influence to become a despised nation, gloated over by its enemies as it descends into crisis upon crisis to the point of abject slavery!

Sound crazy? Only to those who refuse to check up and prove the veracity of unerring Bible prophecy.

This is not a tasteful message that we are called upon to deliver. But it is the TRUTH! The fact is, you cannot afford NOT to check it out!

The reality is that the U.S. faces at least three massive headaches that will inevitably lead to its descent from greatness: 1) its tremendous dependence on foreign capital to fund its profligate consumerism, 2) the extreme overstretch of its military forces, and 3) the loss of its collective political will to see battle against its enemies through to real and ultimate victory! No power, no matter how huge its economy, can survive under such combined negative pressures. The EU knows that. China knows that. Russia knows it! Radical Islam knows it too! In fact, the *thinking* people around the globe, regardless of nationality, know it. It is a self-evident truth.

So where will you be and what will you do when the economy collapses? (Deuteronomy 28:44). Where will you be when the trumpet is blown and no one from your country goes to battle to defend its freedoms? (Ezekiel 7:14). Where will you be and what will you do when the rising hatred for America, and

“As an ideology, anti-Semitism dehumanized its object and so helped prepare the way for mass murder. So, too, with the new anti-Americanism.”

Bernard Wasserstein

for the English-speaking allies of the U.S., morphs into a massive blockade by foreign powers, followed by foreign military invasion, and—the greatest ignominy of all—the taking of the world's most freedom-loving people into abject, squalid slavery? (Deuteronomy 28:41).

You need to take those questions seriously—*VERY SERIOUSLY!*

It appears that at least one member of academia does. Read this: “As an ideology, anti-Semitism dehumanized its object and so helped prepare the way for mass murder. So, too, with the new anti-Americanism” (Professor Bernard Wasserstein, University of Glasgow, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, op. cit.).

Prophecy marches on to its inevitable fulfillment! The *last moments* of this *last hour* of mankind's civilization, under the deceitful sway of “that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world,” tick away. With each passing month, the hatred of the nations against America and its English-speaking allies rises even as anti-Semitism returns to haunt the planet.

There exist “allies” of the U.S. who simply became its post-World War II allies for their *own* convenience. They have secretly worked against Anglo-American interests for decades. They will continue to bide their time, playing the U.S. for a sucker, till the day comes when they form alliances with other nations more conducive to *the defeat of Anglo-American power* and its replacement by their own! Time *IS* running out for you to prepare for that moment.

But the *good news* is that, whether you realize it or not, there *IS* a way of *escape* from all this! Write now for your copy of *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet* and find out how to make the changes in your life that will *guarantee your protection* from the holocaust ahead! It will show you how you can become one who contributes to the removal of all hatred between nations and be part of a movement that will usher in a world government that will guarantee true *world peace!* ■

Is the World Shutting the U.S. Out?



EU AND MERCOSUR



ASEAN AND EU

BY MICHAEL DATTOLO

ONE COUNTRY IS INCREASINGLY being forgotten in the world of global trade. And it's a country you would least expect. Worldwide, regions are integrating more and more with free-trade agreements. Following the European Union model, nations in Asia are working toward economic cohesion. Meanwhile, the EU is set to form the largest free-trade area in the world with Latin America. As these territories coalesce, the nation that is being consistently left out is the United States.

That's not to say that the United States is not heavily involved in international trade. It is. It trades with nearly 200 countries around the world. However, most U.S. trade is conducted with five countries: Canada, Mexico, China, Japan and Germany. Four of these five countries are currently involved in creating massive free-trade agreements that will leave the U.S. out.

Interestingly, it is the European Union that keeps stepping in where the U.S. used to hold a strong position in international trade. If this trend continues, the American position of economic dominance is destined to end.

Asia First, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is rapidly forming a more cohesive union. The 10 ASEAN countries represent over 500 million consumers, a huge export market. However, trade opportunities have been limited in the past by immense tariffs between Asian nations. All that is changing now with the decade-old AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Agreement) terms finally beginning to take effect in the last two years. Tariffs, formerly as high as 70 percent for some items like cars, have been slashed to 5 percent or less throughout the region (*Business Week*, June 3, 2002). The result is that compa-

nies with a factory in just one Asian nation can distribute goods throughout all of Southeast Asia with minimal tariffs, a boon to the Asian economy. By 2012, tariffs in 11 different industry sectors will be eliminated completely, pending ratification of the plan at an ASEAN summit in November (Agence France Presse, September 5). The *Straits Times* (Singapore) called East Asia the "world's most dynamic growth region" (June 14).

Heads are turning in China and Japan because of ASEAN's quickly growing influence and economic strength. Remember, China and Japan are two of America's largest trading partners. In November 2001, China unexpectedly announced that it wanted to form a free-trade agreement with ASEAN. Japan quickly followed suit in early 2002. In 2005, South Korea is scheduled to enter into talks with the trading bloc as well. These are not minor trade deals: China, Japan and South Korea combined account for one fifth of the world's trade.

It's clear that Asian nations want tighter and tighter trade integration within the region. Talks so far have already produced a noticeable impact on world trade. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, "Japan's exports to China have been rising faster than those to America for the first time since perhaps the 19th century" (June 8). To facilitate even easier trade among their countries, economic leaders in the region have begun to explore the idea of a common currency, like the euro, for Asia.

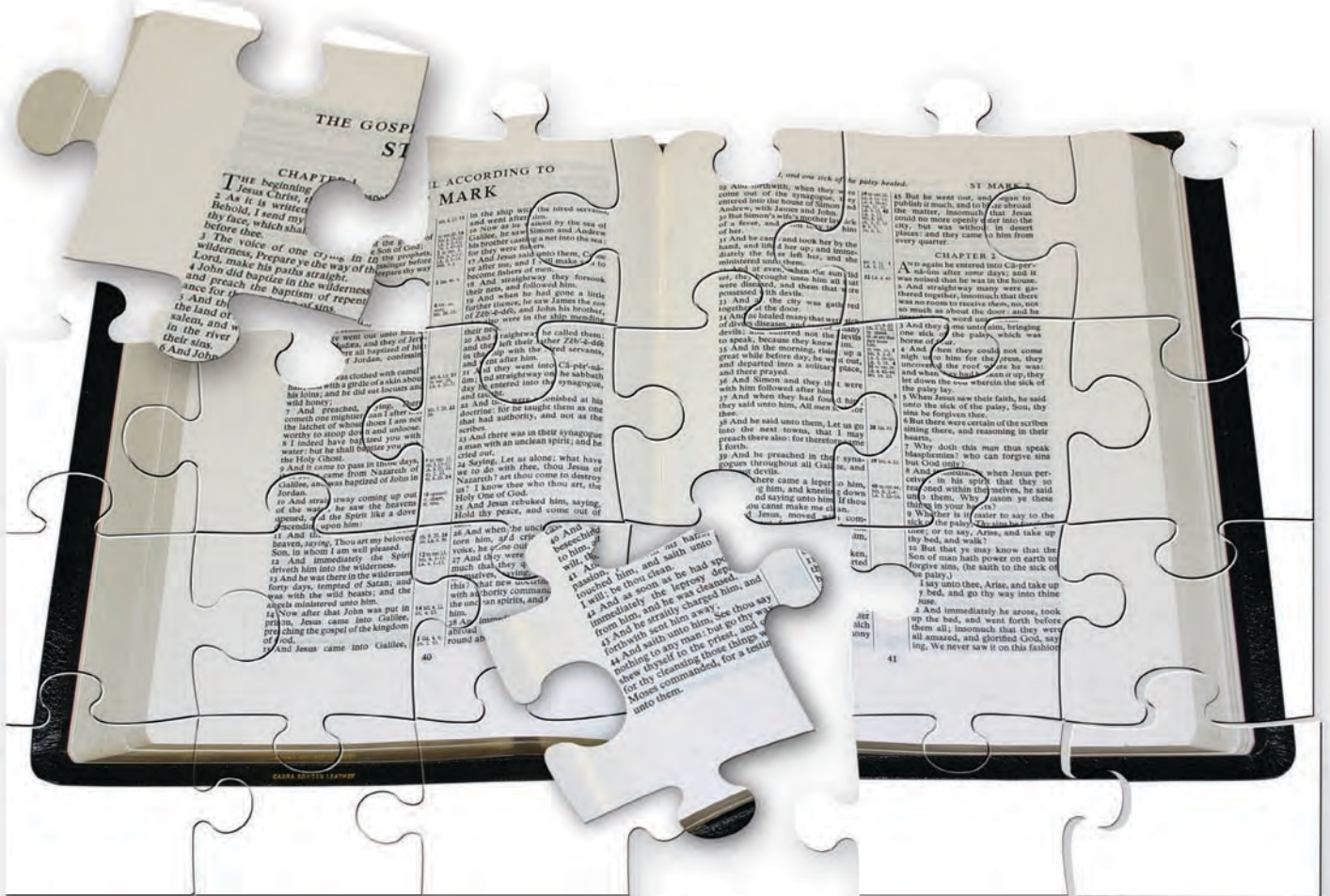
Enter the EU Not wanting to miss out on this 500-million-plus consumer market, the European Union has been investing more and more in ASEAN. In July 2003, the EU formed a trans-regional trade initiative, dubbed "TREATI," with Asia. As EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said, the EU has a "clear and unconditional commitment to the ASEAN

region" (*European Report*, September 8). Recent events indicate that ASEAN policy-makers have more respect for the requests of the EU than those of the U.S. One example: In 1997, ASEAN pushed ahead with plans to accept Burma into the trading block, contrary to U.S. wishes; however, when EU-ASEAN trade talks stalled this past year because of human rights issues in Burma, EU pressure won out, and top officials from Burma have been excluded from the next round of talks in October.

The World's Largest Trading Bloc October was a big month for the EU. "The European Union and Mercosur, South America's four-nation trading bloc, set October as the target date to conclude negotiations for the creation of the world's largest free-trade zone" (Agence France Presse, May 28). On September 29, the EU presented its final proposal to Mercosur. Whether it will be accepted without changes remains to be seen. Even if trade talks are not concluded as originally hoped this year, Lamy stated that talks would continue to progress until an accord is reached. The EU also supports regional integration with Central America, Chile, and other communities in South America. The EU is currently Latin America's "second-most important trading partner" (European Commission press release, April 7). Between 1990 and 2002, trade between the EU and Latin America doubled. The EU has become Latin America's most important source of foreign direct investment (*ibid.*). The EU expects the trend to be reinforced in coming years.

Latin America has more in common with Europe than with any other part of the globe: With Spain, it shares a language (trade talks in 2002 were held in Madrid), and with most of Europe, it shares a religion, Catholicism. As the Chilean foreign

See **TRADE** page 17 ►



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EUROPE HAS LONG SUPPORTED the Palestinians financially. Trouble is, much of the \$4 billion (US\$5.06 billion) the European Union has given the Palestinian Authority over the past decade has gone toward terrorism, corruption, violence and anti-Israel incitement. Such was the conclusion of a report released by the Funding for Peace Coalition in August (IsraelNationalNews.com, September 3).

It should be shocking, then, to realize that Israel is being coerced into accepting the *mediation* of the clearly biased EU in the Mideast peace process. With America's interest in the peace process waning, Europe is jumping in. Israel, gradually being worn down through continual international condemnation of its policies, appears increasingly willing to "take what it can get"—at its own expense.

This state of affairs is practically unbelievable, given the history of these two entities. Nevertheless, its reality is a gripping illustration of the frightening direction we can expect to see both Europe and Israel take in the months and years just ahead—a direction the *Trumpet* has long predicted. This is a shocking story you must not overlook.

Back in July 1971, our parent magazine, the *Plain Truth*, referred to "new calls for Europe to assume a greater role in the Middle East, including the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli confrontation." The *Plain Truth*, under

the direction of Herbert W. Armstrong, prophesied that "Europe, and particularly the Common Market [today the EU], is certain to increase its involvement in the area" (emphasis mine throughout).

Then in December 1996, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "Europe is moving not only to be a co-sponsor in the peace process—they want to gain control of it!"

Today the truth in these statements is all too apparent. What were once restrained efforts by the Europeans to edge themselves into the peace process are now out in the open. "Europe wants to be a major player, *not only second fiddle to the U.S.*," acknowledged Oded Eran, Israel's ambassador to the EU, in August. Eran spoke of how important it is that

Israel and Europe communicate on the peace process and other political issues.

And what is little Israel's response? "In principle Israel accepts this idea ..." (*Jerusalem Post*, August 24).

Europe is making headway.

Wider Europe Initiative The EU's "New Neighborhood Policy," known as Wider Europe, is its instrument to draw non-member "neighbors" as close as possible to the Union without actually becoming members. According to the European Commission, the New Neighborhood Policy recognizes that "the Union's capacity to provide security, stability and sustainable development to its citizens will no longer be distinguishable from its interest in close cooperation with the neighbors" (*Washington Quarterly*, Summer 2004). In other words, the EU must develop closer relations with its neighbors in order to ensure its own well-being. Those neighbors consist of 14 states and entities bordering the EU to the east and south.

In the Middle East, the EU is using this initiative to gain what it has been seeking for years: a greater role in the peace process.

Israel is in the first wave of countries, along with the Palestinian Authority, to conduct negotiations with the EU concerning participation in Wider Europe. In August, high-level EU delegates held their fifth round of lengthy discussions with

“Like It or Not”

The European Union plays hardball with Israel.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

LECTURE

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom at a press conference in Jerusalem.



STATE OF ISRAEL
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Israeli government officials in Jerusalem. During the negotiations Israel agreed, at long last, to *institutionalize a role for the EU* in the regional peace process. This was described by EU ambassador Giancarlo Chevillard as a “major step forward” for Israel (*Jerusalem Post*, August 26).

In October, more intense negotiations took place in an effort to finalize the New Neighborhood Policy “action plan.” Basically, what the plan proposes is increased EU *political* involvement in Israel’s affairs in return for *economic* benefits. It would require Israel to “recognize in writing a willingness to involve Europe in a *formalized political dialogue* on issues such as the peace process, terrorism, small arms, non-proliferation and human rights” (ibid.). In other words, as Associated Press reports, the EU insists that “the Europeans be accepted as major players in peace efforts” as the price for Israel’s admission to a closer relationship with the EU (October 14).

Christina Gallach, spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, made no secret of the EU’s motive: “Of course we want [the Israelis] to trade with us, *but we want them to accept the EU role in the peacemaking process*” (ibid.).

This is consistent with the EU’s ongoing expressions of its desire for more involvement in the Middle East.

Greater Involvement Marc Otte is the EU’s special Mideast envoy. He is close to EU foreign policy chief Solana, having served as adviser to him on European security and defense issues. As the *Jerusalem Post* commented, to talk to Otte is to get a good glimpse of how the EU views issues concerning Israel.

That glimpse is deeply alarming. In a *Jerusalem Post* interview with Otte in August, here is what he had to say regarding the *EU’s role* in Israel’s plan to disengage from Gaza and parts of the West Bank: “Countries defend their interests. There are places where you are going to play a role *whether another country likes it or not*” (September 1). “In the Middle East,” Otte went on, “we are saying to Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians that what they are doing is affecting our interests. ... *Everyone should stop what is a childish discussion about whether the EU has the RIGHT to do this or that.*”

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer voiced similar sentiments in a regional tour of the Middle East the same month. After meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, Fischer told a

Jerusalem press conference that “for Europe, *we have a stake in the region,*” adding that he was talking about “the core of European security in the 21st century” (ibid., August 31). Fischer told Shalom that Europe was now a political force to which *Israel should give due consideration.*

Again in September, the EU said it would send delegations to Tel Aviv and Washington to push for a leading EU role in resurrecting the deadlocked peace process. The Palestinian International Press Center reported that the EU’s foreign affairs ministers want to *fill in the gap* in the Mideast peace efforts left by the United States (September 5). Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos said that “the EU ministers had agreed to a *concrete plan for the Middle East*, noting it has marked a *new resoluteness ...*” (ibid.).

In October, Solana made public the EU’s latest effort to join the peace process: a four-point plan to revive the peace talks—along with a warning to Israel that “its aid was at risk if it did not cooperate” (Reuters, October 14).

Such bully tactics would be bad enough if Europe were truly seeking Israel’s best interests. But even as it is insisting on a role in the peace process and greater involvement in Israel’s affairs, it persists in its blatant anti-Israelism!

For example, in August, an agreement between Israel and the EU ended a long-running trade dispute between the two that had threatened to disrupt their free-trade agreement. Under the new arrangement, products originating in the Palestinian territories—which the EU regards as being illegally occupied by Israel—must be labeled as such and will be subjected to duties not applying to Israeli products. This amounts to blackmail by the EU, but shamefully, Israel has acquiesced. Why? “The Israeli government hopes the deal will remove one obstacle to its inclusion in the EU’s Wider Europe policy ...” (*Financial Times*, London, August 11).

Meanwhile, anti-Semitism within Europe continues to increase. Studies show, for example, that in just the first six months of this year there were 519 anti-Semitic attacks in France—almost the same number as in the entirety of last year (*Times*, London, August 23). The French education minister conceded that anti-Semitism is now more widespread than racism not directed at Jews *for the first time since World War II* (*Weekend Australian*, August 28).

But anti-Semitism in Europe is ram-

pant not only among young immigrants, as some may assume, or even the general populace—it reaches all the way to the top levels of EU leadership.

Whose Side Is the EU On? The EU has been a major donor to the Palestinian Authority (PA) since 1971. The European Commission says that \$3.81 billion was given to the PA from 1994 to 2001. Every month, 10 million (US\$12.5 million) go directly into the PA budget from Europe, making the EU its largest single contributor. The European Commission has recently approved an additional package of \$155.3 million for Gaza and the West Bank.

Ilka Schröder, a former member of the European Parliament, spent much of her five years in Brussels contesting the way these EU donations to the Palestinian Authority are spent. She has concluded that the EU’s Middle East policy is an “anti-Semitic war it is helping to finance against Israel” (United Press International, August 8). “Most of the parliamentarians are in line with the Commission’s EU policy in the Middle East, and they don’t want to make public where exactly the EU money is going,” Schröder told UPI.

