

Future NEWS

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WHAT GOD EXPECTS

God expects those who claim to be his children to bring others to him. On every hand are opening before us many doors for the presentation of the message of saving truth. Beside all waters the seeds of truth are to be sown. To all the world—to every nation and kindred and tongue and people—the message is to be proclaimed. As those who have received the light of present truth exercise a living faith in Christ, as they labor together with him in soul winning, what a work will be accomplished! For such laborers the angels of God will open ways and furnish opportunities, and will cooperate with the human agent, that he may not run in vain, neither labor in vain.

“The Angel of the covenant is empowering his servants to be his witnesses to carry the truth to all parts of the world. He has sent forth his angels with their message. But as though these angels did not speed on their way fast enough to satisfy his heart of yearning love, he gives John personally the message to be given to all: ‘The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.’ He has opened a fountain for Judah and Jerusalem, and every member of his church is to show his loyalty by inviting the thirsty to drink of the water of life. A chain of living witnesses is to carry the invitation to the world. Will you act your part in this work? God calls. Will you hear his voice, and, denying self, take up the cross and follow him? As you see the peril and the misery of men and women under the working of Satan, do not exhaust your God-given energies in idle lamentations, but go to work for yourselves and for others. Arouse, and feel a burden for those who are perishing.

“Sound an alarm through the land. Tell the people that the day of the Lord is near, and hasteth greatly. Let none be left unwarned. We might have been in the place of the poor souls who are in error. According to the truth that we have received above others, we are debtors to impart the same to them.” *Review and Herald*, November 12, 1914.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The ministry of *Future for America* is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the prophetic word includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, *Future for America* emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. *Future for America* upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

Future for America intends to print and distribute truth-filled literature, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a printing operation with their own resources.

Future for America is a self-supporting 501-C3 non-profit corporation; funded by readers like you. The cost of this newsletter and audio-tape reaching a home is approximately \$3.50.

This publication is sent out free of charge. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

In two weeks I leave for nineteen days in Malaysia where we will conduct a prophecy school at the Aenon Farm—a school that teaches health and gospel evangelism, in a country setting. We will record all our material as it is translated into Chinese. This will accomplish the purpose of preparing the prophetic message in audio-cassette to enter the land that Isaiah promises many will come from in the latter rain time period.

Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. Isaiah 49:12.

China was called “Sinim” during the history of Isaiah’s life. The brethren at Aenon Farm have limited funding, so a big percentage of the cost for this school has been supported by your generous financial help. We at *Future for America* thank you for allowing us to serve a part in presenting men and women with end-time Bible prophecy.

Our recent trip to Chile was a blessing and success—at least from our human discernment. Our purpose was to oppose the rampant theories about re-applying prophecy that is currently blowing through Adventism. We spent the first few days presenting strictly the prophetic message that is taking place before our eyes today, based upon Daniel 11:40–45 and Revelation twelve through eighteen. The Holy Spirit brought conviction upon the group that they were hearing the message of the hour. When, on the final day of meetings, we began to identify the erroneous positions flooding Adventism today, the brethren were not only confronted with the Inspired statements that oppose such false reasoning, but they also recognized the shallowness of those false concepts compared with the depth of the message for today. A high percentage of the group gave testimony that they now recognized the teachings as falsehood. Praise the Lord!

Two Sabbaths ago the second evangelistic series that we have put on in the Philippines this year concluded. We have also contributed to one other evangelistic series there, as well as a week of prayer for the Seventh-day Adventist academy in Cebu City. On this recent trip we also helped in two evangelistic series within two jails in the Cebu area. Dean Ferrell and his wife Blanca presented the gospel and the health message respectively, in the recent series. The following is their report:

Dear Jeff and Kathy,

Blanca and I just returned from our evangelistic efforts in the Philippines and I wanted to thank God, you and the *Future for America* supporters for your prayers, financial blessings and encouragement sent ahead and with us to make this trip.

You were correct; Masbate is a much rougher environment to work in. We never saw an air conditioner till the effort was closed. Brown or black outs were constant. With no fans, preparing simple power-point presentations (texts only) daily for the meetings, made things a bit sticky, so to speak.

The town of Pio V Corpus is controlled by the Catholic Church like no other place I’ve seen to date. Ten Bible workers in 3 months were unable to generate even one Bible study there. All the contacts were gathered from surrounding areas. Despite that, a devout Roman Catholic lady (a wealthy local politician) opened her comfortable spare home for the team’s use. (She had the pigs that were there slaughtered when she found out Seventh-day Adventists were to use the house.) She attended some meetings and stood up at certain calls. She also helped us to hand out over 250 Bibles. Her influence there made a definite statement.

Attendance fluctuated with transportation problems, but attendance generally rose nightly averaging about 260 adults. The children's meetings doubled during the series to 184. They were astoundingly well behaved.

Pastor Barcenus was great to work with. He translated for Blanca's health talks and led us to people in the area to do simple treatments, which opened up the only Bible studies accepted by people in Corpus.

Asthma is epidemic there. All we had with us was *V-Vax*, a double distilled Eucalyptus oil. We treated one person who told his neighbors and soon there were 5 lined up at his home for treatments. Golden Seal, Teatree oil, Origano Oil and Charcoal were also very helpful to relieve other sufferers. Scripture and prayer were offered before during and after each treatment. This impressed them.

(If the Bible workers had known how to apply simple remedies, there would have been many in the town of Pio V Corpus who would have been studying the Bible for months before the reaping meeting.)

The meetings were held in the Town Plaza using a huge extremely loud/clear mobile disco sound system. The Catholic Church is at the opposite end from where I was preaching. The whole town could hear the meetings and many set their chairs out in the roads to listen to the meetings the priests forbade them to attend. Since all that was spoken was God's Word (fewest of my own words possible) I challenged them to consider what spirit would want to keep them away from God's Word. The point could not be missed.

By the third or fourth night, starting at 2:30 until about 5 AM, someone would repeatedly walk up and down each street with a bull-horn, singing the Rosary. I expected stone throwing, such as happened two years ago in Bohol, but it appears God kept that back. Perhaps they knew it would only further prove the point of the messages we were sharing. Whatever the reason, it was a relief

as we were easy targets in the open.

I had three translators. The main one was unable to make it to all the meetings. Brother Alex was who I called my "pinch hitter". He is in his sixties and the church runs him ragged—but he loves it. The meetings were getting more and more pointed and it was time to identify "the beast". During rehearsal of the outline, my pinch hitter developed heart problems forcing me to speak without a translator.

Only a very few did not immediately understand the message.

The next day, a local professional (an engineer/former atheist) called me over to his home to clear some questions about the Godhead (deity of Christ and Holy Spirit) and the 1000 years. He said we were very bold to expose Roman Catholicism that way, considering the amount of control they have there. We responded: "That is why God sends us to these places".

Constantly, the question about SARS arose. And why this American team was the only one out of many that followed through and that showed up. (The Conference president told me over a hundred American volunteers canceled out). The answer is, if our God calls us to the work, we are to trust Him to protect us. He places a love in us for these souls in Catholic darkness, how can we do less? I'm confident that everyone connected with *Future for America*, *Amicus Church* and *Project Restore* feels the same way.

God blessed our efforts, despite many challenges, and now a new church building is needed in Corpus and one rebuilt in nearby Buenos Aires. There were 138 baptized at the mass baptism and 14 more were to follow the next Sabbath. While we were there, papers were being signed by the mayor of Corpus, who donated 600 square meters of land to build a Seventh-day Adventist Church in town. (Providing it is built and occupied in a specific amount of time). They are very poor there, but with God's blessing and some cooperation from us, the Catholic grip around

the throat of that town is being broken. A Seventh-day Adventist church there will be a constant reminder of that, and I believe a place to worship will encourage many more to come out. I for one, hope that soon comes to pass.

I have much more to share about this trip with anyone who might be interested in calling or writing. Blanca and I hope that God sees fit to bless us with the opportunity and funding to go on another one soon. Thank you again for considering us to work on the project.

