

Future NEWS

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WHAT TO FEAR

“None of the apostles or prophets ever claimed to be without sin. Men who have lived nearest to God, men who would sacrifice life itself rather than knowingly commit a wrong act, men whom God had honored with divine light and power, have confessed the sinfulness of their own nature. They have put no confidence in the flesh, have claimed no righteousness of their own, but have trusted wholly in the righteousness of Christ. So will it be with all who behold Christ.

“At every advance step in Christian experience our repentance will deepen. It is to those whom the Lord has forgiven, to those whom He acknowledges as His people, that He says, ‘Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight.’ Ezekiel 36:31. Again He says, ‘I will establish My covenant with thee, and thou shalt know that I am the Lord; that thou mayest remember, and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord God.’ Ezekiel 16:62, 63. Then our lips will not be opened in self-glorification. We shall know that our sufficiency is in Christ alone. We shall make the apostle’s confession our own. ‘I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing.’ Romans 7:18. ‘God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.’ Galatians 6:14.

“In harmony with this experience is the command, ‘Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.’ Philippians 2:12–13. God does not bid you fear that He will fail to fulfill His promises, that His patience will weary, or His compassion be found wanting. Fear lest your will shall not be held in subjection to Christ’s will, lest your hereditary and cultivated traits of character shall control your life. **‘It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.’** Fear lest self shall interpose between your soul and the great Master Worker. Fear lest self-will shall mar the high purpose that through you God desires to accomplish. Fear to trust to your own strength, fear to withdraw your hand from the hand of Christ and attempt to walk life’s pathway without His abiding presence.

“We need to shun everything that would encourage pride and self-sufficiency; therefore we should beware of giving or receiving flattery or praise. It is Satan’s work to flatter. He deals in flattery as well as in accusing and condemnation. Thus he seeks to work the ruin of the soul. Those who give praise to men are used by Satan as his agents. Let the workers for Christ direct every word of praise away from themselves. Let self be put out of sight. Christ alone is to be exalted. ‘Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood,’ let every eye be directed, and praise from every heart ascend. Revelation 1:5.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 160–161.

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"God cannot display the knowledge of His will and the wonders of His grace among the unbelieving world unless He has witnesses scattered all over the earth. It is His plan that those who are partakers of this great salvation through Jesus Christ should be His missionaries, bodies of light throughout the world, to be as signs to the people, living epistles, known and read of all men, their faith and works testifying to the near approach of the coming Saviour and showing that they have not received the grace of God in vain. The people must be warned to prepare for the coming judgment. To those who have been listening only to fables, God will give an opportunity to hear the sure word of prophecy, whereunto they do well that they take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. He will present the sure word of truth to the understanding of all who will take heed; all may contrast truth with the fables presented to them by men who claim to understand the word of God and to be qualified to instruct those in darkness." *Testimonies*, volume 2, 631-632.

"The work of the Holy Spirit is to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. The world can only be warned by seeing those who believe the truth sanctified through the truth, acting upon high and holy principles, showing in a high, elevated sense, the line of demarcation between those who keep the commandments of God, and those who trample them under their feet. The sanctification of the Spirit signalizes the difference between those who have the seal of God, and those who keep a spurious rest-day. When the test comes, it will be clearly shown what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday. Those who after having heard the truth, continue to regard this day as holy, bear the signature of the man of sin, who thought to change times and laws." *Bible Training School*, December 1, 1903.

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Future News

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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.

MINISTRY UPDATE

We have been on the road. Our next newsletter will contain our update on the four evangelistic series in the Philippines, our preparation for work in the Moslem world, and our plans for the Russian meetings.

US POWER GROWS—"THE ULTIMATE IRONY"

In one sense, America leaves 2001 more powerful than at the start of the year. Within three months, from a standing start, it toppled a government 7,000 miles away in the most inhospitable terrain on earth—the mountains and caves of Afghanistan—defeating tribes that had beaten back the British and Soviet empires. And it did this largely from the air and suffering almost no casualties. No other country could do this. No other country in the history of the world has done this.

Even before the Afghanistan campaign, America was well aware of its might. Comprising just 4.6 percent of the world's population, it accounts for 21 percent of world economic output. The Pentagon spends more money than the next nine great powers combined. Now comes the slower, more complex process of rooting out the Qaeda network from dozens of countries, shutting down bank accounts, closing safe houses and arresting suspects. None of this is going nearly as well as the war in Afghanistan did. To make it go better, Washington will have to have sustained international cooperation. We need the world as much as they need us. International cooperation directly bolsters America's security. In the years ahead, in the fight against disorder, the United States will have to flex its military muscle often. But it will also learn to better use all the other tools of foreign policy. It will be the ultimate irony, if the legacy of Osama bin Laden's barbarism is to bring the United States into a close, cooperative relationship with the rest of the world. *Newsweek*, December 31, 2001.

EVERY MAN'S HAND AGAINST HIM

And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction. And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren. Genesis 16:11-12.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE 14 YEARS MAKES

Anyone remember this? It was 1987! At a lecture the other day they played an old news video of Oliver North testifying at the Iran-Contra hearings during the Reagan Administration. There was Ollie in front of God and country getting the third degree, but what he said was stunning! He was being drilled by some senator; "Did you not recently spend close to \$60,000 for a home security system?"

Ollie replied, "Yes, I did, Sir."

The senator continued, trying to get a laugh out of the audience, "Isn't that just a little excessive?"

"No, sir," continued Ollie.

"No? And why not?" the senator asked.

"Because the lives of my family and I were threatened, sir"

"Threatened? By whom?" the senator questioned.

"By a terrorist, sir" Ollie answered.

"Terrorist? What terrorist could possibly scare you that much?"

"His name is Osama bin Laden, sir" Ollie replied. At this point the senator tried to repeat the name, but could not pronounce it, which most people back then probably couldn't. A couple of people laughed at the attempt.

Then the senator continued. "Why are you so afraid of this man?" the senator asked.

"Because, sir, he is the most evil person alive that I know of", Ollie answered.

"And what do you recommend we do about him?" asked the senator.

"Well, sir, if it was up to me, I would recommend that an assassin team be formed to eliminate him and his men from the face of the earth." The senator disagreed with this approach, and that was all that was shown of the clip. (If anyone is interested, the senator was none other than Al Gore.)

TOWARD GLOBAL UNITY—THE UN AND OTHERS

The UN: A flexible wartime foreign policy means the United Nations is back in good graces: The administration is even counting on the oft-maligned international body to lead “nation building” efforts in postwar Afghanistan.

Russia: Four months ago, US–Russian relations were chilly. But President Vladimir Putin is gambling the counter-terrorism campaign will reconnect Russia with the West, bringing economic and diplomatic benefits. Snubbing his military chiefs, Putin accepted a US military presence in Central Asia. That allows unprecedented US ties with states like Uzbekistan.

Pakistan: Almost as unprecedented is Pakistan’s shotgun wedding with the US. Confronted with US demands, Pakistan reinvented itself, at least for now, as an ally.

China: Even China is acquiescing in the US-led war. Not long ago, Bush called it a “strategic competitor,” and the two sides were arguing over Taiwan and spy planes. Fearful of being left out of a burgeoning US-Russia friendship, China is now eager to talk. In December, China quietly became the last large country to join the *World Trade Organization*, marking a dramatic shift in the Western world’s view of China and China’s view of the Western world.

Rogue states: The counter-terrorism campaign to come may well require more, not less, reaching out to “rogue”—states like Iran, Syria, Sudan, and Libya long branded as sponsors of terrorism. The goal is not only to isolate terrorists but to embolden moderates. For now, Sudan, Syria, and Libya are sharing intelligence, say US officials, and Iran has agreed to rescue any wayward American flyers. “There’s a tremendous opportunity for the sinners to be redeemed and for the old battles to be put aside,” says a senior State Department aide. In war, pragmatism is usually the first victor. *U.S. News & World Report Special Issue*, December 31, 2001/January 7, 2002.

“John in the Revelation writes of **the unity of those living on the earth** to make void the law of God: **‘These have one mind**, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. **These** shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful’ (Revelation 17:13–14). ‘And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the false prophet’ (Revelation 16:13). . . .

“Satan is making his last and most powerful efforts for the mastery, his last conflict against the principles of God’s law. A defiant infidelity abounds.

“After John’s description in Revelation 16 of that miracle working power that was to gather the world to the last great conflict, the symbols are dropped, and the trumpet voice once more gives a certain sound: ‘Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame’ (Revelation 16:15). *Manuscript Releases*, volume 8, 344.

THE FREE TRADE—NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY LINK

Free trade drives transnational government and the erosion of national sovereignty—precisely so one country can have control of what goes on in the other one. **Paul Cellucci, the former governor of Massachusetts, and current Ambassador to Canada, and a close friend of George W. Bush . . . suggested the borders between Canada, Mexico and the United States be dismantled with the aim of achieving a more fully integrated economy. The chairman of the Canadian House of Commons finance committee made similar noises.**

The next logical step after free trade breeds economic interdependence is the political and cultural interdependence that dismantling the border would mean. If politically driven forces in Nation A affect its economy, then those dependent on Nation A’s economy in Nation B will have to have a say in determining what those political forces are. Most Americans bought into the premises of free trade and globalization without thinking through their implications for national sovereignty, national independence and the survival of the American identity as a civilization and a nation. But the implications are clear enough, and we should start thinking about them. *The Conservative Chronicle*, January 16, 2002.