At an address given in Israel last December, Schröder revealed what she, as an insider, saw as the EU’s intentions. “The Europeans supported the Palestinian Authority with the aim of becoming its main sponsor,” she said, “and through this, challenge the U.S. and present themselves as the future global power” (ibid.). At an address given in New York, she explained, “You have only to see the exhibitions on Israel and Palestine in the European Parliament’s foyer—where Israel is accused of sociocide and branded as an apartheid state—to know which side the EU is on” (ibid.). Schröder declared that the EU’s primary goal was the internationalization of the conflict “to *underscore the need for its own mediating role*” (ibid.).

Schröder’s claims concerning the EU’s funding of the PA were so compelling that the EU eventually had no choice but to at least *appear* to investigate the issue. Thus, late last year, the EU fraud investigation agency, OLAF, began looking into just where all the EU funds were being channeled. Interestingly, despite requests for it to be an open investigation, OLAF made sure it would remain classified (*Daily Telegraph*, London, August 5). Under pressure to take action itself, the European Commission also set up its own Working Group to look into the matter.

OLAF officials found that documentary evidence held by Israel confirming PA payments made to the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade for carrying out terrorist attacks against Israelis was authentic. The agency has now asked Israel for permission to obtain testimony from al-Aqsa members held in Israeli jails.

However, if previous internal investigations of corruption within the EU are anything to go by, we can expect a white-wash of the EU as the end result. Already, an interim verdict issued by OLAF in August stated that there is no evidence that EU funds to the Palestinians have been used to finance terrorism. A spokeswoman for the European Commission said this verdict confirms that it “had put in place conditions and means to ensure that the money is spent correctly” (Agence France Presse, August 11).

What exactly are these conditions and means? On its website, the European Commission states one condition as “a consolidation of all sources of PA revenue in a single treasury account monitored by the International Monetary Fund [IMF]...” (*europa.eu.int*). But, as the Commission’s Working Group concluded, the IMF “does not have control over PA spending and therefore cannot know how EU funds are spent” (UPI, op. cit.).

This failure of the EU to monitor how its financial aid to the PA is used was detailed by the Funding for Peace Coalition in its 48-page, extensively footnoted report titled “Managing European Taxpayers’ Money: Supporting the Palestinian Arabs—A Study in Transparency.” The report stated, “In their own words, the IMF cannot and does not monitor the use of EU contributions to the PA. By claiming that the IMF is doing the job of monitoring the PA’s use of aid, the European Commission is in fact ensuring that these funds are not being effectively monitored at all” (page 9).

The report went on to provide extensive evidence of EU funding being used for all kinds of anti-Israel activity. Even individuals officially classified as terrorists by the EU are receiving salaries from the PA. The EU is also involved in the funding of PA textbooks containing anti-Israel incitement and hatred.

With the EU’s blatant support of the Palestinians and actions *against* the Israelis—such as voting against their security fence in the UN, as our September-October issue reported—there can be no doubt of where the EU’s interests lie. “The way things are right now,” Schröder

told UPI, “I would expect Europe not to be very helpful for Israel [in facilitating peace], but it would rather increase the danger since any peaceful negotiation at the moment *would lead to at least a weakening of Israel*” (UPI, op. cit.).

Israeli Response That German-led Europe would be so bold in declaring its intentions in the Middle East, considering its 20th-century history and its current anti-Israel stance, is staggering. That Israel would *welcome* those designs is almost beyond comprehension. It is, however, in accordance with the flow of events prophesied in the Bible for the end time.

The liberal political element in Israel has long pushed, much of the time behind the scenes, for greater European involvement in the Middle East. But a recent poll of Israelis has demonstrated strong *public support* for greater integration with Europe and a *positive shift in Israelis’ attitudes toward the EU*. In March this year, Giancarlo Chevallard (EU ambassador to Israel) presented findings from the Dahaf Polling Institute at a press conference in Tel Aviv. Despite indicating that 74 percent of Israelis think that the EU’s attitude toward Israel is unfair and that the EU is pro-Palestinian, the poll showed that *60 percent* of Israelis either support or tend to support the idea that Israel should apply for membership in the EU (*Jerusalem Post*, March 11).

Israel joining the EU isn’t in question; the intention, rather, was, as a European spokesman stated, to trigger debate on the Wider Europe initiative. On the subject of cooperation between the two entities, Chevallard, speaking on behalf of EU leaders, said, “We feel frustrated. ... Israel rarely pays attention to our comments and our *demands*” (*ibid.*). How honest.

The demands have continued to come, however, and Israel is responding.

A confidential Israeli Foreign Ministry report leaked to the media in October reveals that the Israelis themselves are coming to the conclusion that they have no choice but to cooperate with Europe. The document warned that Israel could face international isolation over the next several years “*if it fails to improve ties with a larger, richer and increasingly powerful European Union*” (Associated Press, op. cit.). EUobserver.com said the report sends “a strong signal to the Israeli government ... that, faced with an EU which is ever more prominent on the international scene, *relations with Europe have to improve*” (October 13).

In an interview conducted in August, Ovadia Sofer, former Israeli ambassador to France, stated, “It’s axiomatic, in my opinion, that the EU has some influence on the peace process. We want to use the influence that the EU has on the Arab world to promote our own interests” (Federal News Service, August 30). This despite the fact that Europe has given Israel *no reason* to believe it has any concern about Israel’s interests—in fact, just the opposite!

So what, specifically, *are* Europe’s interests? What was Germany’s foreign minister referring to when he said *Europe has a stake in the region*?

A Stake in the Region The Mideast has intrinsic value to Europe because of resources and security.

First, Europe is reliant on outward sources of energy—oil and natural gas. The EU, currently the second-biggest user of energy in the world, is becoming increasingly dependent upon imports, with two thirds of its demand currently being met this way. Germany, in particular, imports about 98 percent of its oil. Little wonder that the EU has concerns about the stability of the Mideast in this regard.

As the *Plain Truth* foresaw as early as February 1966, “Western Europe’s economy is absolutely dependent upon [Middle East oil] reserves. ... Any major disruption of this oil supply—such as an all-out Arab-Israel war—would bring intervention.”

theTrumpet.com
For more on the EU’s role in the Mideast, read “The Counterfeit Peacemaker” located under Editors Choice.

On top of that are security concerns over the threat of Islamic terrorism and the Muslim lobby within Europe itself.

At a conference in Germany that focused on the greater Middle East, Foreign

Minister Fischer warned that “Europe was at a crossroads in the fight against terrorism and must engage in the Middle East or risk having conflict exported to its doorstep” (*News International*, Pakistan, September 7). Fischer said that a key to resolving the region’s conflicts was “ending the long and bloody conflict between Israel and the Palestinians” (*ibid.*).

Timothy Savage, previously serving as U.S. consul general in Leipzig, Germany, and currently working as a division chief in the Office of European Analysis at the U.S. State Department, wrote an article for

See ISRAEL page 33 ▶

Germany's Alarming Course



STORM

Eurofighter Typhoons—which the Bundeswehr is stocking up on—perform maneuvers under the German flag.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

JUST ABOUT EVERY SERIOUS NEWS analyst out there simply does not see Europe posing much of a threat to America's dominance in the world. To take one notable example, Stratfor Systems, a reputable intelligence and strategic forecasting company, describes the European Union as a body of nations that avoid national sacrifice, following a "downward trend of political and economic cohesion." It sees the EU as having "reached the zenith of its effectiveness as a multinational entity."

The *Trumpet* truly stands alone in making the case that we must not take our eyes off Europe. We have a very good reason for doing so.

It is true that Germany was stripped of its might after the Second World War. It has since been relatively quiet and even adopted an unthreatening alias as a *peacekeeper*. But the fact is, that position camouflages a lot of power.

Over the last half century, Germany has used the European Union as a cloak to push itself near the forefront of world power. And as the EU now seizes opportunities to take on peacekeeping initia-

tives, Germany has used its position to unite, modernize and mobilize its military resources—as the *EU's most-willing repository for troops*.

Practically no one takes the European threat seriously because the EU lacks *military potency*. But is that a realistic assessment? Take a look at the new course of the German army, which is set to be the iron fist of the EU, and make your own judgment.

Redefining "Defense" The responsibilities of the Bundeswehr, the German armed forces founded in 1955, are outlined in Germany's constitution as being defensive only. Any war of aggression is illegal, but participation in collective security systems that serve world peace is allowed. In 1999, however, Germany participated in its first non-defensive war—a war feigned to be humanitarian. And today Germany, through EU and NATO endeavors, is second only to the U.S. as the largest supplier of servicemen to peacekeeping missions worldwide, with some 10,000 troops deployed. Its army, according to Defense Minister Peter Struck, is more deeply integrated in

NATO than any other army.

The Bundeswehr's responsibilities have changed, in the eyes of its administrators, from defensive to preventative. Since nothing threatens the country at its national borders, Germany is rapidly developing its military for more modern issues—what it defines as "conflict prevention" and "crisis management."

This translates to reforming the German armed forces to become better equipped for long-distance rapid-response missions. Defense Minister Struck detailed the "new course" for the Bundeswehr last January—the most extensive restructuring project in its history. In the end, the German military will have better communication, intelligence, reconnaissance, mobility, confrontation capability, force protection and post-conflict support.

The biggest change will take place in the *structure* of the military. "[T]he Bundeswehr will be developed according to an entirely new system of force categories while maintaining—not abandoning—the five military organizational areas of Army, Air Force, Navy, Joint Support Service and Central Medical Service," said Struck in a press conference on January 13 (*eng.bmvg.de*; emphasis mine throughout).

"The new course which we have set," he said later at a February Munich conference, "makes the Bundeswehr fit for the future." By March, he reported, "The transformation of the Bundeswehr has been gathering momentum. The Bundeswehr of the 21st century is increasingly taking shape. We are right on track in terms of direction and speed."

This contemporary force is custom-made to play a huge role in the peacekeeping era, and the transformation is planned to be completed by 2010. The goal is to take Europe from its current military position of inferiority, compared to the U.S., to one of dominance.

The new system divvies about 242,000 servicemen and women into three categories: response forces, stabilization forces and support forces.

The *response forces* will comprise 35,000 personnel. These land, air and maritime units, capable of rapid response, will be the repository for German contributions to NATO and EU operations.

Seventy thousand personnel will comprise the *stabilization forces*, which according to the Bundeswehr's website will be "capable of separating parties to a conflict, monitoring cease-fire agreements,

eliminating peace disturbers, enforcing embargo measures, and many other measures” (ibid.). German troops are already performing these duties in Afghanistan.

The third category of *support forces*—composed of 137,500 military personnel—will be set aside for support duties and fulfilling the Bundeswehr’s duty within Germany, including the command, control and training of the Bundeswehr.

Last January, Bundeswehr Chief of Staff Wolfgang Schneiderhan issued “a directive to examine the entire service school system of the Bundeswehr ...” (ibid.). “To sum up,” he stated, “our armed forces structure will be more operations-related, the forces will be ready for operations after a shorter preparation time, will be better trained and more professionally led.”

Streamlining Where the funds and resources for supporting these forces will come from is unclear, given that Germany still only spends about 1.5 percent of its gross domestic product on defense (compared with the average of 2.2 percent among NATO members), and that defense spending was cut this year by more than \$1 billion.

Most analysts and media outlets take such statistics at face value, as a sign of a benign German military. The world has repeatedly forgotten the nature of German efficiency and ability to streamline just about anything—especially its approach to war.

The *Trumpet*, by contrast, continues to carefully watch Germany for signs of belligerence, signs that others overlook. Our perspective is filtered through our understanding of Bible prophecy, and it is a perspective that has been vindicated dozens and dozens of times over nearly eight decades of analyzing the news, beginning with the work of Herbert W. Armstrong. Request our free special *Trumpet* report “He Was Right!” to acquaint yourself with these numerous past statements that have since made their way into current headlines.

Mr. Armstrong showed the prominent position in biblical prophecy fulfilled by modern-day Germany. Armed with this understanding, he foretold the progressive coalescing of the European continent; he predicted the fall of the Berlin Wall and the uniting of East and West Germany; he forecast the emergence of a single European currency; he warned about the inroads Europe would make into the stra-

tegic Balkan region; even in the midst of the Cold War, he spoke of the eventual break of Eastern Europe from the Soviets and its merging with the European bloc of nations. And, with convincing biblical proof, he also prophesied of the inevitable rise of a European military that would dominate great portions of the globe.

The Bible’s record is simply too accurate on all other points to ignore this devastating prophecy. It is for this reason that the *Trumpet* looks beneath the surface when analyzing events in Europe.

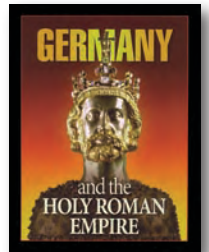
Take, for example, the announcement that Struck plans to reduce the Bundeswehr by about 35,000 troops and 10,000 civilian personnel, and to close some 200 German bases. What could be overlooked is that the resultant budgetary restructuring will save the armed forces more than \$31 billion. Where will that money go? Take a look (below) at some of the investments and initiatives underway.

Post-World War II German armed

forces were intended by law to be limited in power—maintaining enough strength to safeguard Germany’s borders, not the globe. As EU involvement in peacekeeping missions cumulates, watch Germany use that position to grant its military *blitzkrieg ability*. The German armed forces have effectively and repeatedly used blitzkrieg warfare in the past and are prophesied to do so again—*prophesied* to become a highly mobile rapid reaction force. Watch, and you can see that reality developing today. The groundwork is being laid. The pieces are being put in place. Watch, and you can recognize the alarming unfolding of what will soon shock the world. ■

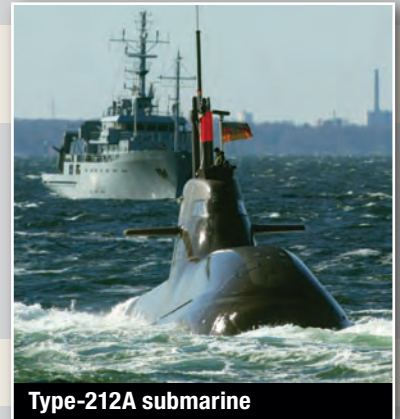
With reporting by
LISA GODEAUX

For more information, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.



German Military Initiatives

- Major investment in military communication, reconnaissance and surveillance technology (including a \$24.8 million contract awarded to the European Aeronautic Defense and Space Co. to provide the Bundeswehr with a secure message-handling system), investment in the Alliance Ground Surveillance system and the acquisition of a space-based all-weather radar system for global surveillance and reconnaissance imaging.
- Procurement and upgrading of state-of-the-art helicopters, transport aircraft and 3,800 protected command, special purpose and transport vehicles.
- The planned acquisition of 180 Eurofighter jets (\$22 billion), the costliest arms deal in Bundeswehr history.
- Development and acquisition of “infantrymen of the future” equipment and enough equipment packages for 80,000 operations personnel.
- Successful completion of sea trials in August by air-defense and command frigate SACHSEN. This marks “one of the most advanced armament developments in Germany’s history” (Defense Systems Daily, August 27). Three of these vessels are commissioned for employment in the German Navy by 2005.
- Procurement of four type-212A submarines, the most advanced non-nuclear subs in the world.
- Construction (set for completion in 2005) of a second command-and-control complex outside Potsdam that will allow Germany’s military operations command to better operate as headquarters for any EU-led operation.
- Germany’s ThyssenKrupp purchase of the world’s largest conventional submarine maker, Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft, in May. This “marks the beginning of what could form the core of a European warship heavyweight” (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, May 21).
- Germany’s elite force KSK (special forces command) to be increased and integrated with NATO’s rapid reaction force in 2005.
- German efforts to secure a permanent seat in the UN Security Council—a position held by only five other nations in the world—which would grant Germany vetoing power.



Type-212A submarine



The BIGGEST BUBBLE Ever

BY FRED DATTOLO

NO ONE DISPUTES that housing prices in the United States since 1995 have soared way beyond inflation. However, that alone does not reveal a housing “bubble.” Escalating home prices *could* be caused by a shift in fundamental economic factors that leads people to *value* home ownership more than they did before, in relation to other goods and services. On the other hand, if home prices rise *without* regard to real value, then we have a bubble in the making. A bubble forms as rising prices lure more buyers into the market who are looking to build equity *before* prices rise further, *regardless* of the real value of the asset. This increases demand, prices rise even more, and the cycle continues.

Before the technology stocks (for example, “dot-coms”) crashed in 2000, many economists argued that such stocks were on the verge of cutting-edge technology that would revolutionize business. They were *not* overvalued, they said. There was no stock bubble, they insisted, in spite of outrageous price-to-earnings ratios compared to historical standards. But they were wrong. Since the dot-com bust, the technology stocks have not recovered and the stock market as a whole has been stagnant.

Likewise today, some argue that there is no housing bubble. How can we know if there is, and if so, what are the ramifica-

tions if it bursts—not only for the U.S. but for the many countries around the world that have experienced similar trends in housing in recent years?

A Merrill Lynch economist, David Rosenberg, identifies six characteristics of *any* kind of asset bubble: overheated prices, over-ownership, too much debt, speculation, complacency and denial. Let’s examine these factors in light of the U.S. housing market.

Evidence of a Housing Bubble

■ *Overheated prices.* Until 1995, housing prices largely kept pace with inflation. In the last nine years though, home prices *on average* have spiked 35 percent **AFTER** adjusting for inflation. In some areas (mostly coastal cities) home prices have skyrocketed by incredibly higher margins than that. In San Diego County, for example, the median price of a home

is now \$472,000. (That means that half the homes sell above that price and half of them sell below it.) That represents an increase of 129 percent in just five years! Yet the county's median income, at \$52,000, has gone up only by about 11 percent during that time.

On the national level, the average house now costs 3.4 times as much as the median family income—a new record—19 percent above the average that stood for a quarter of a century between 1975 and 2000. Home prices *cannot* PERPETUALLY rise faster than incomes. Since they have for four years now, it suggests that a bubble has formed and prices would have to drop substantially to return to the average long-term ratio.

Another indication that homes are overpriced is that the real costs of owning compared to renting have diverged dramatically in the last few years from the long-standing normal pattern. If *demographic forces* were driving the demand for housing, the surge in housing would be reflected in both the housing *and* rental markets. But that is not the case. There is plenty of housing available on the *supply* side of the equation. Rental vacancy rates hover around 10 percent, the highest since the Census Bureau started recording the statistic. In the downtown areas of some major cities, rental rates have been declining since 2001.