May God bless you in the work of sharing the Everlasting Gospel with the world. Maranatha! Dean and Blanca Ferrell

At the same time Dean and Blanca were holding their series in Masbate, Bill and Delores Gamblin were holding series in two jails in the Cebu City area. Here is Bill's report of those series:

The Lord richly blessed my wife and myself by giving us another opportunity to return to the Philippines for the third time to give the truth of God's word to the men and women who are in one of the many jails in the Cebu City area of the Philippines.

We ask the Lord if this was His will for us to return to the Philippines that He provide for our financial needs; i.e., airfare, lodging, food and transportation. We were to be totally on our own this time—without the financial sponsorship of a ministry. The total cost was going to be around thirty-five hundred dollars, not including the four-hundred and fifty dollars for the Bibles we needed for the prisoners. We submitted our petition before the Lord and contacted some friends and family members about our need for funds. As the days and weeks passed, the Lord began to open doors and little by little, the funds came in. The week before we were to leave, all our financial needs for the trip were met and we also had funds available to purchase Bibles. This gave us so doubt that the Lord was asking us to return to the Philippines.

We had some people ask us were we not afraid of the SARS epidemic. Our reply was, "When the Lord has shown us in such a wonderful way that He was sending us to the Philippines, what have we to fear with God on our side. He is greater than any SARS epidemic. It is not time to withdraw from the work of the Lord. Time is to short; we must be about our Father's business."

We held morning and afternoon meetings from Sunday to Friday. The morning meeting was held in the Mandaue City Jail and the afternoon meeting at the Talisay Jail. On our first day at the Mandaue City Jail we had a wonderful surprise waiting for us. As we came through the gate and entered the yard, we noticed a beautiful vegetable garden off to our left. The rows were neatly made and not a weed in sight. Over the tender plants there was a trellis made of living vines to cover them from the hot sun. The garden contained okra, tomatoes, squash, lettuce and casaba (a fruit). We made some inquiries and found out that this garden has been in existence for two years. Much to our surprise and joy we learned that after we held meetings there in 2001, the inmates that accepted the health message refused to eat pork and wanted vegetables instead. Permission was given and these inmates worked the soil and made a beautiful area for the garden. The inmates do all the planting, weeding and watering of the garden. Praise the Lord, for their dedication and commitment to follow the instruction of the Lord.

We also had an opportunity to use God's natural remedies. There was an inmate who had a three inch infection all around the ankle area of his right leg. We applied a charcoal poultice every day for a week. At the the end of the first day, the itching that he was complaining about was gone. By the end of the week, the inflammation and infection was all gone. The skin had returned to its healthy state. He was so happy and appreciative that he started to call me "Doctor Bill".

We left charcoal with Pastor Lauron, who is active in the prison ministry in Mandaue City. This was also a learning experience for him. These natural remedies are very rarely used by our people in the Philippines.

Our first day at the Talisay Jail was a welcome relief in comparison to the Mandaue Jail, which is in the busy city area. It is over crowded with 360 inmates and very hot. The inmates there are locked up in dark and very small cells. Whereas the Talisay Jail is up on a high hill out of the city area. The surroundings are much more pleasing to the eye. The inmates can look out of their cells to see mountains and hills.

My wife, Dolores, ministered to the women in both Mandaue and Talisay. Mandaue had a total of nine women and Talisay had thirteen. It is so easy to become attached to some of the inmates as you see them grasp and understand the truth. There was one in particular that stands out in my mind. His name is Junnie. When the message on the seal of God and the mark of the beast was given; it was as if a light had been turned on for Junnie. For the first time he understood the importance of the Sabbath. He was overjoyed with the new found truth and could not stop talking about it. He is to be released soon and can't wait to give his family this life eternal message. What joy fills the heart when you see with your own eyes the working of the Holy Spirit. If we could but understand the value of a soul.

The truth of God's word was received and God richly blessed with 137 precious souls (nine women) that were baptized into His remnant church. Praise His holy name!

Dolores and I would like to first thank the Lord for providing and giving us this opportunity to be used of Him. We would like to thank everyone who had a part in this work, for we could not have done it without them. Our heart felt gratitude goes out to them for their hard work and devotion. I thank the Lord again for Him opening the doors and making a way that we could be but a small part in His work for these last days by giving His truth to those who are shut-up and mostly forgotten. "I was in prison, and ye came unto me." Matthew 25:36.

Written by Bill Gamblin, who himself spent 22 years of his life in prison.

We praise the Lord once again for His blessing of this last effort. We have been watching to see if the Lord would supply funding for another series in the Philippines in 2003. This year's funding for Philippines covered our first two series, but nothing more has arrived. We are therefore placing it in the Lord's hands—whether we will return to the Philippines in 2004. If you would like to help, please mark you offering Philippines 2004. We solicit your prayers that His will would be done in this endeavor.

In August we have a two week camp meeting in Germany followed by a two week seminar in a church in London. We solicit your prayers for both these meetings. Steve Dickie just returned from Uzbekistan where he was accomplishing some advance planning for our upcoming evangelistic series for the Moslems of that area. While he was there he spoke with a church leader from the Ukraine who confirmed that they are now ready for us to come and hold a seminar on prophecy for the pastors there. Most of our material has been translated into Russian in advance of these meetings, so we are now just waiting to set the dates. We hope to speak to almost all the pastors in Ukraine in a five-day seminar. We offered to help with transportation, food and housing to make this event happen. We hope to make copies of all the materials for each of those who attend the series, as well as producing audio, and perhaps, video recordings of the presentations. If you could help with this work, please mark you offering as Ukraine Project. We are having some ongoing meetings with fellow-Adventists from Romania and they are attempting to have us invited to present our materials in Romania. Please keep this in your prayers.

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. James 5:1-6.

WEAK DOLLAR

The euro marked a record high against the dollar this week when the European Union's uniform currency soared to \$1.1914 in Asian trading on Tuesday, back from a low of \$0.82 after its introduction 4 1/2 years ago. Apparently encouraged by the Bush administration as well as the monetary actions of Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, a weak dollar is expected to aid the sagging US economy by bolstering exports and adding to corporate earnings. European politicians and central-bank officials argue that the boost in the euro corrects the currency's previous undervaluation, though a strong euro is likely to stifle the continent's struggling economy, which experienced no growth in the first quarter of this year. *The Federalist Digest*, June 1, 2003.

HONG KONG, May 19—New signs over the weekend that the Bush administration may be content with a weaker dollar prompted waves of selling in currency markets today, driving down the value of the American dollar.

As the dollar fell, the euro rose as high as \$1.1737, the first time in over four years the euro has been worth more than \$1.17, the level at which it began trading when the euro was introduced in January 1999. The euro rose to \$1.18 during the first day of trading, on Jan. 4, 1999, but soon weakened.

The dollar also tumbled today against currencies across Asia despite the region's continued difficulties with severe acute respiratory syndrome and despite the Japanese government's bailout of a large, troubled bank over the weekend. The dollar dropped nearly a full yen, to 115.14 yen, bringing its losses over the last year against the Japanese currency to almost 10 percent.

The dollar even posted its biggest decline in 30 months against the Indian rupee, a long-troubled currency that has shown surprising strength in recent months. The dollar rallied somewhat in trading this afternoon in Europe, after trading in Asia had largely stopped, but the currency remained below Friday's levels.

After a meeting in Deauville, France, on Saturday in Deauville, France, of finance ministers from industrialized countries, Treasury Secretary John W. Snow seemed to redefine the "strong dollar" policy of the United States.

Mr. Snow said that a strong dollar was a currency in which people had confidence and was hard to counterfeit. But he stopped short of saying anything about preserving the dollar's value in currency markets, something that traders had been waiting to hear, especially after Mr. Snow had mentioned a week earlier that a weaker dollar would help American exports.

Mr. Snow also described the dollar's recent fall as a "modest" realignment. The dollar's move had been limited until today against many Asian countries, but the dollar had fallen 21 percent against the euro over the past year even before today's trading.

