



Messages from Jesus or Dad are denoted by bold type. Notes from the editors are either in italics or are preceded by "Editor."
Short quotes from the Letters are preceded by a bullet and are followed by the reference.

Learning Self-Discipline

FROM *THE PILLARS OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER* BY JOHN MACARTHUR



LEAPING THE HURDLES TOWARD BETTER SELF-DISCIPLINE

For many years, I have had the privilege of knowing the renowned classical guitarist Christopher Parkening. By the time he was thirty, he had become a master of his instrument. But such mastery did not come easily or cheaply. While other children played, he spent several hours a day practicing the guitar. The result of that self-disciplined commitment is proficiency on his instrument that few can match.

Self-discipline is important in any endeavor of life. It's best defined as the ability to regulate one's conduct by principle and sound judgment, rather than by impulse, desire, or social custom. Biblically, self-discipline may be summarized in one word: obedience. To exercise self-discipline is to avoid evil by staying within the bounds of God's law.

I'm grateful for my parents, coaches, professors, and the others who helped me develop self-discipline in my own life.

People who have the ability to concentrate, focus on their goals, and consistently stay within their priorities tend to succeed.

Since self-discipline is so important, how do you develop it? How can parents help their children develop it? Here are some practical tips that I've found helpful:

Start with small things. Clean your room at home or your desk at work. Train yourself to put things where they belong when they are out of place. Make the old adage "A place for everything and everything in its place" your motto. After you've cleaned your room or desk, extend that discipline of neatness to the rest of your house and workplace. Learn how to keep your environment clean and clear so you can function without a myriad of distractions. Such neatness will further develop self-discipline by forcing you to make decisions about what is important and what is not.

Learning self-discipline in the little things of life prepares the way for big successes. On the other hand, those who are undisciplined in small matters will likely be undisciplined in more important issues (Luke 16:10). In the words of Solomon, it is the little foxes that spoil the vines (Song of Sol.2:15). And when it comes to a person's integrity and credibility, there are no small issues.

A famous rhyme, based on the defeat of King Richard III of England at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, illustrates the importance of small details:

For want of a nail, a shoe was lost,
For want of a shoe, a horse was lost,
For want of a horse, a battle was lost,
For want of a battle, a kingdom was lost,
And all for want of a horseshoe nail.

Get yourself organized. Make a schedule, however detailed or general you are comfortable with, and stick to it. Have a to-do list of things you need to accomplish. Using a daily planning book or a program on your computer would be helpful. But get organized, even if all you do is jot down appointments and to-do items on a piece of scrap paper. If you don't control your time, everything else will.

Don't constantly seek to be entertained. When you have free time, do things that are productive instead of merely entertaining. Read a good book, take a walk, or have a conversation with someone. In other words, learn to entertain yourself with things that are challenging, stimulating, and creative. Things that are of no value except to entertain you make a very small contribution to your well-being.

Be on time. If you're supposed to be somewhere at a specific time, be there on time. The apostle Paul listed the proper use of time as a mark of spiritual wisdom: "See that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15–16). Being on time also acknowledges the importance of other people and the value of their time.

Keep your word. "Undertake not what you cannot perform," George Washington exhorted himself, "but be careful to keep your promise." If you say you're going to do something, do it—when you said you would do it and how you said you would do it. When you make commitments, see them through. That calls for the discipline to properly evaluate whether you have the time and capability to do something. And

Thots

"You're never too old to become younger."—Mae West (1892–1980), U.S. actress

"He that lieth down with dogs shall rise up with fleas."—Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790), U.S. diplomat, printer, author, and scientist

once you've made the commitment, self-discipline will enable you to keep it.

Do the most difficult tasks first.

Most people do just the opposite, spending their time doing the easier, low-priority tasks. But when they run out of time (and energy), the difficult, high-priority tasks are left undone.

Finish what you start.

Some people's lives are a sad litany of unfinished projects. In the words of poet John Greenleaf Whittier: For of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: "It might have been!"

If you start something, finish it. Therein lies an important key to developing self-discipline.

Accept correction. Correction helps you develop self-discipline by showing you what you need to avoid. Thus, it should not be rejected, but accepted gladly. Solomon wrote, "Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days" (Proverbs 19:20); and, "He who listens

to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding" (Proverbs 15:31-32).

Welcome responsibility. Volunteer to do things that need to be done. That will force you to have your life organized enough to have the time for such projects.

These practical suggestions may not seem to involve any deep spiritual principles. Yet you cannot split your life into the practical and the spiritual. Instead you must live every aspect of your life to the glory of God (1Corinthians 10:31). And self-discipline cultivated in the seemingly mundane things of life will spill over into the spiritual realm.

(Dad:) Those are some good reminders of things we've talked about in the Letters for years, and can be summed up in just a few words: Love and obey. Be obedient in the little things, do what you know

you should do, finish what you begin. Love your neighbor by helping him, by not wasting his time, and by receiving correction so that you can be a bigger help and better sample to him.

And, of course, it helps if you go slow enough for the Lord to remind you of these different things if they're not already a habit in your life, to pray and move and speak prayerfully enough that He can check you about any natural reactions that aren't in line with His.

Just do what you can to discipline yourself and be the best you can, and then commit the rest to the Lord. He talks about "the spirits of just men made perfect" (Hebrews 12:23). You're being made perfect, and that process will continue throughout the Millennium and on into Heaven! You're a work in progress, but you can trust the "Author and Finisher of your faith" to complete it as you do your part!

News Review: April 2003

Some of the top news stories of the month, in brief (*Reuters/AP/AFP*):

AFRICA

Ethnic warfare continued to rage in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as nearly 1,000 civilians were massacred by tribal militias. The Red Cross estimates more than 3 million have died since Congo's civil war began, most of malnutrition and disease.

Nigerian strikers seized 97 foreign hostages, including 17 Americans, aboard oil platforms.

An upsurge of fighting in Ivory Coast overshadowed steps to end a seven-month civil war.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

North Korea has admitted it has nuclear weapons and may test, export, or use them depending on U.S. actions. It is seeking a non-aggression pact from the U.S., as well as economic aid.

The Chinese health minister and Beijing's mayor were fired for concealing the scale of the SARS epidemic; the government confirmed that the numbers of infected and dead in Beijing alone were ten times higher than previously reported, causing concern and a measure of panic in the Chinese capital. (See page 4 for more on SARS.)

A bomb ripped through a crowded terminal at Jakarta's main airport, wounding 11 people and sending hundreds of passengers fleeing from the building.

EUROPE

France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg—described by some in the U.S. as the "Axis of Weasel" for their opposition to the Iraq War—unveiled plans for a new Euro-army with its own military headquarters.

Turkish Cypriot officials relaxed border crossings with the Greek Cypriot south in a bid to boost confidence after the collapse of Cyprus peace talks last month.

LATIN AMERICA

Cuba's crackdown on dissidents and its swift execution of three men who attempted to hijack a ferry to Florida was condemned by the U.S. government.

Argentines voted for a new leader to pull Latin America's No. 3 economy out of its worst crisis. No candidate got the number of votes necessary to win, so there will be a runoff between two Peronists who received the most votes, ex-President Carlos Menem and Gov. Nestor Kirchner.

In Paraguay, Colorado Party leader Nicanor Duarte extended his party's 55-year grip on power, winning the presidential election.

MIDEAST

American forces completed their drive to Baghdad and made strikes

into the city center. Although they met fierce resistance at first, the Iraqi armed forces and paramilitaries melted away, as did the top government leadership, leaving the U.S. in control of the capital. Widespread looting, arson and chaos followed for days. The U.S. later gained control of northern Iraq as well, and has begun reconstruction efforts and talks on forming a new government. President Bush told a group of Arab Americans that Iraqis will be free to choose whatever form of government they like, as long as it's a democracy.

Palestinians swore in their first prime minister in a ceremony that paved the way for a U.S.-backed peace plan. But the road to peace may still be a difficult one, because he must convince or coerce militant groups to put down their arms, which they vow they will not do.

NORTH AMERICA

The prison population in the United States exceeded 2 million last year, the Justice Department announced.

RUSSIA/CIS

A Russian politician, leader of a staunchly anti-Kremlin party, was shot dead in an attack that Moscow's police chief said was the work of a contract killer.

Contributions to the *END* should be e-mailed to: end@wsfamily.com
The *END* is a nonaligned, nonprofit publication. All articles published herein are for informational purposes only.
Opinions and viewpoints expressed in the reprinted news articles are not necessarily those of the *END* editors.
Comments added by heavenly sources or by the earthly editors are copyright © 2003 by The Family.

◆ Wars and rumors of war

There's no business like war business

BY THALIF DEEN, INTER PRESS SERVICE

When the dust finally settles in Iraq, the United States may have unleashed virtually all of its state-of-the-art weaponry on a country already devastated by 12 years of rigid UN sanctions.

After two weeks of heavy pounding, U.S. military forces so far have dropped more than 8,700 bombs, including more than 3,000 missiles, and also fired millions of rounds of ammunition on military and civilian targets inside the country.

The U.S. military will have to replace all of these weapons—worth billions of dollars—giving a tremendous boost to the U.S. military industry, which has been on the skids since the previous Gulf War in 1991.

In the latest “Congressional Budget Justification for Foreign Operations,” the State Department predicts that U.S. arms sales will exceed \$14 billion this year, the largest total in almost two decades. “A tragic indicator of the values of our civilization is that there's no business like war business,” said Douglas Mattern of the War and Peace Foundation. “I believe arms sales will increase even beyond the staggering amount we have today, due to a continuing destabilization of the area and the lobbying for sales by the armament industry,” Mattern said.

One writer describes a “charmed circle of American capitalism, where Tomahawk and cruise missiles will destroy Iraq, while Bechtel Corporation [which once employed U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney] will rebuild the country. And stolen Iraqi oil will pay for it.”

“U.S. weapons contractors are likely to gain significant profits because of this war,” said Natalie Goldring, executive director of the Program on Global Security and Disarmament at the University of Maryland. “They'll be paid to replace the weapons that are used or destroyed in the war. The companies will also trumpet their successes at next summer's Paris Air Show, searching for foreign buyers,” Goldring said.