According to the *Economist*, the ratio of house prices to rents is a very good indicator of whether homes are fairly valued. “[T]he price of a house should reflect the future benefits of ownership, either as rental income or in the rent saved by an owner-occupier. America’s ratio of house prices to rents *is at a record high, 26 PERCENT ABOVE ITS AVERAGE OVER THE 25 YEARS TO 2000*” (September 11; emphasis mine throughout).

Some say that this is an anomaly attributable to very low mortgage interest rates. That actually supports the view that housing prices are in a bubble since interest rates *cannot* stay low indefinitely, especially with high federal government budget deficits projected into the foreseeable future. Without substantial growth in disposable incomes to offset interest rate increases, current prices are unsustainable.

■ **Over-ownership.** According to a study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research (August 5, 2002), the housing share of total consumer expenditures increased sharply in the '70s and early '80s and the rate of increase slowed

suddenly in the mid-to-late '80s. This corresponds directly with the history of the baby boomers that were starting families in the '70s and early '80s and were largely living on their own by the late '80s. Using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the study shows that as baby boomers approach retirement, the housing share of consumer expenditures should be falling (under normal circumstances). That's not what is happening.

Furthermore, the average rate of home ownership for a quarter of a century has been 65.2 percent. Currently, 68.6 percent of Americans own their own homes. That represents several *million* households above the norm. It would not be a concern if this were due to rising incomes. But it's not. Rather, it is because more people with marginal credit histories and low incomes are

Today's frenzy to purchase a home aided by lenders' willingness to lower the standards will result in tomorrow's spate of foreclosures.

qualifying for home loans. For example, low-income families can now borrow 103 percent of a home's price from the Federal Housing Administration! In summary, sub-prime lending (to home buyers with poor credit) has gone up by 25 percent in the last decade.

Today's frenzy to purchase a home aided by lenders' willingness to lower the standards will result in tomorrow's spate of foreclosures. Too many are over-extended, and that ties in to the next point proving the housing bubble is real:

■ **Too much debt.** About *half* of the lowest-income households pay out at least 50 percent of what they earn toward housing—far more than the long-standing guideline of 28 percent suggested by the Federal National Mortgage Association (“Fannie Mae”). In addition, homeowners borrowed a *record* \$138 billion against the equity of their homes last year, helping them buy new cars, appliances and other goods.

One of the most remarkable statistics is that mortgage debt has climbed even

faster than home values. The ratio of homeowners' equity compared to market value was more than 67 percent for three decades during the '60s, '70s and '80s. In the last 20 years, it averaged 61 percent. Today, it stands at a mere 55 percent, which is particularly striking since the population is quite a bit older, on average, than in prior decades. This shows that people's homes are far more leveraged today than they have been historically.

Meanwhile, in the last three years, *despite* record low interest rates, “[t]he number of mortgages more than 90 days past due is up 20 percent, the number of foreclosures is up 18 percent, and the number of household bankruptcies is up 33 percent ...” (*Time Magazine*, September 13). These figures will soar as interest rates climb and as housing prices level off and start to decline. Many home buyers who have not qualified to lock in to a fixed interest rate will find themselves in trouble with more mortgage debt than they can handle—and unable to sell their home at a high enough price to recoup their investment.

■ **Speculation.** One way people have traditionally built wealth is through home equity. Now, however, in order to be able to increase their consumption *today*, many forego that future wealth *hoping* their homes will continue to rise in price to an unreasonable degree. Several recent studies show that people are counting on their homes to provide a lot of wealth in the future. Many older people, for example, anticipate selling their home and moving into a smaller one, hoping that the net equity proceeds from the sale will provide a large part of their retirement income. A bust in the housing bubble could shatter those dreams.

It's also worthy to note that after the dot-coms crashed in 2000, home prices really started to soar, especially in coastal areas. This suggests that speculative money jumped from stocks to real estate. What this indicates, along with the other factors discussed earlier, is that many people are buying houses as investments they *hope* will rise in value, rather than, above all, as places to live. A major factor driving up sales is the *expectation* that prices will be higher in the future.

■ **Complacency.** It's never been easier to buy a home, but many borrowers are getting hooked on risky loans. Lenders are continually coming up with more unusual (and risky) mortgages to allow less-qualified buyers—even those with limited cash and shaky credit—to pur-

chase a home. Many “predatory” lenders are making offers that are practically irresistible. The banks and mortgage companies are often complacent themselves because more than 75 percent of the single-family mortgages they originate are sold in the secondary market to either Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac—government-sponsored private corporations that assume all the risk.

A recent survey commissioned by the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) shows that many Americans, es-

pecially low-income families and minorities, don’t understand the risks inherent within adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs), for example. The payments on these mortgages *increase* as interest rates climb. “Given the high probability of interest rate increases, an adjustable-rate loan made to a family which can barely afford the initial monthly payments represents a ticking time bomb,” said CFA Executive Director Stephen Brobeck (*Los Angeles Times*, August 1).

ARMs are now preferred by 30 to 35

percent of mortgage purchasers, yet most people couldn’t tell you how high their mortgage payment could go when interest rates rise, according to Catherine Williams, vice president of financial literacy for Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Chicago.

■ *Denial.* Some economists deny there is a housing bubble, especially if they work for realtor associations. According to CBS MarketWatch, even Freddie Mac’s deputy chief economist insisted there is no housing bubble (September 8). One argument some forward is that housing prices are strictly regional in nature so

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac

THE FEDERAL NATIONAL Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Mortgage Loan Corporation (Freddie Mac) were originally chartered by the U.S. government but have since become *private corporations*. They are key players in the U.S. housing market. Home prices can only go up if there are new mortgage loans available at the increased price. Enter Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Here’s how they facilitate the housing bubble.

In most cases, a home buyer does not have the cash to purchase a home, so he takes out a mortgage from a bank, savings and loan association or other mortgage lender. These institutions that *originate* the loan are known as *primary* lenders. The primary lender can hold on to the loan until maturity (usually 30 years), collecting principal and interest payments during this time. Or, it can *sell* the loan in the *secondary* market to corporations such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. This gives the primary lender cash which it can use to originate a new mortgage. The process repeats itself over and over.

But where do Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac get their money? Either they issue corporate bonds (and use the proceeds from these

bond sales to buy the mortgages) or they sell previously acquired mortgages which are grouped together into mortgage-backed *securities* (derivative-like instruments) to *third* parties such as insurance companies, mutual funds or pension funds. These third parties then receive the income stream



BIG MAC
Freddie Mac headquarters in McLean, Va.

from the underlying principal and interest payments.

Fannie Mae has even gone one step further—taking the mortgage-backed securities and grouping them *again* into more complex derivatives called Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits (REMICs). “Approximately half of all Fannie Mae’s [mortgage-backed securities] have been transformed into these highly speculative REMIC derivative instruments.

“Thus, what started out as a simple home mortgage has been transmogrified into something one would expect to find at a Las Vegas gambling casino. Yet the housing bubble now depends on pre-

cisely these instruments as sources of funds” (*Executive Intelligence Review*, June 21, 2002).

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are probably the top two private company debt holders in the world.

Together they now own over \$4 trillion of debt linked to home mortgages—more than 75 percent of single-family mortgages in the U.S. This dominance of the housing market by just two corporations disturbs many, including Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan.

In a speech to the Senate Banking Committee on February 24, he suggested that these companies have an unfair competitive advantage because they are *perceived* to be backed by the federal government even though they are not. He warned that they are expanding at a pace that could threaten the stability of the entire financial system should either of them get into trouble! (Freddie Mac has already admitted to overstating profits by nearly \$1 billion in 2001.) Greenspan further admonished that the companies should stick to core competencies and avoid branching

out into complex derivatives.

Currently, the companies are regulated by the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO), which has limited oversight powers. Greenspan urged the Senate Committee to create a tough *new* agency to more directly supervise the two companies and advised them that “preventative actions are required sooner, rather than later.” However, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have powerful lobbyists in the halls of Congress. Previous efforts to control them have been fruitless.

On September 22, just seven months after Greenspan’s admonition, OFHEO released a shocking report. It documented how Fannie Mae’s top management intentionally rigged expenses in order to earn higher bonuses, meet financial forecasts and most importantly, stabilize earnings. One executive admitted this was done “to make sure Fannie [Mae] would be perceived as a low-risk enterprise” (*BusinessWeek Online*, September 23).

The demise of either or both of these companies because of a severe housing bubble bust or other financial problems would generate a *colossal* catastrophe for the banking system, mutual funds, pension funds and the U.S. economy. ■

a national housing bubble is impossible. However, the *Economist* refers to a study that shows home prices are overvalued in 20 states that represent *more than half* of America's population (op. cit.). When enough regional bubbles start popping so that their impact is felt nationally, no one will question that a genuine national housing bubble exists.

It is clear that all the signs of a classic bubble persist in the current housing market. When it will pop is another question. Where interest rates are headed next may reveal the answer.

Interest Rates Are Key In essence, the housing bubble emerged as a result of loose monetary policy designed to stimulate the stagnant economy. From January 1996 to June this year, the Federal Reserve increased the supply of cash by 69 percent and bank deposits grew by 111 percent. When there's more money circulating, the cost to borrow it (interest) goes down. Consequently, banks have been able to instigate a massive borrowing boom thanks to lower interest rates and deposits that more than doubled in just eight years! This encouraged consumers to keep spending (although it was a *debt-fed* consumption) and was especially helpful in the short term: both after the 2000 tech-stock crash, and after the economy slumped in 2001. It also helped mitigate the damage from 9/11. But quick and easy economic solutions usually have a side effect. The cheap credit spurred by remarkably low interest rates also helped inflate the housing bubble big time.

Perhaps the best indication that the bubble is going to pop is that interest rates are heading back up (see *May Trumpet*, "When the Debt Bomb Explodes" on *theTrumpet.com* under Issue Archives) and many economists foresee that mortgage rates will likewise climb in the next few years. The Federal Reserve, even with the recent rate hikes, is still lending to banks *below* the inflation rate. The average lending rate for 20 years has been more than 2 percent *above* inflation. The pressures coming to bear could push the rates up by as much as 2 percent within a year or two and even higher thereafter.

Why is that important to the housing market?

First, more and more people are financing their homes with adjustable-rate mortgages. Compared to traditional fixed-rate mortgages, the monthly payment is less *initially*. However, as interest rates climb, so does the monthly pay-

ment. A variation that's becoming more popular, especially in the most expensive markets, is interest-only loans that require buyers to pay only interest for a fixed period of time.

To illustrate the danger of escalating interest rates, suppose you have a 30-year \$100,000 ARM, currently at a 6 percent interest rate. Your mortgage payment would be about \$600 a month (not including taxes and insurance). Were rates to go up by 2 percent, your payment would increase to \$734 a month—about \$1,600 per year *more*. A 4 percent increase would cost you \$878 a month, or about \$3,330 more per year. For a \$200,000 mortgage, you can double the amounts. While many ARMs limit how much interest rates can go up (usually in the neighborhood of 5 percent), some ARMs have *no* caps!

Many Americans don't understand the risks inherent within adjustable-rate mortgages. The payments on those mortgages increase as interest rates climb.

Even with a cap though, your mortgage payment could increase by 50 percent or more. Too many Americans are not familiar with the risk they have taken.

According to the CFA study referred to earlier, Americans who say they prefer ARMs over the traditional fixed-rate mortgages are generally younger, poorer and have less education. This suggests a lack of financial knowledge associated with the preference for ARMs. Yet in a bid to keep business booming, lenders and bankers have shoveled out these loans almost like the free suckers you can pick up at the bank teller window.

In 2003, about 19 percent of all home mortgages issued were ARMs, although in the fourth quarter, it had shot up to 27 percent. By the second quarter of this year, 35 percent of new home mortgages were ARMs. And in some of the most expensive markets, ARMs are now the *most* popular type of mortgage! In California, close to 75 percent of home buyers in August used ARMs. Of the *total* home mortgage debt outstanding in the

U.S., about 20 percent—more than \$1.3 *trillion*—is financed by an ARM. That is rather shocking.

Yale economist Robert Shiller, author of the book *Irrational Exuberance*, which accurately forecast the stock market bubble just before the crash of 2000, is weighing in on housing. He believes the popularity of ARMs is creating the risk of a "serious debacle" and that the current housing market, showing signs of "irrational exuberance," bears all the hallmarks of a *housing bubble*.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in its spring outlook letter expressed concern about the trend toward ARMs because more people with "high leverage, volatile incomes or limited wealth" are being lured into the housing market.

When interest rates go up on these ARMs, a lot of people won't be able to manage the payments because they have purchased homes they can barely afford. Foreclosures and bankruptcies will soar. The housing bubble will start to deflate and prices will begin to fall.

Rising rates would also affect potential *new* home buyers, pricing them out of the market, unless home prices were to drop enough to compensate. According to *Business Week*, if 30-year fixed-rate mortgages were to rise by just 1 point from 6.2 to 7.2 percent, for example, house prices would have to fall by 11 percent to keep mortgage payments the same. A rate of 8 percent would require a 20 percent drop in prices to keep payments level (July 19).

Finally, climbing rates will impact consumers who have used their homes as a sort of ATM machine—drawing money out with home equity loans to purchase items they couldn't otherwise afford. This has helped prop up the U.S. economy (consumer spending is 70 percent of gross domestic product) only *temporarily*. Generally, homes that have been leveraged already cannot continue to be leveraged, especially when prices level off and then start to nose-dive.

In relation to personal disposable income, total homeowner debt payments (mortgage and credit card) currently stand at 15.5 percent. Only once in the last quarter century did they go over 16 percent—at the end of the recession in the fourth quarter of 2001. This indicates that there is little room to maneuver when interest rates go up. It will most likely cause homeowners to slow their spending. That will be a drag on the economy.

While interest rates are key to the sta-

tus of the housing bubble, there's more to it than that.

Uncharted Territory There is a school of thought that says *even if* interest rates *don't* go up, asset bubbles like housing are prone to burst when the pool of real funding begins to shrink.

Between 1970 and 1994, changes in the federal funds rate (the rate at which the Federal Reserve lends money to banks) were followed by corresponding changes in industrial production, always within 12 months. When rates were low, production increased. When rates were high, production decreased. In 1995 (the same year housing prices began to outpace the inflation rate), the correlation ceased. Normally, with interest rates so low, industrial production should increase. But production has been depressed since 1995 (relative to the federal funds rate) and steadily declining for the last four years. This suggests that real funding is drying up.

In other words, when the Federal Reserve flooded the economy with new money (doubling bank deposits in just eight years), much of the excess liquidity found its way into housing, followed by consumer spending that was supported by home equity, rather than increases in production and wages. The wealth that was created is an *illusion*—not based on *real* productive activities. Hence, the housing bubble is bound to pop, the thinking goes, even if interest rates *don't* go up.

Either way, chances are that the housing bubble will explode! And not just in the United States. The *Economist* calculated that home prices are at all-time highs in relation to average incomes in two thirds (by economic weight) of the world it tracks (op. cit.). Countries such as Britain, Ireland, Australia, South Africa and Spain have witnessed *triple*-digit percent increases in just the last seven years! Many others have seen double-digit increases during that same time. The value of property worldwide is now estimated to be \$50 trillion, including about \$15 trillion of U.S. housing (compared to roughly \$30 trillion worth of property stocks in the world). The effects of a severe housing bubble collapse could be disastrous for the entire world economy.

Merrill Lynch economist Rosenberg calculates that if housing prices in the U.S. were to drop just 10 percent, it would inflict *more* damage to the economy than a 1 percent rise in interest rates or a \$10-per-barrel increase in the price of

oil. Some, including famous investor Sir John Templeton, predict that, when the bubble bursts, housing prices will plummet *at least* 20 percent just for starters. He expects that 20 percent of homeowners with a mortgage will lose their homes when the bubble pops and has even told investors to prepare for a crash similar to the stock market crash of 1929 that led to the Great Depression! (*Daily Reckoning*, April 1 and August 18).

Does that sound extreme?

Let's briefly take a broader view of the U.S. economy. The budget deficit this year is a new record, and the gap between what the U.S. produces compared to what it consumes (the trade deficit) is also smashing records. The personal savings rate is at near historic lows. Total homeowner indebtedness compared

Recent consumer spending has been supported by home equity, rather than increases in production and wages. The resulting wealth is an illusion.

to disposable income is very close to the highest it's ever been. Homeowner equity compared to market value is way below normal even though prices have been skyrocketing! Despite ultra-low interest rates, industrial production is dropping and employment growth is stunted to an *unprecedented* degree. Real wages for the American worker are 6 percent lower than a quarter century ago.

Never before have we witnessed the confluence of so many negative economic factors to *this degree*. We are truly in UNCHARTED TERRITORY. Yet the U.S. economy has been perking along largely because it's been propped up by the greatest housing bubble ever known. We've shown how that simply cannot continue. When it starts to unravel, it will likely lead to the biggest bubble bust in world history, hurtling the U.S. economy into chaos, reminiscent of the Great Depression—or worse! The shock waves could lead to a major *global* recession like we've never seen. Prepare now to reduce your standard of living. ■

minister said, "We definitely share more values with Europe There is a strong European influence all over Latin America" (*Santiago Times*, May 18). The same cannot be said about the United States. To the contrary, anti-American sentiment is abundant in Latin America. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has announced that the "time of cowardly governments on this continent subordinate to the dictates of Washington is coming to an end" (*Guardian*, London, January 12).

In stark contrast to Europe's successes, U.S.-led trade agreements with Latin America have not gone well lately. NAFTA has utterly failed to usher in any Latin countries except Mexico. The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) initiative, led by the U.S., has stalled, pushing Latin America even closer to the European Union. In what is probably the most disturbing news for America, even Mexico is tiring of its large northern brother and turning to the EU: Already, Mexico has a free-trade agreement with the EU. Further, it has submitted an official proposal to join Mercosur. If that happens, Mexico will enter into a more intimate relationship with Latin America and Europe, at the expense of its relations with the U.S.

