



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.

ENDTIME ECONOMICS

“The Green Paper Pig” Reexamined

Editor: In this new series on “Endtime Economics” we’re going to look back at some of Dad’s Letters on the Crash and on economics, at what the Lord and Mama have said in recent years, and look forward by asking the Lord for more insight on what’s to come—perhaps sooner than we think.

Dad talked about the Crash and wrote about the Crash in many Letters because he regarded it as a major sign of the End. He thought it would take either a major war or a major economic collapse to bring the Antichrist to power, leading to the signing of the Covenant and the beginning of the Last Seven Years. With the world economic system becoming increasingly shaky, perhaps it’s a good time to take an in-depth look at it and how and why it could—and eventually will—collapse.

There are many Letters on this subject because there are many different angles to it. We’ll cover one in each issue of the *END*, God willing, starting with this one—a look back at one of Dad’s first Letters on the Crash, “The Green Paper Pig.”

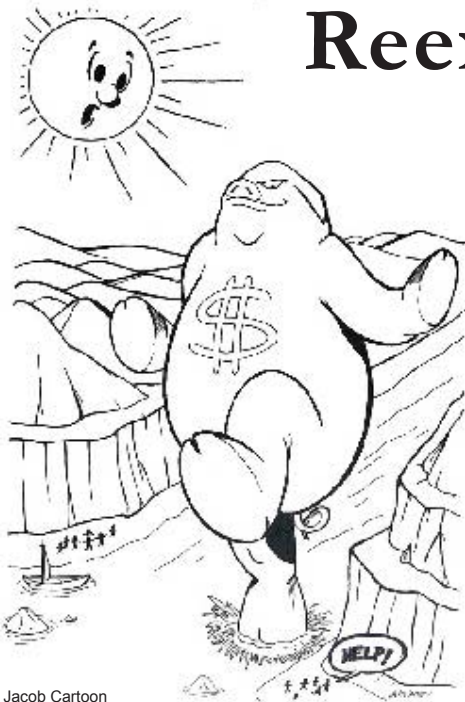
Recently Cephas in Turkey wrote us to say:

Since 9/11 I’ve done some research from the Letters about the Crash, and I ran across aspects that I thought could be interesting for the *END*.

In the Letters “The Dollar” and “The Green Paper Pig,” Dad basically describes the deplorable state of the dollar—without the sound backing of gold and silver, and the rest of the world losing faith in it as rapidly as they were losing faith in the U.S. government itself.

Obviously something needed to happen then in the early ‘70s or the whole thing would have collapsed just as Dad had expected it to. Dad taught us in “War Boom Bust” that a new war would be used to pull the U.S. out of its economic depression. But no big war was launched.

However, two important things did happen at that time. Number 1: God’s prophet got an amazing dream about a huge Green Paper Pig. Number 2: The ACs* planned their economic attack on the rest of the world. **[ACs: antichrists (1John 2:18); those who are dedicated to*



Jacob Cartoon

the rise of the Antichrist, whatever their race or nationality]. This really was a war, and a global one at that, but an economic one—to be specific, an oil-currency war! The war had come but few recognized it as such.

The moneymakers decided in 1973 to hike the price of oil by 400% and ensure that the sale of oil would be restricted to dollars only and that the monstrous amounts of petrodollars, generated thus by the Arabs, would be reinvested in specific banks in New York and London. Kissinger struck this secret deal with the Saudis.

Subsequently, as economic history will reveal clearly, the moneymakers started lending monstrous amounts of money to

nations worldwide, to help them pay for their enormous oil bills.

This secret deal with the Saudis and subsequently with OPEC on the sale of oil has been the foundation of the dollar economy from that time on. This monstrous plan created petrodollars worldwide and exploded all over the place.

I would like to suggest, in reading the revelation of the “Green Paper Pig,” that the “Green Paper Pig” was really the global extension or global ballooning of the dollar, the petrodollar, backed by oil. It can always be exchanged for the real thing, oil; and because everyone needs oil, everyone was forced to use petrodollars.

Dad warned Europe not to use dollars in “America the Whore” in March ‘73, but through the secret weapon of the Green Paper Pig, petrodollars were forced on them. This would suck them deeper into debt and the sinking sands of their monetary system through this secret oil-for-dollar currency deal.

It’s clear from reading the “Green Paper Pig” that this revelation is not only about the crash of the dollar, but first and foremost about the launch of a secret weapon. This secret weapon involves the dollar, to subdue and control the world economy, and has been effectively in use ever since 1973. I believe this has successfully staved off the dollar’s collapse.

While the rest of the world scrambles to get dollars, by borrowing from the IMF or by selling their products for U.S. dollars, all the U.S. needs to do is print them and sell bonds.

THOTS

“A player who makes a team great is better than a great player.”—John Wooden, U.S. basketball coach

“If happiness could be found in having material things, and in being able to indulge yourself in things that you consider pleasurable, then we in America would be deliriously happy. We would be telling one another frequently of our unparalleled bliss rather than trading tranquilizer prescriptions.”—John Gardner (1912–1977), U.S. writer

As a result, most other worldwide trade is also done in dollars, and most central banks keep huge amounts of dollars in their national reserves (in spite of the fact that nations of the world despise the U.S. and the currency has no backing of its own).

So in conclusion, why didn't the dollar crash? Because the petrodollar was created in secret in 1973 and executed and enforced in 1974, blamed on the Arabs, but actually the ACs staged the whole thing!

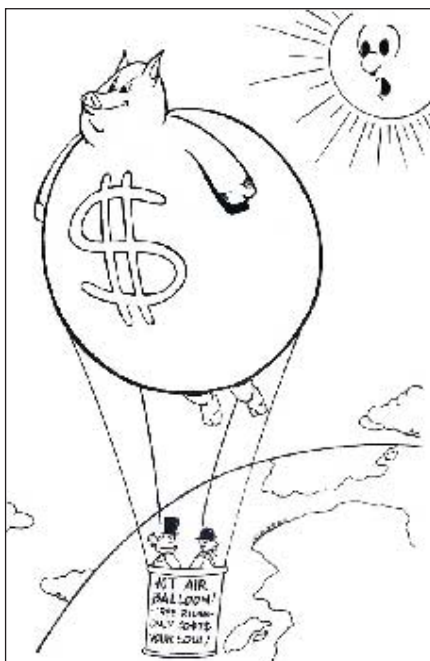
The plans were laid in May 1973 in a Bilderberg council meeting in Saltsjöbaden, Sweden. The Lord warned Dad immediately afterward. In June 1973 he published “The Green Paper Pig.” Dad knew the moneymakers were up to something, some “last resort,” and “attack on the rest of the world” and “ultimate weapon” (ML #243:3).

The Letter seems to indicate that Dad wasn't exactly sure about the exact operation of this ultimate economic weapon and how it would function. Obviously it was hard to know, since it was a secret deal, but it's now evident and exposed over the Internet. Isn't that amazing that this most guarded secret and ultimate weapon was revealed to Dad in a dream? I think that's fabulous!

Editor: Here's what Dad had to say about “The Green Paper Pig” (ML #243:1–10, 34–40, 45–46, 48–51, Vol.2):

(Early this morning [June 23, 1973] MO awoke in the Spirit and related to me the following dream:) **It was summer in the Mideast, and we were fleeing through this canyon or wadi where a stream flowed (I know now it was the Jordan River), toward some kind of sea or lake like the Dead Sea (which I know now it was) where we were to get on some boats to escape across to the other side. But then as a last resort, someone unleashed on us this big imaginary monster—a gigantic Green Pig—and he was huge, ... like one of these mammoth monster-like parade balloons, and if you believed he existed he could destroy you!**

He was charging down the Jordan Valley, trampling on some people and devouring others, when I shouted at them: “He doesn't really exist! It's just in your mind! You must rebuke him and he'll go away!” So some of us turned as we were boarding the boats to leave, and just as he caught up with us I yelled again, “He doesn't exist! It's a matter of whether you believe it or not! It's only your faith in him that he exists that makes him real! Rebuke him in Jesus' name and he'll flee!” And the minute we turned and faced him and challenged him and rebuked him in Jesus' name, he vanished just like that! (MO snaps



his fingers.) He was like the ultimate weapon, their last resort, to release this monstrous Green Pig!

Afterward I was lying here thinking: “What is this funny dream! What does this strange dream mean, Lord?” Then I thought, “What is like a pig? Is it a nation? But what nation is like a pig? America? But why is he green?” And then the answer came just as clear as anything: He's the American dollar! The ultimate weapon in the Mideast is the American dollar, and if you believe in it, it will destroy you! But if you know it doesn't really exist, it vanishes!

So the ultimate weapon is the ... American dollar, or American “green-back,” as they call it! Somehow they're using it against the rest of the world.

The Green Pig gobbles everybody up that believes in it, and tramples everybody in the mud that thinks it exists! But for those who know it's just a monster of imagination, it vanishes!

I was trying to figure out where all this was, and it came to me that the place where I saw the decision made to release the Green Pig was (censored). [Editor: This was later revealed as Jerusalem in “The Money Explodes,” ML #294:11.]

Someone is manipulating the dollar and using it as a weapon—the Green Pig—to try to destroy their enemies. And if you believe in it, it will destroy you, but if you refuse to believe that it even exists, it completely evaporates and vanishes! It has no power over you at all. It is the moneymakers' monster, and the Green Pig is just a tool in their hands.

It's like this Green Pig is the god of America; it is America's idol that they worship. It is not even as good as the golden calf, because it doesn't even exist! But they worship it and they

created it, and the moneymakers helped them to create it. But it is they that tell it which way to go. It is they who unleash it against their enemies, and it is they who control it, and they either harness it and support it, or they unleash it and send it charging against their enemies to devour them!

The moneymakers are its high priests and its priesthood, and it was created in their temples and they control it and they manipulate it as they will to their own advantage against their enemies.