Global annual military spending was \$780 billion in 1999, \$840 billion in 2001, and is on target for \$1 trillion, according to UN estimates. Besides the human casualties, the Iraqi war has

already seen the destruction of millions of dollars' worth of military equipment on both sides of the battlefield.

A U.S. Apache Longbow helicopter, such as the one brought down by Iraqi forces outside Baghdad, costs about \$22 million. The Bradley infantry fighting vehicle, which is also on the casualty list, is priced at more than \$1.2 million.

“We have armed unstable regimes with our most sophisticated weapons, and have then used the widespread proliferation of the weapons as the argument for producing the next generation of more expensive weapons. The vicious cycle continues,” Goldring said.

The really big money for U.S. military contractors, says Mattern, is in the annual Pentagon budget, which has risen from \$294 billion in 2000 to about \$400 billion

in 2003. At the current rate of growth, the budget is expected to hit \$500 billion by 2010.

“The U.S. armament industry is the second most subsidized industry, after agriculture,” he added. The Iraq war will also affect the global fight against poverty, because of the huge cost of the war and its aftermath. “It will also degrade health care and other needs in the United States,” claimed Mattern. One-half of the world's governments spend more on the military than on health care, he added. “The war business is the world's ultimate criminal activity.”

(Dad:) **It's incredible that the governments of the world are on track to invest nearly a trillion dollars a year in killing people. You can't tell me that that amount**



APACHE LONGBOW HELICOPTER: \$22 MILLION EACH



BRADLEY FIGHTING VEHICLE: MORE THAN \$1.2 MILLION EACH

“We have a bloated, corrupt and unaccountable military industrial congressional system that thrives on a policy of perpetual war for perpetual peace.”—*David Theroux*, president of The Independent Institute, a nonpartisan think tank.

“War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in its scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of the people. Only a small ‘inside’ group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few, at the expense of the very many. Out of war a few people make huge fortunes.”—*Marine Major General Smedley Darlington Butler*, one of only two Marines in history to have received two Medals of Honor, writing in 1933.



MARINE MAJOR GENERAL SMEDLEY BUTLER



◆ Famine and drought

Saudis waste their scarce water

BY CRAIG S. SMITH, NY TIMES NEWS SERVICE

ASSIM PROVINCE, Saudi Arabia—

From the air, the circular wheat fields of this arid land's breadbasket look like forest-green poker chips strewn across the brown desert. But they are outnumbered by the ghostly silhouettes of fields left to fade back into the sand, places where agriculture has sucked precious aquifers dry.

Saudi Arabia may sit atop the world's

largest oil reserves, but the other side of the geological coin is that the country also sits atop one of the world's smallest reserves of water. It does not have a single lake or river.

Its only renewable water source is in shallow aquifers, 100 to 150 feet underground, which are replenished by brief, infrequent rainfalls. Wells dug deeper than 1,300 feet draw from ancient reserves trapped in layers of porous rock where the water is no more renewable than the country's oil.

Yet Saudi Arabia wastes plenty of its scarcest resource: fountains spew, swimming pools slop over, and irrigation sprinklers seem to spray everywhere, letting water evaporate into the dry desert air.

Muhammad H. al-Qunaibet, a hydrologist and government adviser, estimates that the country uses 6.34 trillion gallons of water a year for agriculture, but says that only a third of that is replaced through rainfall. The rest simply disappears.

How much is left? No one knows. But the supply of water is shrinking, creating tension between neighbors.

Saudi Arabia is pumping from its eastern aquifers, leaving less water for neighboring Bahrain and Qatar. Jordan, meanwhile, has accused the Saudis of draining the Qa Disi Aquifer, which lies beneath the countries' border.

As the aquifers are depleted, the water becomes increasingly laden with salts and metals that must be filtered out before it can be used, even for farming, because the impurities stunt the growth of plants. The wells must also be lined with expensive, corrosion-resistant metals because the salt-laden water becomes so caustic. Already in some places, a quart of potable water costs more to produce than a quart of oil.

Already, the government is encouraging people to use water-saving taps and shower heads that cut consumption by about 50 percent. Crown Prince Abdullah, the kingdom's de facto ruler, has even replaced his palace's 10-quart toilets with more efficient 6-quart models. Toilet water accounts for about 40 per-

cent of the urban water consumed in Saudi Arabia.

(Dad:) One day the Saudis will reap what they have sown. The rich Saudi rulers have practiced extreme harshness and intolerance toward their own people for the smallest offense, or have even chopped off limbs or heads for larger offenses. At the same time, these rulers have done the same things they've punished others for, and worse, whether in secret at home or abroad where their people couldn't see them.



SAUDI IRRIGATION SYSTEM: SPRINKLERS SEEM TO SPRAY EVERYWHERE.

They've also prohibited and persecuted Christians in their own country, and exported their brand of self-righteous intolerance wherever they could in the Muslim world. So, as they have sown iniquity and evil, they will eventually reap it. And as they have wasted and squandered their water, they will eventually lack for it.

Don't you be guilty of wasting water, dear Family. It's precious stuff—far more precious than oil! Oil destroys and pollutes, while water helps to create and brings forth life!

◆ Pests and pestilences

How SARS is changing lives

COMPILED FROM ARTICLES BY KEITH BRADSHAW, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*; BARRY PETERSEN, *CBS NEWS*; LISA STARK, *ABC NEWS*; ROSIE MESTEL, *LOS ANGELES TIMES*; *REUTERS*

PORT DOUGLAS, Australia—Michael Glynn rested barefoot on the deck of his fishing boat at the dock here after unloading his catch, and talked about how an outbreak of disease 5,500 kilometers away had wrecked his livelihood.

Restaurants in Hong Kong, by far the biggest buyers of live Australian reef fish, halted their purchases four weeks ago when severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, prompted diners to stay home in large numbers. The restaurants have barely bought any since, and fish prices have collapsed.

The troubles of Great Barrier Reef fishermen, who operate Australia's largest fishing fleet, show how even small, out-of-the-way industries are feeling the effects of SARS. But the disease is causing measurable economic and commercial harm around the world. With nervous customers staying away from stores and restaurants in areas where cases have been reported, and travelers canceling or postponing trips, restaurants, hotels, airlines and cinemas are being hit particularly hard.

Economists have been struggling to calculate the total economic effect of SARS. Some say the disease will shave as much as a full percentage point off the predicted economic growth of many East Asian countries, a sum of many billions of dollars. This could trigger a recession across Asia, one of America's prime markets. If so, the U.S. will feel the pain as well.

SARS has the East worried. Masked nurses in Singapore greet passengers arriving from areas hit by SARS, asking them how they feel as soon as they step off the plane. In Hong Kong, officials have begun taking the temperatures of passengers before they board airplanes. In Thailand, visitors from affected countries are given mandatory medical checkups at airports and seaports and are required to wear face masks throughout their stay. Face masks have become standard issue on some airlines, which now distribute them along with blankets and headphones.

In Beijing, classes were called off, the May Day holiday was canceled, and thousands of workers were dispatched to disinfect city buses, taxis, office buildings and schools. Singapore slapped a quarantine on arriving foreign workers and took drastic measures to enforce quarantine orders on hundreds of people suspected of exposure to SARS, including mounting webcams in homes and threatening to use electronic wristbands.

The disease has caused school closures, travel restrictions, the withdrawal of diplomats, the quarantine of thousands, and the abrupt cancellation of sports contests, scientific meetings and rock concerts.

And these effects could only be the beginning. "I don't think we really know where we're going yet on this one; we're in the third or fourth line of a three-act play," said Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health.

What's the big deal about SARS? The answer is remarkably simple. What other disease can you get from normal life, from the hundred daily things you do

with friends or just going to work, that can kill you?

In Hong Kong, I became alarmingly aware of all the ways you can get it. See how many of the following *you* would qualify for:

Shaking hands with friends at work. Touching an elevator button. Touching a doorknob. Holding on to the railing when riding an escalator. Pushing open a shop door at the shopping mall. Just



THERMAL SCANNER USED TO DETECT SARS AT AIRPORT. PASSENGERS RUNNING TEMPERATURES ARE CHECKED OR QUARANTINED.

going to a shopping mall. Being around someone with the sniffles who happens to sneeze. Visiting a doctor or, worse, going to the hospital, where more people have caught SARS than anywhere else. Using your hands to rub your eyes (the virus works its way into your body through your tear ducts). Giving a hug. Attending a meeting in a crowded room when you are less than three feet away from the person next to you.

And it gets worse. Some researchers think the virus can mutate—and it may

already have done so. That means any treatment that works today could be useless tomorrow. And because it's a virus, like the common cold, there is no "cure." There are ways to ease the symptoms, but not to stop the disease in its tracks.

(Jesus:) In these Last Days, men's hearts fail them for fear as they look upon these things coming upon the Earth and they wonder if these pestilences will touch them and their family as well. Be comforters to them, My Family, and give them the solution to death through salvation, the assurance of eternal life, and even the hope of healing from their afflictions here on Earth through Me. For I can preserve them from death or preserve them into My heavenly Kingdom afterwards, so they have nothing to fear! Give them faith and hope through salvation, and release from the bondage and oppression of fear!

(Editor: For more from the Lord on SARS, see "World Currents 101," ML #3447:176–204, GN 1031.)

◆ Cloning

A chilling triumph of "science" over sanity

BY PETER CARLSON, WASHINGTON POST

Just for the sake of argument, let's say the government decided that you are an idiot. Does it then have the right to forcibly sterilize you so you can't pass your idiocy on to future generations? Yes, it does, the Supreme Court ruled in 1927.

"It is better for all the world," Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote in the court's decision in *Buck v. Bell*, "if instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind. The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes."

The court's ruling—and the eugenics movement that spawned it—is the

subject of "Race Cleansing in America," Peter Quinn's frightening article in the February/March issue of *American Heritage* magazine. It's the shocking story of how bigots used a ludicrous pseudo-science to craft a policy that forcibly sterilized more than 60,000 Americans in the 40 years after the high court's decision.