Where Does This Leave America? America is finding its biggest partners increasingly allied in trade blocs with other nations. Japan and China, which have been big U.S. trading associates, are turning toward ASEAN, which in turn is looking to strengthen its internal ties. Meanwhile, in Latin America, Mexico—also a big U.S. partner—is looking to align itself with Mercosur. The EU has its eyes on both Latin America and ASEAN and has made significant progress with both regions. The China/Japan/ASEAN trade bloc and the EU-Latin America bloc, when formed, will be the two largest on the planet. In all of this, the U.S. is being left out by some of its most strategic trading partners.

Canada remains the most important trade partner for the U.S. Interestingly, both countries are Israelite nations, destined to tangle soon with the revived Holy Roman Empire: the European Union (write for our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for more information). Current trends point to trade blocs around the world continuing to coalesce—apart from the United States. Watch for anti-U.S. sentiment to continue to rise, and trade blocs around the world to continue to alienate America. ■

GERMANY

Voting Nazi in Regional Elections



RALLY Supporters of the right-wing NPD wave flags in Berlin.

IN SEPTEMBER, MULTIPLE news sources reported that neo-Nazis were commandeering protest rallies in eastern Germany. Their purpose: to gain broader support in regional elections.

The extremists did have an impact. The far-right National Democratic Party (NPD)—which has not been represented in a regional parliament since 1968—received 9.3 percent of the vote; thus, parliamentary seats in the province of Saxony are now held by the NPD for the first time in over 35 years.

Why are right-wing extremists gaining power? Officially, unemployment in eastern Germany is currently at 19 percent (though in real terms it is much higher than that), which would cause anyone to look for a change in government.

Communists and neo-Nazis alike benefit when mainstream political parties do badly. In fact, though one is far left and one is far right, they use many of the same slogans at political rallies. Both want the support of the masses of unemployed Germans, who tend to be the first in line in these elections.

This latest vote has given extra steam to the extremist

This Summer's Blockbuster: The Weather

FAMILIES STRANDED ON rooftops as swirling waters race by. Flames leaping hundreds of feet high as thousands flee their homes. Crops shriveling as gusty winds and dry weather suck moisture from the soil. A battery of hurricanes lashing the coastlands. Sound like the sequel to the film *The Day After Tomorrow*? It actually describes the massively destructive weather America

has faced this year, with its unprecedented number of wildfires, record rains, floods, scorching drought and severe hurricanes.

Seventy-four percent of the western U.S. faces a moderate to extreme drought. Even states as far east as Georgia have had to enforce restrictions on water use. For much of the West, the droughts have lasted five to six years, and the situation doesn't look likely to improve. The last five years have been the warmest in the U.S. for over 100 years.

The abnormal increase in temperatures, combined with inadequate precipitation and gusty winds, has sparked over 40,000 fires this year. The average number of acres burned annually for the past 10 years was just over 2 million; but in just the first half of 2004, over 4.7 million acres were burned from wildfires.

movements, which are now planning a *coalition* for the 2006 election. Extremist parties had already agreed not to run against each other in these most recent elections, helping to make their gains possible. Udo Voigt, the NPD leader, confirmed that the party is planning to include known neo-Nazis in its leadership.

The fact that Nazis are involved in the government is shocking. But the trend shows the level of frustration among the German populace.

This development also has important ramifications at the center of German politics. Though Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's party suffered fewer losses than expected, support for oppo-

sition leader Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats plummeted. Her ability to maintain leadership of her party is definitely in question. If and when she is replaced, one name will consistently come to the forefront: the ambitious Edmund Stoiber.

Remember that the *Trumpet* has consistently identified the Bavarian Prime Minister as someone who should be watched closely. Though he lost the election for chancellor in 2002, he can and probably will try again in 2006. For more information, see "Continue to Watch Stoiber" under "Editor's Choice" at www.theTrumpet.com and also our May 2002 cover story.



AFTER IVAN A hurricane-damaged condo in Alabama

While the West was fighting flames, the East was floating in floods. Torrential rains poured more than a foot of rain over a vast area from the Great Lakes all the way to New Jersey, causing serious flooding in that state and on into West Virginia and Maryland.

This year's abnormally active hurricane season has also smashed records.

This summer was the first time since the beginning of postwar hurricane reconnaissance flights that three major hurricanes formed in the Atlantic in the month of August. Four hurricanes hit Florida in about a month—causing the largest evacuation in Florida's history.

Why is such destructive weather being unleashed? Why would God allow fire to scorch the land, drought to shrivel crops, and towns to be flooded?

Because God wants us to turn to Him! God said He would bless us with rain in due season and safety from weather disasters if we obey Him (Leviticus 26:3-4). God says that if we do not turn to Him, He will cause flooding in one city and drought in another (Amos 4:7-8).

How many will heed God's warning?

Returning to the Czars

THE WALL STREET Journal called him “Moscow’s Mussolini.” Others have likened him to 16th-century Russian demagogue Ivan the Terrible. Many compare his ideologies with those of early 20th-century dictator Vladimir Lenin. Some aspects of his leadership are not dissimilar to those of mass murderer Joseph Stalin.

Beyond the sharp appearance and congenial conduct of Russian President Vladimir Putin lies a sinister reality. A review of two of his recent political actions reveals the *real* Putin.

On September 13, in response to the tragic hostage crisis in Beslan, Putin proposed the incorporation of a new “vertical” system of power in Russia. Under this proposal, the current system of direct election of regional governors will be replaced by a system where the president (Putin) will appoint the governors of each region. Putin argues that this *president-appointed* “single chain of command” system is critical to fighting terrorism. However, “This move is nothing short of a personal coup by the president against the institutions of the Russian state” (Stratfor, September 13).

If Putin’s “vertical” system proposal is approved, it will give him control over the regional as well as the central governments of Russia. Since the January elections, Putin has gained definitive control of the Duma, Russia’s lawmaking body. And with Putin controlling the Duma, there

is little doubt that his new proposal will be approved.

The analysts at Stratfor succinctly summed up Putin’s latest political coup: “In effect, Putin is capitalizing on the Beslan crisis ... to firmly entrench *his personal power* and ‘re-Sovietize’ Russia ... Putin is becoming a traditional Russian ruler; one who desires no institutional blocks on his power” (ibid.; emphasis ours throughout).

Since coming to power in 1999, Putin has also taken control of Russia’s energy resources. The rich oligarchs who owned or controlled the energy companies were given two options: They could either submit to and support Putin’s rule, or they would lose their companies and perhaps even be arrested. The most widely reported case of one of these oligarchs refusing to surrender to Putin is the case of Mikhail

Khodorkovsky, CEO of the giant Russian oil company Yukos. Khodorkovsky is currently in jail, and Yukos is fighting to stay out of bankruptcy. Here is where it gets interesting.

On October 18, it was announced that a subsidiary company of Yukos (called Yuganskneftegaz) will be auctioned off by the state. Way undervalued, the subsidiary company will be auctioned for \$3.73 billion. This price—\$3.73 billion—“is about equal to the cash that

MOSCOW’S MUSSOLINI? Putin is assuming more power in the aftermath of the latest terrorist hostage crisis in Beslan, Chechnya.

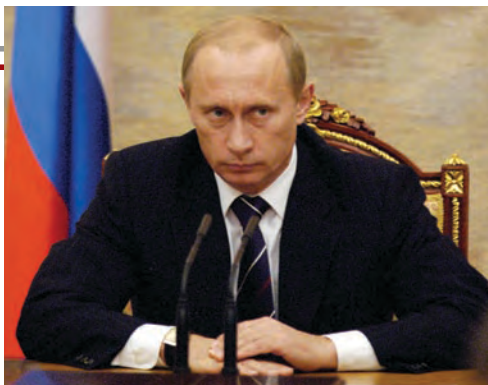
Gazprom, the GOVERNMENT-RUN natural gas firm *that seeks to become an oil giant itself*, has on hand” (ibid., October 19). So Putin has not only arrested and jailed Yukos CEO Khodorkovsky, he has also orchestrated it so that a government-owned energy company can purchase a subsidiary of Yukos for a price at least three to four times lower than what it is truly worth. “That makes the auction little more than a state asset grab” (ibid.).

Putin has a stranglehold on the Russian government and on much of Russia’s industry. *Russia is returning to the time of the czars!*

President Putin’s czar-like control over Russia does not bode well for other nations. Russia is the second-largest oil producer in the world and also has significant nuclear technology and weaponry. Putin effectively controls these resources.

To expect that the fruits of Russia under the rule of an autocrat will be positive is both unwise and unrealistic. History testifies to that fact. No nation has ever blossomed under the leadership of a demagogue. On the contrary, the fruits of such leadership have been war. This too is the path Russia is treading. For a more thorough understanding of where current events in Russia are leading, request your free copy of *Russia and China in Prophecy* today.

ALEXEY PANDOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



PUT IN JAIL The imprisoned head of Yukos, Khodorkovsky.

TATYANA MAKEYEVA/AFP/GETTY

IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinians’ New Gear

Middle East Newswire, July 11

“ISRAEL’S MILITARY has determined that Palestinian insurgency groups have been strengthened by the introduction of new Hezbollah-supplied weaponry smuggled from Egypt. ... They said the weaponry was either bought, supplied or developed by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and smuggled through the Sinai Peninsula into the Gaza Strip.”

Iran Missiles in Range of Europe

Washington Post, October 6

“IRAN HAS INCREASED the range of its missiles to 1,250 miles, a senior Iranian official was quoted as saying on Tuesday, putting parts of Europe within reach for the first time. Military analysts had estimated Iran’s missile range at 810 miles, which would allow it to strike anywhere in Israel. But Iran’s official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the country’s influential former president and the head of a government oversight body, as saying: ‘Now we have the power to launch a missile with a 2,000-kilometer range. Iran is determined to improve its military capabilities. If the Americans attack Iran, the world will change. ... They will not dare to make such a mistake.’”

QUOTABLE

Iran’s Deception

U.S. Undersecretary of State

John Bolton, August 17

“IF WE PERMIT IRAN’S deception [over its nuclear activities] to go on much longer, it will be too late.”

BIG LOUIE'S ADULT SUPERstore, The Lion's Den, J's Adult Boutique, Starlite Adult Video. These aren't dingy, back alley shops in some big city's dark corners. These are a few of the seven "adult" establishments lining a 250-mile stretch of Interstate 44 that cuts through Missouri. Bold billboards announce each one, tantalizing travelers with offers of huge selections of pornography—followed by conspicuous EXIT NOW signs. And you don't have to go far to accept these offers: The stores are in plain view from the highway.

This Midwestern strip of I-44—with an average of one adult store every 35 miles—is a good representation of how big the adult industry really is. There are more adult bookstores in the United States than there are McDonald's restaurants. Pornographic products outsell diapers two to one. And Americans spend more at strip clubs than at Broadway, regional theaters and orchestra performances combined.

The actual figures for how much porn takes in is up for debate—no one really knows. Some have estimated as high as \$10 to \$15 billion—more than Americans spend on major league baseball, basketball and football combined. Some say this figure was fabricated, mostly by the porn industry itself, which, like Hollywood, likes to exaggerate its figures. One conservative estimate says closer to \$3 billion a year (excluding strip clubs). Five years ago, according to a Forbes.com article, adult videos were generating \$5 billion in sales and rentals. It also estimated the GLOBAL industry of legal porn as raking in \$56 billion a year. (Note the term LEGAL.)

Most analysts agree that porn on the Internet—cyberporn—is taking in an estimated \$1 billion a year. The number of erotic webpages has rocketed 1,800 percent since 1998, to where in 2003 there were 1.3 million pornographic sites—according to a study released in September 2003 by the Seattle-based Web-filtering company N2H2. A 2002 N2H2 report predicted that the online porn industry would grow to become a \$5-7 billion business within five years.

These figures at least get us in the ballpark: PORN IS HUGE.

Is this the sign of a healthy society, or one plagued with sexual obsession? Is porn therapeutic or harmful? What is the PLAIN TRUTH about pornography? Don't be so sure you know!

Porn

Is the Devil

Exposing the "adult" industry's devastating impact on our lives BY RYAN MALONE

If you believe porn is wrong, do you know WHY? There is a deep spiritual dimension that few understand, and it must first be discussed before we can answer this matter sufficiently. It comes from the foundation of all knowledge—God's Word, the Holy Bible.

But isn't the Bible out of date? you might ask. This magazine often—in the context of world events—trumpets how utterly current and even *ahead of its time* God's Word is. It tells of future events BEFORE they happen. Is that an out-of-date book? Is it really just the prudish teachings of some ancient clerics? Or could it be the instruction manual for our everyday existence—current to this very moment and on into the future?

The Vital, Missing Dimension Adult industry advocates say porn helps us become more open and comfortable about sex—that people still too often think of sex as something shameful, dirty. This “open” philosophy, in fact, sums up the “New Morality”—a movement after World War I that brought about drastic social changes thanks to research by Sigmund Freud a few years prior. Before the First World War it was illegal in the U.S. to publish, sell or distribute material on sex. Under the New Morality, however, sex became freely and openly discussed.

Attitudes changed about sex. Under the puritanical Old Morality, some authorities claimed that a woman's visible arms, ankles or elbows were “obscene.” Some thought the *Bible* to be obscene, because of its plain teaching on sexual matters. But now, proponents of this New Morality would have us think that NOTHING is sexually obscene. And the Bible, in its balanced view, is now seen as prudish.

During this flourishing of the New Morality, Herbert W. Armstrong was able to offer “open,” frank, plain teaching on the subject of sex in his book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. He used society's openness about the subject to trumpet this vital biblical understanding, and condemned—as porn advocates do—the prudish society that branded sex as shameful. But he also sternly condemned the side of the sexual pendulum to which society had swung.

What pornophiles don't realize is that the same spirit responsible for inspiring this present era of openness and unlimited sexual freedoms IS THE SAME SPIRIT THAT, FOR CENTURIES, HELD THE WESTERN WORLD IN THE GRIP OF THINKING THAT SEX IS SHAMEFUL.

Satan, once the archangel Lucifer, is the god and *deceiver* of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9). The Bible reveals that angels are sexless (Matthew 22:30). And this evil angel hates sex, marriage and family most of all because it pictures God's family plan for mankind. Satan's broadcasts throughout man's history caused the developed world to view sex the same way he did—as being shameful, nasty, embarrassing, something on the animal level. He was, after all, responsible for Adam and Eve discovering their nakedness and their being *ashamed* of it (see Genesis 3).

But God is not ashamed of sex. He created it! The Old Morality—under which proper education on sex was scarce—DID IRREPARABLE HARM to marriages and families! But this doesn't mean that the New Morality—this opposite *extreme*—has HELPED. As Mr. Armstrong said in his book, if the Old Morality was the frying pan, this New Morality is the *fire*.

With the onset of the New Morality came increasing advancements in mass technology. The sexless Satan—hostile to God, His creation and His plan—used this technology to broadcast his “new” message. He still thought of sex as shameful, nasty and degrading, but instead of holding the world in prudish ignorance and embarrassment of it, he let the floodgates open so wide that sex, as in ancient times, became an IDOL. Society was now *free*—emancipated—from the restraints of yesteryear.

Through the sheer prevalence of sex in these modern media, he could discredit the institution of marriage and family. This New Morality—with its

This “new *IM*morality”—this unbridled openness about sex—flourished through mainstream media: books, magazines, and, eventually, movies and television. But it is most epitomized by “adult entertainment.” Pornography's content encapsulates all the messages of Satan's most cunning deception.

For some decades, porn proliferated mostly within an underground subculture. Then, with new mass technology in the 1990s, namely the Internet, this New Morality went to the next level. Millions could view pornography anonymously, until it came to the point where society *in general* was not ashamed of its fascination with erotica.

It's IN, and It's Everywhere Just as society shed its *sex-is-shameful* outlook for *anything goes*, the same has happened in pornography. Once the guilty pleasure of the underworld, porn is now hip—it's in. And if you think it's harmful, you are laughably out of touch—or so the thinking goes.

Porn is “the new martini,” as a character on a popular television drama put it—a favorite at parties. Who can forget the shocking *Frontline* report in 1998 about the children of Rockdale County in Georgia, where scads of affluent teens gathered in their rich parents' homes for sex parties that included imitating the acts they viewed on the Playboy channel?

Porn is quickly becoming America's favorite pastime. The entertainment industry is catering to it by churning out more adult movies—over 10,000 a year—than Hollywood feature films (only 400). The moguls of the porn business are not just a few sleazy-looking kingpins from the seedy underworld.

Porn is quickly becoming America's favorite pastime. The entertainment industry churns out more adult movies—over 10,000 a year—than Hollywood feature films—only 400.

message that any sexual restraints are evil—would do even more for his cause than the Old. God's family plan—pictured through family, marriage and sex—could be marred in the minds of the deceived millions. Divorce rose sharply, as did cohabitation of couples—heterosexual and homosexual. Sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies and abortion became rampant. The number of sexually active teenagers grew. By 2002, 34 percent of all births in the U.S. were to unmarried women. And more than half of all marriages in the U.S. ended in divorce.

They are “respected” businesspeople who, after a hard day of filming sex, go back to their pads in the burbs, with the wife, the kids and the family pet.

Producers and actors within the industry are achieving household-name status. Porn queen Jenna Jameson has been on tour with mainstream talk shows, had billboards in Times Square, been the subject of documentaries—mainly to promote her sordid autobiography, *How to Make Love Like a Porn Star*. She has made prime-time TV appearances, playing herself on one NBC drama last season. “The culture doesn't

just shrug at her celebrity; it embraces it" (*Wall Street Journal*, August 27).

And even though Jameson turned down having a reality show on network television called, "Who Wants to Be a Porn Star," a network in England finished its first season of a porn-style reality show in August, whose winner was awarded a porn film contract.

Hardcore material is gaining the most momentum. In Britain, 33 percent of Internet users are accessing hardcore porn sites. One in five boys and one in 10 girls have their first exposure to hardcore porn by age 12.

So who *does* want to be a porn star? Industry execs will tell you that girls aren't necessarily being *recruited* to play these parts. Many are lining up to audition to partake of the average wage of \$400 per scene.

In addition to porn stars achieving mainstream celebrity status, prime-time television has embraced pornography's influence on our culture. On the networks, there was Fox's effort at a drama about the industry—*Skin*—and a new openness about it on prime-time sitcoms like *Friends*. HBO's documentaries glorify the adult industry, while Showtime's *Family Business*—about porn producer Adam Glasser and his accountant, his 70-something-year-old mother—has finished three seasons. There have been executive meetings between Adult Video News executives and the networks about televising the AVN Awards Show—the "Oscars of porn," as it is called.