So you and all the world must beware of the dollar! It is a moneymaker's creation—a Green Pig! It'll devour you and trample you to death in the mud and the mire if you believe in it and put your faith in it, if you trust in it! Because, whichever way it moves, it moves at their behest, at their direction, because they created it and they control it. ... It was their creation, their monster, and it is the figment of their imagination, but they use it to their own advantage. But if you'll reject it and refuse to believe in it, and you rebuke it in God's name, it vanishes and cannot even touch you!

You get all the words of David? You receive all the words of your Father? You must tell them to the people! “Beware of the Green Pig which the moneymakers have unleashed upon the world!”

In ancient times, the medium of exchange was almost always precious metals such as gold, silver, nickel, brass or copper, etc., mined and minted into coins by the various governments, with the imprint of those governments and their rulers and the designation of the coin's value according to what the government said it was worth.

As a government became more and more decadent and corrupt and dishonest, its money became more dishonest, until the people found that the coins were no longer being made of pure gold and silver but filled with other less valuable metals: The gold coins became more brass and copper than gold, and the silver coins became more nickel, zinc or lead, etc.

Paper money is a fairly new thing in world history, which our clever capitalistic governments quickly latched on to as a much more convenient means of exchange than actual metal coins, and a far easier and cheaper way to manufacture worthless money and cheat the people! The people were then persuaded to accept these paper bills because they were far more convenient to carry around, of course, than lugging around bags of gold or silver or copper coins! As long as the people were told by the government that the government would be ready and willing to exchange

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DAD ON ECONOMIC MANIPULATION

Confirmatory quotes compiled after receiving the preceding message

Virtually every nation in the world runs on banking credit. Their [AC] banks have seen to that! Nearly every country in the world today is already really bankrupt from running on borrowed money, including the USA! But as long as their credit is good, they can keep going! But just let that credit be jerked out from under'm, and all of a sudden nobody wants to do business with'm! All of a sudden when your credit is gone you're a pariah and ... you can't do any banking, you can't exchange funds, you can't do anything financial! The whole western world economy is built on this American-style credit system! (ML #1053:7,8; Vol.9).

[The ACs] really learned a lesson from dear old Joseph in Egypt! There was famine in the land, famine in the world, so he sold grain, and finally there was so much famine the people even sold their bodies as slaves to get something to eat! Dear old Joseph was the good old ... banker who knew how to really

the paper thing for the real thing at any time they desired to do so, or, in other words, the paper currency for its printed designated worth in actual gold or silver coinage, real value, the people were persuaded to accept this paper substitute for the actually valuable metal coins.

But of course, this also made it very convenient for governments to manipulate or change the value of their exchange to their own advantage, which usually means the advantage of the rich and the powerful. As modern governments also became more corrupt, decadent and deceitful, they too began to pollute their paper money and actually devalue it by being no longer willing to exchange it for either gold or silver, or anything else of actual value, for that matter.

Nevertheless, ... the world has continued to drift dreamily along, still believing in the power and value of the American dollar, supposedly backed by the power, worth and word of the American government. ... When actually the dollar is really worthless and without any intrinsic value whatsoever,



with no backing or redeemability in coinage of actual value such as gold and silver!

But as the world began to wake up to what is going on, the dollar began going down! For a long time it continued to coast along, not only because it was considered worth what the Americans said it was worth, but because other governments of the world were also willing to support it with their word, saying that it was worth so much to them also in their own currencies. But now other governments too are losing faith in America and America's money because they're losing faith in Americans and American administrations, so that other governments of the world are no longer willing to support the dollar and say it is worth so much in their money and give you as much of their money in exchange for it as they used to. So as world faith in the dollar wanes, so wanes the dollar.

When the people's faith is gone, the Green Paper Pig will vanish with it, as they challenge its power and refuse to believe in its value and reject its worth and even deny its very existence! It is a purely imaginary monster which will disappear without an "oink" when the day comes that you lose faith in it and you question, challenge and defy the phony paper power of the Green Paper Pig, the once almighty American dollar! And the American greenback will vanish from the world scene like the Green Paper Pig in my dream!

But what is going to take its place? What will replace this Green Paper Pig which has so long been the recent world's means of monetary exchange, and upon which their own currency systems have been based?

The time will come when money is no longer used as a medium of exchange, ... and the people of the world will be ruled by a one-world government who will control them by the material power it wields and its control of goods and services, and not a Green Paper Pig!

pull it. When they had no more money to pay, they sold themselves, and that's exactly what's happening and exactly what was predicted!—That they would get to the point where the [ACs] would control world financing and their banks would tell the countries what to do!

That's exactly what the World Bank and the IMF are doing right now! They are telling these countries how to run their internal business and their government if they want to get a loan. They have to do everything just the way they tell'm to do or they don't get it. And countries who don't obey, they pull the rug out, pull the money out, and the countries go broke!

They've gotten control of the money, control of the finances, control of world economy, just like they predicted. ... They came right out and said that, "Countries will become our creditors and go bankrupt unless we give them money, etc., so that we will control not only businesses and banks and industries and the media and economies, but we will control whole countries until we finally control the world!" And that's the way it's going! (ML #1639:18,19,21; GN Book 16).

The money medium of exchange will be replaced by a very remarkable system in which every person in the world who belongs to the system will bear a number, without which he can neither buy nor sell, and by which he is accredited in his governmental account with the value of whatever goods or services he produces, and to which he can charge the goods and services that he himself needs.

So he will no longer buy nor sell with money as a means of exchange, but with a number which will be given him permanently, without any possibility of counterfeit, change, or manipulation nor forgery: "a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads, that no man might buy or sell save he that had the mark or the name of the Beast (the world leader and his government) or the number of his name ... for it is the number of a man!"

So says the Word of God in the Bible in the thirteenth chapter of the book of Revelation! Those who refuse to worship the Beast or accept his mark or number will be neither able to buy nor to sell, so we who worship God will suffer, be persecuted, and even slain! But our faith in God will save us, and after three-and-a-half years of this awful time of the Great Tribulation under the Beast's new economic and religious system, Christ will come and rescue us and destroy the Antichrist government of the world and set up His Own Kingdom here on Earth, where the real values will no longer be temporal, but eternal ones: Truth, love, joy and peace, in a world without money and without marks, and without the bestial governments, wars, cruelty and lies of man, but with truth and love and peace and plenty for all!

Meanwhile, beware of the Green Paper Pig!

Editor: When we asked the Lord about the possibility of the Green Paper Pig being the petrodollar and if He could please explain more about this situation, we received the following:

The ... world-antichrist banking system has managed to loan out enough money to make the whole world its slaves! Now they've gotta pay, and they can't pay, so they'll have to be its slaves and they'll rule over them. ... They now rule the Earth already with their financial system! Having done that, the only thing that is going to save the system in any way—if it's going to be saved at all—is that they're going to have to ... change the whole economic system, as we have envisioned already, to some type of electronic credit system and One-World government, a One-World system! (ML #1770:49, GN Book 20).



The [ACs] have gotten to the point where money is not enough. Now they want power, they want to control the world and every country in it, and they're getting there fast! They've already got the western world, they control and run that already. ... Now they're after the third world, as it's been a little more independent.

And the only way they could get ahold of it was by first of all just pouring the money on them, just giving them money like gifts, only it turned out to be loans, and pretty soon they began asking for it back! And now that they can't pay it, they'll have to slave in whatever way the ACs tell them to slave! (ML #1777:24,25; GN Book 20).

(Jesus:) The Green Paper Pig is the U.S. dollar, as I revealed it to David, whether you consider it the ordinary dollar or the petrodollar—those dollars which the nations of the world must acquire to purchase their oil, which are then returned to America's banks. The dollar and the petrodollar are one and the same, and just as ordinary pigs wallow in the mire and get black and grimy, the Green Paper Pig wallows in oil and becomes black.

Money matters can be very complex, because those who create and manipulate the money deliberately obscure their wheeling and dealing with a dense fog of involved theories, complicated principles, and a screen of many different people and organizations, hoping it will prove too difficult for the masses to penetrate. But I will simplify these matters for you and blow away the fog.

First of all, as your David has said, the Green Paper Pig is an imaginary monster. It has no substance to it, no reality—only the hot air with which its creators have filled it. It is only worth what people consider it worth. There is no gold, no silver, no precious metal or gemstones inside it. It lives and has its power because of the faith of those in the System, just like any idol of a false religion.

Next, as I explained to David, it is a weapon and it is being controlled and guided by the moneymakers to defeat their enemies and to bring them power over the world. Although it is American currency and it was unleashed in Israel, as I revealed to David, you should not think of it as being controlled by either of these two nations.

This pig is designed to bring power to the ACs, who ultimately control it, rather than any one nation or group of nations. It often suits their purposes to help these two nations while harming others, but those who ultimately control it have self-interest in mind, not national interests. And they are interested in power as much as they are in profits. So, just as a pig will sometimes attack its keepers and can be the most vicious of animals, the Green Paper Pig does likewise. It will even turn on the U.S. and Israel and rend them when it is to the benefit of those who control it.

For the time being the pig cooperates with America, which thinks it has

it under control, and the Americans use it to try to run the world, not realizing that they too are being controlled and manipulated. Here's how it works, My children, put simply.

The nations of the world must have oil to run their economies, and fuel to power their vehicles, planes and trains. To obtain this oil, they can either drill for it in their own country, where a multinational oil company will be only too glad to assist them and will share in their profits, or they can buy it elsewhere. The moneymakers have set it up so that oil and gasoline bought elsewhere must be paid for in dollars. This forces the country to obtain and hold dollars. Though the dollars have no value of their own, the fact that they are necessary to obtain oil gives them value.

When nations buy this outside oil, the dollars used are often returned to America and invested in American banks, which are controlled by the moneymakers. So are the profits of the multinational oil companies, which are also controlled by the moneymakers. And these banks—and I do not speak of corner and neighborhood banks but of the huge consortiums—then loan that money to the U.S. and to nations around the world. There is a glut of dollars, trillions of dollars circulating among

the nations of the world, because it has been made so readily available.