Eugenics was born in the late 1800s, when a handful of scientists and social reformers theorized that humans inherited a "germ plasm" that predetermined their physical, mental and moral traits. Thus, they concluded, the only way to stamp out disease, stupidity, crime and immorality was to prevent the sick, the stupid, the criminal and the immoral from reproducing.

In the early 1900s, this theory became popular with many white Americans. Among them was Harry Laughlin, a former Iowa biology teacher who headed an organization called the Eugenics Records Office.

Laughlin longed for an America where parenthood would be permitted only to "the best individuals of proven blood" while lesser humans would be "denied the right to perpetuate their own traits in subsequent generations."

Bankrolled by the Carnegie, Hariman and Rockefeller families, Laughlin lobbied, successfully, for stringent restrictions on immigration from southern and eastern Europe. He also crusaded for laws enabling states to sterilize criminals, paupers, the retarded and others of "inferior blood."

By 1932, 28 states had enacted laws based on Laughlin's model, and they began forcibly sterilizing between 2,000 and 4,000 people a year.

One of those poor souls was a poor Virginia girl named Carrie Buck. Abandoned by her mother at age 4 and raped by a friend of her foster parents, Buck was sent to the State Colony for Epileptics and Feeble-Minded at age 17 to have her baby. When doctors there decided to sterilize her, she became the test case for the legality of Laughlin's laws.

Her case reached the Supreme Court, which decided to rely on the opinion of an expert in the field—Laughlin. He studied Buck's medical records and concluded that she was a good

example of the "shiftless, ignorant and worthless class of anti-social whites in the South."

The Supreme Court agreed. Referring to Buck, her mother and her baby son, Holmes wrote: "Three generations of imbeciles are enough."

Buck was sterilized. So was her sister, who was told the operation was an appendectomy.

In 1979—after eugenics was unmasked as balderdash—researchers located Buck, her sister and her son and found that they all possessed normal intelligence.

"Like thousands of women and men involuntarily stripped of their capacity to have children, Carrie Buck had not committed any offense," Quinn writes. "Her crime was the ancient one of being poor and powerless."

Quinn's disturbing article is a valuable reminder that scientists can be fools, that "experts" are frequently wrong, and that even the most benign government can be cruel and stupid. That message is always relevant but it seems particularly timely now, when scientists are experimenting with cloning and genetic engineering and the federal government has usurped the power to jail citizens suspected of terrorism without charges or trial.

(Dad:) Yes, scientists can certainly be deceived and misguided and do a lot of damage. Look at Darwin, Freud and others, who've had a terrible effect on the world, one that has continued long after their deaths.



CARRIE BUCK AND HER MOTHER EMMA IN 1924

And as far as governments go, well, I hope none of you who live in supposedly free and enlightened Western countries are under too many illusions as to the righteousness of your governments. Nations are like people; they're made up of people, and "all have sinned and come short

of the glory of God."

Now don't misunderstand me and think that they're totally bad; that's not what I'm saying. But just as they're not totally bad, they're not totally good either! Most of them are neither black nor white, but varying shades of gray.

I'll use the U.S. for an example, since it's one that many of you are familiar with. Though we have condemned the U.S. for its wars, materialism, and many sins against God and others, the U.S. and many of its citizens also stand up for individual rights and religious freedom around the world, among other things.



HONG KONG WAITRESS AND CUSTOMERS IN FACE MASKS

Of course, the U.S. isn't always the best sample of that at home, as you recall from their "defense" of the religious rights of the Davidians at Waco. And when you're a critic of the government in some form or another, your own individual rights can be a bit shaky too. When I attacked the Miami school board on evolution, the Miami city government came in and condemned our house and leveled it to the ground. And the house wasn't in bad shape—they had a hard time even knocking it down! Ha!

So governments can be very helpful, ordained by God to keep order and help and protect their citizens, and they can also be very harmful and oppressive, even the best of them. You folks can be thankful you're pilgrims and strangers, citizens of Heaven, and under God's own government and eternal rule!

◆ Big Brother

Surveillance Nation

BY DAN FARMER AND CHARLES C. MANN,
TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

Route 9 cuts across Massachusetts. Near the small city of Northampton, the highway crosses the wide Connecticut River. The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Bridge is a major regional traffic link, and to help drivers,



the transit authority has installed eight shoe-size digital surveillance cameras along the roads leading to the bridge.

Six are connected to dial-up modems and transmit images of the roadway to a Web page, which commuters can check for congestion before tackling the road. The other two cameras are designed to photograph every car and truck that passes by. They send vehicle images to attached computers, which use special character-recognition software to decipher vehicle license plates and calculate the speed of the crossing.

The Coolidge Bridge is just one of thousands of locations around the planet where citizens are crossing into a world of networked, highly computerized surveillance. According to a January report by J.P. Freeman, a security market-research firm, 26 million surveillance cameras have already been installed worldwide, and more than 11 million of them are in the U.S. In heavily monitored London, England, the average person is filmed by more than 300 cameras each day.

The \$150 million-a-year remote digital-surveillance-camera market will grow, according to Freeman, at an annual clip of 40 to 50 percent for the next 10 years. But nonvideo forms of monitoring will increase even faster. Ultimately, surveillance will become so ubiquitous, networked, and searchable that unmoni-

tored public space will effectively cease to exist.

"Nanny cams," global-positioning locators, police and home security networks, traffic jam monitors, medical-device radio-frequency tags, small-business webcams: the list of monitoring devices employed by and for average Americans is already long, and it will only become longer.

"Almost all of the pieces for a surveillance society are already here," says Gene Spafford, director of Purdue University's Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security. "It's just a matter of assembling them." Each type of monitoring may be beneficial in itself, at least for the people who put it in place, but the collective result could be calamitous.

To begin with, surveillance data from multiple sources are being combined into large databases. For example, businesses track employees' car, computer, and telephone use to evaluate their job performance; similarly, the U.S. Defense Department's experimental Total Information Awareness project has announced plans to sift through information about millions of

people to find data that identify criminals and terrorists.

"Your little camera network may seem like a good idea to you," Spafford says. "Living with everyone else's could be a nightmare."

But despite the relentlessly increasing capabilities of such systems, video monitoring is still less than 1 percent of surveillance overall, says Carl Botan, a Purdue center researcher who has studied this technology for 15 years.

By 2006, for instance, law will require that every U.S. cell phone be designed to report its precise location during a 911 call; wireless carriers plan to use the same technology to offer 24-hour location-based services, including tracking of people and vehicles. More than a third of all large corporations electronically review the computer files used by their employees, according to a recent American Management Association survey.

Seven of the 10 biggest supermarket chains use discount cards to monitor customers' shopping habits. And as part of a new, federally mandated tracking system, the three major U.S. automobile manufacturers plan to put special radio

transponders known as radio frequency identification tags in every tire sold in the nation. The tags can be read on vehicles going as fast as 160 kilometers per hour from a distance of 4.5 meters.

A dozen companies already help working parents monitor their children's nannies and day-care centers from the office; scores more let them watch backyards, school buses, playgrounds, and their own living rooms. Two new companies are introducing bracelets and other portable devices that continuously beam locating signals to satellites so that worried moms and dads can

always find their children.

Meanwhile, the computer networks on which monitoring data are stored and manipulated continue to grow faster, cheaper, smarter, and able to store information in greater volume for longer times.

Today a company or agency with a \$10 million hardware budget can buy processing power equivalent to 2,000 workstations, two petabytes of hard drive space (two million gigabytes, or 50,000 standard 40-gigabyte hard drives like those found on today's PCs), and a two-gigabit Internet connection (more than 2,000 times the capacity of a typical home broadband connection). If current trends continue, simple arithmetic predicts that in 20 years the same purchasing power will buy the processing capability of 10 million of today's workstations, 200 exabytes (200 million gigabytes) of storage capacity, and 200 exabits (200 million megabits) of bandwidth. Another way of saying this is that by 2023 large organizations will be able to devote the equivalent of a contemporary PC to monitoring every single one of the 330 million people who will then be living in the United States.

One of the first applications for this combination of surveillance and computational power, says Raghu Ramakrishnan, a database researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will be continuous intensive monitoring of buildings, offices, and stores. Surveillance in the workplace is common now:

in 2001, according to the American Management Association survey, 77.7 percent of major U.S. corporations electronically monitored their employees, and that statistic had more than doubled since 1997. But much more is on the way. Companies already use radio frequency

identification tags to monitor the locations of people as well as inventory. In January, Gillette began attaching such



DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE
CAMERA MONITORING CITY
STREET



SURVEILLANCE PHOTO FROM APARTMENT
LOBBY

tags to 500 million of its Mach 3 Turbo razors. Special “smart shelves” at Wal-Mart stores will record the removal of razors by shoppers, thereby alerting stock clerks whenever shelves need to be refilled—and effectively transforming Gillette customers into walking radio beacons. In the future, such tags will be used by hospitals to ensure that patients and staff maintain quarantines, by law offices to keep visitors from straying into rooms containing clients’ confidential papers, and in kindergartens to track toddlers.

Over time, the thousands of individual monitoring schemes inevitably will merge together and feed their data into large commercial and state-owned networks, forming surveillance databases that can describe or depict what every individual is doing at a particular time.

Managing the sheer size of these aggregate surveillance databases, surprisingly, will not pose insurmountable technical difficulties. Most personal data are either very compact or easily compressible. Even biometric records are no strain on computing systems. To identify people, genetic-testing firms typically need stretches of DNA that can be represented in just one kilobyte—the size of a short e-mail message. Fingerprints, iris scans, and other types of biometric data consume little more. To create a digital dossier for every individual in the United States—as programs like Total Information Awareness would require—only “a couple terabytes of well-defined information” would be needed, says Jeffrey Ullman, a former Stanford University database researcher. “I don’t think that’s really stressing the capacity of [even today’s] databases.”

Instead, argues Rajeev Motwani, another member of Stanford’s database group, the real challenge for large surveillance databases will be the seemingly simple task of gathering valid data. All the sources are full of errors. “It is routine to find in large customer databases defective records at rates of at least 20 to 35 percent,” says Larry Eng-

lish of Information Impact, a database consulting company.