Every medium has catapulted pornography into the limelight of acceptability: music videos, radio talk shows, major films. Hollywood has glamorized porn in movies like *Wonderland*, starring Val Kilmer. *Boogie Nights* earned Burt Reynolds an Oscar nomination. And 20th Century Fox's most recent porn-based flick, *The Girl Next Door*, is about a teenage boy who falls in love with a former adult film star.

Consider also the increasing amount of material making it into mainstream entertainment—what we could call "pop porn." This is material that, at one time, was cutting edge even for pornographers like Larry Flynt—particularly HBO's triumph with *Sex and the City*, which tackled subjects that Flynt said *he* could barely broach in the 1970s. Even movies with less than an R rating now include "pornographic" material—either implied or shown, comedic or serious—that involves once-off-limits perversions.

Well, so what? Is this truly HARM-

ING us? The *facts*, when viewed in light of the spiritual dimension—God's perspective—will make the answer plain!

What IS Pornography? Before we proceed any further, let us define a few terms. We have generally been using the word *pornography* to describe all "adult entertainment." Some want to call it some-

thing more like "sexual material," since *pornography* carries a negative connotation. Others use the more artistic term *erotica* to soften its reputation. But the actual etymology of *pornography* shows it to mean "writings of prostitutes." It was material intended primarily for sexual arousal, particularly in men.

But even in this field, there are varying LEVELS, or degrees, of pornography. The two most common classifications are softcore, or soft porn—the most commonly marketed—and hardcore porn. Hardcore usually involves what could legally be considered "obscene," meaning that it offends the accepted norm of sexual morality. This segment usually constitutes "illegal" porn. It is not as pervasive as softcore material and usually includes a massive amount of actual sex acts, bestiality and sadomasochistic abuse—i.e. violence and torture in combination with sex.

Not surprisingly, it's hardcore material that is gaining more momentum in the industry (the reasons for which we'll see a bit later). In Britain, 33 percent of all Internet users are accessing *hardcore* porn sites. The statistic about one in five boys and one in 10 girls having their first exposure to pornography by age 12 is referring also to **HARDCORE** porn.

Harmful Effects of Porn So how does pornography affect our society? First let's look at the most extreme effects—pornography's association with criminal behavior and sexual deviancy.

"I wasn't some guy hanging out in bars, or a bum. I wasn't a pervert in the sense that people look at somebody and say, 'I know there's something wrong with him' I was a normal person. I had good friends. I led a normal life, except for this one, small but very potent and destructive segment [pornography] I kept very secret and close to myself." These were the words of the infamous serial killer Ted Bundy to

Dr. James Dobson hours before his execution (*USA Today*, September 2004).

Though pornography doesn't necessarily make all of its consumers criminals, it does, with nearly all criminals of a certain ilk, play a key factor in their antisocial behavior. Research has found that almost half of rapists "used pornography depicting consenting sex to arouse themselves before seeking out a victim. In another study, sex offenders said that pornography increased their appetites for deviant activities" (www.nationalcoalition.org).

Eighty-six percent of rapists admit to regular use of porn, and 57 percent admit to imitating porn scenes in committing their sex crimes. An FBI report found that 81 percent of serial sex murderers admitted to using pornography (www.resourcefoundation.org).

Yet "free speech" advocates, like Feminists for Free Expression, will state on their website: "No research ... finds a link between 'kinky' or 'degrading' images and violence. ... The derailed impulses of child abusers and rapists are caused by childhood traumas. 'They are not,' wrote leading researcher John Money, 'borrowed from movies, books or other people.'"

That's about as logical as saying that an apple pie is made with apples and NOTHING ELSE! Sure, childhood traumas play a part—but even viewing porn is a kind of "trauma"; rapists are more likely than non-offenders to have viewed *hardcore* porn before age 10. Porn is simply a MAJOR ingredient in the antisocial behavior of child abusers and rapists.

Ted Bundy said he didn't know a violent sexual deviant in jail who wasn't

How Big Is Porn?

- In 2002, one in four Americans admitted to seeing an X-rated movie the past year.
- Porn rentals rake in \$5 billion a year.
- Nearly 1 in 5 video/DVD rentals is porn.
- Internet porn takes in \$1 billion a year.
- 70 percent of 15-to-17-year-olds say they have accidentally seen porn online.
- The amount of erotic webpages has increased 1,800 percent since 1998.
- Porn amounts to 7 percent of the 3.3 billion webpages indexed by Google.
- 26 percent of cyberporn users visit these sites multiple times a week.
- On some file-sharing sites, more people swap pornography than audio files.

ADDICTED TO PORN. In fact, in an interview shortly before his execution, he said, “You are going to kill me, and that will protect society from me. But out there are many, many more people who are addicted to pornography, and you are doing nothing about that.”

Dr. Victor Cline—an expert in the field of sex addiction and pornography—has done extensive research into porn’s relationship to criminality. He tells of one businessman, head of a church committee on helping troubled children, who became a serial rapist from watching porn. *He had a healthy childhood and made good grades in school.* “His first rape,” Cline wrote, “was triggered by seeing a close resemblance in the woman he assaulted to the leading character in a porn movie he had seen earlier in the day” (www.morality-inmedia.org).

Dr. Cline has many more stories. He relates one of a 12-year-old boy who, a few days after listening to dial-a-porn, sexually assaulted a 4-year-old girl in his mother’s day-care center. “He had never been exposed to pornography before. He had never acted out sexually before and was not a behavior problem in the home” (ibid.).

Effects on the Family The *Trumpet’s* editor in chief has frequently said that pornography “tears the family apart.”

Pornophiles would have you believe otherwise—that it’s harmless, constitutional, and even a healthy mental excursion, especially if used in moderation. They’ll tell you it’s beneficial even if it’s *secret* and is *kept from the spouse* (46 percent of all porn site users are married). They talk about the three A’s when it comes to cyberporn: It’s accessible, affordable and anonymous. They’ll quote a 2001 survey of over 7,000 adults that found two thirds of Internet porn users say it hasn’t affected their relationships.

On the other hand, there are the two thirds of divorce lawyers at a 2003 convention who said the Internet played a significant role in divorce.

Those who say pornography is harmless—that it has NO EFFECT on the consumer—are simply IGNORING the fact that our educational system is based on the notion that printed material will influence minds; our advertising industry is basing its profits on the concept that people are motivated to act by visual im-

ages; and many works of art and literature often have profound effects on people.

Many say that porn makes us more open about sexuality—helps us remove our inhibitions. Yet pornography is often used in secret—fostering deception within a marriage.

Experts say that “men who frequently view porn may develop unrealistic expect-



HUSTLER
Porn guru Larry Flynt receives mainstream media attention.

tations of women’s appearance and behavior, have difficulty forming and sustaining relationships and feeling sexually satisfied” (*Time Magazine*, January 19).

This fact is backed up by a story Mr. Armstrong told in *Missing Dimension*. A married man once decided to dabble in an affair. As Mr. Armstrong explained, he then entered another affair. “Soon he discovered that somehow his wife had changed. She was no longer so beautiful and attractive. She seemed no longer desirable. He couldn’t figure what had happened to her. Of course nothing had happened to *her*—it had happened to *him!*”

PORN DOES THE SAME THING TO MARRIAGES.

Advocates of the New Morality—and usually also of porn—say that we are more sexually fulfilled because there are no restraints. But ironically, our marriages are NOT HAPPIER!

Porn also has devastating effects on children.

One girl whose father was a respected man in the community became wise to her dad’s growing addiction to porn. “I noticed my dad becoming less and less the fun social person I had always pictured.” She noticed his lack of eye contact with her and her friends, and conversation between father and daughter dwindled (*AFA Journal*, op. cit.).

Another young girl who was affected

by her father’s obsession with porn was Tonya Flynt, daughter of the famous porn guru and founder of *Hustler* magazine, Larry Flynt.

Tonya was raised in the world of porn. She watched her father in the grips of this obsession, was abused by him, and was finally institutionalized at age 13.

Later in life she established the Tonya Flynt Foundation Against Pornography and Sexual Abuse. She aims to change society’s view of the porn-is-victimless myth. “How can anyone believe that lie?” she asks. “Yes, I grew up around it; my life was nearly destroyed by it. ...

“I believe in the First Amendment,” she states. “I believe that is a wonderful freedom. But with that freedom comes responsibility. ...

“Pornography has shaped our television, movie industries, art, theater, music, public decency and our basic institution of marriage and family. Pornography’s greatest harm is its ability to desensitize us to evil. It is impossible to measure how greatly it has rotted the core of our nation” (www.mfc.org).

Porn destroys families—plain and simple. And as the family is the foundation of a nation’s stability, Flynt’s daughter is right: “[I]t has rotted the core of our nation.” There is not ONE redeeming quality in something that causes that kind of harm in people’s lives! It destroys NATIONS!

Harmless to Singles? “Cyberporn is not just breaking up marriages,” writes Lynn Sherr. “It can have another, even more insidious effect: keeping young people from even forming relationships” (ABCNEWS.com, August 27). In one sense, pornography essentially eliminates the need for a dating life, for marriage and for family. If someone is getting his or her sexual fulfillment and “intimacy” from a computer screen, what incentive is there to find that special someone and settle down?

The Almighty God created sex to strengthen love within the FAMILY. He did NOT intend for unrestrained use of it to *eliminate the need for family*.

Consider the “pop porn,” or the sexual content so prevalent in TV programming today, and the effect it is having on our teenagers. “Teenagers who watch a lot of television with sexual content are twice as likely to engage in intercourse than those who watch few such programs,” according to a study of nearly 1,800 12-to-17-

year-olds (Reuters, September 7; emphasis mine throughout).

The study found that “shows where sex was talked about but not depicted had just as much impact as the more explicit shows” and that “12-year-olds who watched a lot of sexual content behaved like the 14- or 15-year-olds who watched the least amount.” Reuters continues, “It did find that the 10 percent of those who watched the most television with sexual content were twice as likely to have initiated sexual intercourse when checked a year later than adolescents who were among the 10 percent who watched the least amount of sexual content.”

Suggestive movies and television inflame a strong pull in people—especially teens, as this study shows. How much more does pornography?

Porn destroys human relations even on a non-sexual level, by reducing one’s capacity to love, says Dr. Cline. “[I]t results in a marked dissociation of sex from friendship, affection, caring and other normal healthy emotions and traits which help marital relationships” (op. cit.).

Pornography affects any mind—married or unmarried—old, and especially young. How?

Consider the *messages* of pornography. What is the *ATTITUDE* behind it?

First, it depicts an *UNREALISTIC AND WRONG VIEW OF SEX*. *Fewer than 5 percent* of all sexual encounters in pornography depict “normal” heterosexual intercourse. Someone who knew nothing about human sexuality and decided to learn about it purely from adult entertainment would think that one in five sexual encounters involved simulated or

With porn, there is no “moderation.” It’s like saying you can consume rat poison as long as it is in moderation. And the fact is, there is nothing moderate about society’s use of porn. We are glutting ourselves on this poison.

actual violence and torture.

Part of this view of sex is the message that casual sex carries no negative consequences or responsibility. That sex with anyone, anytime, anyplace, is acceptable and even beneficial. That sex, in the fantasy world of pornography, is the same thing as love and intimacy.

Another message in pornography involves the degradation of women (and, in less mainstream content, children). *Playboy’s* women are called “bunnies” or “playmates.” *Penthouse* calls its women “pets.” The theme of porn is that the woman’s only purpose is to meet the sexual demands of men.

Porn often depicts rape as pleasurable to a woman. It also perversely depicts torture and prostitution as exciting and enjoyable.

Two former adult movie critics told London’s *Guardian* newspaper, “[W]e have never properly resolved what we think about how, why and whether it is degrading to women. We suspect that it might be. *WE SUSPECT THAT PORNOGRAPHY MIGHT BE DEGRADING TO EVERYBODY*” (Nov. 8, 2003).

And that’s just the point. Pornography is degrading to everyone!

It is from the mind of the devil! He broadcasts his messages through pornography—that humans are slaves to their sexual urges and that marriage and family are obstacles to sexual fulfillment. In fact, usually the only occasion a “family” is depicted in pornography is in the context of *INCEST*.

As Mr. Armstrong eloquently explained in *Mystery of the Ages*, “Satan has seized on this sin to make it far more universal than is generally realized. Satan, himself, has no sex. He is resentful of the fact God has endowed humans with sex. Therefore, Satan sways humanity into making sexual sins *one of the most universal and destructive*.”

Harmless If in Moderation? Even if porn is used in “moderation,” even if it does not foster an addiction, we still must understand the deep evil behind pornography.

Understanding God’s purpose for sex, marriage and family—and how much Satan wants to destroy that understanding—we must understand that pornography is becoming one of the devil’s

most powerful weapons on our minds, to make us hostile toward God’s transcendent purpose for creating humanity!

With porn, there is no “moderation.” It’s like saying you can consume rat poison as long as you do it in moderation (and you don’t tell your spouse).

The fact of the matter is, there is *NOTHING* moderate about our society’s use of porn. We are glutting ourselves on this poison!

Desensitization and the Future of Porn Present trends indicate that pornography is inevitably going to get more prevalent and perverted. It will happen

through a “*CREEPING CYCLE OF DESENSITIZATION*,” as one author put it.

This author was referring to the increase of objectionable content in movies and on television. Back in the 1960s and 1970s, when the film industry had to compete with television, films started to include content that wasn’t available on the mainstream medium—tackling more “mature” subjects and including more violence, sexual content and “adult” language. The film industry would go as far as it could in this direction until there was a public outcry—then it would pull back slightly to appease the censors. A little later, it would proceed forward again after people had become desensitized to the content.

The same is true of most media outlets today, which are profit-driven businesses that compete for the attention of consumers. Often what gets the attention is something bawdier and seedier. If you watched a reality show last season where someone ate dead bugs, what will it take to get you to tune in to a competing reality show? Maybe it advertises that its contestants will eat *LIVE* bugs. And so it goes for sexual content in movies, on television and in pornography. When consumers get desensitized to something, another business goes *a step further* to produce something that will sell.

As Mr. Armstrong wrote in *Missing Dimension*, “Today we have ‘progressed’ completely past ‘topless’ bars and restaurants. When they *BECAME NO LONGER SHOCKING*, ‘bottomless’ followed, and finally, *the supreme jolt* as a shocker—and in several places—to entertain a lust-gripped audience, actual live sexual intercourse performed in the nude on stage. Not simulated. ‘*FOR REAL!*’” This book was revised in the late 1970s and still holds its currency! “Actual live sexual intercourse” is common in the adult entertainment business, and it is the boon of the pay-per-view industry.

As the cycle of desensitization occurs on television and in movies, pornography has to sink to new depths to satisfy its audience. As soft porn becomes more mainstream and part of the regular TV and film diet, cyberporn barons have to “upgrade” their services to include more material that you can’t get just anywhere.

Based on this cycle, we can see that porn is only going to get more obscene—and what was once considered pornographic will eventually become common fare for television and mainstream movie

audiences. This, it could be argued, has already been happening for years.

Business of Porn Porn is a business driven by this cycle of desensitization.

Ever since Hugh Hefner scraped together \$7,000 to reprint a nude calendar of Marilyn Monroe, with a couple of articles (and sold 50,000 copies), businesspersons have discovered that porn is a logical choice for those out to make a profit—“profit through lust,” as Mr. Armstrong called it in *Missing Dimension*.

On one average workday, any person with a modest camera and a few thousand bucks can produce a porn film, sell it for \$29.95 (or more) a copy, and make tens of thousands—even millions—of dollars.

On hotel televisions with pay-per-view capabilities, porn movies are rented 10 times as often as regular feature films—and they cost more. Do the math. It’s a profitable decision for hotels, which benefit from people’s addiction to porn—usually garnering 5 to 10 percent of the revenue that goes to distribution companies like LodgeNet or On Command.

Porn, because of its pervasive demand, is largely immune to the ups and downs of the economy. “If you look around at a lot of the other dot-com businesses out there, they’re not profitable,” says Cybererotica’s president Jonathan Silverstein. “We are very, very profitable. We’ve learned what it takes to make a dollar. Not just make a dollar, but make a dollar and make a dollar and make a dollar” (MSNBC News, Aug. 9, 2000).

And this business will do anything to make a dollar. It won’t just play on the increasing desensitization of society. It often relies on subtle, deceptive traps to lure people into this addiction.

Adult websites reserve domain names that are similar to common website addresses—like *hotmail.com*—where if someone accidentally adds a letter or leaves one out—up comes the porn site. Some use common names you might never associate with a porn site.

Through pop-up ads, banners and a technique known as “mousetrapping,” porn sites can lure unsuspecting Web surfers. If surfers who accidentally happen on some porn sites try to close out of the site, they are sent to another webpage automatically—which can happen dozens of times until the users panic and restart their computer.

Little wonder that in 2001, 70 percent of 15-to-17-year-olds said they’d accidentally seen porn on the Net (*Time*, op. cit.).

The Ultimate Future of Porn Because of the greed-driven nature of the pornography business and the cycle of desensitization afflicting our society, porn is destined to thrive and become more normalized in mainstream society. We will see it do more damage to marriages and families.

Don’t get caught in its obsessive trap! Realize the devilish motives behind this industry—don’t fall victim to it. If you believe porn is evil, you are not “laughably out of touch.” You are not anti-sex. **PORNOGRAPHY IS ANTI-SEX!**

Embrace God’s view of sex. God is pro-sex. He created it—and for a transcendent purpose! *Used properly*, it will help to keep families intact and nations strong. It will help bring us **PEACE**—within our homes and in society!

A time is coming soon when pornography will be completely eradicated—both through “government regulation” and the changing of human nature. When Jesus Christ returns to Earth, He will establish the government of God over this whole planet. That government will enforce the keeping of God’s perfect, beautiful, joy-producing law.

But it won’t just be through this government’s “regulation.” As Richard Nixon said, “When indecent books *no longer find a market*, when pornographic films can *no longer draw an audience*, when obscene plays open to empty houses, **THEN THE TIDE WILL TURN**. Government can maintain [barriers] against obscenity, but only people can turn back the tide.”