With these dollars, the nations of the world have lived deliciously, far beyond their means, and almost all are heavily indebted, including the U.S., which is the most indebted of all. And the U.S. and many other nations have encouraged their own citizens to go deep in debt as well, because their purchases sustain the economies of their nations. They may call it “the easy availability of credit” or some other inviting name, but it is debt, plain and simple.

Most of the people and nations of the world live in debt, with little hope of ever paying back what they owe. They do, however, pay interest on their debts, and over time this is far more lucrative to the lenders, for the amounts repaid are far above and beyond the original amount. These funds also make their way to the huge banks run by the moneymakers, who create yet more money by loaning it out again and again, and the cycle continues—resulting in increasing debts for the nations and peoples of the world, and increasing profits and power over the nations for those who run these giant banks, the moneymakers.

As My Word warns, the borrower is servant to the lender, whether he



They're [bringing about the Crash] deliberately! They want the Crash to come, they're engineering it, they're staging the whole thing! (No.1340)—First of all, to get the whole world dependent on the dollar and their dollar banks and [AC] banks, and then to pull the rug out from under them with the explosion and the decline of the dollar so that the whole world will then become their slaves and they'll have to save them, salvage their economic system and the whole works. When the dollar blows, they are going to actually blow it! They are planning to blow it in order to blow up the world, in order that their Antichrist can pick up the pieces. (ML #1939:7, Vol.16).

They can't bring on their Man unless they can bring on the Crash, and then the world will be crying for him! (ML #2404:126, Vol.18).

People still don't believe that the [ACs] unleashed the Green Paper Pig on the world! It hasn't even been revealed except through us, but the Lord showed me about the Green Paper Pig! In other words, obviously it means they are manipulating the money, but people still won't believe that, how about that? (ML #2211-1:97; Vol.16).

realizes it or not. Thus, ever so slowly, the nations and peoples of the world find themselves becoming the servants of the bankers of the world, or those who could even be termed the bankers of the netherworld, for they fulfill a nefarious plot of the Evil One. By saying this, I do not mean that every banker is an agent of the Enemy. Very few are—only those top ACs who set the pig in motion to destroy their enemies and to gain power for themselves and ultimately for their Supreme Lord, the Antichrist.

As your David has said, they manipulate the pig at will. If a nation does not bow to their demands, that nation finds it more difficult to obtain the money it needs. It finds itself being squeezed financially, and without the money available through credit, it can neither buy oil nor pay its debts to other countries, nor even to its own citizens. Those nations often try to put the squeeze on their citizens, but many of them are also in debt and have little which can be taken from them. So eventually a nation under pressure caves in to the demands of the ACs and finds itself deeper in debt than ever, for this too is part of the plan. And they do not just suffer debt but servitude, for when their creditors say "Jump," they must grit their teeth and ask, "How high, master?"

America too is in this predicament, although she does not realize it. She is a cash cow for the masters of money, who are milking her for all the profit she is able to produce. "Spend and buy," her people are told, as they are encouraged to consume their way to debt and bankruptcy. Credit is so simple, so easy, that Americans do not see that

they own less and less of the things they think they do, and the banks own more and more, while they constantly suck vast sums of interest payments from their pockets. Although America thinks the controllers of the pig are her friends, that is not the case. They merely use her for now and control and manipulate her as they do other nations of the world, while America herself thinks she controls the world.

The nations of the world, however, are starting to rebel against the dollar.

Now that they have an alternative in the form of the euro, they seek to turn away from the dollar. There are rumblings of discontent and rebellion, because they resent the control imposed on them by the dollar, and besides that, the dollars they hold are going down in value while the euro is going up. Thus they are increasingly turning to the euro, diversifying their funds.

Eventually the nations of the world will turn away from the dollar more rapidly, and its value will fall—and as its value falls, they will turn away even more rapidly and the value of the dollar will fall even more, for few will wish to hold it. They will have lost their faith in it. To offset the decline, America will do what many nations in similar straits have done—it will create more money. By creating more money, which makes the dollar worth less—worthless indeed—America will hope to lower the value of her debt, but it will not work that way. This will cause people to lose even more faith in the dollar and bring on more and more inflation. The Green Paper Pig will grow larger and larger, and when the time is right, it will explode. The bubble will burst, leaving the U.S.

economy in tatters and bringing down a major part of the world economy as well in the Crash that follows.

This too is foreseen and even planned by the moneymakers. The pig does their bidding, whether it is to destroy or to let itself be destroyed. In being destroyed, it helps to bring on the new world economy and to usher in the Antichrist, who is being prepared for this time. He will rise to power, and the ACs with him, behind the scenes, and they will then use their mark and new financial system to impose their will rather than using the Green Paper Pig, and will attempt to destroy all those who will not yield to it. These evil men who have been plotting and scheming behind the scenes will maintain their power and increase it, for now their man is in control, and although the pig is gone, they have a much more efficient weapon at their fingertips—the Mark of the Beast, without which no man may buy or sell!

This is the tale of the Green Paper Pig that wallows in oil, and how it will come to its sorry end, dragging many down with it and bringing on an era which will culminate in a time of great tribulation which has not been seen since the beginning of the world. But this tale has a happy ending, for I will come back to rescue My children from this world and from the moneymakers and mark-takers and the Antichrist himself, who will be seeking to destroy all those who love Me. In that day, it'll be bye-bye Trib. and hello Heaven! So take heart, because you'll truly live happily ever after, and it won't be long now!

Editor: There's more to come in future installments of "Endtime Economics!"

◆ Wars and rumors of war

War propaganda

BY CHARLEY REESE, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

If you step back a moment and think about it, you will realize that you are constantly being propagandized to approve of war—not just the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, but war generically.

We should resist. War is killing, maiming and disfiguring human beings. It is so disgusting and horrible in reality that even the most "realistic" Hollywood movie sanitizes it. The news media sanitize it. The government sanitizes war because it doesn't want you to see the coffins. Most of all, it doesn't want you

to see the bodies before they are put in the coffins. The Bush administration's real beef with the Arab television station Al-Jazeera is really nothing more than the fact that Al-Jazeera shows the bodies.

No, the Bush administration doesn't want you to see the bodies—not the bodies of our men and women, and not the bodies of Iraqi men, women and children. The administration wants you to see the war as an electronic game with bright lights in the distance and good sound effects, or close-ups of our brave warriors firing their guns at an invisible enemy. It doesn't want you to see the torn flesh and blood. If you

did, you might not support the war, and billions of dollars depend on your support.

This entire glorification of war—as if the whole and only purpose of the government and the country were to fight wars—smells of fascism. The news media glorify the war and militarism; we get the same dose on television, in the movies and in video games. If the American people aren't careful, they will wake up one day to find out they've become a nation of mindless heel-clickers.

Not one single poor soul of the more than 100,000 Americans who have died in the Cold War and the hot wars since 1945 has died in defense of America.

The sad thing is that when the last soldier leaves Afghanistan and Iraq—if that day ever comes—we won't be any better off. Afghanistan will still be Afghanistan. Iraq will still be Iraq.

There will be more graves, there will be more Americans without arms and legs, but nothing will have changed. Politicians will be searching diligently for more "bad guys" for the next generation to fight. First it was the fascists, then the communists, now the terrorists. Who's next? God only knows.

And no corporation should be allowed to make a profit off the blood of American soldiers, as is now happening in Iraq and has happened in every war.

Marine General Smedley Butler had it right when he said, "War is a racket."

Let us all learn to hate it as it deserves to be hated.



"Smedley Butler advised that when talk of war raged, all of the industrialists and politicians be conscripted first, then their children, and lastly, the rest of us. Butler conceived a simple democratic plan that would require a decision for war be approved by a majority of all those who would be sent to fight. Draftable young men would vote yea or nay for the next war. No votes by older folks or politicians and industrialists would be considered. Such a system would ensure that truly defensive wars would be fought, and all other wars rejected."—Lt. Col. Karen Kwiatkowski

(Dad:) That's a good plan, but not one that would go over well in the U.S. Congress, ha! Nor would it go over very well with the industrialists, as Smedley tactfully called them. Those who advise or promote war to profit from war, from death and destruction and suffering, are warmongers, whatever else they may call themselves. And they have many accomplices in the media, who glorify war and the culture of war, portraying it as something noble and virtuous rather than showing all the carnage and hell that causes soldiers nightmares for decades to follow.



War and glorifying war is a part of American culture, what the country was built on and thrives on! War is how the country was won and how it grew from coast to coast, fighting the British, the Indians, the Spanish and French and others, slaughtering multitudes.

War supports its economy. War gives it its superiority complex over other nations, which it can bully or invade at will. War fills its TV, video and movie screens with glorious battles of the past to prepare its people for glorious battles of the future.

War is the national creed of America. Like the neighborhood bully, they're proud of the fact that they can beat up anyone else, and they flaunt it in the media. As one philosopher said, "The only version of national pride encouraged by American popular culture is simple-minded military chauvinism." How true!

Well, there's coming a day when there'll be war no more, thank God! Until that time, don't let yourself be propagandized by war in the media. Man's wars aren't noble crusades but unholy terrors!

The devastation of wars

BY MARTIN WALKER, *THE GLOBALIST*

Almost as soon as Europe's great nation states began to form in England, France and Spain, they began to fight. As they got better at it, Europe's nation states plunged into the collective suicide of the First World War, from 1914 to 1918—and then, with a brief pause to regroup, into the Second World War from 1939 to 1945.

Seldom in history has a civilization so dominant collapsed with such speed. In 1914, Europe accounted for over 60% of the world's wealth, as measured by GDP [Gross Domestic Product]. Its empires—including Russia—covered over 80% of the world.



THE VERDUN OSSUARY IS SAID TO CONTAIN THE BODIES OF 2 MILLION FRENCHMEN AND GERMANS WHO DIED THERE.