In many cases, errors and invalid answers are harmless. If Victoria’s Secret mistakenly mails 1 percent of its spring catalogs to people with no interest in lingerie, the price paid by all parties is small. But if a national terrorist-tracking system has the same 1 percent error rate, it will produce millions of false alarms, labeling many innocent U.S. citizens as suspects. “A 99 percent hit rate is great for advertising,” Spafford says, “but terrible for spotting terrorism.”

(Dad:) Ah, now that’s where the Mark will come in very handy for the Antichrist and his henchmen. Besides the chip providing information on where you are and what you’re doing or buying or selling, it will also have your own personal information encoded in it, reliable information to reduce the risk of errors. That’s unless you’re a threat to the System in some way, of course. In that case ... oops! There will be cases of people “disappearing” under the Antichrist just as there are under the most cruel and oppressive governments today.

Seeing how things are heading toward that surveillance and control system of the one world government should motivate you to do all you can while you still have the freedom to do it relatively openly. Events are zipping toward the End, as the Lord has emphasized a number of times lately, and He wouldn’t keep reminding you of the fact if it wasn’t important for you to know it and take action on it. As you can see by the overview of the surveillance measures above, all things are not continuing as they have been in years past! It’s the Endtime era of action and change!

Work while it is yet day, for the night is coming!

Big Brother Briefs

U.S. buys Latin American citizen data. (Jim Krane, *Associated Press*) Over the past 18 months, the U.S. government has bought access to data on hundreds of millions of residents of 10 Latin American countries—apparently without their consent or knowledge—allowing myriad federal agencies to track foreigners entering and living in the United States. A suburban Atlanta company, ChoicePoint, collects the information abroad and sells it to U.S. government officials in three dozen agencies.



GPS SATELLITE: THE SKY DOES HAVE EYES.

The sky has eyes. (Arik Hessel-dahl, *Forbes*) Picture this situation: You’re out and about on company business, perhaps making sales calls. With some time between appointments, you break for lunch

a half-hour early. No one, it seems, is watching over your shoulder—and the company-issued mobile phone you’re carrying has been blessedly silent all day.

You pull up to a restaurant thinking of an extended lunch. Before your feet cross the threshold of the entry, the phone starts to chirp. The boss wants to know why you’re parked in front of a restaurant and not on your way to a sales call.

It seems for a minute they have eyes in the sky. In a manner of speaking they do. The combination of wireless networks, such as those used for mobile phones and pagers, with the 24-satellite constellation that makes up the Global Positioning System is what makes the above scenario possible. Small devices that can receive location data from the GPS system and then transmit their location over the Internet via wireless networks have been available for a few years now, and are increasingly being put to use.

New rules in war on terror. (Gay Alcorn, *The Age Melbourne*) Victorian police can, under existing powers, secretly tap telephones, attach listening bugs under desks and trawl through bank statements. But they have no authority to sneak into homes when the occupants are away and rummage through drawers and filing cabinets. That’s about to change. When the Terrorism (Community Protection) bill becomes law, police will have that right if they have a reasonable suspicion that a terrorist act will be, or has been, committed and if they first get a warrant from a Supreme Court judge. And the person whose house or car was searched may never know it happened.



◆ Religion in the News

God and war

BY MAX LUCADO

Why does God allow war? The question is not a new one. According to the *Canadian Army Journal*, war has dominated documented history. Since 3600 B.C., the world has known only 292 years of peace. During this period there have been 14,531 wars recorded. An estimated 3,640,000,000 lives have been lost in them. The value of them would pay for a golden belt around the world, 97 miles wide and 33 feet deep.

When WWI broke out, the War Ministry of London dispatched a coded message to one of the British outposts in the inaccessible areas of Africa. The message read: "War is declared. Arrest all enemy aliens in your district." The War Ministry received this reply: "Have arrested four Germans, six Belgians, four Frenchmen, two Italians, three Austrians and an American. Please advise immediately who we are at war with."

The Bible's answer to that question may surprise you. Man's enemy is sin. Self-centeredness ravages our hearts. From the very beginning, the wages of self-centeredness has been death. War is a fruit of sin.

Before we blame international conflict on finances or boundaries or religion, we must lay the blame where God does: our sinful nature. "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?" (James 4:1). James goes on to say: "You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2).

A boy once asked, "Daddy, how do wars begin?" "Well, take the first world war. It began when Germany invaded Belgium." Immediately his wife interrupted him, "Tell the boy the truth. It began because somebody was murdered." The husband yanked his head toward her, "Are you answering this question or am I?" She walked out of the room in a huff; the dad sat and scowled. The boy interrupted the silence, "Daddy, you don't have to tell me how wars begin. I think I know how."

Whether it's two toddlers fighting in a playroom or two superpowers directing nuclear missiles at each other, the cause of conflict is the same: Selfishness. One side cannot get what they want, so they demand their way. They fight. War is the fruit of sin.

(Dad:) Yes, war is the result of man's sinful choices—choosing pride and selfishness rather than humility and yieldedness, choosing to wage war rather than strive for peace, even if it's difficult.

Nations have consistently made the wrong choices—14,531 recorded times according to this article, and countless unrecorded times, and it

makes the Lord very sad. It's resulted in the death or decimation of entire populations, and great suffering, starvation, sickness and savagery, all because of man's sins and his refusal to receive the Lord, follow God or obey His Word! It's pitiful.

The Lord has to allow it for now, though, to show man what a mess he consistently makes out of the world by trying to run it himself and do things his own way, which has resulted in bloodshed and violence from the time of Cain and Abel right up to the present. When the Lord steps in to stop it all, as He will, man will have no excuses left, no solutions left untried. Only God and His love and direct rule and reign will be able to create a world without war, in which men beat their swords into plowshares!

Not a chance encounter, but a divine appointment

BY DANA WILLIAMSON, BAPTIST PRESS

When Oklahoma State Sen. Gene Stipe and civil rights activist Wade Watts walked into a restaurant in the late 1950s, a waitress confronted them at the door and told Watts, an African American, that the restaurant did not serve Negroes.

With a smile, Watts replied, "I don't eat Negroes. I just came to get some ham and eggs."

Not amused, the waitress refused to seat Watts.

As the two Oklahomans walked out the door, Stipe turned to Watts and asked, "Wade, if God gave you one wish, what would that wish be?"

He said, "Gene, if the Good Lord was to grant me one wish, I believe I'd wish to meet the leader of the Ku Klux Klan."

A strange wish for a black man. But what happened after Watts got his wish was even stranger.

The story begins with a young boy named Johnny Lee Clary whose father filled him with prejudice against blacks.

The young Clary lived in an unstable home in Del City, Oklahoma—his father was an alcoholic and eventually committed suicide in front of Clary, firing a .45-caliber pistol to his head. Later, Clary was sent to live with his sister in California. Things were so bad there that Clary, then 14, was considering suicide. But his outlook changed after tuning in to a television program on the Ku Klux Klan.

Clary sent for information and was visited by a Klansman, who emphasized that the Klan was a Christian organization. "I immediately joined the Klan, and during the next 16 years worked my way up the ladder to the Klan's top national position of grand wizard."

Watts, who served for 16 years as leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Oklahoma, got his wish to meet the leader of the KKK when he debated Clary on an Oklahoma City radio station in the 1970s. Clary said he called Watts "every name in the book," but Watts always responded with, "God bless you, son; Jesus loves you."

Clary and Watts were leaving the radio station when the Klansman met Watts' wife and their half-black, half-white adopted baby girl in the lobby. "Watts turned to me and said, 'Just look at this baby. How can you hate her?'"

"When I looked into that baby's eyes," Clary admitted, "I knew I could never hate her."

A few years later, Clary began to realize the KKK talk about Christianity, their claims that their beliefs were based on the Bible, was "a bunch of garbage."

"I picked up my Bible and opened it, thinking I should pray and ask Jesus for forgiveness and rededicate my life to Him," Clary said. "I don't believe it is a coincidence that the first place I turned to was Luke 15, the story of the Prodigal Son. As I began to read, I realized that no matter what I had done, the Lord had never left me nor forsaken me."

After praying for forgiveness, "I felt like 1,000 pounds had been lifted off my shoulders."

In a miraculous turn of events, God called Clary to preach in 1991.

"I asked the Lord what I should do, and He put it in my mind to call Wade Watts," Clary recounted.

"When I asked Watts if he remembered 'John Clary,' he said, 'Remember you, son? I've been praying for you for years.'"

Clary told Watts his prayers had been answered, how in 1989 he had resigned from the Klan and gotten his heart right with God, and how he had decided to serve the Lord the rest of his life.

Watts asked Clary if he had preached

anywhere yet. When Clary said no, Watts invited Clary to do him the honor of preaching in Watts' all-black church.

When he asked Watts for directions to the church, Clary said Watts replied,



WADE WATTS



CLARY AS GRAND WIZARD OF THE KKK

"You ought to know. You tried to burn it down!"

At the end of Clary's first-ever sermon, a girl about 15 years old came down the aisle during the invitation at Watts' McAlester, Oklahoma, church.

"She was crying and said she wanted to know this same Jesus I knew," Clary said. "Then I heard someone else crying, and saw Watts getting to his feet.

"Johnny Lee, he said, 'You remember that little baby I showed you when we debated years ago at that radio station, and I asked you how you could hate the baby? That's that baby.'

Watts had 13 children, and four of them still had not been saved when Clary came to preach that morning. After "that baby" made her decision, the other three unsaved children came forward to make professions of faith in Jesus.

"Rev. Watts hugged me and said, 'Who would have ever believed God would take an old Ku Klux Klansman, have me pray for him all these years, and he would come down here and lead my unsaved kids to the Lord?'" Clary said.

EPILOG. On Dec. 13, 1998, Watts' daughters came in and found their father saying, "Thank you, sir, thank you."

The daughters asked whom he was talking to, and Watts said, "I'm talking to Jesus. He was standing right here. He said, 'Wade, the race is over. In My Father's house are many mansions. I've gone and prepared a place for you that where I am you can be there too. I want you to say goodbye to your children. I'm coming back to get you tonight.'"