THE FREE TRADE-NATIONAL RUIN CONNECTION

The late John M. Culbertson wrote in 1986: "The future of the United States depends on whether we can escape from the childish dream-world in which 'free trade' is the Good Fairy and 'protectionism' is the Wicked Witch of the West."

As every national economy—Bismarck's Germany or Hamilton's America—gives birth to a national government, **a Global Economy must end in Global Government**. That is why international socialism has signed on.

Our pre-NAFTA trade deficit of \$10 billion with Canada and Mexico now exceeds \$90 billion. In the wild panic when Asian nations began to default in 1997, one country never caught the "Asian flu," and one country still grows at 9 percent. **Protectionist China remembers what the West has forgot:** Every nation to rise to world power—Britain before 1850, the United States before 1914, Japan after 1945—**rejected free trade** to put the nation first.

The ultimate cost of this free-trade addiction will be the loss of America's industrial base, the loss of our economic independence, and, finally, **the loss of our national sovereignty**. Then the global parasites will have it all. *The Conservative Chronicle*, December 26, 2001.

"Roman Catholic [**Editor's note:** Economic, political, social—as well as religious.] principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state. This national apostasy will speedily be followed by national ruin." *Last Day Events*, 134.

LED BY THE USA, GLOBALIZATION ADAPTS AND MARCHES ON

The exclusive emphasis on economics is yielding to an appreciation of politics. (After all, before free markets can thrive you need political stability.) Most important, the global trading system is becoming more democratic, with countries like India, China and Brazil demanding a voice in the shape of trade negotiations. In the past four months the world has seen what American political leadership and power can do when it is ambitious, energetic and internationally-minded. It is time for American economic leadership to be similarly active and visionary. Throughout the cold war, America pushed for free trade as part of an overall strategy to combat communism and shore up the free world. Making globalization work better and for more people is not simply smart economics. It is a vital part of a new national-security strategy for America. *Newsweek*, February 11, 2002.

And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Revelation 13:12, 17.

US POWERS GLOBALIZATION

World Economic Forum President Klaus Schwab: ". . . with what happened on 9-11, [world] leadership is in again. President Bush's leadership is not only accepted but very welcome."

On the new Euro: ". . . global interest should take priority over the national interest. Most countries would not have considered the euro [to be] in their national interest, but decision makers submitted national interest to the European interest." On global peace: "It depends on whether we recognize that we live in a global village, that we must act together as a global community. If we do, then I feel we'll look back and say, we are living in a more peaceful world than 20 years ago. If we don't, I think the world will become more and more dangerous." Most important, the US economy will have to resume its role as the primary engine of globalization. *U.S. News & World Report*, February 11, 2002.

UN & THE WALL OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

On receiving his Nobel Prize, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan dulcetly described the Trojan Horse that is to bring about the end of nations. In a speech that the *Washington Post's* James Hoagland hailed as "subtly subversive," Annan declared: **"The sovereignty of nations must no longer be used as a shield** for gross violations of human rights." And if a nation violates human rights, who has the authority to intervene?

His answer: "We do, the UN." Yet, there are only two ways this can happen: The UN creates its own army or the UN conscripts the armies of member states. But what is the only country with military forces capable of global intervention for the UN to conscript? *The Conservative Chronicle*, December 26, 2001.

THE UN'S THIRST FOR GLOBAL TAXES

The UN's *Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development*, to be held in Monterrey, Mexico in March, is to "combat poverty and achieve sustained growth as we advance to a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system." This is the UN's effort to redistribute wealth and begin collecting global taxes to finance Kofi Annan's ambitious *Global New Deal*. Annan's plan, unveiled in July 2000 in Geneva, would have the United Nations provide a "basic income for all people."

One of the agenda items for the Monterrey Conference includes the formation of an *International Tax Organization* which would be authorized to "develop international norms for tax policy . . . maintain surveillance of tax developments," and "take a lead role in restraining tax competition." All this is part of Annan's ambitious plan to rescue Third World economies.

Those in the press and Congress who are generally enthusiastic about the UN—and UN taxes in particular—ought to be required to do two things before the Monterrey Conference. First, they should watch the movie *Black Hawk Down* to see what happens when the UN is responsible for rescuing anything. And second, they ought to read Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution to see who has the power to tax the American people. Hint: It's not the U.N. Oliver North, *The Conservative Chronicle*, January 30, 2002.

"Our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and Republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions." *Testimonies*, volume 5, 451.

EUROPEAN UNITY INCREASING

Europe is now in the midst of an amazing experiment, building unity through consensus instead of empire. Since January a single currency has jingled in the pockets of people in 12 countries, and the European Union is expected to admit at least 10 more members—for a total of 25—by the end of 2004. Europe will eventually be a single market of 500 million people—stretching from the Arctic Circle to the Mediterranean, from the west coast of Ireland to the eastern border of Poland. *Newsweek*, February 11, 2002.

These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.
Revelation 17:13.

NATIONAL EXISTENCE TARGETED

Its coming in the form of a new multi-cultural empire. Ancient sovereign states, such as England and France, and newer ones, such as Germany and Italy, are to cease to exist, and to be folded into a European super-state. National existence is targeted for extinction by about 2006, followed by national consciousness.

Preparing the British for their demise as a people, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw wrote in the *Independent* on November 22 that "in a world where states and the interests of their citizens are so obviously interdependent, we need to rethink our attitudes to concepts like 'independence' and 'sovereignty'." Prime minister Tony Blair agrees. "The war against terrorism," he says, "**has made national sovereignty out-of-date.**"

Dilution of national cultures by immigration is the basis for the European Union. A weakened sense of nationhood in Britain, France and Germany means no effective opposition to bureaucratic rule by the European Commission in Brussels.

In order to criminalize national patriotism and opposition to immigration, the European Union is pushing forward legislation that makes xenophobia and racism crimes. Once this legislation passes, a European who, for example, criticizes immigration as an anti-diversity measure that is wiping European civilization off the face of the earth, can be found guilty of racism and sentenced to two years in prison.

Hand-in-hand with **the criminalization of national identity** goes the European arrest warrant. Once in effect, an Englishman could be extradited to Greece and put on trial for offenses that are not crimes in England. No finer recipe for oppression could be devised. *The Conservative Chronicle*, December 26, 2001.

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY COMING DOWN

The euro seems a triumph of common sense—one currency for one market. But it may be a case of overreaching. The controlling delusion is that destroying a standard symbol of a country's sovereignty (its money) can create a European consciousness. Opinion surveys by the European Commission periodically ask whether people feel more national or European. The results consistently affirm the stubbornness of national identity. In one poll, 89 percent said they felt attached to their country, only 56 percent to Europe. *Newsweek*, December 31, 2001.

POLITICS HIJACKING RELIGION

We are seeing the role of religion in society exploited and corrupted to self-serving ends by those who wish to gain power. By equating faith and nationalism, politicians gain support—for who would dare contradict what is presented as an "article of faith"? Religion is once again hijacked, and the threat to religious minorities is ominous. In situations of crisis, the majority seeks scapegoats. It does not take much imagination to foresee inter-religious conflict of cataclysmic proportions in a country of more than 1 billion people [India], with great competition for food and water, with most resources rapidly being depleted. When society reaches the breaking point, religious toleration is a scarce commodity. [This will happen in the United States also. Ed.]

In a recent conversation at the United Nations, one high-ranking diplomat referred dismissively to the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as "Western philosophy," and stated that her country did not believe it should be bound by such agreements.

Multiplied millions are deceived by duplicitous leaders who claim to be speaking in the name of faith. What hope is there for separation of church and state when religion is employed in the service of politicians?

In his latest annual report Professor Abdelfattah Amor, UN Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance, writes: "The worldwide trend as regards religion and belief is towards increased intolerance and discrimination against minorities An appraisal of the status of freedom of religion and belief in the world today reveals a somewhat negative and disturbing picture." *Liberty*, January/February 2002.

THE WIND OF CHANGE

We are witnesses to a virulent battle between radical secularists and hard-core religionists for control of religious expression. The secularists, using everything from the gay rights agenda to an absolutely exclusionist view of the separation of church and state, would drive religion from the public sphere. A growing cadre of conservative Christian activists would use the power of the state to reinculcate Christian values and recapture an almost mythical vision of a one-time Christian nation.

It is a matter of plain historical fact that past restraints on state-sponsored religious activity were as much motivated by a desire to keep Catholic power under control as to uphold the Constitution. That has now changed, and the rush is on to draw the state into the battle against secularism.

But nowhere is the new paradigm more visible than in the efforts of the present US administration and a coalition of conservative groups to advance the faith-based initiative. Bolder than the similar 1996 charitable choice provisions, the faith-based initiative aims to fund church-based welfare programs directly, even if connected to the faith mission of the church. This is part of the re-Christianizing of America. Its general effect is a giant step across the line to state control.

There is no question that we have crossed a divide in recent months.

In the aftermath of September 11, top religious leaders volunteered that America was being punished by God, and in the words of one on national television, "We must put religion back into government." Adventists should recognize where all this is leading.