At the core, it is **HUMAN NATURE THAT MUST BE CHANGED**. And Satan—who broadcasts on humanity’s pulls and

Realize the devilish motives behind this industry—don’t fall victim to it. If you believe porn is evil, you are not “laughably out of touch.” You are not anti-sex. PORNOGRAPHY is anti-sex.

moods—must be removed. That is exactly what will happen. Soon he will no longer be able to transmit his anti-God, anti-family message.

Imagine this world of tomorrow! Obscenity will be done away through the presence of one “pure language” (Zephaniah 3:9). Artistic expression and freedom will be allowed within the confines of this pure tongue, and within the ultimate guidelines of God’s loving law.

Yes, a pure world is coming. But it is first coming through an intense *purification* process! God, in His Word, compares the end-time sexual craze in the Western world to that of Sodom and

Gomorrah. And He says the same fate is coming on our people if we don’t repent! This coming Tribulation is the **ONLY** way God will be able to get through. Thankfully, the world will be humbled, and society will be compelled to live by God’s righteous standard.

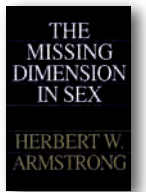
In the World Tomorrow, all will keep this law. Yes, there will be restrictions—restrictions from things that harm us, just as a parent would restrict his toddler from running into a busy intersection. Think of a world free of pornography—a world where sexual activity is **USED** and **CHERISHED** as God intended it.

There will be no more rape, abuse, child molestation, venereal diseases, illegitimate children. Proper sex education will be of high priority in all homes, and will be supported by right teaching in all schools. Married couples will trust each other. No more deception—either from illicit affairs or clandestine moments with the computer. This trust will engender sexual bliss within all marriages. Knowledge of the missing dimension in sex—**GOD’S** revelation—will be understood by all. Couples will not feel the need to turn to smut or other perverted sorts of sexual experimentation for any sort of fulfillment.

To understand how to live this abundant way today, it cannot be overstressed that you **MUST HAVE** Herbert Armstrong’s book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.

It was only 30 years ago that, when the predecessor to this magazine addressed the subject of porn, the solution it presented was simply to stay away from it—simply not to visit adult bookstores, shops

or movie theaters. If only it were that easy today. Porn is thrust at us, through popular culture, tricky Internet ploys and the like. You must understand how to battle this pervasive element of our culture. You need to understand *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. Please request your copy today. Because it is so essential to *your life*, we can only offer it **ABSOLUTELY FREE**. ■ **With reporting by SARAH LEAP**



Look next month for our article on how to avoid getting caught up in pornography—and how to break free if you’re caught.

Here is God's sound advice to those tempted to commit fornication and adultery. BY DENNIS LEAP

You Shall Not Commit Adultery

TAKE SOME TIME AND BROWSE through any good-sized newsstand. Look at article titles in the most popular magazines. Nearly every magazine features an article on sex. Even by simply skimming through the articles, you would have to agree that editors want us to believe that *the* key to human happiness is sizzling sex. Whether you're married, single, young or old, magazine writers leave us with the impression that if we are not having passionate sex there is something *wrong* with us.

Do humans have to put such focus on sex to find true happiness? Is sex the all-important thing in life?

Let's face it! Our Western society is *obsessed* with sex. Prior to World War I, it was illegal in the United States to print, sell or distribute information about sex. Yet there was a need for proper sex instruction. But now, we are living with the opposite extreme. There are literally mountains of publications that openly discuss details of what should be reserved for the private, most intimate moments between a *husband* and *wife*.

It gets worse. ABC News reported in January that in the U.S., the sale of pornography—in books and magazines, on TV, in movies and on the Internet—has grown into a \$10 billion business. Human sexuality has been grossly corrupted—made into a sleazy business.

On the subject of sex, we have moved from the age of hush to a culture of full disclosure. We must ask this question: Has our increased knowledge and modern openness about sex made us happier? Sadly, the answer is no.

Our rising divorce rate is a good indicator of the growing unhappiness in people's lives. In America, it is projected that one half of all new marriages will end in divorce. This statistic is the same for most every Western nation. Is there a connection between sexual promiscuity and divorce? Experts in marriage and family see a direct link. Infidelity is still

a major cause of marital suffering, anguish and grief. Yet the suffering doesn't end when the marriage does. In fact, usually it just begins. When a marriage ends, a home is broken. Often, children grow up frustrated with the loss of a warm, loving environment that only two loving parents can provide. Youth violence and crime is a direct result of our broken homelife.

Is our sexual freedom adding to the quality of our lives? Emphatically, no! In real fact, Western society's promiscuous use of sex is destroying human health—even killing us. Over 20 million people have died worldwide from the HIV/AIDS epidemic since 1981. National Public Radio reported that approximately 5 million people contracted the AIDS virus in 2003—more than in any previous year (July 6). There is also a rampant increase in other venereal diseases, known as sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Did you know that the United States has the highest STI rate in the industrialized world? Microsoft's *Encarta Reference Library* reports that about half of Americans become infected with an STI before age 35. The economic, social and emotional impact of sexual disease is enormous. Besides the harm to adults, many infants have been left physically scarred, suffering from low birth weight and blindness, or harmful diseases such as pneumonia and meningitis. There is an ever increasing number of orphans due to AIDS deaths (an estimated 18 million by 2010—which is about the population of Australia).

Where is the *sizzle* in these statistics? Shouldn't we begin to question our destructive, sexually loose lifestyles?

Seventh Commandment Stated In the last two issues of the *Trumpet*, we have been covering the commandments that safeguard the incredible sacredness of human relationships and human life. The Fifth Commandment protects the *government* that God established in the

home: "Honor thy father and thy mother ..." This commandment also preserves the parent and child relationship. The Sixth Commandment safeguards human life: "Thou shalt not [murder]"

The Seventh Commandment protects the most vital human relationship—that of husband and wife.

From Mount Sinai, our Creator commanded: "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). Almighty God gave this commandment to protect the honor and sanctity of marriage. The married state is the *highest* earthly relationship possible for human beings. The wording of the commandment directly forbids adultery. The sin of adultery violates the sacred rights granted by the marriage relationship. This means that the commandment forbids any use of sex outside of marriage. Premarital sex is a *grievous wrong* done to a future marriage. God considers it *unfaithfulness* prior to marriage.

Although our free-for-all society refuses to recognize it, the Creator God has a lot to say about the use of sex. God designed sex and He set in motion a great law to regulate its use. Adultery and fornication are capital sins—demanding capital punishment. God told Moses this while the nation of Israel was encamped at Sinai: "And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death" (Leviticus 20:10). Men may try to reason around it, but adultery is a grave sin. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul stated, "For the wages of sin is death ..." (Romans 6:23). Paul means *eternal* death. When a person continues a life of sin—like adultery—without repentance, that individual faces God's judgment in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8).

Why does the sin of adultery call for such a severe punishment? God considers adultery such an awful sin because

of the incredible purpose He planned for marriage. In our sophisticated, supposedly educated world, we have forgotten that the word *holy* should be associated with marriage and the use of sex in marriage. Men, women and children must come to understand the *sacred* meaning of marriage.

God's Purposes for Marriage To fully understand marriage, humans must not leave God out of the equation. Yet our educational system does just that.

Millions of young people attending high schools, colleges and universities are taught science, math, language and history all based on the false theory of evolution. Evolution is simply man's explanation of a creation without a creator. When will the brightest minds wake up to the understanding that the theory of evolution degrades both God and man? Man is not an animal. He is unique, created for an astounding purpose.

In God's plan, marriage and man's incredible human potential are closely connected. It is time for every human being to acknowledge that sex and marriage are God-designed and God-ordained. To do so, we must go to Genesis. When we clear our mind of all prejudice and let the truth speak to us, it is awesome what is revealed.

Mankind is made in God's likeness and image (Genesis 1:26). The word *likeness* shows that we carry the same shape and bodily features as God—only physical. The word *image* refers to God's character. During this mortal life, God intends that we build His righteous, holy character.

Moses gives us details of Adam's and Eve's creation in Genesis 2. He wrote, "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (verse

18). The scriptural record shows that God brought Adam to life first. But God *knew* that Adam was incomplete in himself—it was not good that he was alone! So God decided to create a help *meet*, or *suitable*, for him. God intended to create another human being that Adam could truly share his life with.

Notice that God drives this important point home for us. After Adam's creation, God put Adam to work, requiring him to name the newly created animals. Adam

and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (verse 23). Although Adam was created from the dust of the ground, Eve was not. She was molded and shaped from Adam's own flesh. This fact carries deep meaning. Eve was *created equal* with Adam. As the Apostle Peter states, they were "heirs together of the grace of life" (1 Peter 3:7). Here was another human being—made in God's likeness—who could share life with Adam. She



AUBREY MERCADO

saw firsthand the wonderfully designed *pairing* of the cattle, birds and other living creatures. "[B]ut for Adam there was not found an help meet for him" (verse 20). There was no other creature like Adam. He recognized immediately that he was alone—no one to talk with. There was no creature capable of sharing his hopes, dreams, joys and sorrows.

God then did something incredibly miraculous. He caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep and created a woman out of his rib. This is not Hebrew myth—it is the revealed truth of God! When Adam saw this creature, he was truly elated. He said, "This is now bone of my bones,

was created to *help* Adam by being his *wife* and companion.

When presenting Eve to Adam, God said specifically, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). This verse proves that God instituted marriage—not man or the laws of man! Only God's laws preserve and give honor to marriage.

God made man *male* and *female* (Genesis 1:27). God designed and created sex as a beautiful and holy thing. After the creation of man, Moses recorded, "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good"

**Adultery violates the sacred rights granted by the marriage relationship.
This means that the commandment forbids any use of sex outside of marriage.**

(Genesis 1:31). God viewed the creation of sex in humans as *very good*. There is nothing shameful about God's intended purposes for sex (Genesis 2:25). In fact, the proper use of sex—solely reserved for marriage—actually brings glory to God (1 Corinthians 6:20). For a thorough explanation of what the Bible reveals on the subject of sex, please request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.

Making Man Complete A primary purpose for sex and marriage is to make man and woman *complete*. Each is *incomplete* without the other. Adam *alone* was not able to fulfill the purpose for which God created him. He was not able to learn the vital lessons of building godly character without the woman God created to assist him.

At the time of our first parents' creation, it is clear that God intended Adam and Eve to live together as husband and wife. Of course, that meant *bodily* union. The use of sex in marriage is not sin. Adam and Eve were meant to share *everything* in this life. They were to grow together and become *one* in mind and purpose. Building a happy, mutually supportive marriage would have given them a physical completeness they would not have experienced otherwise.

A second purpose of sex and marriage is for building a family. God told Adam and Eve: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth ..." (Genesis 1:28). With the birth of children comes the serious responsibility of protecting and teaching them. A stable, happy marriage is the key to a happy and stable home. A stable homelife is the only right way to properly nurture a child. God commands all couples, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). People in our fast-paced, materialistic society have become so self-centered that children are criminally neglected. Children are often left to themselves while parents pursue their own selfish goals.

Both parents are responsible for the supervision and education of their children. God charges the father with the overall responsibility to see to the needs of his wife and family (Ephesians 6:4). But the *wife* must shoulder the daily care and training of children. She is the God-created helper to her husband, and this most definitely includes his children. A woman can only achieve the true happiness God intended for her by embracing

her God-ordained role as wife, mother and homemaker. This is not the teaching of a man or men. God commands that young women be taught "to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2:4-5). We cannot

God designed marital relations to bring a man and woman together so there is a complete surrender of two lives—the perfect union of mind, heart and body.

take family lightly and claim to be religious. God the Father and Christ put prime importance on family. So must all men and women.

Character Begins at Home A stable family life is the very foundation of all civilized societies. History shows repeatedly that when family life breaks down, nations crumble. Respect for law, authority, the property and welfare of others—elements of solid moral character—are all learned in the home. The qualities of goodness, patience, understanding, compassion and cooperation—all necessary to build up society—are first practiced at home. God's holy, righteous character is outflowing concern for others. Jesus Christ stated, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Only well-balanced, stable homes can foster the growth of such character.

In this 21st century, men and women still want to experiment with marriage and family; many are searching for *alternative* families that will work. Let's face reality. None of these alternatives will work. The family structure God designed for man is perfect. It is *man* that must change. We must stop trying to change God.

A third purpose for sex and marriage is for the preservation of the matrimonial bond in order to safeguard and protect the home and family. To fully obey God's law in respect to marriage, a man and wife must totally *give* themselves to each

other in every phase and aspect of their lives. The spiritual principle of *give* must be practiced in the sexual relationship.

The Apostle Paul taught, "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency" (1 Corinthians 7:3-5). It is clear that neither God nor His true ministers ever taught that sex is evil, shameful or degrading. Paul's teaching here is based on the *positive* principle locked within the Seventh Commandment. Paul taught that *you shall have sex*—in marriage! Sexual relations are a debt that married couples owe each other. Yet, it is a debt of love—true giving—not getting or taking. Sex must never become a weapon to harm or wield power over another. It must be the wellspring of mutual love that binds a husband and wife together for life.

God created sexual attraction as the initial spark to kindle genuine love. Love in its deepest spiritual sense is union. God designed marital relations to bring a man and woman together so there is a complete surrender of two lives—the perfect union of mind, heart and body. No home can be broken that is founded on such a union. Read our article on page 30 for some practical solutions to make your marriage truly happy.

Marriage—Type of Christ and His Church

God considers marriage holy. Why? Because it is a type of the relationship between Christ and His Church. Few understand this deep spiritual subject.

Paul taught, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing" (Ephesians 5:22-24). This strong teaching is not popular today. Yet its intrinsic spiritual value is immeasurable. It is worth more than all the gold in the world to those women willing to apply it.

God shows through Paul that a wife is to submit herself to her husband as the head of the home just as she must learn

to submit to Christ for all eternity. In her marriage relationship to her husband, she is learning the deep spiritual lessons of obedience, loyalty and faithfulness.

Paul addresses husbands by teaching, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself” (verses 25, 28). This society desperately needs this kind of male leadership.

A real masculine husband will serve, help, protect, teach and give himself to his wife and family in the same manner as Christ did the Church. A man who truly follows Christ will gladly take the reins of leadership as the head of the home, yet he will use that office to serve, not bully, his wife and family. Almighty God holds all husbands responsible for being the right kind of leader.

Isn't it time all men and women evaluate how they are living in their marriage?

There is a tremendous spiritual purpose behind marriage. Paul continued, “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church” (verses 30-32). Explained here are what should be the real goals for all marriages.

Through a marriage, God makes a man and a woman one flesh. That union must then picture the eternal, loving and serving relationship of Christ and His Church; therefore, nothing should come between a man and his wife.

God gave marriage and family to human beings to prepare us for our eternal future in the God Family. The Church will marry Jesus Christ at His return (Revelation 19:7-9). From that union will come multiple millions of children born into the God Family. The lesson of marriage is to teach us eternal faithfulness to Jesus Christ as our Head. To sever a marriage represents a tragic failure to learn what God most desires to teach us in marriage. God must reveal this great mystery to you. He will to all willing to listen.

God Hates Divorce God wants us to prove our faithfulness to Him for all eternity by remaining *faithful* to our mate in this life. What kind of message do we send to God if we cannot remain faithful to one human being for life? If we cannot

remain true for a few years—how can we ever remain true for eternity?

Divorce is rampant in our society. Eventually, our way of living is going to exact a heavy price. God tells us through the Prophet Malachi, “For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away ...” (Malachi 2:16). “Putting away” simply means divorce. God hates divorce.

Action follows thought.

People who desire to obey God must learn to guide their mind and thoughts away from all lust and wrong sensual desires.

Jesus Christ taught this fact clearly.

The Pharisees, always critical of Christ, one day quizzed Him about divorce. Divorce was common in Judah at the time of Christ. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?” Jesus responded firmly: “Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. *What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder*” (Matthew 19:3-6). Taking a justified swipe back at these hypocritical lawyers, Christ asked them if they had *read* the account of marriage in Genesis 2.

It is clear that Christ upheld God's Word that legalizes only one husband, one wife for life. What God has joined, man has no authority to separate.

Not liking Christ's answer, and wanting to trap Him, the Pharisees fired back, “Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?” (verse 7). Jesus Christ, the Maker of man and marriage, answered simply and directly: “Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so” (verse 8). From the beginning of man's creation, God intended that couples not divorce. It is because of the hardness of men's hearts that divorce even exists.

Just after this public debate, in private discussions with the disciples Christ taught, “Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery” (Mark 10:11-12). God the Father and Jesus Christ name divorce and remarriage exactly what it is—*adultery!*

Other Violations To fully obey the Seventh Commandment, we must also observe the *spirit* of the law. Unfaithfulness in marriage begins with the sin of lust. We must eliminate this sin from our minds. Jesus Christ taught, “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matthew 5:27-28). Christ shows that you break the Seventh Commandment when you even think about *sexual lust* toward another person. Action follows thought. People who desire to obey God must learn to guide their minds and thoughts away from all lust and wrong sensual desires.