Just then a nurse walked into Watts' room, asking what he wanted for breakfast the next day. Watts said, "Honey, it don't matter what you bring me for breakfast. I won't be here to eat it. I'm having breakfast with Jesus in the morning."

With that, Watts closed his eyes.

The next morning, a message flashed across the screen on CNN News, "Former civil rights activist Wade Watts passes away at the age of 79."

(Dad:) Hallelujah! That shows the power of prayer and how you can change even your worst enemies into friends through prayer. That's what prayer does—it changes lives and situations, and it often changes your life as well. Look how the Lord used the faithfulness of this dear preacher to save someone who was so wrapped up in hatred and anger, and then used that person to save the preacher's own daughter!

Well, that's the sort of thing that prayer does, whether you see it or not, whether you read a marvelous

testimony like this or not. Prayer heals and saves and comforts and strengthens and changes and does all that God can do, for it's the very power of God. Exercise it today in full faith! Ask for miracles, for the humanly impossible, for changed hearts and lives and situations, and watch God go to work! Expect miracles, stand on His promises in the Word and in the keys, and you'll get them!

◆ **Men's Corner**

Exercise rights and wrongs

BY KATHERINE HOBSON, US NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Though fitness has proved to be a hedge against obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, diabetes, cancer, and osteoporosis, people are terribly mixed up about the right kind of exercise to do to get these benefits.

Do we need long workouts or will short, intense ones do the trick? For cardiovascular fitness and other health benefits, the surgeon general advises 30 minutes of moderate exercise most days of the week. But not long ago, the recommendation was for 20 minutes of more vigorous exercise, three times a week. A full hour of moderate exercise every day is the prescription from the Institute of Medicine. Then there are notions about puttering in the garden, ballroom dancing, or vacuuming as a replacement for hitting the gym.

"Most consumers are scratching their heads and saying 'What should I do?'" says James Rippe, a cardiologist at Tufts University. Their befuddlement could be one reason why only about 25 percent of Americans get enough exercise, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

What you should do depends on your health history, your weight, and your goals. Cholesterol skyrocketing? Jog several miles each week and hit the rowing machine. Have more than a few pounds to lose? You may need to put in an hour or more a day. Concerned about bone loss? Pick up those weights.

For the fortunate folks who are at a normal weight, who are in good health and want to maintain it, 30 minutes of moderate activity, five to seven days a week, is enough. Do this and your risk

of disease declines, no matter your age, sex, or race.

"You'll get substantial benefits, including a 50 percent reduction in heart attack, a lower risk of colon cancer, and probably a lower risk of breast cancer and Type II diabetes," says Steven Blair, research director at Cooper Institute, which studies exercise and health.

The claim is backed up by years of studies showing that people with moderate exercise patterns have lower disease risks. Why? Exercise gets things moving in the body. Better blood flow to the muscles helps move sugar from blood to muscle cells and so lowers diabetes risk by keeping blood sugar levels under control.

Moderate activity for half an hour, by the way, is somewhere south of huffing and puffing and somewhere north of an easy after-dinner ramble. "Casually strolling around the mall isn't going to produce health benefits," says JoAnn Manson, chief of preventative medicine at Harvard's Brigham & Women's Hospital. Walking should be brisk enough—3 to 4 miles per hour—to raise your heart rate.

You can accumulate that exercise, says Blair. So a 10-minute brisk walk after every meal is fine. Physicians also recommend that most people—but particularly women—get two or three days a week of weight training. This has extra benefits, like building bone mass.

But wait. Or, weight. About 65 percent of Americans are overweight. That's where the whole hour, as recommended by the Institute of Medicine, comes in. Researchers found that the people who maintained a healthy weight exercised, on average, the equivalent of a 60-minute brisk walk per day. Some people may need to work out even longer than an hour, depending on their diet, muscle mass, and metabolism.

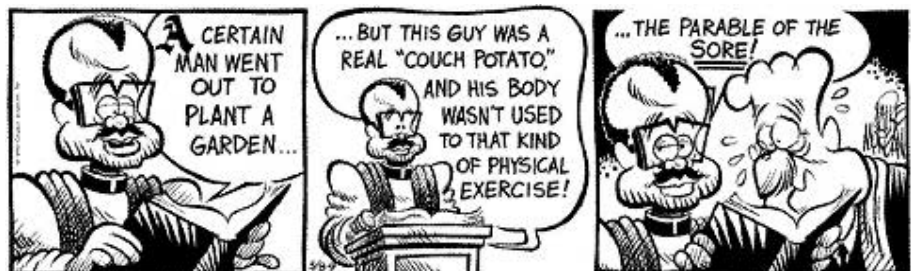
If you can't face 30 or 60 minutes of exercise, do something, because slight workouts do produce slight benefits. Keep in mind, though, that lighter "exercise," like housecleaning or playing golf, helps burn calories and can be a great add-on to your regular routine but is no substitute for that routine. Mild activity, among other things, does nothing to increase bone strength and density.



JOHNNY LEE CLARY: "A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST JESUS."



REGULAR EXERCISE IS VITAL.



You can do too much as well as too little. Overdoing it can actually suppress the immune system and increase the risk of getting hurt.

(Dad:) Be careful not to overdo it; that can be as harmful as not doing it at all.

However, I think the greater risk for many of you is underdoing it—having little or no regular exercise because you think you don't have time, you're too busy, you have kids or other duties, etc. Well, I'm sorry, but those excuses just don't cut it, folks. Excuses won't keep you healthy and fit and able to keep going and doing your job for the Lord.

You need exercise. That's why regular get-out is a requirement in the Charter, in case you haven't noticed. That's why I wrote three full Letters on get-out and talked about it in lots of others. It's important for your sake, for the sake of others who love you, and for the sake of the multitudes who need to know about the Lord's love through you!

So please be faithful to get your exercise, however you do it. You can't afford not to. You don't have the time not to. Consider it a vital part of your work for the Lord, keeping "the temple of the Lord," your body, fit for Him to dwell in and use! If you want to be healthy, get out! God bless you!—And He will as you go!

(Editor: For convicting reading, see "Get Out," ML #805, Vol.7; "Get Out No.2," ML #956, Vol.8; "Get Out No.3," ML #1299, Vol.13.)

◆ Judge Righteous Judgment

"Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24).

Question: The U.S. has virtually won the war in Iraq, and some of the Iraqi people are rejoicing in the streets. I'm not convinced that Saddam was as bad as America wants to portray, but he was certainly bad and used some pretty horrible, repressive and murderous measures on his countrymen. Was it good to let him continue? Or did America sort of play the role of Babylon vis-à-vis the

Jews, where it was the razor that was hired? God judged Israel via Babylon, but then judged Babylon also. Is there some righteous judgment in all this on Saddam?

(Jesus:) You may say that the fall of Saddam fulfilled My Word that "all those who take the sword shall perish by the sword" (Matthew 26:52). Saddam Hussein had taken up the sword many years ago in overthrowing the former government of Iraq, waging war on his own people through oppression and death, waging war on Iran and Kuwait through his armies, and maintaining his power through the sword.

He was ruthless in the shedding of blood, even though many of his campaigns were planned by the Americans, urged on him by the Americans, or winked at when they met America's purposes. America also did much to sell him the sword, the weapons with which he waged his wars and conducted his oppression. So yes, this was part of Saddam's judgment and humiliation, even though it was at the hands of America and other nations which cannot boast themselves of their own righteousness, as I have said. (See "World Currents No.101," ML #3447:76,77, GN 1031.)

But God is the great judge, and those who do not know Me will stand before His great white throne to receive judgment from Him in the era to come. This is where Saddam and many others will receive true judgment, judgment which men cannot comprehend or enact, for they cannot see or fully discern the heart. Men often judge surface judgment, for they see only a few sides to a situation—even you, My beloved. For My thoughts are not always your thoughts, nor are your ways always My ways, since you are still so much a part of the physical world. To help you understand these matters, I will explain more of the way of kings and their manner of judgment to you, for there are many facets.



SADDAM FIRING RIFLE DURING PARADE. "ALL THOSE WHO TAKE THE SWORD SHALL PERISH BY THE SWORD" (MAT.26:52).

My Word, an abundance of My light and truth and prophets and presence, and turned to the darkness instead. Unto whoever much is given, much is required, and many stripes are exacted when they commit iniquities worthy of those stripes. Those who know little of the truth but do things worthy of stripes are judged less harshly, with fewer stripes, and such will be the case for those who have ruled Iraq, even though it was with cruelty and bloodshed. They are not as accountable in their actions as others might be, for they know little of My truth and they dwell in a region where many others also live and rule by the sword.

You must also bear in mind that I judge a nation by the way it treats

My children, the Christians, those who bear My name. This has been one of My standards since days of old, because My children make an eternal difference. Their influence abides forever, unlike the governments of this world, which come and go in the blink of an eye and are all unjust and tyrannical to some extent. Saddam, unlike many other rulers and nations in that region who hate Me and My children, respected My children

and granted them a large measure of freedom. He will be rewarded for that, as were Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, Cyrus, and other pagan kings of old. Though they had been bloody conquerors, ruling with a heavy hand, in receiving and protecting My children they were nevertheless blessed. In saying this, I do not mean that a good deed cancels out an evil one, but I attempt to show you the many facets of My judgments and My mercies.

Remember too that a people get the sort of ruler they need or deserve.

An evil people often elect an evil ruler, or such a one arises to rule over them, reflecting the spirit of the country. Although many Iraqis are good and godly people, many others are wild, lawless, hostile toward other tribes, ethnic groups or religions, rebellious toward authority, and must be ruled with a firm hand. Saddam provided this firm hand, and though it was often a heavy one, he fulfilled the function of a ruler, though he reflected the sins of his people. With his removal and the downfall of his government, you see the banditry, looting, arson and murder which has followed, the evil passions which were kept in check before. Remember My Word that the officer of the law, the government of a nation, bears not the sword in vain; it is to execute wrath upon those who do evil.

In saying this, I do not justify evil. I hate evil and I am angry at the wicked every day, and My judgments will come,

Kings and their kingdoms, rulers and their nations, are judged not only by their deeds but by their accountability.