Unfortunately the mechanism is now in place to imply guilt by association in other situations. Suddenly the hate crimes legislation takes on another aspect—with England, for example, in the process of criminalizing inflammatory religious speech. Suddenly the calls for a new national religious unity have a logic that the populace understands. Suddenly the words "last movements will be rapid ones" spring to mind. *Testimonies*, volume 9, 11. Lincoln E. Steed, *Review, North American Edition*, January 2002.

THE US IS ON A SLIPPERY SLOPE

The late Ayn Rand described the insidious process which takes a society, inch by un-remarkable inch, to socialism: "The goal of the 'liberals'—as it emerges from the record of past decades—was to smuggle this country into welfare statism by means of single, concrete, specific measures, enlarging the power of the government a step at a time. . . leading to a fait accompli. (The goal of the 'conservative' was only to retard that process.)" In the words of Irish philosopher Edmund Burke, "The true danger is when liberty is nibbled away, for expedience, and by parts."

The idea of socialism is that government is responsible for implementing altruism throughout society; that everyone, impelled by "compassion and caring," must sacrifice for the common good, so that all may share and share alike. This noble-sounding doctrine is often expressed this way: "From each according to his ability; to each according to his need." So what if it's the creed of communism!

When the federal government took over the task of inspecting luggage at airports and terminals, it added more than 30,000 new employees to its payroll. Most of them will become dues-paying members of government unions. They will become un-removable, overpaid wards of a government monopoly. Surely there can no longer be any doubt that America is well on its way down the slippery slope to socialism.

The government continues to grow in size, power and arrogance as it asserts increasing sovereignty over the lives and behavior of its subjects. The noose tightens, and the rabble wear it like a badge of honor. **Our progression on this path is so subtle that only in retrospect, when it is too late to resist, will we understand that our freedoms have been irretrievably forfeited and our Constitution irreversibly abandoned.** *The Conservative Chronicle*, January 16, 2002.

the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are when it is too late to escape the snare . . .

ELEVEN IMPORTANT EXECUTIVE PRESIDENTIAL ORDERS:

The Federal Register is probably the most powerful document printed in the US today. What appears in its columns as notification of official Presidential actions assumes the power of law. No Congressional authorization is required. There is no review by the Judiciary. Executive orders are laws made by one man—the President.

Through Executive Orders it would be possible for one man to completely ignore the Constitution, the authority of Congress, and the will of the people. Through implementation of these Executive Orders a complete dictatorship can be imposed.

There are already such Executive Orders. Eleven of the more significant Executive Orders were signed in February and September of 1962 by President Kennedy.

At first glance, these orders seem to be steps needed to enable the US to prepare for and strike back in the event of a nuclear attack. The propaganda surrounding them implies this. Unfortunately, this is not the whole truth.

A communication on February 14, 1962, between David Bell, Director of the *Bureau of the Budget* and the then President John Kennedy, states:

"This need [for Executive Orders] is underscored by the fact that emergency planning is needed with respect to a limited war situation involving concerns with such matters as economic stabilization, manpower and other major programs supporting military action." Bell went on to list nuclear attack and post attack recovery as two other reasons for the need.

The head of the *Office of Emergency Planning* states that, "the approval of Congress would be necessary to put these Orders into effect."

But the fact is, Executive Orders are never approved by Congress! They have the "force of law"—without legislation! The President could declare a *national emergency* and invoke these orders!

Liberty Lobby suggests that all Americans acquaint themselves with these eleven Executive Orders that establish the machinery to authorize the President and his advisors to take control of every significant factor of the Private Sector of our society.

Executive Order No. 11051 details responsibility of the *Office of Emergency Planning*, and gives authorization to put all other Executive Orders into effect in times of increased international tension or economic or financial crisis.

Executive Order No. 10995 provides for a take-over of communications media.

Executive Order No. 10997 provides for a take-over of all electrical power, petroleum, gas fuels and minerals.

Executive Order No. 10998 provides for a take-over of all food resources and farms.

Executive Order No. 10999 provides for a take-over of all modes of transportation and control of highways, seaports, etc.

Executive Order No. 11000 provides for mobilization of all civilians into work brigades under government supervision.

Executive Order No. 11001 provides for government take-over of all health, education and welfare functions.

Executive Order No. 11002 designates Postmaster General to operate a national registration of all persons.

Executive Order No. 11003 provides for the government to take over airports and aircraft.

Executive Order No. 11004 provides for the *Housing and Finance Authority* to relocate communities, build new housing with public funds, designate areas to be abandoned as unsafe, and establish new locations for populations.

Executive Order No. 11005 provides for the government to take-over railroads, inland waterways and public storage facilities. *Liberty Lobby*, 300 Independence Ave., S.E., Washington, DC.

Faith-Based Compromise Bill

Initially the President had proposed direct government funding to places of worship such as churches and mosques, in return for the provision of social services. This proposal ran into intense controversy for three reasons:

1. There were questions whether such direct funding of churches violated the separation of church and state.

2. There were concerns regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of the policy.

There was opposition to permitting the recipients of government funding to use religious based hiring criteria. The new bill avoids these controversies by excluding direct funding to churches and other places of worship. The heart of the bill is a number of provisions designed to stimulate charitable giving. In addition, it contains a series of proposals designed to relieve poverty. Despite the compromises in the bill, it is not without controversy.

The most controversial section provides some protection for religious entities that contract with the government. Not included in those protections, however, is the right of religious entities to hire only those who are members of the faith. This right has been under intense attack in recent years.

The announcement of the compromise bill came only days after the White House announced its choice for the new leader for the office of faith-based and community initiatives. The new head of the office is Jim Towey (pronounced "too-ey"). Mr. Towey previously provided services for Mother Theresa's charity. *General Conference Office of Legal Affairs bulletin*, February 7, 2002.

AMERICANS FAVOR GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF CHURCH

A survey performed by the Pew Research Center this year found that 78% of Americans believe religious entities that receive government funding should not be permitted to set hiring criteria on the basis of religious faith. *Review, North American Edition*, January 2002.

US CONGRESSIONAL ACTS & PROPOSALS

S.1 [Senate Bill #1], *Education Bill*—Passed and signed into law: This was signed into law by President Bush in early January. This new education law includes "hate crime" language that will fund pro-homosexual policies in public schools.

S. 1284, *Employment Nondiscrimination Act*: This proposed bill will add "sexual orientation" to our nation's federal labor laws. It will provide special legal protections for homosexuals, transgenders, and others who claim to be victims of "hate" or "discrimination" in the workplace.

H.R. [House of Representatives Bill] #2931, the *Bright Line Act of 2001*: This is a bill that will amend the IRS [Internal Revenue Service—Tax] Code of 1986 to remove ambiguities regarding how much legislative activity a church can engage in without violating IRS rules. This bill will allow religious groups to maintain their tax-exempt status so long as they do not use more than 20% of their gross income each year on [political] lobbying activities. In addition, it will allow these groups to use up to 5% of their gross revenues to campaign for or against a political campaign or candidate.

S. 625, *Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act*: This complicated bill is a homosexual "hate crimes" bill that will fund anti-Christian, pro-homosexual "safe schools" curricula and help fund "hate crime" policing efforts. The bill will make "sexual orientation" a federally protected behavior, and those opposing homosexual behavior in public schools may be subject to punishment. It also provides higher penalties for crimes against homosexuals than heterosexuals. This legislation will potentially lead to the punishing of Christians who object to homosexuality on moral grounds. [Emphasis in original.]

H.J. Res. 81, *The School Prayer Amendment to the US Constitution*: This is the re-introduction [from last year's defeat.] (with 74 co-sponsors) of Representative Ernest Istook's proposed amendment to the US Constitution. The *Traditional Values Coalition* supports this legislation. It must be passed by two-thirds of the House and Senate and be ratified by three-fourths of the 50 states. *Traditional Values Coalition newsletter*, January/February 2002.

MIXING RELIGION & POLITICS COMING CLOSER?

Two bills are pending in the House of Representatives (H.R. 2357 & H.R. 2931) that would remove sections of the Internal Revenue Service Code that bar houses of worship from endorsing or opposing candidates for public office. *Americans United for the Separation of Church and State solicitation letter*, January 2002.

[Editor's note: If these bills become law churches could then be used as public-access platforms to promote, oppose, or possibly do fundraising or lobbying for political candidates. Voters could more easily be urged to vote as a block rather than as individuals.]

"In free America rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance." *The Great Controversy*, 592.

RELIGIO-POLITICO-CORRECTNESS, OR NOT

Democrats are planning a daring assault on the most critical turf in politics: the cultural mainstream. The theory goes like this. . . . Our enemy in Afghanistan is religious extremism and intolerance. It's therefore more important than ever to honor the ideals of tolerance—religious, sexual, racial, reproductive—at home. The GOP [Government of the People—Republican Party] is out of the mainstream, some Democrats will argue next year, because it's too dependent upon an intolerant "religious right." This is an incendiary battle plan—essentially comparing the GOP right with the Taliban." *Newsweek*, December 31, 2001.

[Editor's note: Notice that the "religious right", and by extension, all conservative Christians—are already pegged as "intolerant". The Democratic Party is going to try to make conservative, fundamental Christians, especially if they're Republican, to be viewed as possessing a similar "extremism and intolerance" as the Taliban. When Sunday laws come, and they surely will, those who resist will be identified as intolerant religious extremists similar to—the Taliban.]

RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM

More and more, religion is associated with either irrelevance or evil. The more extreme forms of belief now find resonance with the underprivileged and oppressed, and are also reflections of an overcrowded world. When life does not seem to count for much, violent expressions of religion are acceptable.

As a result, even "tolerant" belief systems are becoming increasingly polarized. Hinduism, long a safe refuge for many other beliefs, is beginning to become politicized and nationalized. Islam is clearly being used by a number of nations and groups as a mode of intolerance. Within Christianity also, extremism provides a focus for the disadvantaged, or those disaffected with society for whatever reason. Some analysts even expect religion to be the dominant point of conflict in the future. The ongoing world situation is now charged with such religious conflict and extremism that it is a wake-up call for the church to address society's concern over the perceived negative impact of strongly held religious beliefs.

Religious freedom and the right to change religions is far from universally recognized, and will probably be less so as groups seek to impose dominance and control. The refusal to allow evangelism cuts at the heart of witness, and such a situation should provide a spur to activity in the present. *Adventist Review*, World Edition, January 10, 2002.

"The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances." *Last Day Events*, 174.

ROBERTSON BACK TO HIS OLD TRICKS

On January 7, Pat Robertson's *700 Club* program featured Representative Walter Jones, a Republican from North Carolina, who has introduced a bill that would allow churches to endorse political candidates without risking their tax-exempt status. Robertson railed against the IRS law during the segment with Jones.

The bill was drafted by *the American Center for Law and Justice*, a law firm founded by Robertson. The bill has the support of 100 other members of Congress. *The Christian News*, January 14, 2002.

Quotation: "In truth, the gulf between evangelicals and Roman Catholics, opened by the Reformation, is being bridged. . . . Today we stand shoulder to shoulder as the most significant religious bloc in America" *New York Times*, March 2, 2002.

US UNDER GOD'S JUDGMENT

"If I am correct in thinking God may be using these events to wake up America." [Editor's note: "these events" being September 11, and further, to define the "events" as a judgment of God, brought about through national sin.] Once again: "If I am correct in thinking God may be using these events to wake up America. We will prevail not so much because of the diplomatic or military efforts of our government, but only if God in his mercy decides to forgive us, heal our land, and give America another chance. This means that **the role of the church is of life-and-death importance.**" Chuck Colson *Christianity Today*, November 12, 2001.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BE PROPOSED

Because the US local district, circuit, state supreme courts and the US Supreme Court appear to be overrun by liberal "judicial activist" judges, the new *Alliance for Marriage* organization, backed by some US senators, is going to attempt to bypass the court-system entirely by introducing an amendment to the US Constitution, called the *Federal Marriage Amendment*, "to once and for all time legally define marriage solely as the union of a man and a woman." *Alliance for Marriage promotional letter*, December 2001.

[Editor's note: Conservative Christians are beginning to see the liberal US courts as an impediment in the "culture war" in the US, and are planning to go "over the heads" of laws, lawyers and courts, directly to the US Constitution to implement their conservative agenda—among which includes mandated Sunday worship.]

"The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, **and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending.** Its professions are mild and apparently Christian, but **when it shall speak it will reveal the spirit of the dragon.**" *Testimonies*, volume 5, 452.

"Not a move has been made in exalting the idol sabbath, in bringing around Sunday observance through legislation, but Satan has been behind it, and has been the chief worker; **but the conscience should not be compelled even for the observance of the genuine Sabbath, for God will accept only willing service.**" *Review and Herald*, April 15, 1890.

WILL PEOPLE OF FAITH BE QUARANTINED?

In the *TIME* magazine of February 15, 1954, liberal Chief Justice of the US Supreme court, Earl Warren, was quoted as saying, "I believe no one can read the history of our country without realizing that the Good Book and the spirit of the Savior have from the beginning been our guiding geniuses. . . . I believe the entire Bill of Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it: freedom of belief, of expression, of assembly, of petition, and the dignity of the individual, the sanctity of the home, equal justice under law, and the reservation of power to the people."

Less than 50 years later, if a nominee of the Supreme Court today said what Chief Justice Warren said, he would not have any chance at all of being confirmed by the Senate. He would be considered too extreme to interpret the Constitution. He would come under immediate and heavy attack by the . . . constituencies of the Democrat Party.

If a teacher in a public school in America today, in general assembly or in a history class, were to say what Chief Justice Warren said, that teacher would be labeled as a mean-spirited racist bigot, accused of spewing hate in the classroom, and sent to "sensitivity" training for the purpose of erasing the completely unacceptable idea that there might be something unique or superior in the way the United States of America came into being.

In a larger sense, anything having to do with religion, particularly the symbols and ideas of the Christian religion, has been treated like an unhealthy contamination, and systematically exorcised out of what has come to be called the public (as opposed to the private) sector. Unfortunately, essentially everything in the country has been declared to be in the "public" sector and hence subject to unconstrained state control.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing America today is whether people of faith will allow themselves to be quarantined. *The Conservative Chronicle*, January 23, 2002.

US SUPREME COURT HEARS VOUCHER CASE

The Supreme Court will issue its decision on the constitutionality of school vouchers this summer. While it is most difficult to predict in the Supreme Court's decisions in advance, those who heard the Supreme Court arguments unanimously agreed that it is more likely than not that the Supreme Court will find that school vouchers in one form or another are constitutional. Should the Supreme Court do so, three other significant questions will be raised; how many districts/states will choose to adopt the voucher system, what kind of governmental strings will be attached to the vouchers, and most importantly, should church schools accept vouchers if they are offered? The final question is something that all of those involved with Christian education should begin asking themselves in advance of the ruling, as should the money become available, the financial pressure to accept vouchers is likely to be significant. *General Conference Office of Legal Affairs Bulletin*, February 26, 2002.

CONSERVATIVE JUDGES IN THE FUTURE?

Earlier this year, the White House abruptly ended the *American Bar Association's* 50-year role of evaluating candidates before they are nominated. Almost every current nominee to the federal courts is in the mold of Supreme Court Justices Scalia and Thomas, the two most conservative members, whose activism has been repeatedly demonstrated. . . . And what's more, nearly all the 52 pending nominees (with 110 total vacancies) for the federal courts are the same kind of [conservative] extremists—enough to tilt [the US court-system] to the far right for generations to come. *Alliance For Justice solicitation letter*, January 2002.

[**Editor's note:** The political right seems to be gaining the in judicial appointees. Not to endorse the liberal, pro-abortion, pro-homosexual, pro-pornography, ideas of the political left-wing, but would the right-wing, conservative, anti-abortion, anti-homosexual, anti-smut, pro-Ten Commandments, pro-prayer in schools, pro-vouchers, "God-and-Country" judges be more likely to uphold a national Sunday Law?]

AMERICA'S DIVERSE CHRISTIAN FAITH

85% of Americans consider themselves to be Christian. 8% consider themselves evangelicals. 33% consider themselves born again, but not evangelical. 44% consider themselves Christians, but neither evangelical nor born again. 8% consider themselves atheists and agnostics. People of other faiths comprise 7% of the population. www.barna.org

MARK TWAIN ON CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP

"It will be conceded . . . that a Christian's first duty is to God. It then follows, as a matter of course, that it is his duty to carry his Christian code of morals to the polls and vote them. Whenever he shall do that, he will not find himself voting for an unclean man, a dishonest man. Whenever a Christian votes, he votes against God or for Him, and he knows this quite well.

"God is an issue in every election; He is a candidate in the person of every clean nominee on every ticket; His purity and His approval are there, to be voted for or voted against, and no fealty to party can absolve His servant from his higher and more exacting fealty to Him . . .

"If Christians should vote their duty to God at the polls, they would carry every election, and do it with ease. They would elect every clean candidate in the United States, and defeat every soiled one. Their prodigious power would be quickly realized and recognized, and afterward there would be no unclean candidates upon any ticket, and graft would cease. . .

"Yet every Christian congregation in the country elects foul men to public office, while quite aware that this also is an open, a deliberate insult to God, who can not approve and does not approve the placing of the liberties and the well-being of His children in the hands of infamous men. It is the Christian congregations that are responsible for the filling of our public offices with criminals, for the reason that they could prevent it if they chose to do it. . .

“If the Christians of America could be persuaded to vote God and a clean ticket, it would bring about a moral revolution that would be incalculably beneficent. It would save the country, a country whose Christians have betrayed it and are destroying it . . . Christianity . . . is on trial now. And nothing important is on trial except Christianity.” *Mark Twain, a notorious skeptic, Collier’s magazine, September 2, 1905.*

THEOLOGICAL SYNCRETISM GAINING GROUND

What committed Christians and Jews and Muslims must do is find within their own traditions sound theological reasons for valuing other faiths without compromising the integrity of their own. This is already beginning to happen. Despite concern from Vatican officials, some prominent Catholic theologians are beginning to ask how the Holy Spirit might be at work within non-Christian religions. Some Muslim scholars, too, are using the Quran to show that religious pluralism has been blessed by Allah himself. Clearly, this will be the most important theological agenda of the new millennium. *Newsweek, December 31, 2001.*

[**Editor’s note:** Muslim scholars, now beginning to come into line with the Vatican.]