Europe's 20th century tribal wars ended all that. The colonial empires have gone, along with their former preponderance of wealth. Today, even with the prosperity of the EU—and even including Russia—Europe accounts for less than 25% of the world's GDP.

The two tribal wars—and the brief peace that separated them—killed nearly 20 million Russians, 10 million Germans, 4 million French and 1.5 million Brits.

The scale of their wars still stuns the modern mind. There is an ossuary, a memorial composed of bones, outside the French city of Verdun, that is said to contain the bodies of 2 million Frenchmen and Germans who died there.

On the top of Belgium's Passchaendaele Ridge, the visitor can gaze down some six miles to the town of Ypres. For every single inch of those seven miles, clawing their way up the mud and barbed wire, one German and one Brit died. In the German war cemeteries, the numbers were so great that they buried them by the year.

Perhaps, at last, the great European madness is finally over. Perhaps. The example of the Balkan wars of the 1990s suggests that belief in such a pacific outcome might yet be premature.



(Jesus:) The greatest wars man has ever fought are yet to come, and they will result in the fall of many governments and nations—and eventually in the overthrow of man's last government at Armageddon.

Sadly, men have not learned from their recent bloody history. If anything, the wars of the past have only spurred them on to produce more horrifying and destructive weapons for wars of the future, devices capable of maiming and killing multitudes.

So there will be more terrible wars to come, but see that you be not troubled. Although these things must come to pass, they will soon be past, and I will usher in the wonderful heaven on earth of the Millennium, in which the ruins of man's wars of ages past will stand as a testimony against his efforts to run the world by himself and a demonstration of the need for My righteous rule and reign.

◆ Famine and drought

Why the West is burning

BY J. MADELEINE NASH/SAGE, TIME MAGAZINE

In California the wildfire season generally ramps up slowly, and the largest fires usually don't arrive until fall. But this year is different. A five-year drought has left this arid region even dryer than usual, leading to a record number of wildfires.

And no one knows when the drought will end. Scientists believe this dry spell, which has plagued a broad swath of the West since 1999, is more typical of the region than its 60 million inhabitants would care to admit.

Researchers have found that droughts like the 1930s Dust Bowl appear to be quite rare. But 1950s-style droughts are more common, recurring, on average, twice each century. An event that scientists have dubbed the 16th century megadrought resembled a combination of the droughts of the 1930s and 1950s.

And even the 16th century megadrought pales in comparison to earlier dry spells that California State University geographer Scott Stine has documented in the Sierra Nevada. One of these droughts lasted 140 years, the other more than two centuries. "If the future resembles the past," says Stine, "then we're in for a lot of trouble."

"Drought is more than a precipitation deficit," observes University of Washington climatologist Philip Mote. When precipitation drops below normal, as it has in recent years, the stress on trees and plants is extreme.

Consider, for example, the massive forest diebacks occurring across the West. "People tend to think of forests as pretty slow changing," says Craig Allen, an ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. "But once certain thresholds are exceeded, very rapid changes can occur." In some cases, thirsting trees perish because their circulatory systems—the long tubular columns in the trunk that



ONE OF A RECORD NUMBER OF WESTERN WILDFIRES IN THE U.S.

transport water from the roots to the crown—collapse. In other cases, the trees become so weak they can no longer fend off insects and disease.

Indeed, the bark-beetle infestations that are killing trees across the West are attributed to drought. And nowhere is the beetle infestation worse than in the mountains of Southern California, whose stressed-out forests harbor hundreds of thousands of beetle-killed trees. These trees serve as standing fuel for fires.

The past is an imperfect lens through which to peer into the future, but looking backward provides a glimpse, at least, of the sorts of extended dry spells that those who live in this drought-prone region today should be prepared to endure.

(Jesus:) The future will resemble the past in many ways, because, just as I changed the climate and the weather in days of old to judge peoples and nations, I will do so again in the future. Many great civilizations and nations once flourished in fertile areas which are now barren deserts, but they forgot Me and despised Me, and I withheld the rain and they passed from the face of the earth. Or, in some cases, I brought such an abundance of rain that they were washed away, leaving only their ruins.

I will judge nations in similar ways in the future, for many have forgotten Me or have ignored My voice in their heart, the voice of their conscience. Iniquity has abounded, and the love of many has waxed cold.

In these dry trees, you see another sign of the End, for did I not say that during the Tribulation a third of the trees will be burned up? (Revelation 8:7). I prepare the kindling even now, and although some men will scoff and say these things come to pass from natural causes, others will see the destruction that is to come and wonder, and come to Me. And you, My children, know the truth, for you know My Word.

◆ Pests and pestilences

We are not immune

BY RONALD J. GLASSER, M.D., HARPER'S MAGAZINE

Medical historians describe the last few decades as the age of "the emerging plagues." Population increases, poverty, ecological devastation and global climate change, chemical pollution and industrial agriculture—all of these factors conspire to create the conditions for unprecedented death by infectious disease. Between 1977 and 1994, twenty-nine previously unknown human

pathogens emerged, and it is estimated, moreover, that we have identified only 1 percent of the bacteria and 4 percent of the viruses on the planet. Tuberculosis has reemerged as an epidemic, and drug-resistant strains continue to spread throughout our cities. In 1995, 1.7 million American patients contracted hospital-spread infections; 88,000 of these patients died; 70 percent of the infections were drug-resistant. Each year an estimated 76 million Americans fall ill to food-borne illnesses resulting in approximately 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths. Influenza infects 10 to 20 percent of the U.S. population every year and kills 36,000; a virulent avian flu could kill millions. Such numbers, a mere sampling of those available, paint a grim portrait.

[Yet despite the deaths from disease,] the United States has no single agency responsible for public health and thus no coherent policy. As Laurie Garrett suggests in her monumental study, *Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health*, it is no exaggeration to say that we simply lack a public-health system; what we do have is best described as "a hodgepodge of programs, bureaucracies, and failings."

Americans pay too much for their health care, and compared with other countries we receive a very poor return on our investment. Healing people after they fall ill is vastly more expensive than preventing the illness in the first place: every dollar spent preventing diphtheria, for instance, saves \$27; every dollar spent on measles, mumps, and rubella saves \$23. Yet policymakers have consistently preferred the most expensive and least efficient models of health care.

For the last quarter century, the public-health infrastructure of the U.S. has been eviscerated. Since 9/11, it is true, the federal government has appropriated about \$2 billion for bioterrorism response. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson has claimed that preparing for bioterrorism will enable the government to respond to influenza and other infectious diseases; in fact, the reverse is true. Bioterrorism is a remote threat, but it captures the imagination of weak-minded politicians and a populace raised on movies starring Bruce Willis. The truly imminent biological threat, which all public-health experts agree will inevitably strike, is an influenza pandemic. The 1918 pandemic killed 550,000 Americans and 30–50 million worldwide. A virulent flu would thus be much worse than a bioterrorism attack, and it would strike every part of the country more or less simultaneously.

So we are afflicted with a government that has waged war all across the world to avenge the deaths of 3,000 terror victims, far fewer than die of influenza in a mild year; a government that insists on spending \$50 billion to build

a missile-defense system that does not work, a military-industrial make-work project designed to meet a threat that does not exist. The war in Iraq consumes almost \$4 billion a month, twice the amount we have largely squandered on bioterrorism since 2001. We have grown so foolish and so incompetent that perhaps we do not deserve to survive.

(Ronald J. Glasser, M.D. is a Minneapolis specialist in pediatric nephrology and rheumatology and the author of several books.)

(Dad:) You could say that the U.S. government specializes in building hospitals at the foot of the cliff rather than fences at the top, to prevent people driving off! Well, keeping people healthy just isn't a top national priority, as much as they may say it is. There's too little money in it, as compared to helping people get well once they're sick. After all, if the government spends money to keep you healthy, that costs the government money. But if you spend money to get well, that's not the government's money but your own money, and it helps support the drug companies and the medical industry. And war, of course, is more profitable still to the government, propping up the economy, which is why they invest so much money in it. So it's a crazy, mixed-up nation that focuses on money and profits rather than health and lives, but the funny thing is, most Americans don't even realize it!

◆ Earthquakes

“An earthquake in Israel is a certainty; it's just a question of when”

BY ELLIS SHUMAN, ISRAELINSIDER

“The Haifa Bay area is a ticking bomb, which will explode if and when an earthquake occurs,” said [Israeli] Geological Institute Director Amos Bein.

“Nearly the whole of Israel is along the fault line,” said MK Meli Polishook-Bloch, chairwoman of the Knesset Science and Technology Committee. “An earthquake is a certainty; it is just a question of when. It could be in five minutes or 50 years.”

Experts say Israel is heading for a major earthquake in the next 50 years, due to tension along the African-Arabian fault line. The boundary between two tectonic plates runs the length of the country along the Jordan Valley.

Some 75 earthquakes occur in Israel every year, but most of them are barely felt, *Yediot Aharonot* reported.

(Dad:) Yes, there's a big one coming and they'll feel this one! When the Lord gets angry and His wrath falls



MORE HEAT WAVES COMING

upon the earth, there's going to be “a great shaking in the land of Israel!” It's going to be such a monstrous quake that “the mountains will be thrown down, the steep places will fall, and every wall will fall to the ground” (Ezekiel 38:19–20). The Lord is merciful and longsuffering, but when He's given men chance upon chance to repent and mercy after mercy to draw them unto Him, He finally reaches the point that His wrath explodes and there's no remedy! (2 Chronicles 36:16).

◆ Environmental change Europe's changing climate

BY ALEX KIRBY, BBC NEWS

Europeans must learn how to live with a changing climate, the European Environment Agency says. An EEA report says fewer than 50 years remain to act against the threat.

Europe's glaciers lost a tenth of their mass last year, and harvests fell by almost a third.

The EEA says the climate change under way now probably exceeds all natural climate variation for a thousand years.

The EEA's executive director, Professor Jacqueline McGlade, said: “This report pulls together a wealth of evidence that climate change is already happening and having widespread impacts, many of them with substantial economic costs, on people and ecosystems across Europe.