Rob Nichols, a Treasury spokesman, said after Mr. Snow on Saturday that the treasury secretary's comments did not represent a change in American policy. But traders interpreted Mr. Snow's remarks as confirmation of their suspicions that the United States favored a weaker dollar, and responded with sometimes frenzied selling in currency markets.

"It has gone nuts," said Stuart Goh, a currency trader at *Pacific Asset Management* in Singapore, who attributed the dollar's fall entirely to Mr. Snow's remarks. "That's the only driver around."

A weaker dollar could help the US economy and create jobs by making American exports less expensive and therefore more competitive in foreign markets, while making imported goods less competitive with American products in the United States market. Allowing the dollar to weaken could also help the Bush administration politically.

Recent presidential elections have been decided to a considerable extent in the upper Midwest, where electorates are more evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats than in most of the rest of the country. The prosperity of the auto and steel industries in this region, and of the hundreds of thousands of workers they employ, depend to a considerable extent on the international competitiveness of these industries, and their competitiveness in turn depends heavily on the value of the dollar.

But the dollar's descent could also hurt the American economy if it causes foreign investors to become wary of investing in American stocks and bonds. A pullout by foreign investors, or even a slowing of fresh investment from abroad, could cause stock and bond markets to fall and interest rates to rise.

DIVINE FAVOR AND TEMPORAL PROSPERITY

“... It will be declared that men . . . who present the claims of the fourth commandment . . . are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity.” *The Great Controversy*, 590.

CALIFORNIA ON RUNAWAY TRAIN

Everyone is talking about California's \$38 billion budget gap. But the state has another shortfall that's even bigger: the leadership deficit. Governor Gray Davis just might be the weakest chief executive in recent history. He is a genius at reflecting the will of the people. Unfortunately, the people's will right now is to demand unlimited services from government while refusing to pay for them with higher taxes. And Davis is incapable of charting a different course. *Sacramento Bee*, May 25, 2003.

“A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, followed always by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years.”—Alexander Fraser Tyler

LAND OF THE SINKING SUN —AGAIN

Japan's four largest banks today reported a combined loss of 3.6 trillion yen, or about \$31 billion, for the last fiscal year, a 28 percent increase, because of declining stock prices and stricter accounting methods that unearthed more bad loans. The losses were largely within expectations, but did little to comfort investors who say Japan's bad-loan crisis is far from over. While the banks wrote off 30 percent fewer bad loans compared with the previous year, deflation is accelerating, the stock market remains near 20-year lows and the economy is inching toward another recession.

In the fiscal year that ended in March, *Mizuho Financial Group Inc.*, the world's largest bank by assets, lost 2.38 trillion yen, or about \$20.3 billion, a record for a Japanese company. *Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc.*, *Mitsubishi Tokyo Financial Group Inc.* and *UFJ Holdings Inc.* posted far smaller losses, writing off a combined 4.5 trillion yen, or about \$38 billion in nonperforming loans. *New York Times*, May 26, 2003.

Editor's Note: Still not as big as California's thirty-five billion-plus debt problem.

SEVEN “TIME-BOMBS” OF ECONOMIC COLLAPSE IN THE USA

1. Real estate market crash: even though interest rates are low, property values are still too high for many to afford. The mortgage foreclosure rate is already the highest in 52 years, and still climbing. Any rise in interest rates now will completely kill the housing market.

2. Corporate pension-fund crash: \$4.3 Trillion in corporate profit shortfalls are now covered, so far, by Enron-like accounting tricks that borrow money from projected pension-fund increases. Two-thirds of S&P 500 companies already owe more than \$1 billion to their retirement funds. (GM alone owes 49% of its total value to its pension-fund. Bankrupt *WorldCom* 'only' owed 10%.) When all this becomes common knowledge it will cause investors to dump shares on the market, flooding it.

3. Japanese bank crash: the world's number two economic power is now heading over the cliff. Japanese banks are already writing-off billions in bad debts, but new loans are going bad faster than the banks can write the old loans off. Their last resort to raise cash-flow is to dump \$500 billion in US stocks and bonds on the world market.

4. American bank crash: *JP Morgan Chase* has made bad loans to companies/countries (including Argentina and Brazil) involved in just about every major financial disaster of the past year or so, and is facing massive investor lawsuits. It lost \$2.6 billion in Enron alone, and is now exposed to high-risk derivatives with a notional value of nearly \$26 trillion—twice the gross domestic product of the US. *Citibank's* bad loans have risen 39% in just six months to over \$7.3 billion.

5. Corporate debt crash: US companies now owe a record \$4.7 trillion to banks, venture capitalists, bondholders, money funds, and other institutions. US investors are sitting on \$13 billion of stock in companies that have a net worth of less than zero! (Ford is drowning under \$165 billion in total debt.) The Fed says this debt is still growing almost three times faster than the gross national product.

6. Washington can cause Wall Street to crash: *Federal Securities and Exchange Commission* and Congressional investigators, and many state attorneys-general, are about to conclude 47 major probes into gross violations of investor trust at the nation's largest investment brokerages. So far, ten Wall Street firms have already paid over \$1 billion in civil charges. As investor confidence falls, so does the market.

7. Gulf-states instability can cause oil prices to soar; US stock market to crash. Desert Storm pushed oil prices up 166% in just over three months, driving stock prices down 21%, and plunging the US economy into a two-year recession. An oil executive with 30 years of experience in the Middle East was quoted in the *New Yorker* as saying, "If" (Islamic radicals) do an operation in Saudi Arabia, the price of oil will go up to \$100 a barrel." *Safe Money Report*, May 12, 2003.

"Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis." *Testimonies*, volume 9, 13.

Dear Jeff and family,

Thank you for the magazine and tape! Much appreciated. Recently a minister has spoken in our church urging that we honor and celebrate the old Jewish feast days, which is causing no small stir among our people. This man, formerly an Adventist evangelist, is proclaiming that in celebrating God's "holiday's" as he calls them, are going to bring forth the 144,000 and will be those who give the final "loud cry," to the world, and will be translated.

Please pray for our poor little church, being battered by the enemy! Thank you for the studies on Daniel ten through twelve. I'm learning much from these, please know. Thanks for your prayers for us. The F family. Sincerely, AF

Dear Brother Jeff,

I pray for you every day and hope that you are doing very well. I was in Africa last fall to teach on prophecy in evangelism school. I spoke on Daniel eleven, and used your magazine. Some of my students want a copy of your *Time of the End* magazine. Could you send me eight to twelve copies? I will be glad to pay for them. Just send a bill. Thank you so much Sincerely, K.M. OH

Future for America:

Keep up the great work & deep studies. Don't give the enemy an inch. You are in our prayers. Jesus be with you always; show you what His will is; give you the power, skill & wisdom to do His will. Have you heard of Frank Fowler? He heads up a big group who are reapplying end-time prophecies. Calling the "daily" the national Sunday law. He gave a talk one Sabbath at our church. I confronted him on many issues. Gave him a brief, but to the point Spirit of Prophecy study on eightpoints dealing with his presentation. Convinced our pastor not to have him speak at our church any more. Convinced a few to not subscribe to his magazine. In Jesus, M&J—WA

Dear Jeff,

I have enjoyed your newsletters & tapes for long time & decided it was time to show my appreciation. Was very much interested in KB's letter to you, regarding: the national Sunday law. I'm afraid he is pretty typical of recent "converts." Sad, isn't it, the very prophecy that we are told "is an anchor" to keep us faithful—is not being taught. May this small gift help your work in the Philippines and they will embrace this beautiful truth. Sincerely, NP

Dear Jeff and Kathy,

The Canada revival meetings were a success. There is no way we could thank God enough for raising you up to study and then share with us these timely truths! We are beginning to awake to the deep importance of building character now, before it is forever too late. The response of the people in Belleville has been so very positive! W says to send you his regrets for not making it Sunday. It won't be long now until that glorious day and then we will remember these days of preparation! May God bless you and your ministry as you travel with God's message. In His Service and love, P&I—Canada

Dear Jeff,

I have just been diagnosed with breast cancer, stage 4. I am asking you and your group to have special prayer for me. I moved to this small town of 150 people with the intension of sharing my faith and health ideas. I pray that God will allow me to do this. Please pray for me! Your audio-tapes and news letters are a blessing for me. Love in Christ, KS

Dear Jeff & Kathy,

Just a short note to let you know that I will be praying for your ministry. I appreciate all your work for the Lord. My prayer is that He will return soon. I live in the Northeast in beautiful Vermont but can't wait to see how beautiful Heaven will be. God bless you, LR-VT

Dear Kathy,

Hope you and Jeff are having a good summer. I am enclosing a check to help with evangelism. Would you please send me one of the videos with Dr. Agatha Thrash. Did Jeff ever publish a study guide for his last series *What Shall Befall thy People?* If so will you please send me a copy. Deduct the cost of the video and the study guide from the enclosed donation. I remember you and your ministry in my prayers. Sincerely, RE—NC

Editor's ote: There are no available notes for that series.