WHEN NICE IS A VICE

Sociologists studying our contemporary culture report that Americans do have strong moral beliefs, but ranking highest among them is the ethical imperative to be nonjudgmental, tolerant, and affirming of other people no matter what. That is to say, to be nice.

Maybe we have become too nice to disapprove of anyone, resulting in the loss of social pressure that used to enforce cultural norms. Expressing disapproval seems the only socially unacceptable practice. Niceness is probably a secularized remnant of “love.” Love is patient, kind, and forgiving, but it is not particularly tolerant or permissive, as is evident with loving spouses and loving parents. Love is never content simply to leave the other person alone. Sometimes love is not nice. Love—and niceness—needs a foundation, like the other virtues, namely, the love of God, faith in His Son Jesus Christ, and the hope of everlasting life. Without that, niceness—the kind that embraces all religions as the same, the kind that produces soft-hearted but soft-headed government programs, the kind that papers over important moral issues—can be not a virtue but a vice. *WORLD, November 10, 2001.*

[**Editor’s note:** In other words, postmodern moral-relativism teaches that God doesn’t call anything good or evil, therefore, you and I can’t call anything good or evil either—is one of the prevailing sins of our age.]

And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil. *Zephaniah 1:12.*

AMERICANS BASE TRUTH ON FEELINGS

Pontius Pilate asked the classic question, “What is truth?”

Do you know what Americans think about truth? By a 3-to-1 margin (64% vs. 22%) adults said truth is always relative to a person’s situation. The perspective was even more lopsided among teenagers. People are most likely to make their moral and ethical decisions on the basis of whatever feels right or comfortable in a situation. The Bible or religious teachings were primary for a small percentage of adults and teens. Whites, blacks and Hispanics differed substantially on these matters.

While born again Christians were statistically different from non-born again individuals, the differences were minimal; a minority of born agains believe in absolute truth; and a minority base their moral choices on Scripture.

Barna noted that substantial numbers of Christians believe that activities such as abortion, gay sex, sexual fantasies, cohabitation, drunkenness and viewing pornography are morally acceptable. “Without some firm and compelling basis for suggesting that such acts are inappropriate, people are left with philosophies such as ‘if it feels good, do it,’ ‘everyone else is doing it’ or ‘as long as it doesn’t hurt anyone else, it’s permissible.’ In fact, the alarmingly fast decline of moral foundations among our young people has culminated in a one-word worldview: ‘whatever.’ The result is a mentality that esteems pluralism, relativism, tolerance, and diversity without critical reflection of the implications of particular views and actions.”

"Just one out of ten of our country's born again teenagers believe in absolute moral truth—a statistic that is nearly identical to that of non-born again teens. Christian families, educators and churches must prioritize this matter if the Christian community hopes to have any distinctiveness in our culture. The virtual disappearance of this cornerstone of the Christian faith—that is, God has communicated a series of moral principles in the Bible that are meant to be the basis of our thoughts and actions, regardless of our preferences, feelings or situations—is probably the best indicator of the waning strength of the Christian Church in America today."

The researcher stated that the difference in truth views between born again and non-born again adults was statistically significant, but not much to cheer about. "When a majority of Christian adults, including three out of four born again Baby Busters, as well as three out of four born again teens proudly cast their vote for moral relativism, the Church is in trouble." www.barna.org February 12, 2002.

"The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded." ***The Great Controversy*, 588.**

CAPITALISM'S CANCER

The Enron debacle is not just another juicy scandal. Enron is a cancer on capitalism, and the big question is how far it has already spread. Even if the lead prosecutor can cut out the tumor with aggressive law enforcement, the disease may be in the nodes of the marketplace, poisoning the rest of the financial system.

Aurthur Levitt, the former chairman of the *Securities and Exchange Commission* (SEC), says Enron is merely the symptom of a much larger problem. "What has failed is nothing less than the system for overseeing our capital markets," Levitt testified.

Enron is the 9–11 of financial security—a wake-up call. There is a "culture of gamesmanship" that is rigging the system with phony numbers, hyped earnings and worthless stock analysis. His calls for reform [during the 90's] were rebuffed by members of Congress [who were] legally bribed by Wall Street and the green-eyeshade [accountant's] lobby. Reform might still be stifled. Enron may be bankrupt, but the underlying disease lives on. Entrepreneurship is the American Dream. Few make the journey all the way up, but many have faith that they might. Faith in a system that isn't rigged remains indispensable. *Newsweek*, February 4, 2002.

[**Editor's note:** Easy to see the justification for global financial controls that will be implemented in order to stop the global corruption.]

"While they cry, 'Peace and safety,' sudden destruction is coming. When . . . the routine of work in the various money-making lines is carried on without regard to principle; when the student is eagerly seeking knowledge of everything but his Bible, Christ comes as a thief. Everything in the world is in agitation. The signs of the times are ominous. Coming events cast their shadows before. The Spirit of God is withdrawing from the earth," *Desire of Ages*, 635.

RENEWAL OF SUNDAY AS LORD'S DAY DISCUSSED

More than 200 US diocesan liturgy officials gathered in Philadelphia to discuss renewal of Sunday as the Lord's day. "Sunday: Day of Days" was the main theme of the meeting. The four main speakers addressed various aspects of Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter *Dies Domini* ("The Day of the Lord"), on Sunday as a day of rest, worship and celebration. Father Andrew Cifren discussed the challenges for a Catholic approach to Sunday that are posed by contemporary American culture. *The Florida Catholic*, October 2001.

PHARMACY SCHOOL SET TO OPEN IN LOMA LINDA

The opening of a School of Pharmacy at Loma Linda University this September will mark a new era in the institution's 100-year history of health education, says Avis Ericson, executive associate dean of the new school.

"I look on the Pharmacy School as being the last key piece of the puzzle in terms of Loma Linda being a total health professions university," says Ericson. All the other schools-of Medicine, Dentistry, Public Health, Nursing, and Allied Health Professions-can only be enhanced by the presence of a full-scale pharmaceutical teaching program at the university, she explains. "Pharmacy has grown into a tremendous profession over past years, one which works closely both with patients and other health professionals in providing a collaborative approach to health care."

According to Ericson, an important characteristic of the school will be its adherence to the mission of Loma Linda University—a mission, grounded in Christian ethics, that "seeks to further the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus Christ. This sense of mission will give our School of Pharmacy a different 'flavor' from any other school of pharmacy in the country," she says.

Ericson, who took up her position in August 2001, will usher the school through its lengthy accreditation process, working with the *American Council on Pharmaceutical Education*, the nation's accrediting organization for schools of pharmacy. The school's application for "pre-candidate status" is almost complete, says Ericson, and full accreditation is expected by the time the first class graduates in 2006.

Loma Linda's Board of Trustees voted in 1995 to establish a School of Pharmacy. Established in 1905, Loma Linda University has become known as one of the world's leading health education and research institutions. It has an enrollment of some 3,000 students and employs more than 1,200 full-time faculty. *Adventist News Network*, January 30, 2002.

"Use nature's remedies,—water, sunshine, and fresh air. Do not use drugs. Drugs never heal; they only change the features of the disease." *Paulson Collection*, 17.

"The purpose of our health institutions is not first and foremost to be that of hospitals." *Medical Ministry*, 27.

"The use of drugs is not favorable or natural to the laws of life and health. The drug medication gives nature two burdens to bear, in the place of one. She has two serious difficulties to overcome, in the place of one." *Medical Ministry*, 223.

"When one institution gathers a large amount of responsibility and a large number of guests, the religious part of the work is in danger of being neglected." *Review and Herald*, April 14, 1903.

"'Break up the large centers,' has been the word of the Lord. 'Carry the light to many places.' Those who are desirous of receiving a training for effective medical missionary work, should understand that large sanitariums will be conducted so much like institutions of the world, that students laboring in such sanitariums cannot obtain a systematic training for Christian medical missionary work. The proclamation of the truth in all parts of the world calls for small sanitariums in many places, not in the heart of cities, but in places where city influence will be as little felt as possible." *Loma Linda Messages*, 57.

HEARING HIM THE CHALLENGE OF OUR DAY

Trusting folks who claim to speak for God sometimes involves dangerous risks. That's why [post]-moderns are so offended by people like us. In its great care never to be guilty of saying more than God has said our society has engaged in a mad rush to the other end of the issue. Now, rather than naively quoting our God, or any god, we have become agnostics of the first order.

What we mostly agree on is how much we can't really know. We worry about appearing to be fundamentalists—pretending to say more than God has said. But what we really have become are folks who are embarrassed to say anything at all that God has said.

Hearing Him say anything at all is much more the challenge of our day. *WORLD*, November 10, 2001.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: Amos 8:11.

America on Track to Revive the Inquisition

By Dean Ferrell

WATCHMEN ON THE WALL:

“From the light given me of God I know that the powers of darkness are working with intense energy from beneath, and with stealthy tread Satan is advancing to take those who are now asleep, as a wolf taking his prey. We have warnings now which we may give, a work now which we may do; but soon it will be more difficult than we can imagine.” *Maranatha*, 29.

But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman’s hand. Ezekiel 33:6.