“What the report shows is that, if we go on as we are, we have less than 50 years before we encounter conditions which will be uncharted and potentially hazardous.”

Heat waves to get hotter and longer

BY ROGER HIGHFIELD, ELECTRONIC TELEGRAPH

Heat waves are likely to become more severe, more frequent and longer lasting, according to a new computer prediction.

Fifteen thousand people are thought to have died from heat in France in August last year, along with thousands of farm animals. In Britain, the figure was thought to be about 2,000.

Similar heat waves in Europe will become more common in the 21st century, according to a study published in the journal *Science* by a team at the US National Center for Atmospheric Research.

“It's the extreme weather and climate events that will have some of the most severe impacts on human society as the climate changes,” said Dr. Gerald Meehl. Heat waves can kill more people in a shorter time than almost any other climate event.



GLACIER MELTING. GREENLAND'S ICE SHEET IS SHRINKING AT THE RATE OF TEN METERS A YEAR.

Scientists alarmed at increase in melt rate of ice

BY HAMISH MACDONELL, THE SCOTSMAN

Greenland's cover of ice is melting ten times quicker than previously thought, an increase that could lead to floods across the world, scientists have found.

Newly published research shows an alarming rise in the rate of collapse of the massive Greenland ice sheet as a result of global warming. Scientists now believe the ice sheet is shrinking at the rate of ten meters a year, not the one meter previously thought.

Carl Boggild, the lead scientist, said the ice had dropped by two or three meters in just the past few months.

If the entire ice sheet melts, the resulting flood waters would raise the level of global seas by seven meters, submerging large areas of land, including sea-level cities such as London.

(Jesus:) The climatic changes, the heat waves, the melting ice, the droughts and floods have cropped up here and there in recent years, growing in severity, and they will grow more and more as you rush toward the End! There is little time left and much that must take place within those remaining years, so these events will be more frequent and more intense, as well as more devastating.

Men will look at the changes taking place in the earth and the sea and will rationalize that it is the fault of greenhouse gases, of pollution, of urbanization, of industrialization, and to some extent they are right. These changes are partly due to all these causes, but the greatest cause is the wickedness of man. The earth is again filling with violence and with evil, as it did in the days of Noah, and the spiritual is reflected in the physical, in the climate and the environment.

In the end of days, as man rages and rampages on earth and evil men wax worse and worse, the elements will also rage about them, and those days are not as far away as some of you think. Watch and pray and witness, My dear children, redeeming the time, for the days are evil!

◆ **Cloning**

Define “better”

AN INTERVIEW WITH BIOETHICIST C. BEN MITCHELL, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOETHICS AND CONTEMPORARY CULTURE AT TRINITY INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

BY CHRISTOPHER HOOK, CHRISTIANITY TODAY

The Bible does not address [genetic engineering], but does it offer any principles that should guide Christians as they think about it?

The Bible’s message is about redeeming that which has been lost and about caring for those who are in need and those who are suffering. It seems to me that the biblical obligation is to care for those who are the least of our brethren rather than make an effort to advance our species.

Does the Bible prohibit enhancements?

I don’t know of a specific prohibition that says we ought not to try to enhance human beings. I do find a number of cautions. The Tower of Babel story is a powerful cautionary tale against trying to usurp God’s authority.

Who defines what an enhancement is? Who defines who a better human being is? It seems to me to require a godlike omniscience to determine that.

But why the concern about making people “better”?

Better is a morally loaded term. Who judges what “better” is? Is it truly the case that improved motor skills or intellectual capacity or eyesight is necessarily making us better? It’s making us different as a species, but I doubt that just improving certain capacities makes us a better species.

There are always going to be trade-offs. Some of our capacities make up for our diminished capacities. If someone lacks sight, often his hearing is more acute. Mightn’t it be the case that if we enhance one capacity, we might diminish another?

Are enhancements a way for us to become more like God?

If we see God as Jesus, who “being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God,” but still took on human flesh, with all its weaknesses, then maybe we wouldn’t even aspire to enhance ourselves.

Add to this Paul’s comment that when we are weak, then we’re strong, and that we can even glory in our infirmities, and those are all arguments that evoke caution about making ourselves “better.”

If this technology could give our soldiers the greatest chance of survival possible, would you recommend we use it?

Technologies have a tendency to bite back, as Edward Tenner points out in *Why Things Bite Back: Technology and the Revenge of Unintended Consequences*. The U.S. used Agent Orange—a chemical it sprayed to defoliate the jungle—to protect our soldiers during the Vietnam War. Now they are suffering the consequences of Agent Orange contamination, long after they left Vietnam. ...

We ought to first address the needs of the suffering and the poor and people who have diseases before we talk about making them “better.” I think as long as we have ... many people in poverty and children who suffer, it’s a luxury to talk about enhancement technologies.

(Dad:) If governments and scientists devoted as much time and money to improving people spiritually as they do to improving and enhancing them physically, the world would be a different place! Imagine if they taught classes on love rather than nuclear physics, or researched methods of kindness, courtesy, appreciation and encouragement rather than cloning and genetic engineering!

Instead of men trying to become more like God, however, men have increasingly tried to become gods themselves, with ultimate power over their own bodies, their own destinies. It all harks back to the Garden of Eden, when the Serpent tempted Adam and

Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, so that, “Ye shall be as gods!” (Genesis 3:5). They’ve been trying to do that ever since, with the Serpent’s prodding—to work out their own salvation, their own enhancements, their own destiny.

If men would just turn to the Lord, though, He’d give them these things as a free gift, just for accepting Him!

Imagine, they’d get indestructible bodies, travel at the speed of thought, eternal life, an earthly paradise, a Heavenly City, and every desire of their heart, all for taking Jesus! They don’t have to work it up, figure it out, or do it their own way—they just have to go God’s way. But that’s very hard for many people for some reason!

◆ **Racing toward the Mark**

Law enforcement in Mexico goes a bit bionic

BY MONICA CAMPBELL, THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR; WILL WEISSERT, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crime has become such a problem in Mexico that the government has created a fleet of cyborgs to fight it. Call them Mexico’s “Robocops.”

The Mexican officials have been injected with a microchip the size of a grain of rice. Implanted beneath the skin of their arms, it allows them to access a high-level crime database and, they hope, track them if they’re kidnapped.

The chip comes from VeriChip, a subsidiary of Applied Digital Solutions of Palm Beach, Fla. The device is nonremovable (though it can be deactivated) and is slipped under the skin in seconds via a syringe-like device.

The chip sits dormant under the skin and is only “awakened” by a scanner using radio-frequency identification, or RFID. The scanner emits a signal that powers the chip, allowing it to send its identification number. Then, depending on the configuration of the database that is hooked up to the scanner, a door is opened or a database is unlocked, the way an ID card allows employees into the office.

Mexico is the first country to go public with its use of the microchip for law-enforcement purposes, says Keith Bolton, president of VeriChip. Mr. Bolton considers the chip the “future of high-tech security” and says that Mexico is sending a message around the world that in certain areas there’s a need to reach out to new technology.



MEXICAN JUDICIAL WORKER RECEIVING CHIP IMPLANT

**BIOTECH UPDATE:
SLIGHT GLITCH NOTED
(RESEARCH CONTINUES)**



In Mexico, along with controlling access to the data bank, officials also hope it will foil kidnappers by allowing victims to be tracked. But analysts say the technology is not strong enough to put a brake on abductions.

"This isn't a device where you push a button and a light comes up on the board showing where you are," says Lauren Weinstein, founder of Privacy Forum, an online group based in Los Angeles that discusses privacy issues.

He says that since the chips depend on their interaction with RFID scanners, an enormous infrastructure of scanners would need to be installed to track victims in a country like Mexico, which is nearly three times the size of Texas. Additionally, says Mr. Weinstein, once kidnappers nab somebody, "They'll just use another high-tech device to extract the chip. It's called a knife."

VeriChip says it is developing technology that will allow the chip to work with a satellite system to better find missing people.

With limits in the US, chip vendors are pushing their products overseas. Among other places, RFID technology can be spotted in German supermarkets, in a Barcelona nightclub that allows chip-injected customers entry to the VIP room, and, most recently, on student ID cards at a primary school in Osaka, Japan.

Scott Silverman, Applied Digital Solutions' chief executive, said that his company has sold 7,000 chips to distributors worldwide and that more than 1,000 of those had likely been inserted into customers, mostly for security or identification reasons.

(Dad:) The chips are spreading and multiplying, having gone from a few mad scientists to a few dozen trendy Americans and now to a few thousand people worldwide. It won't be long till they spread to the tens of thousands, once the scientists get the technology working better, and to the tens of millions once the Mark comes along! Great events often have little beginnings, you know, and you're seeing that now with the steady spread of these chip implants.

It reminds me of the way TV first began in America many years ago. They began filming and airing TV shows before people had TVs, because obviously people wouldn't buy a TV unless there was something to watch. So a few people bought TVs, enjoyed them, invited their friends over to watch, and their friends went out and bought TVs too—which encouraged the production of more TV shows and brought on even more TV buyers and viewers, and the cycle just kept growing. Now the TV is an integral part of practically every household.

The chipmakers and implanters hope that if they can get a trend going, it'll spread like TV—people will want the chip because of all the advantages it holds, and as people buy more chips,

governments will invest in more technology to serve them and enhance their usefulness, and that'll draw in even more users. And eventually, of course, the AC will simply tell people that they can't buy or sell unless they get the Mark.

◆ Big Brother

Eye on the Olympics

BY WILL KNIGHT, *NEW SCIENTIST* NEWS SERVICE

An unprecedented array of surveillance technology was employed to protect the 2004 Olympics in Athens from the threat of terrorist attack. The entire operation is estimated to have cost about \$1.5 billion.

"If it's not the single biggest security detail in history, I would have a hard time imagining what would beat it," says John Pike, an analyst with the defense think-tank Global Security.