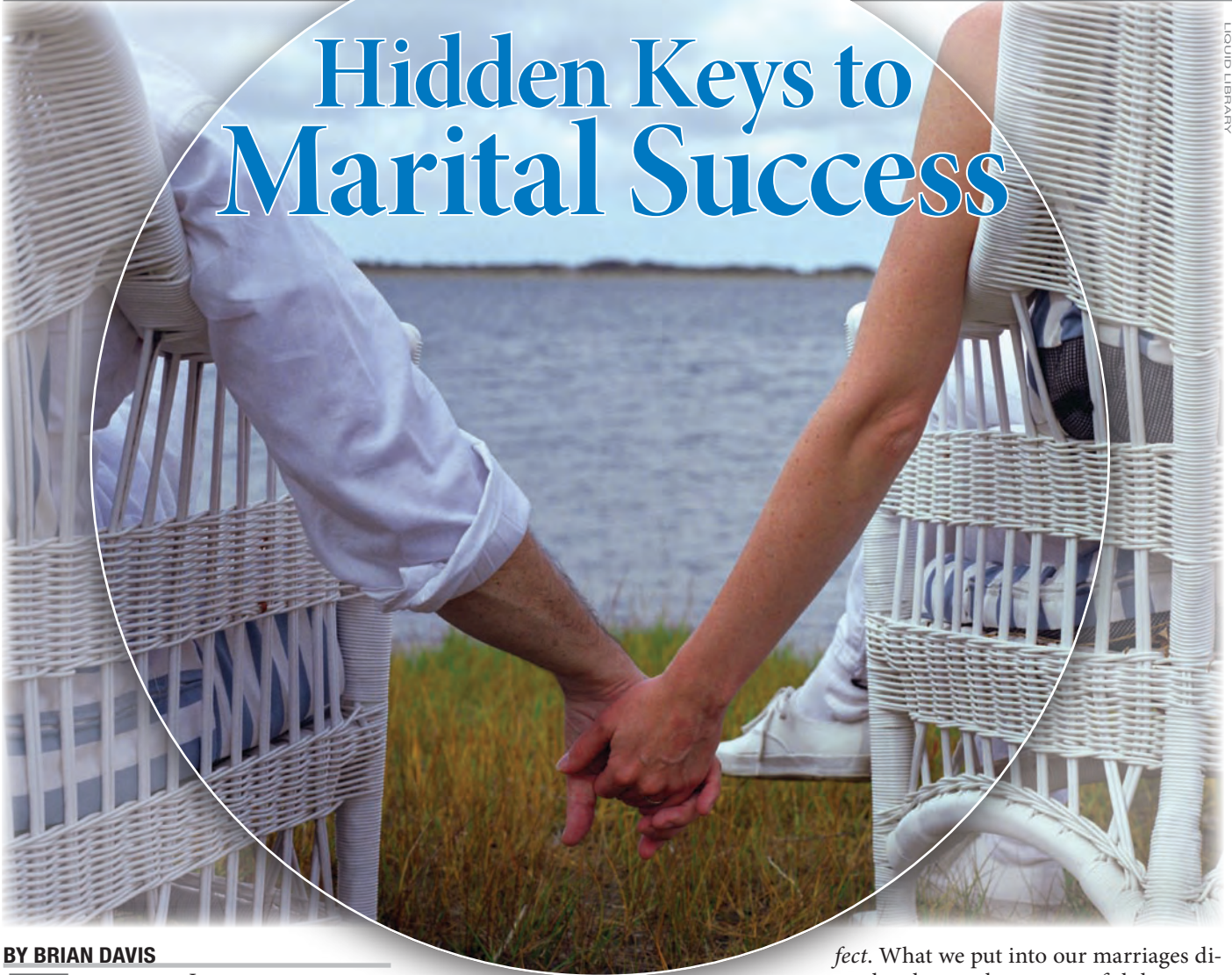
In our world, people have become so accustomed to an open display of sexual lust in clothing styles, in advertising, on TV and in movies that most don't even realize what is happening. This base and degrading emphasis on sex in our Western culture is a grievous sin. We must realize that all use of all forms of pornography is *adultery*. The death penalty hangs over anyone's head that engages in such a lifestyle (Romans 6:23). We must understand what a serious matter this is!

God's Word is plain that fornicators will not enter into the Kingdom of God. Paul taught, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind ... shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). A wise and loving God states that all human beings should “flee fornication” (verse 18). God's laws are written for our good and the good of those around us. Obeying them brings real joy, happiness and excitement to life.

What this world needs most is strong teaching about sex, marriage and faithfulness. That education can only begin when we are willing to obey God's Seventh Commandment in both the *letter* and the *spirit*: *Thou shalt not commit adultery!* ■

Hidden Keys to Marital Success

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BY BRIAN DAVIS

FRED AND JENNIFER WERE SO *happy!* This was their wedding day, and life couldn't be better! As Fred looked at his beautiful bride, he reflected back on recent memories of dating this special lady. He had dated other girls, but they were nothing like Jennifer.

Jennifer would watch ball games with him. She would hand him tools when he had to work on his car. She seemed really interested when he talked to her about his hunting or fishing trips. They would go out to dinner and could laugh and joke with each other with ease. She was never bored by his jokes. "Yes," he thought as he gazed at her, "I have one *special lady!*"

Jennifer was thinking the same thing about Fred. She *just knew* that she had found the only man on Earth for her.

In the midst of all the frenzied activities that accompany a wedding day, she found herself pondering very fond memories. She recalled how Fred would hold her hand and take long walks with her

down country roads. She remembered how pleasantly surprised she was when he *cheerfully* agreed to take her to the theater to see a play. Her fondest memories were of their long talks while sitting in their favorite coffee shop on weekend mornings.

How many marriages begin the way Fred and Jennifer's did? *Millions!*

Sadly, however, *many* of those same marriages end in divorce. For every two marriages that occurred in the U.S. during the 1990s, there was one divorce. These are sad and devastating odds! This problem is by no means isolated to the United States. Indeed, the past 4 to 5 decades have seen divorce rates increase in every industrialized country in the world.

How can so many blissful and joyous courtships and wedding days end in such misery? Even many marriages that haven't ended in divorce are currently mired in the depression of misery and separation. Why does it happen? The answer lies in understanding *cause and ef-*

fect. What we put into our marriages directly relates to how successful they are.

Just like Fred and Jennifer, most people are overjoyed on their wedding day. They believe they have found the man or woman that they will live with and love for the rest of their lives. When those same marriages that started out so joyfully limp along near the doldrums of agony—and *oftentimes even end in divorce*—there is a reason!

Let's look at some of the major, *hidden* keys that must start being *put into a marriage* in order to find true success. There are vital elements that husbands and wives must give and vital roles that each must fulfill in order for any marriage to be a real success. If you apply these keys, not only will you be well on your way to keeping the vows you made on your wedding day, but you *and your mate* will be filled with joy along the way!

Love

First, there must be genuine LOVE! At first glance, this may not seem like a hid-

den key. It seems that everyone today talks about love. But most people do not know what real love is. All too often, what people describe as love is nothing more than lust or some other selfish idea.

The LOVE that must be present in any successful marriage is not lust or any other self-centered motivation. It is a genuine, outgoing concern for your mate! Too many people today talk about relationships and marriage from a “get” mentality. *What is he doing for me? What am I getting out of this relationship?* If you think this way about your marriage relationship, it is destined for failure.

God’s way is the way of *give*. Marriage is ordained of God and must operate accordingly. It is a huge blow to the success of a marriage if both spouses—or even just one—are trying to “get” or “take” for their own benefit.

Many say that marriage is a “give-take relationship”—but that’s NOT true! Marriage is a *give-give* relationship. Both the husband and the wife must be thinking of the other mate continually. *What can I do to brighten his or her day—to lighten his or her burden? What am I giving to my spouse?*

In marriage, there needs to be an effort at 100 percent giving! If both the husband and wife think about *giving* to their spouse 100 percent of the time, both will be *receiving* 100 percent of the time. Receiving is a lot different from taking! One way leads to a vicious cycle that will end miserably, while the other way will create a beautiful circle of love, warmth, friendship and closeness. *And*, both the husband and the wife will be having their needs met in the relationship without either one of them *taking* anything.

Jesus Christ is in a marriage relationship with the Church (Ephesians 5:32). Follow His example of love, service and sacrifice for His mate. He gave EVERYTHING in order to serve His mate! He was certainly not looking at what He could take from the relationship. That would not be love. Instead, He gave His own life for His mate

If both the husband and wife think about giving to their spouse 100 percent of the time, both will be receiving 100 percent of the time.



In marriage, a husband and wife rise together and they fall together. They are a team and must work together as a team.

(verse 25). He nourishes and cherishes His mate (verse 29). If you are nourishing and cherishing your mate, you will be treating him or her with respect, dignity, appreciation and honor. You will see your mate as very special and treat him or her accordingly. Too many treat their mates with disrespect—as being unimportant and unloved. Many of us need to think long and hard about what motivates our daily actions and thoughts when it comes to our own marriage relationship.

God’s Word gives us a very clear definition of godly love in 1 Corinthians 13. Let’s focus on a portion of this description of true love. As we do, think of your marriage and how you treat your mate.

Verse 4 in the Moffatt translation states, “Love is very patient, very kind. Love knows no jealousy; love makes no parade, gives itself no airs.” How are you doing so far?

Verse 5 continues, “Is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful.” How are you doing now? Is this kind of love in your marriage?

“Love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient. Love never disappears” (verses 6-8).

Is this type of thinking prevalent in your marriage? Are you patient with one another? Do you vaunt and esteem each other rather than yourselves? Do you give each other the benefit of the doubt rather than thinking evil of each other and assuming the worst? How about being kind to one another? That means that you speak to each other nicely and with consideration. Pleasant words, pleasant tones of voice and pleasant facial expressions should be used when talking to one another. With this

kind of love, your marriage will indeed bear all things and endure all things—and it will NEVER FAIL!



This passage in 1 Corinthians gives us an excellent description of the kind of love we need. Understand, however, that this love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and cannot simply be conjured up. “[T]he love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy [Spirit] which is given unto us” (Romans 5:5). Even a true Christian must cry out to God every day in prayer for more of this godly quality in order to truly love his or her mate as God intends! If you would like more information on how to receive the incomparable gift of God’s Holy Spirit, you are welcome to request our free booklet *Repentance Toward God*.

One Flesh

Next, realize that you and your mate are a team—one unit. God is the one who instituted marriage, and He knows best the foundation and laws concerning it. He told us that we are to become “one flesh” when we enter into the marriage union (Genesis 2:24). The Apostle Paul, in the New Testament, reiterates this fact (Ephesians 5:31).

A husband and wife are two individuals who must become “one flesh”—a cohesive unit, or team, working together in harmony. Physically, of course, a man and a woman can become one flesh through sex (1 Corinthians 6:16), but you must *also strive* to become one flesh emotionally and spiritually. You must be one. You must be united. You must be sharing the same hopes, dreams, aspirations and goals. Many marriages operate on the basis of “two individuals” rather than this principle of “one flesh.”

Numerous individuals ridicule their mate in front of others. *Why can’t you cook like her? You don’t make enough money! Look at how fat my husband has gotten!* It’s amazing what mates say to and about each other. But how many stop to think what that says about *themselves*? If your mate is so bad, what does that say about *you*? After all, you did agree to the marriage, right?

In marriage, a husband and wife rise together and they fall together. They are a team and must work together as a team.

How many think of marriage in these terms? Yet God ordained that it be this way from the very beginning of mankind's existence on Earth.

God's instruction in the Garden of Eden included a command that the man and woman "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it ..." (Genesis 1:28). This command involves marriage and family. It involves the establishment of a home. It involves caring for and rearing children. It demands that *both sexes* grow together and work together within God's proven and clearly defined laws in order to be successful in fulfilling this instruction.

As with any team, there must be organization, cooperation and real effort put into it or there will be no success. Imagine a football team that did not discuss a game plan or strategy during the week preceding the game. What if it decided not to practice during the week? What if the players rarely spoke to each other and tried to avoid each other as much as possible? What if they thought, "Well, the running back might lose, but I'll still win!"? *How absurd!* Everyone on the team knows that they will either succeed together or fail together, and they work diligently every day to ensure success! More husbands and wives NEED to think this way about their marriage.

Government

Also, what football team can succeed without someone calling the plays? This leads us to another hidden key that is *absolutely required* for marital success.

In American football, there are 11 men on a team working together. What if they did not discuss which play would be run? What if they all—individually—*decided for themselves* which play they would run without any cooperation with the other players—without anyone to make a final decision and actually call a play for everyone? Why, that would be quite a disaster! It is not too difficult to predict—with all certainty—that a team like that will end up as the loser every time.

Most people can easily see that without someone in charge to make final decisions, there is chaos and confusion. This applies to far more than football. Can you imagine a business being operated without a CEO? How about an army without a general? Why is it people can understand this principle being necessary in business or warfare, yet when it comes to running a family they are quite *hostile* to the idea of one person being in charge and mak-

ing the final decisions? Unless you apply this vital key within your marriage, you are doomed to certain failure.

Of course, the first two hidden keys mentioned in this article factor in greatly to this key as well. The fact that someone is the head of the family and makes those final decisions should not mean that person is a tyrant or a bully. This structure and organization is all implemented to be within the boundaries of real love and within the spirit of teamwork and cooperation.

The husband is to lead his wife and family. He is to lead because God has ordained it to be that way (Ephesians 5:22-33). And *it works!* We have abundant proof in today's society that human ways simply *don't work*. Again, God knows His own creation. He knew millennia ago that there must be love, cooperation, teamwork *and government* for any marriage to succeed.

This does not mean that the wife is a second-class citizen. The wife was created to be a fitting help, or aid, to her husband (Genesis 2:18). How can she be a help to him if she is treated like a mute or never given any responsibility? Every husband should recognize what a great value a virtuous wife is to him and the family. She is worth far more than any material wealth he could ever acquire (Proverbs 31:10). Every husband should study the 31st chapter of Proverbs and realize what a blessing a virtuous wife is. Every wife should study the 31st chapter of Proverbs and realize what kind of character she needs to acquire in order to really be a fitting help for a husband. She should really *desire* to be this kind of helpmeet.

A husband, while he is to make the final decisions for the household, should consult his wife for her opinions. She really is his most valuable intellectual asset and can give him tremendously helpful advice. She is his "help meet" (Genesis 2:20). Seek your wife's input. Discuss

A husband, while he is to make the final decisions for the household, should consult his wife for her opinions. She really is his most valuable intellectual asset and can give him tremendously helpful advice.

all aspects of the decision that must be made. If both the husband and the wife are seeking to obey God and striving to do what is best for each other and the family, most of the time they will agree as to what decision must be made. When an agreement can't be reached for one reason or another, the husband must prayerfully (taking into account the input his wife has given) make a decision that he feels will best benefit his family. In such cases, it is then the wife's responsibility to back her husband's decision and try her best to make that decision a success.

Again, think of the football analogy. In this case, let's think of the husband as the quarterback and the wife as the running back. The quarterback may be leaning toward calling a certain play. The running back may have some input and think another play would be best for reasons that he has seen from his unique perspective. The quarterback would be incredibly stupid to not consider the input of the running back. They can discuss it and maybe the quarterback will say, *Yes, you're right—that's a good point. We'll run the play you've suggested.* Or he might say, *Well, that's a good point. However, because of these other reasons I think the best play to run would be the one I originally mentioned.* Do you husbands discuss matters with your wife like this? And do you really listen and consider her input?

Now, what if the running back would get angry and say, *Well, I'm not running that play. He can run that play if he wants, but I'm still going to run the one I want!?* Is there any doubt what a disaster that kind of reaction would produce? Yet, how many wives react just that way when their husband makes a decision?

Regardless of the play that is run, we all should see the necessity of having someone to make the final decision as to which play is called. We should also see the absolute necessity of everyone on the team getting behind that decision and trying their best to make it

a success. This is an example of a sports team, but it illustrates a godly principle.

Apply this godly form of government in your home! It is a hidden key that will cause great peace, happiness and success!



If you want to continually grow together throughout your marriage, learn to enjoy the same hobbies or recreational activities.



© JANEYBETH CHURCH

taken a big step toward growing apart.

If you want to continually grow together throughout your marriage, learn to enjoy the same hobbies or recreational activities. Go

hiking TOGETHER. Go walking TOGETHER. Play tennis TOGETHER. Go to the theater TOGETHER. This is not to say that you must do *everything* together. But, let the point be made that if you and your mate are continually headed in different directions throughout the day, you are headed for disaster! If you and your mate stop doing things together, don't be surprised if one morning you wake up to discover that you are not friends anymore. After all, don't we all like to SPEND TIME with our friends?

What are your spouse's needs or desires? You can grow closer together by learning and meeting each other's needs. Relationships are built on mutual needs being fulfilled. In marriage, we must learn what our mate's needs are and work hard to fulfill them.

Continually ask yourself what you can do to improve your marriage. *What can I do to help, build and uplift my relationship with my spouse? What can I do to make this marriage grow and move forward?* This has to be a conscious pattern of thinking in any marriage if a couple is to grow closer together.

These hidden keys are based upon God's infallible Word and are vital to the success of any marriage. It takes sustained, committed effort from *both* husband and wife; however, even *one mate* making a concerted, sustained, persevering effort to apply these principles can have a decidedly positive impact on a marriage (read, for example, 1 Peter 3:1-2). Take the initiative to improve the relationship. If you apply these keys, you will be well on your way to avoiding the traps and pitfalls that many marriages fall into!

If you'd like to strengthen your marriage even more by studying beyond the subject of *how* marriage, please request our free booklet *Why Marriage? Soon Obsolete?* ■



the *Washington Quarterly* that brought out why the Islamic world is so critical to Europe (Summer 2004). Savage summed up the EU's interest in Wider Europe as follows: "Growing unrest in the adjacent Islamic world, which also resonates among Europe's own Muslim minorities; concerns about unwanted immigrants; Islamic fundamentalist terrorism, and weapons of mass destruction emanating from the region; as well as energy dependence, all make stability in the 'crucible of crisis' a priority for Europeans."

Savage concluded his piece by saying, "It would indeed be ironic if Islam provided the impetus for redefining Europe, as it did more than a millennium ago" Yes, Islam will cause some pretty sudden changes in Europe, but not the way Savage thinks.

A biblical prophecy we have repeatedly drawn attention to forecasts a dramatic clash in the Middle East—a final religious crusade between a Muslim-driven constellation of countries headed by Iran and a Catholic-dominated European Union. "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south [the Mideast power] push at him: and the king of the north [the European power] shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over" (Daniel 11:40).

In the August 1998 edition of the *Trumpet*, editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "Notice what their first action is after they are victorious. 'He shall enter also into the GLORIOUS LAND, and many countries shall be overthrown ...' (Daniel 11:41). They 'enter' into the glorious land, or the Holy Land. The Hebrew indicates this is a peaceful entry—not forced.

"The Jews appear to invite them in as peacekeepers. But it leads to a great double-cross, prophesied in Ezekiel 23."

This dramatic prophecy is what we see now in its early stages. Europe wants to create for itself a sphere of influence in the Middle East. At present, it sees political involvement in the peace process as a means toward that end, but this will not be the case for much longer. Watch for Europe's continued and increasing interest in the Middle East—which will prove to be solely for its *own* benefit—with both Israelis and Arabs being the losers.