Dear Brother Jeff,

I just finished listening to your tape series *What Shall Befall Thy People*. WOW!!! I was raised in a "very" strict Roman Catholic home. I wish I would have known the Truth 30 years ago. Now I see! Please sign me up for your newsletter. Thank you for being faithful to God. LG—MT

Brother & Sister Pippenger,

Hello In Jesus! Hope and pray all is well Brother Jeff. Sister White says in Spirit of Prophecy that when school vouchers are implemented the end of the world is around the corner. My good brother, since I don't have a computer would you be so kind as to look up school assistance by the States using federal funds. Please copy it and send to me.

The Lord be with you both and your family, Sincerely, JC

Brother JC—I have looked for that quote for you, but perhaps I am entering the wrong words.

Perhaps one of the readers of this newsletter knows it and can let us all know? Jeff

Dear Jeff,

I wish to thank you for your comprehensive response by way of your April newsletter, to my letter concerning the “time of the Gentiles”. It appears that my misunderstanding began at Camp Meeting in Freeport, Maine just after the 6-day Arab-Israeli War of June 6, 1967. The keynote speaker, Evangelist WH, spoke very eloquently concerning events that had recently transpired in the Middle East and their relation to Jesus’ prophecy in Luke 21:24. In his message, Elder H failed to apply the rules of prophetic understanding established by William Miller and the pioneers. It seems to me that this rule of interpreting prophecy should be common knowledge amongst Adventists, but apparently it is not a common understanding. Recently, Evangelist LA, who appears on 3ABN, was speaking about Daniel 11:45 and equated the “glorious holy mountain” with literal Jerusalem, stating that if a text in the same book, Daniel 9:16 defines Jerusalem as God’s Holy Mountain, then the Glorious Holy Mountain of Daniel 11:45 must also refer to literal Jerusalem. He finds it inconsistent when Adventists reject the concept of literal Jerusalem on the one hand while having no trouble with a literal Mount of Olives at the end of the millennium.

Without the understanding of William Miller and the pioneers concerning literal before the cross and spiritual after the cross, it is understandable that there should be widespread confusion in our ranks. Is there a Spirit of Prophecy reference to substantiate this prophetic rule of interpretation?

Thanks again for getting through my thick head regarding my “private interpretation”. Enclosed please find the May issue of Northern Botanical’s Newsletter and a donation to your ministry. Northern Botanicals is a herbal and lifestyle ministry that my wife and I started in 1998, subsequent to my experience in overcoming cancer. Sincerely, RM

P.S. For your information, *Dies Domini* was issued in 1998 on the heels of Y2K and not in 1995. On page 20 of the document, item #46, “the Sunday obligation” was taken from a speech to the Third Group of the Bishops of the United States of America. *L’Osservatore Romano*, 18 March 1998, 4.

Brother RM,

I know of no specific statement on the rule of literal and spiritual found in the Spirit of Prophecy. A “line upon line” study of the subject though, will establish the rule beyond question. The easiest way to see the Spirit of Prophecy uphold the rule is to look at the multitude of places where Sister White comments using an Old Testament passage. She *always* uses the literal stories of the Old Testament to illustrate a spiritual worldwide application. The evangelist’s argument is unsound. That argument would demand a literal earthly sanctuary cleansing in Daniel 8:14, based upon Daniel chapter nine. Context is always to be considered! He finds the inconsistency about the mount of Olives because he does not understand the rule. The rule identifies a literal application of prophecy before the cross time period, followed by a spiritual or symbolic application of prophecy after the time period of the cross. Another aspect of this rule is that at the Second Coming of Christ the application of prophecy returns to the literal. A thousand years is a thousand years, the mount of Olives is the mount of Olives, ect. In your “P.S.”, I am not sure what you mean by stating that 1998 was on the “heels” of Y2K? Jeff

Dear Jeff,

Thanks for your efforts in updating the brethren on the end-time events. I have read a copy of *Future News* and I’m more aware of the shortness of time. Soon our Lord will come and take us home. If there be any publications for free distribution, please send as many as you can to me. We here in Africa are not so updated as you are in America upon which all prophecy students have fixed their eyes. Please send us information on how far the Christian Coalition and its sister movements have gone in the enforcing of Sunday observance. How imminent is the crisis? I have also read your exposition of Daniel eleven. It is wonderful! Be encouraged to go on spreading this light. Those who seek God will experience revivals and reformations as they read the books. Keep the message going and may God bless you. I’ll be patiently waiting for any publications as God may will. Yours, Louis Shitandi, PO Box 22100, Tom Mboya Street, Nairobi, Kenya

COLORADO ENACTS SCHOOL VOUCHER PLAN

Colorado Governor Bill Owens signed a law Wednesday establishing the first state school voucher program since the US Supreme Court declared such programs constitutional last year. . . . [the] law will apply to children in kindergarten through 12th grade who are eligible for free or reduced-cost school lunches. It will allow a school district to provide vouchers to qualifying children if at least eight of its schools received low or unsatisfactory academic performance ratings." <http://www.accessatlanta.com>

FAITH-BASED FUNDING

The *US Department of Housing and Urban Development* announced January 6 that it is considering a new rule that would allow the use of public funds for construction and maintenance of buildings that are used for both worship and social services. A HUD official told *Religion News Service* that the change would mean that a church would construct a building that would offer both shelter for the homeless and a chapel. The official said HUD field staff would then determine a formula so that federal grant money would be used only for the social service and not the religious purpose. But some religious leaders said that kind of line drawing would be difficult.

Meanwhile, members of Congress are also dealing with faith-based funding. On February 5, the *Senate Finance Committee* approved the tax section of the *Charity, Aid, Recovery and Empowerment Act*—the so-called CARE Act. The measure would give incentives for donations to charities. *Church & State*, March 2003.

VETERAN'S SHELTER LOSES FUNDING DUE TO 'FAITH-BASED' INITIATIVE

A shelter for homeless veterans in Northampton, Massachusetts may have to evict half of its residents due to new policies from the Bush administration that steer tax funding to religious groups. Officials at the *United Veterans of America* shelter had hoped to add 60 beds to their facility this year to cover the homeless vets on a waiting list. Instead, the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) told the shelter that its budget of \$1.4 million would be slashed by a third and that it can expect to lose 60 of its 135 beds. At the same time, officials at the VA announced that 40% of its grantees this year will be religious groups. The VA insists it does not favor "faith-based" organizations, but some at the *United Veterans of America* shelter are skeptical. VA grant applications now ask applicants to check off a box if they are a "faith-based" group. Some non-religious applicants believe federal officials are using this information to steer tax funds to religious organizations.

In Utah, Catholic Community Services won a \$207,000 federal grant. *Church & State*, March 2003.

A VERY MIXED MARRIAGE

Newsweek It's a landmark in the history of strange bedfellows: Tom DeLay says kaddish. It happened last February, the day the space shuttle Columbia fell apart. Among the dead astronauts was an Israeli, Ilan Ramon. In Florida, at the Boca Raton Resort, some big machers had gathered to hear a speech by House Republican leader DeLay, an evangelical Christian from Sugar Land, Texas.