GOD’S BLESSING ON AMERICA’S WALL:

Our Founders knew that God (not government nor any Church) is the source of our liberties. Also, that maintaining our civil and religious liberty would largely depend on keeping the church and state separate: “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal. That their creator has endowed them with certain inalienable rights, that among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” *The Declaration of Independence*.

The first amendment of the Constitution: “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Thomas Jefferson speaks of the first amendment as “thus building a wall of separation between church and state.” *Thomas Jefferson, Writings*, Library of America, 510.

The US is the lamblike beast or nation of Revelation 13:11–14. From the beginning, our phenomenal strength was, like Samson’s hair, in our two lamblike horns, neither of which had crowns. One symbolized our liberty of conscience or religion, because we had no Pope. The second symbolized civil liberty, because we had no King. To remove the horns removes God’s blessing and will soon prove our nation’s ruin.

“The lamblike horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented. The ‘speaking’ of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities.” *The Great Controversy*, 442.

CRACKS IN THE WALL:

“The ‘wall of separation between church and state’ is a useless metaphor based on bad history, a metaphor which has proved useless as a guide to judging. It should be frankly and explicitly abandoned.” Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist.

April 12, 2000, the *Washington Post*: The *Republican National Committee* admitted that they have a one hundred percent Roman Catholic voting record since 1995. Couple this with a *Washington Times* July 12, 2000 article reporting the (symbolic) yet revealing vote of the US Congress of 416 to 1, that the Vatican ought to have a stronger voice in the UN. Add to that with a *Washington Post* article, April 12, 2000, reporting the *Republican National Committee* holding a Mass in honor of their new Roman Catholic White House chaplain, and it should be clear that America is a train on a track, and it’s not homeward bound, it’s Romeward bound.

TEARING DOWN THE WALL (1ST. YEAR IN OFFICE):

Washington Post, January 30, 2001—“President Bush, giving teeth to his father’s decade old ‘Thousand Points of Light’ initiative, launched a broad governmental effort yesterday to invigorate religious charities. . . . In the first step of what could be an unprecedented collaboration between government and non profits, the president created offices in five cabinet agencies and the White House, with a charge to ease Regulations and boost government funding of charities, many of them with religious ties. The president signed two executive orders, one to set up a White House office to promote social work by religious organizations, the other, to instruct federal agencies to play their part in cooperating with faith groups. . . . Mr. Bush still needs to tread carefully around the constitutional separation between church and state.” *Washington Post* February 27, 2001—Bush initiative requires five federal departments . . . The purpose of each of these centers, according to Bush’s order, “will be to coordinate department efforts to eliminate regulatory, contracting, and other problematic obstacles to the participation of faith-based and other community organizations.” Could the “regulatory and problematic obstacles” Bush is coordinating federal departments to “eliminate” have anything to do with constitutional limitations and those who will keep their sworn oath to uphold them? His actions prove him to be in harmony with Justice Rehnquist who indicated that the 1st amendment, which composes that wall, “is a useless metaphor” and, “it should be frankly and explicitly abandoned.”

The *Washington Post*, May 5, 2000, spotlights the brazen conspiracy of Congress to make a law respecting the establishment of the Catholic religion. “House Majority Whip Tom DeLay predicted yesterday that once George W. Bush is elected president and congressional republicans expand their majority, law makers would be able to launch “a very aggressive counterattack.” As part of that counterattack, DeLay proposed that Congress attach two . . . measures to spending bills. One would allow religious groups and institutions to receive federal funds, which he said would ease the way for Catholic schools to receive government money without excessive federal oversight.” [Note: **Need clarification? America’s soul is being sold.**]

THE WALL FORGOTTEN:

Proof of Bad Religion: Of the collective minds that helped build the foundation of the United States of America, one of the most perceptive was that of Benjamin Franklin. On the subject of government subsidization of the work of religion, he said: “When religion is good, I can see that it will support itself. And when it cannot support itself, and God does not take care to support it, so that it’s professors are obliged to call for the help of the civil power, it is a sign, I apprehend, of it’s being a bad one.”

In his time, Benjamin Franklin’s concept of bad religion was built by his recent history, and fresh memories of what the Beast [Roman Catholicism] had done, and what happened as a so-called Protestant church emulated them. Americans today, seem to have no right conception of what these actions have achieved in the past. Now, a “Christian coalition,” a bad religion with one hand out for handouts and the other on the reins of civil power, is here to prove old Ben Franklin correct. What does inspiration say of this?

VOID OF GOD’S SPIRIT, FILLED BY AN IMAGE:

“But what is the image to the beast? . . . and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image to the beast. It is also called an image of the beast. Then to learn what the image is like and how it is to be formed we must study the characteristics of the beast itself—the papacy. When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel and accepted heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God. In order to control the consciences of the people, she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the state and employed them to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’

In order for the United States to form an image of the beast, the religious power must so control the civil government that the authority of the state will also be employed by the church to accomplish her own ends. Whenever the church has obtained secular power, she has employed it to punish dissent from her doctrines. Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliances with worldly powers have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience. An example of this is given in the long-continued persecution of dissenters by the Church of England.” *The Great Controversy*, 443.

THE SEED OF THE SERPENT IS PLANTED: BILLY GRAHAM’S MUSTARD SEED BORE FRUIT—BABYLON’S RULER IN OFFICE:

December. 24, 2001 *Washington Post*—Ralph Reed, who once led the Christian Coalition . . . notes that the religious conservative movement “no longer plays the institutional role it once did.” . . . in part because it succeeded in electing Bush and other friendly leaders. “You’re no longer throwing rocks AT the building; you’re IN the building.” [The so-called “Christian” Coalition (a religious-political movement led by papal flatterers) has their man in office.] The same article has leading Christians, both Ashcroft and Bush billed as “Daniels”. Certainly, they are leaders within modern Babylon, but their likeness to the great prophet breaks down from there.

More light on Bush’s “testimony.” His discovery of God 15 years ago with the help of . . . “Reverend Graham [who] planted a mustard seed in my soul, a seed that grew over the next year,” as Bush’s memoir recounts. “He led me to the path, and I began walking. It was the beginning of a change in my life.” What has time proved that seed to contain? *Religious News Service* September 27, 1979 quotes Graham: “The visit of Pope Paul II to the United States is an event of great significance not only for Roman Catholics, but for all Americans—as well as the world. . . Pope John Paul II has become the moral leader of the world.” Bush, at the ribbon cutting ceremony of the *John Paul II Cultural Center*, shared that exact profession of faith in the pope, urging Americans to listen to him, while also attributing to this foreign head of state, endearing titles meant only for Jesus Christ. The Vatican, with the pope as its head, is not just a church, it is also a foreign state, which receives and sends political envoys to and from nations covering the globe. All it’s adherents take an oath of allegiance to the head of that foreign state which supersedes and releases them from any oath taken to another government.

LEGAL GROUNDS FOR LOSS OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP:

If one were to follow it out, cause to effect all American officials, elected and appointed, who make that oath to the papacy (the head of an earthly foreign state, namely the Vatican), commit treason, which places them in a quite similar position as the former American who sided with the Taliban. The Vatican is a religious-political entity inimical to both American principles and to the Gospel, therefore inimical to Christ Himself. It can be easily proven by official statements from the Papacy (which does not change) that they are also inimical to American civil and religious liberties. I know to some, that sounds extreme, and maybe some might want that softened, but there is an official legal American document, issued by the Department of State, that upholds what I have written. It even broadens the scope to include more than just officials who take the oath of office. The United States Passport has a page that is headed *IMPORTANT INFORMATION*, under the subheading: *LOSS OF CITIZENSHIP*, says “that under certain circumstances, you may lose your citizenship by performing any of the following acts: (1) naturalization in a foreign state, (2) taking an oath to, or making a declaration to, a foreign state.”

All Roman Catholics take an oath of allegiance to the papacy, and many of our Protestant officials are acting as though they have also sworn allegiance to Rome.

WORTHLESS OATHS :

Our elected officials have sworn an oath, which most seem bent on violating. It is the Constitutional Oath, in which, they solemnly swore to protect, preserve and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Part of that Constitution says that, “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or to deny the free exercise thereof.” Moreover, another part guarantees its citizens the right to due process of law. The Constitution is an interesting document, in that when one tampers with one part, it tends to affect the rest of it, and whatever affects the Constitution in turn has an effect on every one of us.

LEADERS CONCEAL THE TRUE ISSUE

Generations ago, we were told of a time when, “our Protestant and Republican government” would “stretch forth its hand to grasp the hand of the Roman power” and during that same time period, in order “to secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law”, that is; a decree enforcing an “institution of the Papacy.”

“The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past is still seeking to rid the earth of those who fear God and obey His law. Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority who conscientiously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt. Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them. With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith. By false representations and angry appeals they will stir up the passions of the people. Not having a ‘Thus saith the Scriptures’ to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack. To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law. Those who fear God cannot accept an institution that violates a precept of the Decalogue. On this battlefield comes the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error. **And we are not left in doubt as to the issue. Now, as in the days of Mordecai, the Lord will vindicate His truth and His people.**

“By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, *our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution* as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 451.

When it is enforced, will it have just suddenly happened? Or will it come upon us by slow increments of enacting laws preparing the people along the way?