Those who know the truth and reject it and rebel against it are judged most harshly, as Israel was of old and as America and Britain will be in the future. These are nations which had

Jay Garner Says Democracy Coming to Iraq ... Inshallah!



though I bear long with men. I will judge and avenge in My time, and My judgments will be true and righteous, delivering punishment or mercy as it is deserved in each case. But I say to you even as I say to those martyrs slain for My Word, the saints under the altar, that this will be in My time when My purposes are fulfilled. And let those nations on Earth who would take My role and try to enact My judgments without My authorization and permission beware. They too have sinned, and with what judgment they think to judge others, they will be judged themselves. All will reap what they have sown, and all will know that I am both a loving and a just God.

◆ Ask Dad!—No.15

Subject: Current Comments on the Iraq War and more

Following are more insights and thoughts from Dad on the war in Iraq and its aftermath, as well as on a few other subjects.

■ Remaking the Mideast in the American image

The U.S. has been planning to attack Iraq and seize it for a long time. Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark documented it meticulously in his book, *The Fire This Time*, detailing U.S. plans from long before the first Gulf War in 1991!* And for that matter, the first Gulf War never really ended—the U.S. has been patrolling parts of Iraqi territory and bombing various military



FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK

bases, camps, and anti-aircraft installations ever since, killing hundreds of people. That's in addition to the million or more Iraqis they've killed directly or indirectly through UN-imposed and US-enforced sanctions, of course. *(Note: Parts of Ramsey's book are available on the MO site for Family members.)

So this latest war has been in the works for years. Back in 1998 a group of top rightwing politicians got together and formed a lobbying group called "Project for the New American Century" (PNAC). They call these politicians "neoconservatives," but hawks or warmongers might be a better term for them! The bottom line for PNAC was that it wanted to make a snack of Iraq—overthrow Saddam, seize Iraq, spread democracy throughout the Mideast by "encouraging" other "regime changes," including Libya, Syria, Iran, and even North Korea and China, and "discourage" any other industrialized nations from challenging American leadership! Imagine! It was a virtual

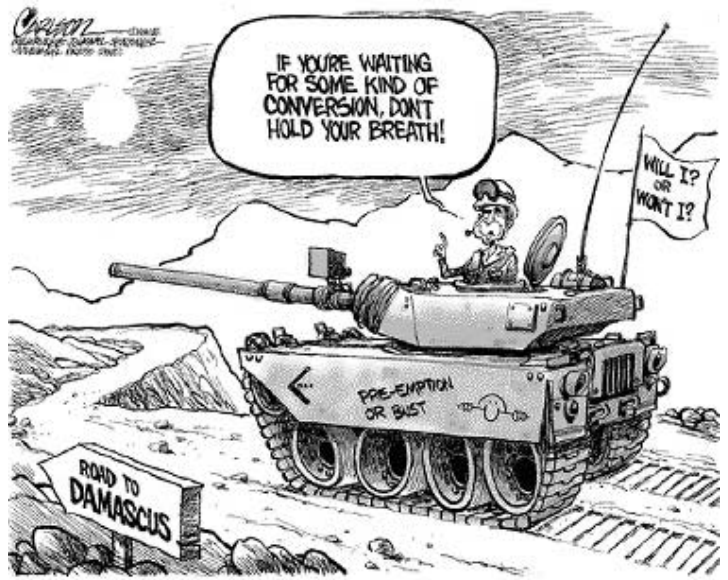
blueprint for a new American empire, and they were so self-assured and cocky they even posted it on the Web for all to see and be aware of! If rightwing politicians in Moscow had done such a thing, they would have been labeled "The Evil Empire" all over again, with the whole world wondering if communism had come back from the dead!

Well, many of these rightwing politicians from PNAC became top military and government officials in the Bush administration, and 9/11 provided just the boost they needed to set their plans in motion! They couldn't attack Iraq right away, as they didn't have an excuse. So they overthrew the Taliban in Afghanistan

first and then spent a little over a year painting Iraq as the next big bad state that just had to go, part of the "Axis of Evil." And now they've pretty much got Iraq and can move on to their next conquest. They've already started threatening Syria and Iran. They warned Syria, telling them they'd better "draw the appropriate lesson from Iraq." And the U.S. told Iran it had better not meddle in Iraqi politics—this, coming from the nation which just overthrew the Iraqi government and is planning on setting up a new one in its own image!

So the U.S. is all set to reconstruct and reshape the Mideast, and it's started with Iraq. The Americans figured Iraq could even pay for it, since it has all that nice oil. The Americans would help Iraq modernize its oil production and make lots of money, and the profits would go to help pay American companies to rebuild the parts of Iraq which the American military had destroyed in this war and the last one. And then everyone would live happily ever after—including the Israelis, who might get a pipeline run from Iraq's northern oil fields to the port of Haifa to help supply their energy needs!

That's the American plan, at least, and we shall see how it turns out. Now that the Iraqis have been "liberated" from Saddam, they're not entirely happy about the liberators patrolling their streets, nor the fact that they don't



have much water, food, or electricity. So "happily ever after" doesn't look like it's going to come to pass! But at least the war is over, thank God, and over with quickly, just as He promised. (See "World Currents 101," ML #3447:12.) There's nothing as horrible as war, nor as wonderful as an end to it! Thank God for peace and the opportunity for those poor people to rebuild their country!

■ History repeats itself

In 1917 the British won Iraq from the Ottoman Empire, the Turks, and British forces marched into Baghdad, proclaiming, "We come not as conquerors but as liberators." There was dancing and shouting and celebrations in the streets at first, but within a few years the Iraqis and the Kurds were engaged in all-out guerrilla warfare against the British, and the British were conducting horrific bombing raids in return. They even used gas shells, what people now call "weapons of mass destruction."



BRITISH FORCES ENTERING BAGHDAD IN 1917. "WE COME NOT AS CONQUERORS BUT AS LIBERATORS."



SOME IRAQIS GREETED U.S. FORCES WITH JOY—IN THE BEGINNING.

Well, one reporter familiar with the 1917 British proclamation has pointed out that the Americans have also marched into Baghdad saying, "We come not as conquerors but as liberators." And some Iraqi citizens were quite happy at first, but he's wondering if history will repeat itself, with Iraqis resorting to guerrilla warfare to get rid of their liberators and brutal reprisals from the so-called liberators! I think we will see history repeat itself, unless the Lord restrains things to have mercy on the poor long-suffering Iraqis. Please continue to pray that this war-weary, desolated nation will have peace, dear Family!

■ Democracy for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait?

If the U.S. wants to bring democracy to the Mideast, I think it should start with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, two of the darkest and most oppressive countries in the world! Saudi Arabia persecutes Christians and hates Christianity and everything related to it, and Kuwait is ruled by a bunch of rich, self-righteous sheiks who oppress and persecute the poor, and are oppressed by demonic forces themselves. So if the U.S. is looking for candidates for "regime change," I think those two countries would be ideal!

Of course, the U.S. doesn't generally overthrow its allies, no matter how despotic or demonic they are. And it's also finding out that democracy in that region isn't all it's cracked up to be. Turkey is a democracy, and it voted not to let U.S. forces in to attack Iraq from its territory! And if the U.S. were to impose democracy in Saudi Arabia, many Saudis might vote for Osama bin Laden rather than their rich ruling family with its hundreds of profligate princes! And for that matter, what will the U.S. do if a new democratic Iraq



IRAQI LOOTERS CART OFF THE CONTENTS OF A WAREHOUSE.

decides to go the way Iran did, with rule by the mad mullahs? Do you imagine they'll let them? Ha! The U.S. has always found it easier to work with dictatorships anyway—they're easier to control!

■ Grabbing the loot!

One of the first things Iraqis did after the fall of their government was to go on an enormous looting spree, emptying Saddam's palaces, stripping the houses of his top officials, the government ministries and buildings, the museums and libraries and cultural centers, and they didn't forget the banks, factories and even the neighborhood stores—except for those that had armed guards outside, brandishing weapons!

It must have been one of the greatest national looting sprees in history, as Iraqis carried away anything that wasn't tied down, or anything that they could pry loose, even if it was tied down!



U.S. troops mostly just stood by and watched it happen, and U.S. officials came out with some sort of little lame justification, saying, "Freedom's untidy. And free people are free to make mistakes and commit crimes and do bad things." Well, from what I recall, when looters in the U.S. go on the rampage after power outages or tear up part of their city after a riot of some sort, there are no namby-pamby little comments about freedom being "untidy"! They send in the National Guard and stop the people who are "making mistakes" by carting off their neighbor's belongings and the contents of the local store!

I guess the U.S. can't protest too loudly since it's been looting itself. It controls Iraq's oil fields and is planning on making off with a large measure of the loot it can gain from them, all under the cover of reconstruction or something, of course. Governments generally try to loot very properly, you know, with all sorts of legal justifications! But it just comes down to grabbing the spoils of war, the same as invaders have done for thousands of years.

In the Bible, they'd take the spoils—the riches of the country they invaded—and even the men, women, and children were carried away by conquering armies to become slaves. In more modern times man has become more "civilized," so invaders take the spoils and leave behind the population and instead tax them or charge them reparations or whatever, so they don't have a bunch of rebellious slaves in their country. They can endure slavery right where they are, where they won't be as big a burden to the conquerors!

■ Israeli attacks on foreign nationals

The Israelis have been up to some dirty work while the world's attention was diverted by the war in Iraq. In the





RACHEL CORRIE, 23-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN WHO WAS RUN OVER BY AN ISRAELI BULLDOZER

last few months they've shot or killed at least three foreign nationals in the West Bank or Gaza who were simply trying to help or protect the Palestinians.

One girl, a 23-year-old American, was run over by an Israeli bulldozer while she was trying to reason with the driver and keep him from destroying a Palestinian house in the Gaza Strip. Then the bulldozer backed up and ran over her again!

In a later incident, a 21-year-old British activist wearing a bright red fluorescent jacket was shot in the head while he was trying to shield three young Palestinian children from Israeli rifle fire. And an American activist in similar circumstances was shot in the face. All were called "accidents," of course, but they were far from it, let me tell you!