Mixing Church and the Bible

DeLay talked of a destiny shared by America and Israel. He asked for "divine assistance" in protecting both. In closing, to the astonishment of his audience, he recited—in Hebrew—the last lines of the Jewish prayer for the dead. The crowd, many in tears, joined in. (DeLay had been coached by a Jewish former staffer.) "It was quite a moment," said Jack Abramoff, a lobbyist. Quite an understatement. Though they welcomed him as an ardent supporter of Israel, many in the audience at the Republican Jewish Coalition conference were wary of DeLay's view on a host of social issues—he's pro-life, anti-gay-rights, pro-voucher, pro-gun, pro-school-prayer. Nor are they fond of his occasional declaration that what America needs most is more Christians in office. "Some would argue that it's a mistake for Jews to get into bed with the religious right," said Jess Hordes of the Anti-Defamation League.

Too late. Indeed, these bedfellows aren't strangers anymore, which presents George W. Bush with a new opportunity—and a new risk. Opening another front in his war on terror, the president has launched an effort to coax Israelis and Palestinians toward peace. As Bush prepares for his trip to the G8 summit in France, there is talk he'll tack on a trip to the Middle East. But the "Roadmap" he wants to pursue there runs not only through the Byzantine byways of the Levant, but along the political freeways of America. If he is at all serious, Bush eventually will hit a potentially impenetrable roadblock at home: the deepening alliance between Jewish supporters of Israel and the growing ranks of Christian Zionists.

Simply put, the administration won't be able to lean hard on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon without being attacked by two blocs it cares very much about as the 2004 election approaches. Eager to capitalize on Bush's standing as a war commander and a friend of Israel's, White House strategists hope to double the size of Bush's Jewish vote. Still, the numbers there, however pivotal in places such as Florida, are small. Much more is at stake among the nation's 50 million evangelicals. Pressuring the Israelis also risks incurring the wrath—perhaps expressed in thundering, Biblical terms—of activists who claim to speak for that constituency, which the White House hopes will turn out in record numbers next year. "We are going to watch the Road-map very carefully," Jerry Falwell told NEWSWEEK. In April 2002, Christian Zionists were infuriated when the president, in a Rose Garden speech after a particularly heinous suicide bombing in Israel, seemed to equate Palestinian terrorism with the Israeli Army's actions on the West Bank. Not only did he not call for the ouster of Yasir Arafat (a goal of hard-liners for years), Bush sent Secretary of State Colin Powell to the region to meet with the Palestinian. "That was more than those of us who support Israel could take," said Gary Bauer, a leading Christian Zionist.

A plague of e-mails and letters descended upon the White House. Engineered by Bauer, Falwell, Pat Robertson and others, several hundred thousand messages flooded the administration, urging it to lay off Sharon and jettison Arafat. In their regular conference call with the White House, evangelical leaders made the same case. "Well, let's just say that the Middle East comes up during most of these calls," says Falwell. Other—perhaps more powerful—voices chimed in: congressional leaders and neoconservatives in and out of the administration. White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer soon was calling Sharon a "man of peace."

Having heard the message in April, the White House responded more fully in June 2002, when the president launched the Roadmap concept. Though the new Zionist alliance had serious questions—especially about putting the future of the West Bank and Jerusalem up for negotiation—they were thrilled that Bush told Arafat to go. Diplomatically, the move made sense. Politically, it was no accident. Indeed, NEWSWEEK has learned, political adviser Karl Rove was involved in reviewing drafts of both of Bush's major addresses on the Middle East. Senior administration officials say Rove merely "noodled" the "phrasing" of the speeches.

But in the Middle East, every noodle is important. A former senior Bush administration official says that proposed language favorable to the Palestinian cause was "walked back" after the speeches were reviewed by Vice President Dick Cheney, national-security adviser Condi Rice, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Rove. According to the former official, Rice and her deputy, Stephen Hadley, defended the edits. In one conversation, Hadley said that the speeches needed, among other things, to be politically viable. (Through a spokeswoman, Hadley strongly denied that politics was involved.)

Still, there's no doubt the White House is aware of the new Zionist alliance, a typical American marriage of faith, principle and convenience. American Jews who see Israel's survival as a paramount issue are looking for support. Coming to meet them are the evangelicals, who tend to believe that the "Covenant of Abraham" promised the Jews their entire ancient homeland—including all the modern-day West Bank—forever. Many (though not all) evangelicals believe that Jesus won't return until the Jewish state is fully re-established, including in Jerusalem.

Mere politics is involved, too. Conservative Christians want to shed their image of intolerance. "They're tired of being branded anti-Semites," says Grover Norquist, a conservative activist. GOP leaders bless the marriage, and hope to get it into a Big Tent strategy for 2004. There is evidence that a number of major Jewish donors—longtime Democrats—are covering their bets if not switching sides, especially in New York, where the shock of 9-11 adds urgency to the war on terror and to Bush's popularity among Jews.

After private assurances from Bush, Sharon late last week made a show of accepting the Roadmap in concept, if not in its particulars. But the new Zionists are taking no chances. Three weeks ago Bauer was warned by allies in Israel's government—one of them was Tourism Minister Benny Elon, a source told *NEWSWEEK*—that Bush was about to pressure Sharon. Bauer and others swung into action. At a conference in Washington, speaker after speaker denounced the document as a "roadmap to hell."

Bauer organized a letter to Bush from two dozen evangelical leaders, warning that any attempt to be "evenhanded" between Israel and the Palestinians would be "morally reprehensible." "If they do anything other than make Jerusalem the capital of Israel, they would be messing with the word and the power of God," Robertson told *NEWSWEEK*. DeLay pitched in, too. Speaking to Jewish political activists in Washington last week, he said, "Israel is not the problem in the Middle East. Israel is the solution." He spoke no Hebrew this time, but it still sounded like a prayer. *Newsweek, Inc.*

CULTURE-WAR GAINS

On the culture front, the state of Texas has become the 37th in the nation to enact a "Defense of Marriage Act" barring the state from being forced into redefining marriage as some other relationship than between one man and one woman. Again, there are federalist roots to this, for the state of Vermont has "civil unions" (AKA "marriage lite" for same-sex couplings) and courts in Massachusetts are considering cases demanding that marriage be redefined thus as well. In those states without DOMA protections, the Constitution's "full faith and credit clause" (Article IV, Section 1) could be invoked in future courtrooms to redefine marriage according to other states' decisions, regardless of the wishes of residents. *The Federalist Digest, June 1, 2003.*

CANADIAN BEEF BANNED AFTER MAD COW DISCOVERY

US health authorities have placed a ban on imports of beef, cattle and animal feed from Canada. The report shocked ranchers through much of western Canada, where trading in livestock was immediately halted because of plummeting cattle prices. The shock waves spread through the financial markets, where prices in many Canadian and American meat and restaurant companies fell sharply.

Canadian authorities stressed that only one cow out of Canada's total cattle population of 3.6 million was found to be sick and there was no immediate evidence that the disease had spread among livestock or humans. But authorities had trouble explaining the source of the disease, or reassuring the public that there was no possibility of other cases.

Officials said they were not sure whether the sick 8-year-old cow was imported and whether — if so—it had the disease already, or contracted it here. Should the cow have contracted the disease in Canada, from locally produced feed, today's news would be considered far more threatening.

The cow, from an unidentified ranch in Alberta, was to be slaughtered in January when a provincial veterinarian noticed that the animal was unusually thin. Suspecting pneumonia, he took its head for routine testing and sent its remains to a rendering plant. The rendering process yields beef protein that is sometimes used in pet food, but the destination of the material from this cow is unknown.

"I want to stress the cow did not go into the food chain," said Agriculture Minister Lyle Vanclief. "I want to stress from the beginning this is one cow." It was the first case of mad cow disease in Canada since a single cow was reported infected in 1993.

The affected animal came from a herd put together from different dealers in northern Alberta three years ago by a breeder who has not been identified. The uncertainties surrounding the cow amplified the threat to the Canadian economy, which had already stumbled in recent weeks from the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, in Toronto in March and April.