“The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending. . . . They do not see that if a Protestant government sacrifices the principles that have made them a free, independent nation, and through legislation brings into the Constitution principles that will propagate papal falsehood and papal delusion, they are plunging into the Roman horrors of the Dark Ages.” *Review and Herald, Extra*, December 11, 1888. The mechanization is being put into place; laws are being enacted and attitudes are being conditioned so that when the time is right, the economic sanctions and final death decree will be the next logical steps.

THE IMAGE, THE INQUISITION AND THE SUNDAY LAW:

So far, we have focused on various repudiations of the first amendment as signs of the setting up of the image to the beast.

“The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 81.

The details, even facial features of the image are even now clearly visible! Above, the Lord’s servant shows Seventh-Day Adventists that our eternal destiny is even now being decided, before the Sunday Law! The Sunday Law with the death decree, points to the time of the close of universal probation. All will have been settled into the truth, or settled into a lie, and sealed in their decisions by then. This is why this letter is sent out. You who find nothing new in this, are you ready now for your eternal destiny to be forever decided? The majority within God’s Seventh-day Adventist Church has been diverted from thinking seriously about these subjects, being fed milk-toast sermons in their nominal, liberal churches.

“The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready.” *The Great Controversy*, 594.

SEPTEMBER 11—PAVES THE WAY FOR MODERN INQUISITION:

Was the inquisition also an institution of the papacy? (a.k.a. beast) Yes, of course it was (is). An inquisition requires the cooperation and intelligence of the civil powers to take place. Coincidentally, the September 11th attacks have generated the full range of fear, anger and desperation needed to fast-track such cooperation from the US government, intelligence agencies, churches and especially the mass media in setting up the needed apparatus for a modern inquisition. It is all in the name of “fighting terrorism” and “ridding the world of evildoers” which is in itself is a good thing. Who could make war with that idea? Rome could not have asked for it all to come together better if it were all planned! Who will rid the world of evildoers? I want to see Americans protected and I share the hope President Bush expressed of seeing the perpetrators of terrorist acts brought to true justice. Yet, as I think of who’s power the Bible says we are to trust to rid the world of evildoers, and when it will happen, I fear for Mr. Bush, here is why: “Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? . . . Unless the Lord had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence.” “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; and to you who are troubled rest with us. When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God.” Psalm 94:16–17; 2 Thessalonians 1:6–8. The task is Messianic! As great a man as he might be, or as great a military power as we might be, to claim that assignment to ourselves, is exalting one’s self into God’s place, and that is blasphemy!

PIED PIPERS: OUR LIBERTIES ARE OUR SECURITY:

All over talk radio, and the various forms of media—the likes of Dr. Laura (who I used to respect),—and others, are using their influence to promote a willingness among our people to trade our civil liberties for (a perceived) security,—security that they somehow think could be provided by stripping away our Constitutional security. They believe that attacking these civil liberties will strike a blow against terrorists! However, what affects terrorists will have the same effect on all. “Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Lord Acton.

Again, these liberties are God given, we are endowed by our (and their) Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Many Americans have fought and died to preserve the liberties we are now in favor of casting aside. These liberties are our strength and blessing, without them, there is no security.

October 27, 2001 *Washington Post*—"President Bush yesterday handed law enforcement broad new investigative and surveillance powers. . . . Bush said . . . 'This government will enforce this law with all the urgency of a nation at war.' The new law gives the government a freer hand to conduct searches, detain suspects, eavesdrop on Internet communications and obtain electronic records of individuals. At the same time, it reduces the need for subpoenas, court orders or other legal checks . . . Congress overwhelmingly approved the legislation this week.

"Protestants have tampered with and patronized popery; they have made compromises and concessions which papists themselves are surprised to see and fail to understand. Men are closing their eyes to the real character of Romanism and the dangers to be apprehended from her supremacy. The people need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty." *The Great Controversy*, 566.

Now that there seems to be a respite, and as the war is going nicely, our President, and Congress will be returning to the domestic agenda. We can expect to see focus returning to faith-based initiatives and other policies that will tend to meld church and state. My next edition will concentrate more on new laws and attitudes, conditioning our society to approve of, and even ask for, loss of liberties.

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FOOD FRIGHT

In the US, food-borne pathogens cause an estimated 76 million illnesses, 325,000 hospitalizations, and 5,000 deaths yearly. There are about 1,300 food-borne illness investigations reported by state health departments to the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* each year. Yet many go undetected. The FDA and the *Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service* are the principal food-safety agencies. However, 12 separate federal entities administer more than 35 different food-safety laws. Twenty-eight congressional committees appropriate funds and oversee the agencies. More than 70 memorandums of understanding have been written to try to make sense of the agencies' overlapping functions. As a result, no agency feels empowered to take action to protect the food supply.

Different missions. The FDA and USDA have very different interpretations of their food-safety responsibilities. The companies that the USDA inspects account for about 20 percent of federally regulated food and 15 percent of food-borne illness, according to Congress's General Accounting Office. The FDA, on the other hand, inspects each of the 57,000 food firms it regulates about once every five years. Only 1 percent of the 3.7 million food imports under its jurisdiction are actually inspected. FDA-regulated products and firms make up 80 percent of the food supply and are associated with 85 percent of the illnesses.

Communication and coordination among the 12 food-safety agencies are spotty at best. "They don't have common systems; they don't share information; there is not a common protocol on how to handle anything—whether it's protecting food or getting it out of the system," says Karen Brown, senior vice president for the *Food Marketing Institute*, a trade association of food marketers. Even within the same agency, communication often breaks down. The USDA ran a simulation to see what would occur if foot-and-mouth made its way to the United States. In five days the disease spread to 25 states. Economic losses from such an event could total more than \$12 billion.

FDA surveys show that produce, generally, is more contaminated than once believed. On average, 4.4 percent of imported produce and 1.6 percent of domestic produce harbor pathogens.

Owing to quirks of government regulation, open-faced sandwiches are treated differently from regular sandwiches. Manufacturers of prepared meat and poultry sandwiches made with one piece of bread are inspected—on a daily basis—by the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. But manufacturers of sandwiches made with two slices of bread are regulated by the FDA and are inspected, on average, once every five years.

Six separate federal agencies, with different inspectors, regulations, protocols, and legal authority, are supposed to ensure that a ham-and-cheese sandwich is properly produced, processed, packaged, and made safe for human consumption.

The FDA has responsibility for the safety of wheat, flour, and bread. But at least three other federal agencies are responsible for the quality and safety of wheat crops.

Most mayonnaise is made from pasteurized eggs, and the USDA inspects egg-pasteurization plants almost daily. But some mayonnaise is made from fresh eggs, which cause 660,000 illnesses and 300 deaths a year. Three agencies are involved in egg inspection, but they disagree on how to guarantee safety.

The *Food and Drug Administration* is responsible for the safety and quality of all produce—domestic and imported. Shipments of imported produce, which have doubled in the past decade, are supposed to be checked entering the country, but only about 1 percent of imported food is actually inspected.

Ensuring the safety of the ham in the sandwich is one of the most complicated food-safety tasks. The FDA determines which antibiotics, growth hormones, and other drugs can be used on domestic hogs. Two different USDA agencies check imported ham for safety. The government also has agreements with foreign countries regarding safe practices at farms and plants.

The FDA determines which antibiotics and growth hormones can be used on domestic milk-producing cows. The agency is also responsible for checking drug residues in milk and dairy herds, but since 1996 it has checked fewer than half of the suspicious herds. It also regulates cheese production and packaging. Most cheese contamination is discovered by packagers and unfortunate consumers. *U.S. News & World Report*, December 24, 2001.

HUNGRY AMERICANS

[As reported by *Religion News Service*] A report released November 14 by the national hunger-relief charity, *America's Second Harvest*, claimed about 23 million, or "More than 35 percent of Americans make the impossible choice . . . between buying food and paying their rent or mortgage," and about half of them are not those that are unemployed, but are simply underemployed; and not those that are confined to inner-city slums, but are rural or suburban dwellers. *Adventist Review*, Cutting Edge edition, December 20, 2001.

PEDIATRICIANS BACK GAYS WHO SEEK TO ADOPT PARTNER'S CHILD

The American Academy of Pediatrics, which offers guidance to parents on child-rearing issues from spanking to nutrition, is announcing its support today for the right of gay men and lesbians to adopt their partners' children. Many experts said the academy's endorsement was likely to carry weight in courts and legislatures because the group, which represents 55,000 pediatricians, enjoys wide respect. *New York Times*, February 4, 2002.

"MIRACLES SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED"

Reports of weeping statues and visions of the Virgin Mary should not be brushed off lightly by a skeptical society, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia told a largely Roman Catholic audience October 14, 2001. He stated, "People who report miracles should not be dismissed as irrational or poorly educated. *Church and State*, December, 2001.

URBAN EXPLOSION/IMPLOSION

The growth in the world's cities this century has been nothing short of explosive. Today there are 325 cities of a million-plus inhabitants, compared to just 83 only 50 years ago. United Nations estimates suggest that more than 5 billion people, or more than 60 percent of the world's population, will live in cities by the year 2025.

Migration to the cities has been fueled by employment needs as well as the decreasing viability of rural life. Crowded cities contribute to the increase in crime and violence, and easy spread of disease. The collapse of city government and infrastructure can already be seen today, and this trend is a certainty in the unstable future to come.