It will take the intervention of *Jesus Christ* for the only solution to the Middle East conflict to be imposed (Isaiah 27:12-13; 30:19).

With reporting by DONNA GRIEVES



GETTY IMAGES

CENTER STAGE At the site of the 2004 Republican National Convention

VALUES

Forgotten Platform

IN AMERICAN POLITICS THE past several months, much has been said about national security, the economy, jobs, social security and health care. Sadly, we have heard little or nothing about another dangerous threat facing our nation—the breakdown in family. Our politicians, our commentators, our academics, the media—have all but given up the struggle to promote and safeguard traditional family values. Indeed, many of these powerful voices are actually working actively to undermine the family.

Perhaps some leaders don't feel qualified to speak to the defense of marriage and family because of their own background. Consider the speakers at one political convention a few months back. One had previously admitted to sexually harassing women. He is also a strong defender of abortion and homosexual rights. Another speaker has a homosexual daughter—he too is a proponent of same-sex marriage. Two other speakers at the convention got caught up in high-profile, messy divorces. One was in such a bad marriage that he had to move out

of New York City's mayoral mansion—that city's first mayor to ever do so.

Those were speakers at the *Republican* Convention—supposedly the

more conservative leadership when it comes to traditional “values.”

“Since it is a basic truism that a solid family structure is the foundational bulwark of any stable and permanent society,” Herbert Armstrong wrote in *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, “this fact means only one thing—CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT IS ON THE WAY DOWN—AND OUT—unless that great ‘Unseen Strong Hand from Someplace’ soon intervenes and saves today’s sick society.”

Thankfully, that Strong Hand *will* intervene and save humankind from destroying itself (Matthew 24:21-22).

FAMILY

Ever-Changing Institutions

“MARRIAGES ARE NOT only breaking down all around us; the very usefulness and desirability of the custom is being seriously questioned! Is marriage on the way out, after all these generations and centuries? Is the home, and family life, to disappear from human society?”

As bad as it was when Herbert W. Armstrong wrote those words 36 years ago, it's even worse now. Consider:

Today, only one third of American households have children, compared to about 50 percent in 1960. By 2010, only one quarter of all households will be composed

ECONOMY

Hideous Hidden Debt

AMERICA'S NATIONAL DEBT, AT A mind-blowing \$7.5 trillion, is only a small corner of a gloomy financial shadow looming over the U.S. economy. A *USA Today* analysis found that “The long-term economic health of the United States is threatened by \$53 trillion in government debts and liabilities that start to come due in four years when baby boomers begin to retire. ... The \$53 trillion is what federal, state and local governments need immediately ...



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to repay debts and honor future benefits promised under Medicare, Social Security and government pensions” (October 4).

In 2008, payments will come due on the debt with the first of the baby boomer generation—those born in 1946 who, at age 62, will qualify for early retirement benefits from Social Security. Then in 2011, these Americans will turn 65 and qualify for Medicare.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan told the House Budget Committee at the end of September, “As a nation, we may have already made promises to coming generations of retirees that we will be unable to fulfill” (ibid.).

The results of not taking action while baby boomers are still working could be “catastrophic,” according to some economists.

“The worst-case scenario is a sudden crisis—perhaps a major terrorist attack or a shutoff of oil from the Middle East—that triggers a loss of confidence by investors in the U.S. economy” (ibid.).

This very scenario has been put forth in the pages of this magazine before. America's shaky economy will not hold up much longer. For more on this, see our May 2004 article “When the Debt Bomb Explodes” at www.theTrumpet.com.

of families with children.

Today, women have an average of 2.1 children. And that number is going down. In 1960, it was 3.5.

The average American spends about 45 percent of his or her life living with a spouse and children—down from 62 percent in 1960.

Today, 34 percent of American children live apart from their biological father, up from 17 percent in 1960.

In 2002, the number of children living in single-parent households climbed to 28 percent, compared with 9 percent in 1960. Much of this is due to illegitimate births and divorce. Since 1960, the percentage of babies born to unwed mothers has increased *more than sixfold*. The number of births to unwed mothers in 2001 was the highest ever recorded. Today, about *a third* of all births occur out of wedlock.

The divorce rate is more than *twice* what it was in 1960.

Then there is the increasing popularity of cohabitation as either an alternative to marriage or a means to ease into marriage. Most people now live together before getting married. Yet studies have shown that living together before marriage actually increases the likelihood for divorce later.

Meanwhile, homosexuals are clamoring for the “right” to legally marry. What does it say about our society when the most vociferous proponent of marriage comes from the homosexual lobby?

Family Time

“77 percent of all children surveyed say they wish they could have more time together with their parents. Yet less than half of parents (46 percent) know it.”

www.familycircle.com

ARTVILLE



TEENS

Not Really Sex?

IN THE LATE 1990S, IT was dubbed “the new good-night kiss.” Since then, experts and parents all across America are coming to terms with the fact that more teens are engaging in the latest sexual fad—oral sex.

A 2003 survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 36 percent of 15- to 17-year-olds have done it. “Kids are not having intercourse as much, but other forms of sexual behavior have replaced it,” said Dr. Laurence Steinberg, quoted

in the October 19 edition of *Family Circle*.

Dr. Steinberg states, “The notion that it is not sex has become a part of our culture.”

Another doctor, Robert Blum, from John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, was also quoted in the article, stating that the “abstinence message” of many sex education programs has been interpreted as “no vaginal intercourse, but everything else is OK.”

Many young people hold to the myth that oral sex is a way to avoid STDs, when actually gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes and even HIV can be contracted through this kind of sexual encounter. It’s no surprise then that 20 percent of the new STD cases reported each year occur in adolescents.

Request our free book *The Missing Dimension in Sex* for profound insight on the purpose and right uses of sex.

TELEVISION

Desperate Networks

THE TELEVISION season’s newest hit is ABC’s racy suburban soap opera, *Desperate Housewives*. The program glamorizes sin and demeans the role of motherhood—just what the network needed to pull out of its ratings slump.

The controversy from the show, in fact, has caused major sponsors like Lowe’s and Kellogg to pull their ads from the show.

But according to CNN’s *Money* magazine, this isn’t hurting the Disney-owned network’s newest creation. “ABC officials insisted that the show has been attracting more advertisers, not fewer” (October 19).

Since initial ad spots for the program were sold in May, rates have doubled. A 30-second spot is now about \$300,000.

Ironically, the controversy created by the major sponsors pulling out might even attract more attention to the show and more advertising revenue in the coffers of ABC and Disney.

GETTY IMAGES



TIME

I Know What You Did Last Year

AMERICANS SPENT FOUR months of 2003 sleeping, six weeks watching television, and just 4½ days exercising, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The study didn’t exactly portray Americans as overworked.

Think of it—six full weeks, 24 hours every day—that’s how much time we spent watching television, if we compacted it all together. It’s something to think about the next time we complain about having only two weeks of vacation time.

According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, which reported on the study, “Americans watch two hours and 34 minutes of TV a day on average, compared with 20 minutes a day exercising and eight minutes a day volunteering or participating in religious or spiritual activities” (October 14; emphasis ours). That amounts to about two days—*out of a whole year*—that we devote to religious and spiritual activities.

As author Annie Dillard once said, “How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.”

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SOCIETYWATCH is compiled and edited by Stephen Flurry, with assistance from the *Trumpet’s* editorial team. If you run across items that could be used here, send them to us at SOCIETYWATCH, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or e-mail societywatch@theTrumpet.com. If you e-mail a story from a website, be sure to include the URL address.



Our August article “Motherhood: The Untold Story” provoked a significant response, particularly from our women readers, on both sides of the fence.

Like many readers, Marisha Bowie of Chicago, Ill., appreciated the article. “Nine years ago, I took a women’s studies course as a senior in college,” she wrote. “I debated many of my fellow classmates as well as my professor on this very subject. For the last four decades, motherhood has been under assault in this country. This has gone to the extremes so much that I as a single woman in my early 30s have dated many men who say they want and expect the woman they marry to continue to work outside the home after they start a family. . . . Women’s liberation has brainwashed women into believing that there is something wrong with being just a housewife and men into believing that all women are liberated today.”

Elizabeth Metropoulos of Bangor, Maine, gave a unique perspective on one point in the article. “Author Stephen Flurry missed an essential point that was hinted at through his biblical reference from Titus 2:3, that older women should teach younger women. Children need their mothers, but mothers need community. The mothers of the 1950s, isolated in their ‘perfect’ homes, went crazy. Mothers need to be together with their children in the context of a larger, supportive community, or neighborhood, or extended family base. This support is what mothers need to be healthy mothers raising healthy children—together with loving fathers.”

Clare Villanti of Emmitsburg, Md., questioned the article’s source material. “I so look forward to reading your publication each time I receive it. . . . I must confess, though, that I was very disappointed to read about your convictions on a woman’s place. . . .

“Jesus is the one I pray to when I need guidance, inspiration, consolations, wisdom, etc. Christ is the Head of my household. Even if men everywhere were living Christ’s example, Jesus is my Savior

and Lord and the one I turn to. This is in alignment with the first and second of the Ten Commandments. . . . Most of the references in the Bible regarding a woman’s place as mentioned by the *Trumpet*’s articles on family, fatherhood, etc. are quotations of the Apostle Paul. . . . The attitude expressed by Paul is in direct contrast to Christ’s compassionate and supportive example.

“I can only describe the Apostle Paul’s references to women as brazenly arrogant and condescending to say the least. . . . Using God’s Word to justify having authority or power over another (the dictionary supports these two terms as synonymous) is shameful and the source of so much conflict throughout history, especially today. The *Trumpet* is quick to point out how absolute power corrupts absolutely with reference to the European Union, yet it supports male authority over female. I thank God that our U.S. Constitution realizes that free speech and voting rights are for both women and men.”

This last letter warrants a fair response. Firstly, if we look honestly at the Bible we can see clearly that the Apostle Paul was not the only biblical writer to record God’s principle concerning the husband being the head of the home. For example, the Apostle Peter states that the wife should be in subjection to the husband (1 Peter 3:1). The husband is to give honor to the wife, and “dwell with [her] according to knowledge” (verse 7). In the Old Testament, the Prophet Isaiah foretold that children would oppress and women rule, which would “destroy the way of thy paths” (Isaiah 3:12). Of course, when humans were created, the man was assigned to lead the family, and the woman was created to help him (Genesis 2:18). So we can see that God’s instruction concerning the family structure is consistent throughout the Bible. These roles do not degrade either the man or the woman. When a man loves his wife, and the wife submits to him, that results in beautiful families.

Secondly, to dismiss the statements written by Paul denies that they are actually the inspired Word of God, not of Paul. 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. If we dismiss portions of the Bible, then it is not the final authority in our life.

European Union

RECENTLY, I WAS ABLE TO READ THE *Philadelphia Trumpet*. The information contained within those pages has enlightened my understanding of the European Union. For several years, I have felt the EU would play a big part in world affairs prior to Jesus’s return. . . . What I read in the August 2004 issue in regard to Germany being the ancient Assyrians allowed me to view my ancestors in a whole new light. Once I finished reading, I immediately thanked God for the late Mr. Herbert Armstrong, as well as for everyone responsible for the publication of the PT.

Dan Widener—PENDLETON, IND.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE SAMPLE issue of the *Trumpet*. I spent much of this Sabbath engrossed in its articles. I’ve read publications from other like-minded organizations, but never have I read articles so in-depth, well-written and explained. I’ve gained much insight

into the world stage and prophecy that I only had a base knowledge of yesterday.

Garry Johnson—SEVIERVILLE, TENN.

“THE RETURN OF IMPERIALISM” (JULY 2004) is the best article I’ve read from any magazine. King Europe has retained the global throne, and I thank the *Trumpet* for sharing such knowledge.

Questa Walker—HOMER, LA.

Remember the Sabbath

THE INCREDIBLY EYE-OPENING ARTICLE “Remember God’s Sabbath Day” (August) by Dennis Leap—one of my favorite writers—really did magic on me.

I never took the Fourth Commandment so seriously, but this inspiring article has explained to me its importance. Then I got all previous issues of your article series on the Ten Commandments. Your article series has made me repent like never before. This is the best series

I ever read anywhere. I find it hard to wait for next issue of the *Trumpet*.

Jignesh Rathod—GUJARAT, INDIA

I WAS AN ADMIRER OF HERBERT ARMSTRONG and his TV program and was very sad when he died but sadder yet when after his death I continued the relationship with his church. To my surprise and disappointment, everything and everyone sounded and seemed like it was an entirely different group. I stayed away for many years until one day by chance I came across the *Key of David* program and realized that it was somewhat connected to Mr. Armstrong. I am once again reading the literature and learning more and more about God and the Bible.

Lydia Roz—ELMHURST, N.Y.

Comments?

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or: The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099,
Edmond, OK 73083

A Real Beauty

In memory of Barbara Jeanne Flurry (1944-2004)

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

HOLDING IT TOGETHER AT YOUR MOTHER'S FUNERAL isn't easy—particularly when you're giving the eulogy. The video montage of her life helped in that regard. The pictures I saw made me smile—shots of my mother and father in Hawaii with my sister and me in tow, family portraits, dinner dances, speech banquets, vacations—they all brought back such wonderful memories.

But I nearly lost it at the last photo—the one displayed right before I spoke. It was my mom's senior picture from high school. I'd seen it before, but not like this. As I sat in the audience, staring at this picture, it dawned on me that this beautiful, healthy-looking teenager who would later bring me into the world was now dead.

I never saw her at that time in her life—but I did see her the night she died. And she didn't look much like that photo. Her skin had wrinkled over the years, her hair turned grey. The massive strokes she had in the months before she died marred her appearance all the more. Right toward the end, jaundice had set in and her body was swollen with fluid.

What a contrast to the physical beauty Western culture is so obsessed with. We glamorize beauty, among women especially, as if good looks and a youthful appearance are all that matters. In this world, physical beauty is almost everything, as attested to by the billions we spend each year on our looks: cosmetic surgeries like breast implants, liposuction, tummy tucks and face-lifts; Botox; makeovers; full-body waxing; chemical peels; colonics; manicures; pedicures—and on it goes. Even *teenagers*, thanks in part to popular reality shows and celebrities and models who keep getting younger, are joining the ranks of those willing to pay big bucks to alter their look or to “delay” the aging process EVERYONE eventually goes through.

Now obviously, God wants us to be physically healthy and fit. He wants us to take care of ourselves—even our appearance. But just think of how different this world would be if we paid as much attention to *inner beauty* as we do outer beauty. Peter compared life in the flesh to a blade of grass or a flower. Grass withers, he said, and flowers fall away (1 Peter 1:24-25).

James compared human life to a vapor that appears for a short time and then vanishes (James 4:14).

IT'S NO WONDER GOD SAYS BEAUTY IS VAIN! (Proverbs 31:30). It doesn't last. And even before it fades, it can be dangerously deceptive. Lucifer's heart was “lifted up” because of his beauty (Ezekiel 28:17). He couldn't get his mind off his own beauty and it caused him to turn against and fight God. This is

how Lucifer became Satan. And he has since foisted off on an unsuspecting and gullible world his interpretation of what beauty is (Revelation 12:9).

In examining one's real worth—his or her beauty—God gives *no thought* or consideration at all to what's outside. He always looks on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

In 1 Peter 3, God exhorts women to pay special attention to how they adorn themselves, but it's speaking of *spiritual* adornment—“the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible” (verse 4).

This is where my mother put special emphasis. She had a wonderful gift of encouragement. People who stood in her presence always went away uplifted and happier. She handled herself with dignity and class.

She was a people person. Her last church service was nearly a year ago—there were a lot of visitors in town for a singles event. She was in bad shape—her health declining—but she wanted to be with the people, so she pushed herself. Three days after that, she had a massive stroke that left her

without speech and paralyzed half of her body.

My mother's 40-year career was in marriage and family. My sister would tell you this same thing—Mom was always involved in our lives. For me, she was involved in my life when I was a little boy, as a teenager, even on into my adulthood. She left a permanent mark on my life, showing me what it meant to serve and give—even to the point of real sacrifice.

She taught me about love, about authority and submission. She gave my life direction. She made my upbringing fun. She had such a wonderful laugh.

I tried to express this to her as she was dying early Sunday morning, September 5, but the words were hard to come by.

Now they're not. She was a *real* beauty. ■



Shown here at a high school prom, Barbara Flurry, wife of *Trumpet* publisher Gerald Flurry, died September 5 at age 60.

THE KEY OF DAVID

Television Listing



UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Nationwide satellite Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network DBS WWOR Chan. 238 9:30 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
Northeast cable WWOR 9:30 am ET, Sun
California, Los Angeles KCAL 7:00 am, Sun
Hawaii, Oahu Chan. 52 7:30 am, Sat
Hawaii, Maui/Molokai/Lanai Akaku Chan. 52 10:00 pm, Sun; 7:30 am, Mon
Illinois, Chicago WCIU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WWOR 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOCB 9:00 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPDX 8:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPHL 9:00 am, Sun
Texas, Dallas KDFI 10:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KYTX 5:30 am, Sat; 7:00 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle KTWB 9:30 am, Sun
Washington D.C. WBDC 8:00 am, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Nationwide satellite Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable Vision TV 8:30 am ET, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Argentina WWOR 10:30 am Sun
Brazil WWOR 10:30 am, Sun
Chile WWOR 10:30 am, Sun
Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun
El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun

Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 9:30 am, Sun
Venezuela WWOR 10:30 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Regional satellite Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Aruba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Bahamas WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 9:30 am, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Grenada CCN 7:30 am, Sun
Grenada Meaningful TV 7:00 am, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun; WWOR 10:30 am, Sun
Tobago CCN 7:30 am, Sun
Trinidad CCN 7:30 am, Sun

EUROPE/AFRICA

Malta Smash TV 5:00 pm, Sat; 11:00 pm, Wed; 11:25 pm, Fri
South Africa CSN 6:30 am, Sun

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Adelaide, Southern Australia Chan. 31 11:30 am, Sun
Australia nationwide Network Ten 4:30 am, Sun
New Zealand nationwide TV3 6:00 am, Fri
Perth, Western Australia Chan. 31 11:30 am, Sun
Philippines nationwide Studio 23 8:30 am, Sun
Tasmania Southern Cross TV 5:00 am, Sun

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