Some 7,000 armed security personnel patrolled Athens during the games, bolstering security at the entrance to each event. Access to other areas, like the athletes' living quarters and media centers within the "Olympic village," required a biometric ID card containing a digital copy of the holder's fingerprint. There were seven security personnel for each athlete competing at the games.

In the skies above the Olympic city, Greek fighter planes, NATO surveillance aircraft and a camera-equipped blimp provided another line of defense. Patriot missile systems were installed around the main venues to protect against aerial attack.

The port of Athens was also secured, with the entire Greek fleet patrolling its waters along with part of the 6th Fleet of the US Navy.

Behind the scenes, an unparalleled surveillance and communications network was also set up. A citywide communications network was put in place to enable security personnel to monitor different areas and stay in touch. Forces were armed with the latest satellite positioning technology to provide them with accurate location coordinates.

An enormous surveillance system acted as overseeing pairs of eyes and ears at the games. This network collected and processed images and audio from more than 1,000 high-resolution and infrared cameras installed at different venues and on street corners. Calls made from mobile and landline phones in the area were recorded and processed by the system.



GREEK PATROLBOAT OFF THE COAST OF ATHENS DURING THE OLYMPICS



SURVEILLANCE ROOM. MORE THAN 1,000 HIGH-RESOLUTION AND INFRARED CAMERAS MONITORED THE OLYMPICS.

Using software provided by UK company Autonomy, conversations were converted into text and scanned for phrases that could be linked to terrorist activity. Autonomy says the system is conversant in Greek, English, Arabic and Farsi, as well as other major European languages.

But Pike believes other undisclosed measures were undoubtedly in place, such as face recognition from video footage. "They're basically the sort of stuff the National Security Agency has been using for some time," he told *New Scientist*. "And they seem to place great faith in it."

(Dad:) Look how quickly a government can turn an entire city into a massive surveillance system where your every move is monitored and your every communication can be recorded. It's expensive, but it doesn't

take very long, and I'm sure the folks who kept an eye on the Olympics learned how they could do it even quicker next time in their next venue, wherever that may be.

If you're ever tempted to think that the End is a little slow in coming and that all things seem to be continuing pretty much as they are already, bear in mind that they can change very quickly—and will one of these days! Keep in tune and in touch with the Lord so that you won't be one of those experiencing "a mighty widening of the eyes" when sudden change or sudden destruction or sudden great confusion comes to pass!

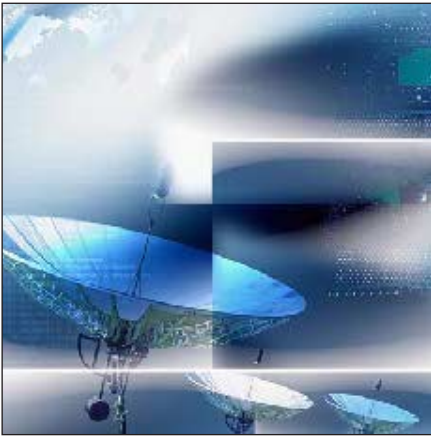
How the U.S. and Britain keep watch on the world

COMPILED FROM ARTICLES BY JAMES BAMFORD, DANA PRIEST AND COLUM LYNCH, *THE WASHINGTON POST*; PHILLIP KNIGHTLEY, *THE INDEPENDENT*

From the very first day it convened, the United Nations has been a magnet for spies, according to U.N. diplomats and U.S. intelligence experts.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt "fought hard for the United States to host the opening session" of the United Nations in April 1945, says James Bamford in his book about the National Security Agency, *Body of Secrets*.

"It seemed like a magnanimous gesture to most of the delegates. But the real reason was to better enable the United States to eavesdrop on its guests," according to Bamford.



LISTENING IN ON THE WORLD

"They're doing it today," said Stephen C. Schlesinger, author of *Act of Creation: The Founding of the United Nations*.

Regardless of how common spying is, it is not common to get caught, as the NSA apparently was last March when British translator Katharine Gun gave the *Observer* newspaper copies of an agency memo requesting a "surge" in eavesdropping on Security Council members during the debate on authorizing the use of force against Iraq. More recently, a former British cabinet member told BBC radio that she had seen transcripts of Secretary General Kofi Annan's surreptitiously recorded conversations.

How is some of this bugging done? From the National Security Agency's imposing headquarters at Fort Meade, Maryland, ringed by a double-chain fence topped by barbed wire with strands of electrified wire between them, America "bugs" the world.

Nothing politically or militarily significant, whether mentioned in a telephone call, in a conversation in the office of the secretary general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, or in a company fax or e-mail, escapes its attention.

Its computers—measured in acres occupied by them rather than simple figures—"vacuum the entire electromagnetic spectrum," homing in on "key words" which may suggest something of interest to NSA customers is being conveyed.

The NSA costs at least \$3.5bn a year to run. It employs at least 20,000 officers (not counting the 100,000 servicemen and civilians around the world over whom it has control). Its shredders process 40 tons of paper a day.

Its junior partner is Britain's Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It has monitoring stations in Cyprus, West Germany, and Australia and smaller ones elsewhere. Its budget is thought to be more than £300m a year. A large part of this is funded by the United States in return for the right to run NSA listening stations in Britain—and on British territory around the world.

The collaboration between the two agencies offers many advantages to both. Not only does it make monitoring the globe easier, it solves tricky legal problems. GCHQ eavesdrops on calls made by American citizens and the NSA monitors calls made by British citizens, thus allowing each government plausibly to deny it has tapped its own citizens' calls, as they do.

There's a lot to monitor. According to Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden, director of the NSA, "The world now contains 40 million cell phones, 14 million fax machines, 180 million computers, and the Internet doubles every 90 days."

A report by the European Parliament has gone so far as to say "within Europe all e-mail, telephone and fax communications are routinely intercepted" by the NSA. Officials say the only shock about Katharine Gun's discovery of an e-mail from the National Security Agency is that she was surprised by it.

(Dad:) Yes, governments still spy on each other—a lot! The Americans spy on the Russians, and vice versa. The Europeans spy on the Americans, and vice versa. Even the Israelis spy on the Americans, and got caught doing so not too long ago! A pro-Israel official in the Pentagon was handing over secret documents to a Jewish lobbying group in Washington, AIPAC, and that group was passing them on to Israel.

The U.S. government wasn't too happy about that, of course, because it was similar to what another pro-Israeli spy did 13 years ago, Jonathan Pollard. Pollard was a U.S. Navy analyst with a security clearance who sifted through U.S. intelligence for every goody he could find, and gave up to 500,000 documents to Israel, including the names and locations of U.S. agents in the Mideast, the Soviet Union and the East Bloc. And Israel then either sold or traded this information to the Soviets, who had the U.S. agents executed.

So governments may act friendly toward each other even while they're spying on each other all they can and taking advantage of each other. It reminds me of what one British politician said over 100 years ago, in an honest moment: "We don't have eternal allies or perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual, and those interests, it is our duty to follow." In other words, allies and enemies come and go, but whatever happens, we'll continue to put our own interests first!

That's the governing principle of most nations of the world: Me first! What a difference between the kingdoms of this world and the Kingdom of Heaven, where we believe in putting others first and where the citizens—led by the King of kings himself—lay down their lives for others, out of love! You can be proud to be a Kingdomite!

Big Brother Briefs

Darpa's dreams. (Noah Shachtman, *Wired*) Darpa, the Pentagon's far-out research arm, may have publicly abandoned its creepiest programs, like Total Information Awareness. But the agency still has a project to make you run full-speed into your bunker.

Darpa wants to start planning for a blimp, three times the size of Good-year's, that would keep watch over an entire city. Hovering 70,000 feet above ground, the ISIS airship (short for Integrated Sensor Is Structure) would use a giant, flexible radar antenna to give a "dynamic, detailed, real-time picture of all movement on or above the battlefield: friendly, neutral or enemy."

"We will apply this technology to track people emerging from buildings of interest and follow them as they move to new locations," said Darpa's Paul Benda. "Imagine the impact it will have if ISIS tracks the movement of individuals for months. Hidden webs of connections between people and facilities will be revealed."

Such a system is meant to keep tabs on urban combat zones—abroad, of course. But there's no reason ISIS couldn't float over New York or Chicago or Kalamazoo.

Satellites will track 5,000 of the worst criminals in Britain. (Sophie Goodchild and Andrew Johnson, *The Independent*.) Satellite technology will be used to track 5,000 career criminals who are responsible for one in every 10 crimes in Britain, Home Secretary David Blunkett announced.



KEEPING TRACK OF CRIMINALS BY SATELLITE

The radical new technology will enable law enforcement officers to pinpoint the exact location of criminals who have been released early from prison and fitted with electronic tags.

A Home Office source said: "We are the largest users of tagging outside the US and we will continue to do this. We will introduce satellite tracking for prolific offenders as well as for domestic violence and sex offenders."

Chip tells mom if kids are out of school. (*Reuters*) Forget the notebook and the multicolored pen, a Japanese

firm has developed the latest in school supplies—chip-embedded student ID cards.

The cards make it easier for parents to keep tabs on their youngsters, said Toru Hasegawa, a spokesman for software firm NAJ Corp, based in western Japan.

Students scan ID cards on passing through the school entrance and the time is recorded and sent via e-mail to their parents' mobile phones or computers, he said. Parents are also alerted if their child fails to arrive at school.

The same happens when school is over, so parents know when to expect their children to arrive home, Hasegawa said.