Since Canadian cattle pass south every day—last year more than a half a million live head of cattle came across the border from Alberta alone—any significant spread in Canada would almost certainly threaten American herds. The US imported \$1.1 billion of cattle from Canada last year, amounting to one third of all American cattle imports, according to the *Agriculture Department*.

The Alberta herd has been impounded. The animals will be held in quarantine, tested and killed. The rancher recently sold 211 calves in Alberta. “We know where they are,” said Dr. Francine Lord, national manager of import and export for animal health at the food inspection agency in Ottawa.

“We’re very concerned about it,” said Gary Little, a veterinarian with the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency*. Referring to the acronym of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the technical name of the disease, he added, “Canada has had a reputation for being B.S.E.—free. We’ll take whatever measures are required.”

While the disease can occur sporadically—in humans it is called *Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease*—most of the time it is transmitted when an animal eats tissues from an infected animal. Human victims, who can suffer a variant of the disease from eating tainted beef, incur memory loss, dementia and eventually paralysis.

News of the ban on imports of Canadian beef prompted sharp falls in the stock prices of companies like McDonald’s, the world’s largest buyer of beef, and Tyson Foods, the world’s largest beef processor.

A report by *Merrill Lynch* today suggested most of the economic impact in Canada would be psychological, noting that total annual exports of beef products are equivalent to two weeks of Canadian auto exports. “We cannot rule out a ‘fear-induced’ setback in the Canadian dollar,” it said, “especially in light of the massive recent runup.”

Ben Thorlakson, chairman of the *Canada Beef Export Federation* in Calgary, told the *Canadian Press* news service that “we will leave no stone unturned until we have returned Canada to B.S.E.—free status.”

Canadian officials immediately faced questions about why it took so long to test the infected cow. Mr. Vanclief said cattle that enter the food chain are given priority in testing. “Don’t try to leave the impression that this animal went into the feed chain,” he told reporters. *The New York Times*, May 20, 2003.

CORRUPT US CUSTOMS

“US Customs officials are refusing to inspect pressurized rail-cars that are crossing our border by the thousands each day!”

Editor’s Note: This statement appeared in a solicitation letter from *The Patrick Henry Center*, a Washington D.C. lobbying organization that sponsors government “whistle-blowers” who make appeals for government reforms. A former, award-winning, US Customs agent that was assigned to inspect pressurized-cylinder rail-cars coming into the US from Mexico, that are supposed to be carrying industrial chemicals, discovered four tons of marijuana and 34 kilos of cocaine hidden in an “empty” car. The agent’s superiors were so furious about the agent’s successful investigation that they hounded the agent into resigning. It appears the superiors have been “bought off” by the drug dealers south of the border, while officials in Washington evidently look the other way.

“Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected.” *The Great Controversy*, 592.

“FREE EXERCISE” PROTECTIONS INADEQUATE

Mitchell Tyner, an associate general counsel for the Adventist Church worldwide, participates each year in as many as 30 lawsuits involving on-the-job religious discrimination, usually related to Sabbath keeping. He says that the scope of the problem is much larger than most people realize. “Every day, on average, two or three Seventh-day Adventist Church members in the US lose their jobs or are denied jobs because employers will not accommodate Sabbath observance,” says Tyner. “Free exercise of religion is a fundamental legal principle, but in practice, legal protection for people of faith in the workplace is simply not adequate.” *Liberty*, January/February, 2003.

EUROPEAN THOUGHT-POLICE COULD REACH INTO THE USA

The European Union is sprucing up new laws against “xenophobia and racism” to make sure no one has any unusual thoughts at all—and that British subjects will be extradited to the Continent if they violate them. Legislation now before Parliament will make “xenophobia and racism” one of 32 crimes for which the European arrest warrant can be issued without the existing safeguard of dual criminality.

Also subject to the new laws would be those who merely broadcast or publish their criminal thoughts, including through the Internet. “Holocaust denial” is already one extraditable offense, but new legislation against “xenophobia and racism” could broaden state-control over thought and expression far more, even when those expressing verboten ideas never left their own living rooms.

Scientists who study racial differences and come up with the wrong answers, clergymen who criticize Islam and other non-Western religions, political leaders who object to mass immigration, and journalists who merely criticize political correctness and double standards may all have good reason to shut up and get jobs selling cars. Any thought, any idea, any statement that challenges the official egalitarian ideology faces repression by the emerging global state, and neither constitutions nor national borders will protect those who question that ideology or the global power it serves. *The Conservative Chronicle*, March 12, 2003.

Editor’s note: George Orwell’s 1984 was right after all!

LAST RESORT FIRST—MILITARY

America cannot lead the world with a broken instrument of diplomacy. America cannot lead in the age of democracy and 24-hour television with a broken instrument of international communications. America cannot help develop a vibrant world of entrepreneurial progress where countries grow into safety, health, prosperity and freedom for their people with a broken bureaucracy of red tape and excuses. . . . Without bold dramatic change at the State Department, the US will soon find itself on the defensive everywhere except militarily. In the long run that is a very dangerous position for the world’s leading democracy to be in. Indeed in the long run that is an unsustainable position.

Our ability to lead is more communications, diplomatic, and assistance based than military. People have always admired us more than feared us. The collapse of the State Department as an effective instrument puts all this at risk. We must learn the transforming lessons of the last six months and apply them to create a more effective State Department.” *The Federalist Chronicle*, April 28, 2003.

“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.” Revelation 13:11.

THE SECOND CASUALTY OF WAR

If we allow our government to pursue perpetual war, then we will lose our freedom altogether. It might be true that the first casualty of war is truth, but the second is individual freedom—especially the freedom to dissent from the war-government’s policies. *The Conservative Chronicle*, April 2, 2003.

BUSH'S GOOD INTENTIONS

"The United States is a powerful country, and one of the things we ought to do is use our power to make the world more peaceful and more free."—President George W. Bush. *The Federalist Chronicle*, April 22, 2003.

Editor's note: The road to hell is paved with . . .

22 YEARS AGO

Today—May 13, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima—marks the 22nd anniversary of the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul, who has a deep devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, has frequently said that he credits the Virgin Mary for saving his life after he was shot by a Turkish gunman during a public audience in St. Peter's Square.

Mehmet Ali Agca, the would-be assassin, was convicted of the crime and jailed in Italy until June 2000, when—at the request of Pope John Paul—he received a pardon from Italian President Carlo Ciampi.

Agca was then deported to his native Turkey, where he was tried and convicted of two previous crimes: a 1978 murder and a subsequent robbery. He was sentenced to 27 years in prison, but his lawyer later claimed that Agca could be eligible for parole after 10 more years in prison.

Upon learning that he had been pardoned of his attempt against the Pope's life, Agca told reporters in Rome, "My fondest hope is to meet the Pope again." He professed a deep admiration for the Holy Father—who had come to visit him in his jail cell in Rome—and said that he wanted visit the Marian shrine at Fatima and undertake 40 days of prayer and penance there.

However, the Pope's assailant delivered a very different message when he arrived in Turkey. In an outburst during his criminal trial there, Agca said that the Vatican is the "headquarters of the devil," and pledged to conduct a one-man "cultural war" against the Holy See. The Vatican, he charged in his rambling statement, is the "enemy of God, the enemy of humanity."

Shortly after the 1981 shooting, investigators advanced that hypothesis that Agca had not acted alone, and that he probably had support from the Bulgarian secret police agency. According to that theory, the leaders of the Soviet bloc had recruited the Turkish assassin because Pope John Paul II was seen as a threat to the Communist regime. However, Italian authorities were unable to produce convincing evidence of such a conspiracy.

In May 2002, when he met with Bulgaria's President Georgi Parvanov, Pope John Paul said that he, personally, never blamed Bulgaria for the shooting. May. 13, *CWNews.com*

And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach. Isaiah 4:1.