As cities implode there is no work, no food, no health care, no power, no water, no government except that of the rule of war. Disease becomes rampant, violence commonplace, and life uncertain. The local church will operate under duress and in extremely difficult conditions.

Additionally, as disasters multiply and famines become virtually commonplace, "aid fatigue" will set in, as people feel powerless to deal with so many needy. Emotional overload will kick in, since there is only so much human disaster any individual can take. Such instability stresses the urgency of action now. *Adventist Review*, World Edition, January 10, 2002.

"The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances." *Last Day Events*, 174.

INCOME GAP WIDENS

More than 2.5 billion people live on less than 2 US dollars a day. Poverty continues to be a major component of this world's misery, as wealth becomes concentrated in the hands of the few. Some 25 million babies every year are born into families without enough food to live.

In 1970 the richest 20 percent of the world's population earned 30 times that of the poorest 20 percent. Today the difference is 60 times. The ever-increasing gap between rich and poor cannot continue forever.

Global warming is already affecting the world. Some major insurers are refusing to write insurance in certain areas. Natural disasters have also increased – there were 94 percent more natural disasters in 1980 than in 1970. The insurance payout for Hurricane Andrew in 1992 was \$15.5 billion. It's not just about cost, but the impact such disasters have on crops, water supplies, shipping hazards, etc.

Pollution affects even the Arctic, with Russian seals showing radioactive growth rings in their teeth, and beached whales in Canada having as many toxins as a waste-disposal dump. DDT accumulates in the seabirds nesting on Midway Island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, so much so that eggshells thin and break. Two thirds of identified fisheries are at their limit of exploitation. No one knows what we're doing to our life-support system. We may not ever know before it is too late. *Adventist Review*, World Edition, January 10, 2002.

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following.

There would be: 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south, 8 would be Africans, 52 would be female, 48 would be male, 70 would be non-white 30 would be white, 70 would be non-Christian 30 would be Christian, 89 would be heterosexual, 11 would be perverts & homosexuals. 6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the US. 80 would live in substandard housing, 70 would be unable to read. 50 would suffer from malnutrition, one would be near death; 1 would be near birth; 1 would have a college education; 1 would own computer.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world. If your parents are still alive and still married, you are very rare, even in the US. If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

FREEZING IN MONGOLIA

A second winter of devastating cold and three of the hottest and driest summers in living memory have caused the death of 4.5 million animals. The death of livestock has affected the lives of 500,000 people in 13 of the 21 provinces of Mongolia where a majority of households depend on cattle for their livelihoods. Herders who have lost their homes and cattle are migrating to the towns and cities. Without work, they cannot afford medical care or school fees. *SDANEWS*, January 8, 2002.

DISEASE SPREAD

Disease has always had a destabilizing impact. What's new is the ease by which infectious diseases can now follow our global travel routes to spread to all parts of the globe. And humans are not the only creatures affected. Measles now affects seals in Europe, lions in Africa, and horses in Australia. Weakened immune systems of all organisms lead to the possibility of the breeding of some "super-bug" that could decimate a species, including *Homo sapiens*.

Malaria now infects up to 500 million people globally. Other forms of instability affect our ability to control diseases: as governments become ineffective, so do health programs and the ability to administer vaccines or other preventatives. Already there are parts of the world in which it is unsafe to travel because of health risks. In some parts of Africa more teachers are dying from AIDS than are being trained. *Adventist Review*, World Edition, January 10, 2002.

WORLD AIDS EPIDEMIC ON RISE

Moscow (*Reuters*)—The AIDS epidemic gripping millions worldwide spread at lightning speed in 2001, with countries of the former Soviet bloc now facing the fastest growing infection rate, a UN report said on Wednesday. An estimated one million people in the former Soviet Union and ex-communist Eastern Europe now carry HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, the annual report said.

"The number of HIV infections is rising faster in this region than anywhere else in the world," said Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS, the UN AIDS umbrella group. "And the epidemic is only in its early stages—it will get worse before it gets better," he told a press conference.

Around the globe, AIDS has become the fourth biggest killer—with heart disease the first—the report said, adding that 40 million people now carry the virus. "About one-third of those living with AIDS are aged 15–24," the annual UNAIDS report said. "Most of them do not know they carry the virus. Many millions more know nothing or too little about HIV to protect themselves against it."

Despite the rising infection rates elsewhere, Africa continues to be the critical black spot for the virus, with Africans accounting for almost three-quarters of all those infected with HIV or AIDS.

The HIV virus, which is carried in the blood and other body fluids, is passed on through sexual contact, drug-use involving sharing of needles and transfusions of contaminated blood.

EPIDEMIC THREAT TO ECONOMY

In Eastern Europe and the ex-Soviet Central Asian states, the focus of this year's report, social and economic turmoil have stoked the fast-spreading epidemic, the report said. "In the Ukraine one percent of the adult population are infected, the highest in the region," Piot said. "We never thought it could come to these levels in Europe."

Russia and many of the Central Asian republics have seen spiraling figures with increased use of intravenous drugs. Russia alone has 163,000 recorded cases of HIV/AIDS, though experts say the real figure could be up to five times higher.

"If these trends continue, this will not only be the cause of a lot of suffering, but it will have an economic impact," Piot said. "Russia already has a demographic problem."

Frederick Lyons, head of the UN Development Program in Moscow, said the wildfire spread of HIV/AIDS could weigh down Russia's economic successes. "HIV could reverse the successful growth pattern Russia has established for itself over the last three years," Lyons said. "The one percent infection rates reached in the Ukraine could be reached very rapidly in Russia. . . The loss in terms of skill and know-how would become extremely serious."

In Western Europe, as in other high-income countries, AIDS is also on the rise, UNAIDS said, as the safe-sex message fades and therapies that prolong lives are mistaken for cures. For Piot, dwindling investment in awareness campaigns is also to blame: "It is really the price we are now paying for decreased investment in prevention programs."

"In Europe it is not a matter of funding, certainly not in Western Europe. There is no excuse," he added.

DANGEROUS IGNORANCE

Though campaigns have increased use of condoms, the survey says millions of young African women remain dangerously ignorant about HIV/AIDS. Figures from the UN children's charity UNICEF show more than 70 percent of adolescent girls in Somalia have never heard of AIDS.

Asian nations like Cambodia and Thailand have drastically lowered HIV rates with large-scale prevention campaigns but the region's heavily populated countries, including China, have had a different experience.

The country's health ministry said 600,000 Chinese were living with HIV/AIDS in 2000. UNAIDS said the total number could well have exceeded one million by late 2001. In Latin America, heterosexual sex remains the main mode of HIV transmission, in contrast to industrialized nations where male homosexual contact remains the chief cause of infection. Some 1.8 million people live with HIV/AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean, the second-most affected region in the world.

AIDS is a syndrome, a combination of illnesses. HIV attacks the immune system and leaves the body vulnerable to life-threatening diseases, such as tuberculosis.

WILLMINGTON'S GUIDE TO THE BIBLE ON GAYS

Commenting on Romans 1:26-27, "They gave their bodies over to sexual perversions." Dr. H. L. Willmington, retired professor of theology at Jerry Falwell's Regent University comments, "The sin of homosexuality is usually the final stage in those civilizations which turn from God. It was for this crime that God burned Sodom off the map of the Middle East." *Willmington's Guide to the Bible*, Tyndale House Publishers, 1981.

"Many of those people involved with Adolph Hitler were Satanists, many of them were homosexuals—the two things seem to go together." Pat Robertson, *The 700 Club*, January 21, 1993.

"Those who follow these blind leaders close the avenues of their souls to the reception of truth.

They will not allow the truth with its practical bearings to affect their hearts." *Review and Herald*, March 4, 1875.

TRACKING MAD COWS & PEOPLE IN JAPAN

In order to track the source of the new BSE outbreak in Japan, officials have assigned a 10-digit tracking number imprinted on ear-tags for every cow in the country. There is also a national ID-card system for citizens in the works. *Business Week*, December 3, 2001.

WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

Twenty-eight countries currently are considered to be in complex emergencies involving war or civil strife, food shortages and population displacement. Africa has approximately 180 million people affected by these emergencies—more than any other continent. *SDANEWS*, January 30, 2002.

"Many who have been long in the truth are asleep. They need to arouse and go to work. The third angel's message is to be proclaimed. Tremendous issues are before us. We have no time to lose. God forbid that we should allow minor matters to eclipse the light which should be given to the world." ***Pacific Union Recorder*, November 6, 1902.**

"We have been looking many years for a Sunday law to be enacted in our land; and, now that the movement is right upon us, we ask: Will our people do their duty in the matter? Can we not assist in lifting the standard and in calling to the front those who have a regard for their religious rights and privileges? The time is fast approaching when those who choose to obey God rather than man will be made to feel the hand of oppression. Shall we then dishonor God by keeping silent while His holy commandments are trodden underfoot?

"While the Protestant world is by her attitude making concessions to Rome, let us arouse to comprehend the situation and view the contest before us in its true bearings. Let the watchmen now lift up their voice and give the message which is present truth for this time. Let us show the people where we are in prophetic history and seek to arouse the spirit of true Protestantism, awaking the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty so long enjoyed. God calls upon us to awake, for the end is near. *Testimonies*, volume 5, 716.