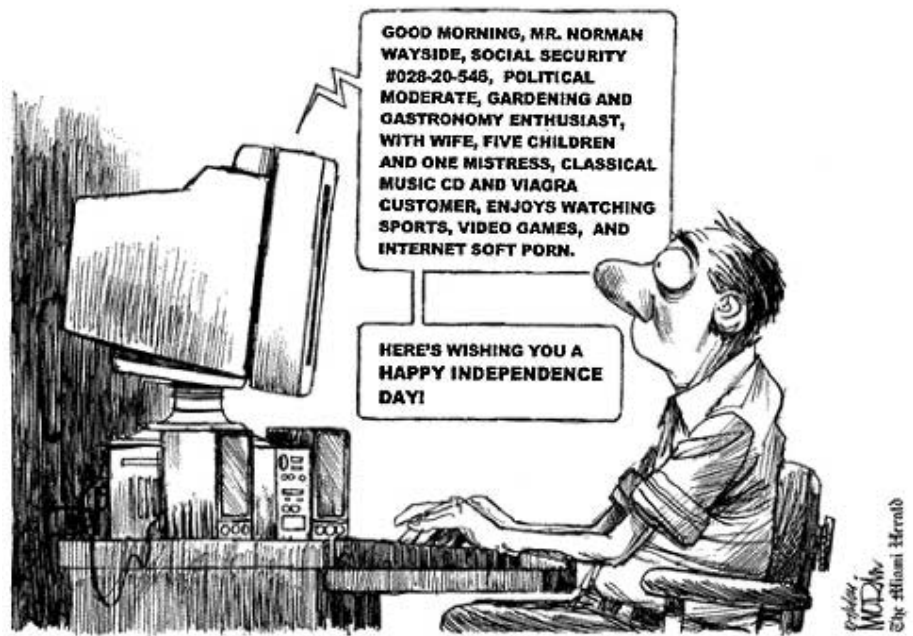
Big Brother's bus? (Paul Eng, *ABC News*) For kids in the Pinellas County of Florida, getting on and off any one of the district's 750 school buses will soon require a pass that even elementary kids won't forget—their finger. The local school board recently passed over \$2 million in funding to outfit its fleet of yellow buses with new high-tech gear—digital fingerprint scanners and global positioning system, or GPS, satellite locators—to track drivers and their young passengers.

Each student's ID code will be loaded into computers on the appropriate bus that serves that child's area of the county. When they board, children press their finger into a reader and the computer checks each child's fingerprint against its digital list of passengers. If the computer doesn't find a matching code for a child's print, the system alerts the driver that the child most likely doesn't belong on that particular bus route. Meanwhile, GPS receivers will monitor the exact location of each bus.

Smart passports. (Mark Russell, *The Age Melbourne*) New biometric passports containing a computer chip with a person's facial image are expected to be introduced in Australia next year.

A prototype ePassport has already been created with the chip positioned between the center pages.

Bob Nash, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's assistant secretary, passports branch, said the ePassports would be introduced before October 26,



2005—the deadline set by the United States requiring countries with a visa waiver status to have biometric passports.

Mr. Nash said ePassports would be used with SmartGate facial recognition technology to improve airport security. SmartGate scans a passenger's face and compares it with their passport photograph. If a match is made, a gate will open and let the passenger through.

Great taste, less privacy. (Kim Zetter, *Wired*) A patron walks into a bar and orders a drink. The bartender asks to see some ID. Without asking permission, the barkeep swipes the driver's license through a card reader and the device flashes a green light approving the order. The bartender is just verifying the card isn't a fake, right? Yes, and perhaps more.

Visitors to an art exhibit at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts got more than their martinis when they ordered drinks at a bar inside the gallery's entrance. Instead of pretzels and peanuts, they were handed a receipt containing the personal data found on their license, plus all the information that could be gleaned from commercial data-mining services and voter registration databases. Some

patrons also got receipts listing their phone number, income range, marital status, housing value and profession. For added effect, the receipt included a little map showing the location of their residence.

The magnetic strips and bar codes on the back of most state's driver's licenses contain more information than people think.

(Dad:) Most folks in the U.S. have no privacy anyway—they just don't realize it! Even if they do realize it and get a little upset about it, it doesn't do much good. A few years back one reporter was asking a software executive about the privacy implications of his company's new program, and the fellow responded, "You have zero privacy anyway. Get over it!" In other words, why worry about something you don't have anyhow!

So America, the former "land of the free," is now the land of the detailed database on practically everyone, with the potential to be as totalitarian as the Soviet Union was. It's not that way yet, but it's sure heading that direction, while some parts of the world look on in amazement and other parts of the world want to copy it!

◆ Religion in the News

Faith amidst the fire

BY JEFF ROBINSON, BAPTIST PRESS

Josef Tson was fully prepared to die. It was late in the summer of 1977 and Romania was under communist rule when the Baptist minister put all his worldly concerns in order after the manner of a dying man.

He was to meet an officer from the secret police in the restaurant of a Romanian hotel. The communist officer had pledged to do what previous secret police officials had failed to do: silence Tson's ministry by offering him a secular job in exchange for a promise that he never again preach the Gospel. Turning

down the job spelled at least hard time in a prison camp. It might very well mean execution.

Tson met with the man and without flinching turned down the job.

"I told the man, 'Now I am ready to die,'" Tson said. "You said you were going to finish me as a preacher. I asked my God and He wants me to continue to be a preacher. Now I have to make one of you two angry, and I decided [it is] better [to] make you angry than God.

"But I know you, sir; you cannot stand this kind of opposition, and you will kill me in one way or another. But I accepted that and you should know that I have even put everything in order and

made ready to die. But as long as I am free, I will preach the Gospel."

The communist officer was equally unflinching in his response: He told Tson to go and preach the Gospel.

"He [the officer] made up his mind that if I was ready to die for it, then I should have it," Tson said. "And for another four years until they exiled me, I continued to preach with nobody disturbing me because that man, a key man in the secret police, decided I should be free to preach because I was ready to die for it."

Tson was arrested and imprisoned several times in Romania during the 1970s and charged with being a Christian minister. Each time he underwent

several weeks of intense interrogation, beatings and mind games before finally being exiled from the country in 1981.

"When one secret police officer threatened to shoot me, I smiled and I said, 'Sir, don't you understand that when you kill me you send me to glory? You cannot threaten me with glory.'"

During one particularly harrowing session of interrogation, Tson told his inquisitors that spilling his blood would only serve to water the growth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"I told the interrogator, 'Your supreme weapon is killing. My supreme weapon is dying,'" Tson said.

"Here is how it works, sir: You know that my sermons are on tape all over the country. When you shoot me or crush me, whichever way you choose, [you] only sprinkle my sermons with my blood. Everybody who has a tape of one of my sermons will pick it up and say, 'I had better listen again. This man died for what he preached.' Sir, my sermons will speak 10 times louder after you kill me and because you kill me. In fact, I will conquer this country for God because you killed me. Go on and do it."

"Dying for the Lord is not an accident. It's not a tragedy. It's part of the job. It's part of the ministry. And it's the greatest way of preaching."

(Jesus:) The righteous are bold as a lion, for they have a lion within them—the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Me! Greater am I in My children than he that is in the world, than man or demon!

So you don't need to fear those who can merely kill the body, sending you into My loving embrace forever, to gain your eternal reward and a crown of life. If you suffer for Me, you will also reign with Me—and the sufferings you undergo aren't even worthy to be compared to the glory that awaits you!

Thus you may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear

what man can do unto me! My God, whose servant I am, is well able to preserve me. But if not, I'll love Him unto the death and be faithful unto the death, and beyond!" And the blood of My martyrs will be the seed of My church, bringing forth faith and new life in many.

As your David said, "They cannot stop our rain!" Those who try to stop Me and My children are as foolish as those who hold up their hands, trying to stop the raindrops. The rain will fall, just as surely as I will return to judge the wicked and the persecutors, and to rule and reign with My children forever!

◆ Media matters

Pondering the telescreen

BY FRED REED

Denunciations of television have become as routine as breathing: the programming is crass, stupid, propagandistic, so bad that only an idiot would watch it, yet everybody does.

Actually things are worse.

People cannot not watch television. In millions of living rooms the lobotomy box rattles, often not consciously watched, hardly noticed, but always on. Television is the national babysitter, more important than absentee parents in shaping the young. The box is everywhere, whispering, babbling, urging, suggesting.

No dictator has every enjoyed such a tool for social control, for near absolute power over what people see, over the news, over a culture. Like the bite of a leech, television is painless.

The lobotomy box gives to Hollywood and New York limitless sculpting access to the minds of our children, limitless power to condition all of us. For hours a day, week after month after year after decade, each generation sees what the two cities want it to see. Because the programming does not come from the formal government, because it seems to counsel only the

purchase of New! Improved! Whatever! because we hold it in contempt while spending our lives before it, we—many of us—do not see what it really is.

If you want to change the behavior of an audience or a country, if you want to replace their deeply held values with your own, you don't tell them what to do or what to believe. They might resist. No, you show the things being done—over and over and over. In the beginning you only imply the desired behavior or point of view, leave it in the background so that it is hardly noticed. Over and over and over you imply it. Gradually you make it more explicit. It takes years, but people come to accept whatever they see, and then to imitate it.

They cannot resist any more than a paralyzed caterpillar can resist being eaten by a wasp. They cannot do without the electric babysitter, cannot toss the damned thing out the window. They cannot not watch a screen.

What does Hollyork promote? Toleration of foul language and a concomitant coarsening of society; hostility between men and women; the elevation of homosexuality; disdain for religion; use of drugs, eradication of the remnants of Christian civilization. It is not accidental.

Do I exaggerate? Think. Can you believe that the sudden disappearance of the word "Christmas" from permissible discourse wasn't deliberate? That the rigid exclusion of any but politically correct views from discussion is a coincidence?

American society is being carefully, calculatedly sculpted. A small group of unelected people, having no obvious qualifications of morality or taste, now control the culture of the United States.

But things are yet worse. With satellites, Hollywood bathes the world in the same mire. Nobody can escape. In remote towns in the Bolivian altiplano, the values of Hollyork dance on screens. Children in India, in Iran and Uruguay, day after day gradually become what Barbra Streisand and Sylvester Stallone think they should be.

How perfectly incredible that a group of—what? A hundred producers, studio heads, and network CEOs? A thousand to be conservative?—can bypass governments, subvert ancient cultures, and make the world as unhappy and divided as they have made the United States.