PAPAL PRIMACY

Vatican, April 29—An ecumenical conference, at which Catholic and Orthodox representatives will discuss the primacy of the Pope, is being organized by the Vatican. The meeting will be a closed-door session, at which the participants will be scholars drawn from the Catholic and Orthodox traditions. The symposium will carry particular importance for two reasons. First, although it is common for ecumenical working groups to discuss the topic of papal primacy, this will be the first such discussion conducted directly under the auspices of the Holy See. Second, representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church are expected to participate, allowing for the first substantial dialogue between Rome and Moscow since a near-breakdown in relations last year. The symposium that is being planned will include only Catholic and Orthodox scholars. Vatican officials have been pleased with the recent progress in relations with the Eastern churches. And many officials in Rome are convinced that—as one official put it—"the example of an eventual reconciliation with the Orthodox will certainly promote reconciliation with the other Christian denominations."

In his encyclical *Ut Unum Sint*, published in May 1995, Pope John Paul II encouraged scholars to engage in constructive discussions of the papal office. The Holy Father indicated that the Church might find a new "form of exercise of the primacy," which could resolve current conflicts with the Eastern churches without sacrificing any essential element of the Petrine ministry.

In 1996, at the Pope's urging, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger chaired a symposium at which Catholic scholars discussed the papal office from both doctrinal and historical perspectives. The conference ended with a conclusion that the primacy of the Pope is an essential point of Catholic doctrine. However, the scholars observed that there is no doctrinal statement indicating how that primacy should be exercised. The May conference in Rome is expected to advance that discussion, with 30 Catholic and Orthodox scholars examining Biblical, patristic, and historical perspectives on the office of the Pope. In February, when he first announced tentative plans for the conference, Cardinal Kasper promised: "This symposium will be a contribution to ecumenical dialogue." At the same time, the president of the Pontifical Commission for Christian Unity cautioned against exaggerated expectations, warning that the conference was not expected to generate "any practical propositions" regarding a new approach to the papacy. The discussions at this stage are likely to remain theoretical, he suggested.

Not in the Same Way

Pope John Paul II has made it clear that he has no desire to govern the Orthodox churches in the same way that he governs the Roman Catholic Church. Discussions about Church governance could boil down to questions about the respective powers of the Pope and the patriarchs of the Eastern churches. Before the schism of 1054, one Vatican official notes, the governance of the Church was divided among "the five great patriarchates, managed by five patriarchs who had full authority over their own churches." That historical example might furnish one possible model for the future, in which the Pope—the Patriarch of Rome—would be recognized as the "first among equals," with the power to curb the actions of any other patriarch who exceeded his own proper authority.

"The question, then," the Vatican official concludes, "is which rights and duties are reserved for the Pope, and which can be left to the other patriarchs." Another key question—especially from the Orthodox perspective—is whether the Pope's primacy should be understood as a primacy of honor or a primacy of jurisdiction. The noted French Orthodox theologian Olivier Clement, author of a key work on Catholic-Orthodox dialogue, points out that the two possibilities cannot be entirely separated. He observes: "The primacy of honor—which, we should note, is granted to the Pope by all the Orthodox churches—must inevitably convey to the Patriarch of Rome some measure of power as well, even if it is only the power of presiding."

Bishop Agostino Marchetto emphasizes the importance of understanding the Pope's role in a historical context. To understand how the Patriarch of Rome can exercise his primacy, Bishop Marchetto says, theologians can look to the example of the undivided Church. That historical perspective, he believes, "can help the Catholic Church to make a distinction between her own interior government and her external relations." That distinction, in turn, will help to clarify which powers are appropriate to the individual patriarchs, and which are properly matters for the Holy See. When the particular churches are in full communion, the bishop adds, the authority of each patriarch serves the cause of overall Church unity, and "each one brings to that unity whatever is specific to him, and nothing that is contrary to *communion*."

Having studied the question for 30 years, Bishop Marchetto is excited by the prospects for resolving ancient controversies about the Pope's authority. He points out that the process of globalization has changed the way in which such issues are now approached, and "should encourage all Christians to unite, to present a common witness to the world."

While recognizing that it may take time to find a solution that is acceptable to all parties, he insists: "The time for a new way of exercising the primacy has arrived!"

The question of papal primacy has been the object of many debates among different Christian groups through the centuries, involving Protestant as well as Orthodox leaders in the discussions. In recent months, while ecumenical discussions have progressed on a theological plane, many Christian leaders have also looked to Rome for leadership on questions such as the war in Iraq and the future constitution for the European Union. Thus on a practical level, Christians of all denominations have recognized—at least implicitly—the role of the Pope as the leader of the Christian world and the focus of Church unity. *CWNews.com*

UNDER ONE HEAD

“As we approach the last crisis, it is of vital moment that harmony and unity exist among the Lord's instrumentalities. The world is filled with storm and war and variance. Yet under one head--the papal power--the people will unite to oppose God in the person of His witnesses. This union is cemented by the great apostate.” *Testimonies*, volume 7, 182.

BOLD SUGGESTION FROM ANGLICAN LEADER

In a provocative speech on ecumenism, the former worldwide leader of the Anglican communion has suggested that all Christian leaders—including non-Catholics—should make regular *ad limina* visits to consult with the Pope. Lord Carey of Clifton, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, made his suggestion during a 3-day conference on the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, held at the Lateran University. Lord Carey, who resigned in 2002, said that his suggestion would build on a process of information consultations begun by Blessed John XXIII and expanded by the current Pontiff.

Catholic bishops are expected to make a regular visit to the Holy See, to consult with the Pope and the Roman Curia about the affairs of their dioceses. Lord Carey remarked: “I am convinced of the value that these visits have, in the light of the personal ministry of the Bishop of Rome.” Such meetings, he said, could help the leaders of other churches to understand the Petrine ministry as a function of Christian unity—a function that is often “obscured” today, he said.

During his term as Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey was known for his efforts to extend ties with the Holy See; he met with Pope John Paul II six times during his tenure as head of the Anglican communion. In his own address to the Lateran University conference, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, the prefect of the *Congregation for Bishops*, said that Pope John Paul II was a strong proponent of collegiality among the world's bishops. But the cardinal warned that a collegial approach should not weaken the papacy. “To weaken the Petrine primacy would lead to weakening collegiality, in the sense that John Paul II has been a stewart defender of bishops and particular churches,” he argued. May. 12, *CWNews.com*

. . . all the world wondered after the beast. Revelation 13:13.

POPE APPEALS FOR UNITY

Today John Paul II received a delegation of the *Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Bulgaria*, headed by Metropolitan Kalinik. Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the *Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity*, and several bishops were also present. The Pope asked members of the delegation to convey to His Beatitude Maxim, patriarch of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, his “spiritual closeness, in the hope that full unity between Catholic and Orthodox Christians is achieved as soon as possible.” *Vatican Information Service*, May 26, 2003.

And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. Revelation 17:9.

‘KIRCHENTAG’ DRAWS THOUSANDS OF CHRISTIANS TO BERLIN IN SIGN OF UNITY

Tens of thousands of Christians from Germany and beyond are gathering in Berlin for what organizers believe may be the biggest ecumenical gathering to have taken place in Europe. About 200,000 people are expected for the five-day event, called the Ecumenical Kirchentag, or church congress, sponsored by Germany's Protestant and Roman Catholic denominations, which claim the loyalty of roughly 26 million members each. *ENI*

MARY: MOTHER OF INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE?

Archbishop Gioia Calls the Blessed Virgin a "Living Catechism" because of her special place in Christianity, Judaism and Islam, Mary is regarded as a meeting point in interreligious dialogue. So says Archbishop Francesco Gioia, president of the Holy See's institution for pilgrimages to the See of Peter, in his book "Mary, Mother of the Word, Model of Dialogue Between Religions," published by Città Nuova.