The Israeli military has sunk to the point that they have very little regard for life when it comes to the Palestinians or anyone standing up for them and trying to help them. They've become desensitized to the death and violence, dehumanized, to the point that it doesn't bother them so much anymore. That's why hundreds of their own Israeli soldiers and reservists won't serve in the Occupied Territories. They refuse to brutalize the poor people there and become brute beasts themselves by doing so!

Please continue to pray for the poor Palestinians, and for your own brothers and sisters in that troubled region, as well as others who are laying down their lives to help the Palestinians.

■ Manipulating through the media

There's a professor in the U.S. who's spent 20 years studying Hollywood's portrayal of Arabs, and he said that in the more than 900 movies with Arabs in them, they're almost always the bad guys, the villains! He says they're virtually portrayed as

"subhuman" and detestable, something that film makers wouldn't dare do to any other ethnic group.

Now people may go to see a movie and think it has no effect on them, but by the time they've seen the same theme reinforced hundreds of times, "Arabs are bad," then you can be sure it has had an effect on them! That's the same principle behind advertising and why companies pay millions of dollars for ad campaigns—because the constant sight or sound of something makes an impression on you, and you're more likely to buy their product.

Well, in this case I would say the constant portrayal of the Arabs as the bad guys—not just in movies but on TV as well—makes people more likely to "buy" that image and makes attacks on Arabs easier, sad to say. And when Arabs are attacked, as the Iraqis were recently, you'll notice that you see very little of their pain and suffering in the Western media. Explosions and smoke are at a distance, where you don't see the dead or battered bodies, and bombing raids are "surgical strikes" with hardly a word about innocent deaths, the so-called "collateral damage." The Western media focus on the power of their weapons, not their effects and deadly consequences!

It just goes to show once again that you can't always believe what you see in the media. In movies and on TV you're seeing what someone wants you to see, and even on the news you might only be seeing part of the story, a one-sided, lopsided version of events, with the other side left out for various reasons. The world can be manipulative and crafty, so beware that you're not manipulated or taken in!

◆ Ask Dad!—No.16

Subject: News-Watching Guidelines

Question: I know that watching the news is very important to follow what's going on in the world. But does the Lord have something to say about what news channel(s) we should or should not watch? Particularly I was wondering about CNN. Is it OK to watch, as it's so much the voice of the American government? Or are there other channels or sources which would be better for the Family to watch, or some news channel on the Internet that would be appropriate?

Are there any guidelines in news watching so we don't get negatively influenced by biased newscasters? How can we really know what is going on when the news is often distorted to fit the opinions of the broadcasting station? Of course we can read it later in the *END*. But it would be nice to have guidelines to follow or even get some recommended newscast from the Lord.—Mercy (of Byron).

(Dad:) What news channel should you watch? Well, a lot depends on what you have available. As I moved from country to country when I was on Earth, I watched a number of channels. I saw quite a variety of news and got a variety of viewpoints on the news through it, and I think that helped me to analyze the news for the Family and pass on mine and the Lord's perspective on it, which you needed—and still do.

Now you have CNN and other worldwide news channels in English, such as BBC, and I watched some of those. And there are news channels on the Internet too, as you say. All these channels, whether on TV or on the Internet, have both their good points and their bad points. Among the good points, you get to see what's actually happening in the world or in your city and country, and you catch wind of things that could affect you and your work, as well as see the signs of the times come to pass before your very eyes. I think that's important for the Family. But among the bad points, you can't always believe what you're hearing, nor can you always be sure that you're seeing the full picture. It's important that you watch even the news prayerfully, not just sit back and passively accept what's being fed to you.

But before we get into guidelines, let's talk a little more about the news channels themselves. Like I say, what you watch often depends on what you have available. CNN is one of the most easily available and widespread news channels these days, but it's not one of the best. For one thing, almost all of the news has an American slant to it, or at least it's not worded in such a way that it would be very critical of U.S. policies or actions, and it majors on news of interest to America and Americans, virtually ignoring the rest of the world or covering it in just a few minutes. Some of their news shows can drone on about some sort of American scandal for so long that you really wonder how people can stand it! There are exceptions, of course, but on CNN you're mostly going to get world news as seen from an American perspective, with rarely a critical word about the U.S. or U.S. allies, such as Israel, unless they do something blatantly and outrageously wrong—and even then you may hear they were "provoked" into doing it!

The BBC is another fairly widespread news channel, and I'd say you get much better coverage of world events from BBC than from CNN, since Britain once had colonies around the world and still has citizens and interests in those countries. You'll find their news more comprehensive and objective, but it's still not unbiased. For one thing, they're not going to criticize their government much, as they'd be biting the hand that feeds and funds them! And for another thing, you're not going to find much

objectivity when it comes to religion, because many of the so-called “educated” British look down on religion as superstition or as some sort of intellectual handicap.

So when it comes to matters of God and faith, you’re not always going to get a very godly viewpoint from BBC, or even a very respectful one, whereas CNN and other U.S. channels might handle it better—unless it’s news about us or some other little religious group that’s making waves! The BBC also has a tendency to present just the basic facts about a wide variety of stories—often in a dry and boring manner—and sometimes they don’t give you enough of the context to make sense of the facts. But then CNN and other U.S. newscasts can provide so much detail about a subject that you’re drowning in context and you wish they’d shut up!

So which is best? Well, a lot depends on you and where you are and where you’ll get the best news. Why don’t you and your Home alternate watching the different news shows available and then pray and ask the Lord what would be best for your situation, after you’ve had a chance to check out the choices?

But whatever news you watch, as I mentioned earlier, don’t just passively watch it and automatically accept it at face value, but pass it through the filter of the Lord and the Word as you’re viewing it. Ask yourself how that news fits in with what you’ve learned from the Bible and the Letters and from the Lord Himself through prophecy. That’s probably the most important thing to keep in mind, because to put it bluntly, governments, politicians, diplomats and other people in the news can lie, deceive, propagandize, tell partial truths, present only their side of the story, or mislead you in an incredible number of ways! Look at how they present us in the news most of the time, for example!



So as you’re watching the news, ask yourself who’s being portrayed as the good guy and who’s being painted as the bad guy or bad government. Who’s doing the labeling, dehumanizing, or demonizing, and why? What language are they using? Is a government being called a “regime”? Are people resisting occupation and oppression called “terrorists” or “guerrillas”? Are the “good guys” just doing their duty, or was it an “unavoidable accident” instead of an outrage, atrocity or even mass murder? And most of all, how do all these things fit in with what you’ve learned from the Lord and the Letters and your own personal experience over the years?

You see, governments and the international media have become very proficient in the art of propaganda! And I’m not just talking about communist or authoritarian governments, but about the ones that are supposedly free. For example, during the U.S. attack on Iraq, the U.S. military held briefings for the international media at their headquarters in Qatar. One Chinese journalist who was there

turned to the reporter next to him and said, “This is propaganda. I was born and grew up in a propaganda country, and so I know it well. Actually, they do the propaganda very well, better than we do it. We in China can learn from this propaganda.” Imagine!

You might think, “Well, if the news is propaganda and it takes so much effort to figure out what’s going on, why should I watch it?” It’s because it’s an education, Family. You can get at least a general idea of what’s happening in the world and what trends are forming, see the pictures of what’s taking place, study the faces of those who are making the news, and pray for the various situations that are taking place.

That’s my final guideline for watching the news: Watch and pray! Pray for the Lord’s protection from propaganda, for His insight into the real story, for those who are suffering in some way and need to come to know Him, and that He will continue to speed up the events of the End to bring this present evil world to its conclusion and usher in His Millennial Kingdom. Hallelujah! Watch and pray! Love, Dad.

◆ Words for the wise

Deipnosophists get tips from new dictionary

REUTERS

Excuse me while I absquatulate, but I fear my tendency to divagate renders me a blatherskite, resulting in fleeing.

Huh? Before you consult a foreign-language dictionary, rest assured that this is plain, albeit seldom-used, English to say: “I must dash before my rambling makes you all laugh and jeer.”

If lexicographers at the new *World Oxford Dictionary of English* have their way, we will all be deipnosophists—someone skilled in after-dinner chat—once armed with their latest dictionary.

The Dictionary of Weird and Wonderful Words came about as a form of light relief for word compilers of weightier tomes.

“We know people love unusual words, and so do we,” said Angus

Stevenson, project editor for English dictionaries at Oxford University Press.

Stevenson told *Reuters* he and his fellow researchers were eager to ensure some older words were not buried by Internet-inspired cyberspeak creeping into the language.

For those of you who want to know your hallux from your oxtar (your big toe from your armpit), the new dictionary is a must, Stevenson said.

◆ Tidbits

Problem with a hefty hooker?
(Reuters) *The Washington Post*



ALAN GREENSPAN

was hospitalized for “an enlarged prostitute” instead of an enlarged prostate. A somewhat embarrassed ABC spokeswoman said, “We strive for perfection, but when you’re typing that fast, there are occasional mistakes. We regret the error.” Mr. Greenspan’s wife, reacting to the “enlarged prostitute,” commented, “He should be so lucky.”

Belgian mayor sets up Department of Tenderness. (*Ananova*) A Belgian mayor has set up a Department of Tenderness to encourage people to be nicer to each other. Kruibeke mayor Antoine Denert, who allocates civic duties, said he would make it his personal responsibility. “People don’t cuddle a n y m o r e , and that’s the reason why there are so many conflicts,” he told *Het Laatste Nieuws*. “I will set an example and start in my own village by caressing, cuddling and kissing as many people as possible.” Mr. Denert said he hoped national and international institutes would follow his example. “Why not change the Ministry of Defense into the Ministry of Tenderness. The war in Iraq would never have started,” he added. **(Dad:) Make love, not war!**



JOINING THE “MINISTRY OF TENDERNES”

Reused bottles can breed bugs. (*Canadian Press*) Researchers say people could be putting their health at risk when they reuse water bottles. A study of water bottles at a Calgary elementary school found bacteria in youngsters’ bottles that would have prompted health officials to issue boil-water advisories, had the samples come from a tap. The bacteria probably came from the children’s hands and mouths over time as they repeatedly used the same bottles. Often, the children reused them without washing them or allowing them to dry. A study conducted in the U.S. suggests the kind of thorough washing that could kill bacteria might make the bottles unsafe in another way. Frequent washing might accelerate the breakdown of

the plastic, potentially causing chemicals to leach into the water, the study found.