"While for Christians Mary is the Mother of God and Mother of the Church, for the Jews she is 'the exalted daughter of Zion,'" the prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, Cardinal Francis Arinze, says in the book's introduction. "For the Muslims, Mary is the Mother of Jesus," the cardinal continues. "The Koran mentions her 34 times. Moreover, she is a 'sign for creatures' (Sura 21, 91), and is presented as a model believer." "Although Jews and Muslims do not accept the central truth of the divinity of Jesus Christ, they honor Mary greatly," Cardinal Arinze says.

In "many other religions, such as Hinduism and Buddhism, even though there is no explicit reference to Mary, analogies can be found between the Mother of Jesus and relevant persons in the ambit of their creed," he notes. "The feminine substratum, present in some way in every religion, must not be underestimated." As Archbishop Gioia, former secretary of the *Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers*, explains, "There are at least two reasons that motivate Mary's role in the ecumenical and interreligious dialogue: her de facto presence in different religions and her figure, as model of faith."

"Mary has a special place in religions stemming from Abraham, as, for example, Judaism, Islam and some movements of contemporary origin that express themselves using Christian language," Archbishop Gioia continues. "Moreover, Mary is the most exalted example of a person of faith and is in a position to offer valid elements for a fundamental discernment of Christian identity in religious pluralism," the author says.

In this connection, Mary is seen as a compendium or living and personal synthesis of the Christian mystery. "She is the icon of the mystery," the archbishop writes, "a complete image of the concrete realization of the whole mystery of the covenant ... the micro-history of salvation." 20 Thus, he adds, in interreligious dialogue "Mary can serve the function of a 'living catechism,' which exhibits intuitively the self-understanding of the Church, even more, of man on the way to salvation. May 27, 2003. *Zenit.org*.

HARDBALL HOLY FATHER CHURCH

Hardball litigation tactics are neither new nor particularly newsworthy—except when the aggressive litigant claims to represent God on earth. That scenario has driven the recent spate of articles commenting on the Catholic Church's increasingly bare-knuckle legal response to those accusing priests of sexual abuse. Church lawyers have repeatedly counterclaimed against the parents of child victims. They counter sued a single mother who, seeking a male role-model for her boys, allowed them to spend the night at the parish sacristan's apartment. They have moved to reveal the names of pseudonymous plaintiffs in a tactic that appears to have no other purpose than intimidation. They have asked graphic questions regarding the intimate details of sexual abuse, as well as detailed questions about victims' intimate relations with their wives. They have even accused the plaintiffs themselves of contributing to their own victimization. This accusation seems to have become a standard tactic. *Liberty*, January/February, 2003.

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TO FURTHER HER OWN ENDS

“God’s word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution.” *The Great Controversy*, 581.

CATHOLIC BISHOP INDERDICTS POLITICIAN, GETS PRAISE FROM PROTESTANT LEADER

Sacramento Bishop William K. Weigand has urged California Governor Gray Davis to drop his support for legal abortion or stop receiving communion at Roman Catholic services. Weigand, speaking at a mass to mark the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s legalization of abortion in *Roe v. Wade*, singled out Davis, a Democrat who strongly supports abortion rights, and told the congregation that no Catholic can be pro-choice, the Sacramento Bee reported. The Weigand push may be part of a larger effort by the Roman Catholic hierarchy to crack down on pro-choice politicians. In January, the Vatican issued a statement insisting that no Catholic politician can support legal abortion, same-sex marriage or physician-assisted suicide.

One non-Catholic Religious Right leader hopes other bishops pick up Weigand’s crusade. Ken Connor of the *Family Research Council* praised Weigand in *The Pastor’s Weekly Briefing*, a publication of *Focus on the Family*. Connor wrote, “Bishop Weigand deserves high praise for speaking the truth to power. Other church leaders—Catholic and Protestant—should follow his example.” *Church & State*, March 2003.

“The time was when Protestants placed a high value upon the liberty of conscience which had been so dearly purchased. They taught their children to abhor popery and held that to seek harmony with Rome would be disloyalty to God. But how widely different are the sentiments now expressed!” *The Great Controversy*, 563.

ABSOLVING THEM FROM EVERY PLEDGE

“Marvelous in her shrewdness and cunning is the Roman Church. She can read what is to be. She bides her time, seeing that the Protestant churches are paying her homage in their acceptance of the false sabbath and that they are preparing to enforce it by the very means which she herself employed in bygone days. Those who reject the light of truth will yet seek the aid of this self-styled infallible power to exalt an institution that originated with her. How readily she will come to the help of Protestants in this work it is not difficult to conjecture. Who understands better than the papal leaders how to deal with those who are disobedient to the church?

”The Roman Catholic Church, with all its ramifications throughout the world, forms one vast organization under the control, and designed to serve the interests, of the papal see. Its millions of communicants, in every country on the globe, are instructed to hold themselves as bound in allegiance to the pope. Whatever their nationality or their government, they are to regard the authority of the church as above all other. Though they may take the oath pledging their loyalty to the state, yet back of this lies the vow of obedience to Rome, absolving them from every pledge inimical to her interests. History testifies of her artful and persistent efforts to insinuate herself into the affairs of nations; and having gained a foothold, to further her own aims, even at the ruin of princes and people. *The Great Controversy*, 580.

THE JUDGMENT SHALL SIT

By David Lin

"But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end, and the kingdom and dominion and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." Daniel 7:26-27.

This text is the answer to the objection against the Adventist interpretation of Daniel 8:14, that it is out of context to the preceding verse, which asks:

"How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?"

The reply:

"Unto two thousand and three hundred days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."

Daniel 8:14, has been studied in the light of Leviticus 16:1-34, which outlines the ritual to be practiced on the day of atonement. Leviticus 23:27 says: "Ye shall afflict your souls" on the day of atonement. Verse 29 adds:

"For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from the people."

Only God knows which individual is truly repentant. For all Israelites will fast and pray on that day, but some will only assume the form, while the truly penitent will be recognized and forgiven by God. Hence the Jews rightly call the day of atonement—their day of judgment, when the fate of every person is decided by God.

Adventists have also correctly recognized this day of atonement, as the day of judgment, applying to it the scene described in Daniel 7:9-10.

The judgment that "shall sit" in Daniel 7:26-27 is the investigative judgment. We read in 1 Peter 4:17 that "the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God."

Now the house of God includes all who call Him Lord. In Matthew 7:21 Christ says:

"Not all who call me Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but they that do the will of My Father which is in heaven."

So the work of judgment is to examine who among all that call Him "Lord" have done His Father's will.

In Revelation 3:5 these doers of His Father's will are called "over comers". He says: "He that overcometh, . . . I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life." So the process of investigative judgment is to determine who among all those that call Christ Lord, have overcome sin by doing His Father's will." The names of those who have failed to overcome will be blotted from the Book of Life.

Now let us see how the context in Daniel 8:13 is involved here. The question reads:

"How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?"

This verse does not identify the one treading the sanctuary and the host under foot. Verse twelve uses “it” for the evil power. The antecedent of “it” is “the little horn” of verse nine. Verse ten says: “It waxed great, even to the host of heaven, and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.” It continues to do evil things, and verse twelve says, “it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered.”

Adventists have identified this “little horn” as pagan and papal Rome, using its religious power to “cast down truth to the ground.”

The query in verse thirteen is “how long” will this tyrannical power continue in its evil ways? Verse fourteen replies that “unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel 7:26 says, “The judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy unto the end.”

These words assure us that God will deal with this evil power. When the judgment begins with the house of God, this power that has always claimed to be head of God’s house, will be justly dealt with and its name blotted from the Book of Life with all them that call Jesus Lord, but do not His Father’s will.

This is God’s answer to the objection that the Adventist view of Daniel 8:14 is out of context. The judgment that begins at the house of God when His sanctuary is cleansed, is the grand context.

It culls out the “many” that claim to have prophesied in Christ’s name and in His name have cast out devils and done many wonderful works. Christ will reject them with the words, “I never knew you, depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.” Matthew 7:23. “Work iniquity” is an apt description of the evil deeds of the little horn that treads the sanctuary and the host under foot. The query “How long?” is answered directly in Daniel 8:14 and 7:26: “The judgment shall sit.”—the sanctuary cleansed.

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