Although plastics experts contend the bottles are safe, the study ultimately concluded little is known about what happens when the bottles are used over and over again. **(Dad:) Better check those water bottles. Rinse them thoroughly and switch bottles regularly, if you can, as well as praying over your water. You can suffer from contaminated water even if the bottle isn’t contaminated.**

What baseball taught me about life. (Orel Hershiser, *The Bottom Line*) My 17 years in the major leagues taught me many lessons about life that I think are worth passing on to others. One is believe your coaches. Serious players of any sport realize the benefits of listening to their coaches’ expertise. It gives them valuable advice on improving their performance.

The same thing is true of life in general. Each of us has a variety of coaches, starting with our parents and grandparents, siblings and teachers. If we pay attention to them, we can get much further than we would by relying only on our own resources.

Sometimes, all we need to do is watch how our coaches behave. My maternal grandfather was a great life-skills coach. I watched him treat every person with dignity and respect, and saw how he constantly thanked people, even those who didn’t expect it. I have always used his example as a model for how to relate to others.

Men prefer women with curves, says survey. (*Ananova*) The vast majority of men prefer a woman to be curvaceous rather than very thin, according to a new [British] poll. In the survey of 500 people, 87% of men said they liked a woman to be curvaceous and the right weight for her height. Just 8% preferred “very thin, bordering on underweight” women, while the remainder liked “voluptuous” females. The response was almost identical among women, with 88% thinking curvaceous would prove more of a turn-on for men. **(Dad:) Lots of lovely luscious curves are very sexy, ladies, and are a turn-on!**

A matter of trust. (*HealthScout-News*) If you want someone to do your bidding, what’s the best way to increase the chances that it gets done? Threaten to punish them if they disobey you? Or explain what you want done, and then let them know you trust them to see it through? A new study says that trusting others is the best way to ensure their cooperation.

“What we have shown is that it is better to trust,” says Ernst Fehr, an economics professor at the University of Zurich in Switzerland and lead author of the study, which appears in the March 12 issue of the journal *Nature*. “Those who did were much more likely to get what they wanted.”

“People like to be trusted,” says John Hibbing, a political science professor at the University of Nebraska. “If you have the sense somebody is looking over your shoulder, people react against that.” **(Dad:) Just as the Lord trusts people with gifts and talents and expects them to use them for His glory, you can trust people with responsibilities and jobs for Him. Folks aren’t always as faithful as they should be, but the path of trust is always the best one, if possible.**

Kids and caution in the kitchen. (*HealthScout-News*) Each year in the U.S., about 24,000 children aged 14 and under are treated in hospital emergency rooms for scald burns. Some safety tips:



KIDS IN THE KITCHEN CAN LEAD TO ACCIDENTS AND INJURY

Keep hot foods and liquids away from young children.

If you’re teaching your child to cook, make sure the child is closely supervised. Oven mitts, hand towels and safety devices such as fire extinguishers should be in close reach. Never leave a child alone in the kitchen.

Never hold a child while cooking or drinking hot liquids.

Place pans on back burners and turn all pot handles toward the back of the stove.

Be cautious when heating food and liquids in the microwave. They can get extremely hot and burn skin in seconds.

Ensure that you and your children wear tight-fitting clothing when cooking.

Never leave cooking food unattended. It’s the leading cause of house fires.

Keep hot foods and liquids away from the edges of counters and tables.

Unplug appliances when you’re not using them and keep the cords tied up and out of children’s reach. **(Dad:) Please make it impossible for accidents to happen, dear Family. If you know these safety precautions, happy are you if you do them!**

Members challenged to live on tithe. (*Assemblies of God News*) It’s called Miracle Sunday—the day when the congregation of Life Center in Lakewood, California, takes a collective leap of faith. The challenge: to live on 10 percent of a week’s wages while giving the 90 percent in an offering which is donated to a variety of ministries and outreaches. Life Center has collected more than \$1 million the past 25 years.

"We received a promise from the Lord: 'If you'll help water the deserts of the world, I will tend your garden at home,'" said Pastor Charles E. Atherton. "Most people's budgets are already overextended, but when they give on Miracle Sunday, God provides other ways. It's a way to demonstrate our trust, faith and confidence in God." **(Dad:) He never fails, just as you never lose by giving.**

Cruise and Spielberg keep their kids away from TV. (*Reuters*) Tom Cruise and Steven Spielberg, two of Hollywood's biggest celebrities, said that they strictly limit how much television their children watch and emphasize reading rather than viewing. "My kids, I really don't like them to watch that much television," actor Tom Cruise said during a visit to Berlin to promote the film "Minority Report." "We're focusing on reading. They are allowed about three and a half hours of television per week—if they do very well in their school," he said. Spielberg, who directed Cruise in "Minority Report," is more permissive than Cruise when it comes to television. "My kids are allowed to watch TV one hour a day—if their homework is done," he said. "They have to do their homework, do their chores, finish dinner, get into their cozy clothes, and then they get to watch TV for an hour."

Thoughts on time management. (Jim Rohn) Either you run the day or the day runs you.

Learn how to separate the majors and the minors. A lot of people don't do well simply because they major in minor things.

Don't mistake movement for achievement. It's easy to get faked out by being busy. The question is: Busy doing what?

Time is our most valuable asset, yet we tend to waste it rather than invest it.

We can no more afford to spend major time on minor things than we can to spend minor time on major things.

Time is more valuable than money. You can get more money, but you cannot get more time.

Tallying blessings found to improve life. (*The Washington Post*) Count your blessings. Name them one by one. You may find yourself sleeping better, exercising more and caring more about other people. New research shows that people who consciously remind themselves every day of the things they are grateful for show marked improvements in mental health and some aspects of physical health. The grateful people in the test felt better about their lives and more optimistic. The college students exercised more; the chronically ill adults reported sleeping longer and waking up refreshed. The grateful people were also nicer to others and more willing to help people with personal problems. **(Dad:) Thankfulness has spiritual power and physical effects, especially when you thank the Lord!**

British pupils ignorant of Christianity. (*Electronic Telegraph*) Almost half of Britain's 12-year-olds are so ignorant of basic Christian teaching that they



BRITISH STUDENTS CONFUSE JESUS WITH SUPERMAN.

are unaware that Easter celebrates the Resurrection, according to a new study. Many of those questioned thought that *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* was a story from the New Testament. Others knew little or nothing

about Christ's miracles, while some wondered why Jesus could not "fly like Superman." The survey of more than 500 school pupils aged 12 will compound fears that many schools are failing to ensure that pupils get a basic religious education. The study also highlights the diminishing role of the church in children's lives. **(Dad:) Poor Britain is really a pagan nation. But, unlike those nations which know little or nothing about the Lord, the British do, and many have chosen to reject or ignore Him.**

Purpose. (Vic Johnson) In her book, *Unstoppable*, Cynthia Kersey writes that a prominent psychologist asked 3,000 people, "What have you to live for?" Most answered by saying they had no definite purpose for their lives. With those kind of results, is it any wonder that there are so many unhappy people in our world today?

Author James Allen tells us on this subject that, "They who have no central purpose in their life fall an easy prey to worries, fears, troubles, and self-pity."

Purpose puts power and excitement in our life. It keeps us from looking at the little picture of "me" and causes us to look at the big picture of "we."

I recently read a quote on the power of purpose. "You are only as strong as your purpose, therefore let us choose reasons to act that are big, bold, righteous and eternal." **(Dad:) Don't lose sight of your purpose! For many of you, meeting the Lord and joining the Family gave you the first purpose and meaning in life you'd ever had. Don't let that purpose fade with time or wane because of the cares of this life. Continue to love God and enjoy Him, and try to help others do the same by telling them about Him with all your heart and soul and mind! Love wasn't put in your heart to stay! Love isn't love till you give it away!**

◆ A few for fun

137 more oil wells liberated for democracy

THE ONION

The U.S. continued to make progress in its fight against totalitarianism Tuesday, when 137 more oil wells were liberated for democracy.

"For decades, these oil wells have suffered untold misery under Saddam Hussein's tyrannical rule," said U.S. Commander General Tommy Franks, speaking from southern Iraq's Rumailah oil fields, the site of the liberation. "With this victory, these long-oppressed wells will soon pump their first barrels of crude as free and equal wells in the global petroleum marketplace."

The Rumailah wells are the latest of nearly 900 to be freed from the yoke of oppression by coalition forces. As U.S. troops continue to advance deeper into

Iraq, an estimated 1,500 more wells are expected to be liberated in the coming weeks.

For months, U.S. officials have gone to great lengths to assure the public that the Iraq invasion is not motivated by oil interests—a sentiment echoed by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld during a press conference Monday. "This war is not about oil," Rumsfeld said. "This war is about liberty. Oil wells deserve liberty, too."

Continued Rumsfeld: "These oppressed Iraqi oil wells deserve the right to pump oil as freely as any other oil well on God's Earth. It is crass and cynical to view this operation as being motivated by greed, profit, or the second-largest oil reserves in the Middle East. This war is motivated by one thing: democracy. Our military action is meant to provide all of Iraq's oil

wells—be they big or small, staggeringly lucrative or merely very lucrative—with their God-given right to pump under a democratic system of self-governance. Every oil well deserves to choose how and when it wishes to produce oil, and for whose economic benefit."

Aiding the wells in their transition to democracy will be Texaco, Mobil, and other U.S. businesses, each of which bring years of expertise in dealing with the problems and challenges that oil wells face in a free society.

Despite the victory in Iraq, White House sources stress that the battle for oil-well liberty is far from over. "We must remember that there are many, many oil wells living under oppression all across the world, not just in Iraq," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said. "Until every oil well enjoys the fruits of democracy, no oil well is truly free."