(Dad:) You are what you watch, because you become what you watch! And what you watch doesn't necessarily have to be bad to contain bad values and influences. The effect on you can be subtle, but just as toxic and deadly in the long run. So remember to choose the good, dear Family, and to limit even your viewing of that, and to pray over what you watch. Don't give any place to the Enemy in your TV and movie-watching!



◆ Men's Corner

The conversation void

BY ANN WEBER, TOLEDO BLADE

Next time you're in a nice restaurant, scan the room and you're likely to spy them: the Couple with Nothing to Say to Each Other.

Just about everybody's seen it happen. Or been there, squirming in a conversational vacuum.

There's such a thing as a comfortable, companionable silence, to be sure. And some people may wish their partner wouldn't talk quite so much. But when conversation is supposed to be on the menu and the plate's empty, it can be pretty awkward.

Nick Nigro says it's even happened to him—a self-described “pretty talkative person.” The president of the Toastmasters Club in Toledo, Ohio, is a speed-of-light talker.

“We're all susceptible to these moments when we think, ‘What do I say?’” Nigro says.

He blames the rush of life in general—not having enough of what he calls “five-minute vacations in our day.”

In his view, we skim the conversational surface—the easy, obvious stuff like the weather and sports—and don't take the time to dig deeper, within ourselves or our relationships.

Mike Roehrs, who specializes in marriage and family counseling, says that a conversational void doesn't necessarily mean a relationship is on the skids.

“I think it's a pretty common experience that most couples find them-

selves in,” says Roehrs. “It's especially common for couples whose spare time and attention is focused on their children. When just the two of them do get out for an evening, they can't think of anything to talk about besides the kids.

“We get out of practice of attending to our partner and the details of their life,” he explains. “Healthy marriages take effort. We have to work at them.”

He cites a study by Dr. John Gottman, a psychologist known for his research on marital stability and divorce prediction: “Couples who rate their relationship as not very satisfactory, or who are about to divorce, only make a connection with each other about six times a day. Couples with a very vital relationship, and who rate their marriage as very satisfactory, connect with each other about 60 times a day.”

Caught up in the daily demands of parenting, “You sometimes forget about your best friend, which is your spouse. Nurture that friendship.”

Roehrs says connections can be as small as making eye contact or touching one's partner lightly while walking by.

“Continually court your spouse. Just because you're married doesn't mean courtship is done.”

(Dad:) Marriage can be a continual process of discovery, fellows. You never know what wonderful things you'll find in the thoughts, memories, or words of your mate. You just have to keep searching for it and keep digging it out, like you would hidden treasures.

Remember, just as you're a different person today than you were yesterday, your mate is too. You're

new every morning in some way, with a new dream or desire, a new goal or plan, a new concern or interest, a new thought or prayer, and so is your mate.

So when your mate says, “What's new?” there's lots! There's a lot you can say to renew your connection and draw closer, even after years of living together. There's always more to discover about each other and ways to grow closer.

And, if you just can't think of anything to say, you can always ask the Lord. He never runs out of things to say, ha!

◆ Words for the wise

Clichés: They are like really annoying

REUTERS

The fact of the matter is that at the end of the day there is nothing, like, good about using clichés 24/7—with all due respect, it's not awesome, it's annoying.

The Plain English Campaign said it had canvassed people in 70 countries to find the most irritating phrases of all.

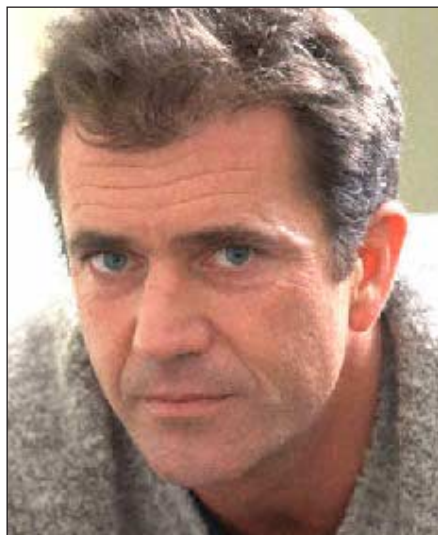
People who busily “touch base” or talk about “ballpark figures” and “bottom lines” are not “singing from the same hymn sheet,” they are quietly driving others to distraction.

A particular bugbear is the constant use of “like” as a form of punctuation.

Other named-and-shamed clichés include: it's not rocket science, between a rock and a hard place, and touch base.

◆ Tidbits

Mel Gibson No. 1 thanks to Jesus. (CNN/Money) Who says you can't achieve fame and fortune with a movie filmed entirely in Aramaic and Latin? The movie “The Passion of the Christ” did just that for actor-director Mel Gibson. Gibson, the director, producer and screenwriter



MEL GIBSON

for the film, was named the world's most powerful celebrity by *Forbes* magazine. Although the film opened amid a firestorm of controversy in February, “Christ” has grossed \$370 million domestically and more than \$600 million worldwide. **(Dad:) All the controversy about the movie just made more people want to see it. The more the critics condemned it, the more they undermined their cause and promoted the Lord's message!**

Communicate effectively. (Zig Ziglar, Creators Syndicate) Several years ago, while jogging, I passed a beautiful home that had been restored and then boarded up. A sign on the front stated, “Trespassers will be shot—survivors will be shot again.” The message was clear and the communication was very effective.

Sometimes we communicate without saying even one word. When Benjamin Franklin lived in Philadelphia, he recognized the need for street lights, but in those days city governments did not have budgets to light streets. So Franklin erected a beautiful post in front of his home with a lantern on top. At dusk, he lit the lantern, but

said nothing to anyone about it. After three or four nights, a neighbor followed suit, then another. Soon, the whole street was lit and it spread across town. Franklin's example sent a simple but effective message and demonstrated again that example is the best teacher.

In today's high-tech world, we communicate via every electronic gadget imaginable. But the most effective communication still takes place when we “practice what we preach,” because people might not believe everything you say but they will believe everything you *do*.

Americans eating themselves to death. (Lindsey Tanner, AP) Inactive Americans are eating themselves to death at an alarming rate, a government study has found. In 2000, poor diet including obesity and physical inactivity caused 400,000 U.S. deaths—more than 16 percent of all deaths and the No. 2 killer. That compares with 435,000 for tobacco, or 18 percent, as the top underlying killer. **(Dad:) Cars can kill people in more ways than one—not only through accidents, but through their own inactivity and immobility, because**

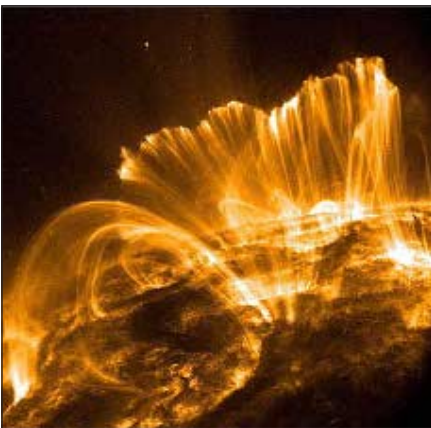


POOR DIET AND INACTIVITY ARE KILLING AMERICANS

they drive everywhere and rarely walk or exercise.

A real fairy tale. (AP) The parents of an elementary school pupil are fuming over the book their daughter brought home from the school library: a children's story about a prince whose true love turns out to be another prince. Michael Hartsell said he and his wife, Tonya, couldn't believe it when Prince Bertie, the leading character in *King & King*, waves off a bevy of eligible princes before falling for Prince Lee. The book ends with the princes marrying and sharing a kiss. The 32-page book is intended for readers age 6 and up. (Dad:) **That's disgusting! God is banned from the American school system but homosexuality is promoted! Yuck!**

Day the sun nearly shut down earth. (London Evening Standard) A massive solar flare which erupted from the sun's surface last November was so powerful it came close to shutting down power grids and radio and mobile phone networks across the world. The solar flare was more than twice as big as the previous recorded explosion. It generated a massive stream of electrically charged particles and gas which rocketed across space at two million miles per hour. At the time one scientist described the power of the flare as being greater than "every nuclear warhead being detonated at once." (Dad:) **A "shot across the bow," a warning shot, as**



SOLAR ACTIVITY AND A SMALL FLARE

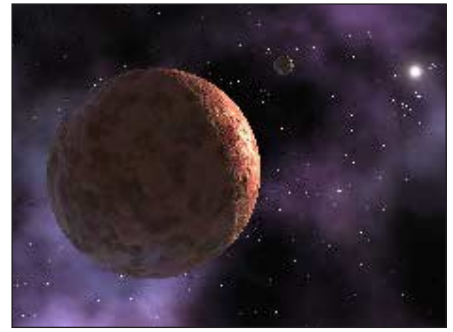
a little reminder about the power of the Lord! (See Psalm 97:3-6.)

China's church confronts a new threat. (Mission Network News) For years, those involved with the registered churches in China suspected house church movements, and the house church leaders said they would not submit to government's control of the Gospel.

But now China Partner's Erik Burklin senses recent growing unity of the house church movement and the registered church. "Both sides are not only willing to talk to each other but to also start fellowshipping with each other. There are many house church Christians who attend a registered church on the weekends, and vice versa, people who attend a registered church on the weekends, during the week will go to a house church for further Bible study."

A different, more subtle threat, is creeping into the church. "I think what happens within the church and what happens from the government is not so detrimental as is the growth of materialism and the desire to become rich and wealthy can be for the Chinese church in the future." (Dad:) **materialism can be a deadlier foe than persecution! Under peace and prosperity, the church becomes laid-back and lazy, and declines, while under persecution it grows and thrives. Watch out for materialism!**

Astronomers discover new planet. (Dr. David Whitehouse, BBC) Astronomers have detected what could be the Solar System's 10th planet. Observations show it measures about 1,180-2,360km (730-1,470 miles) across, making it similar in size to Pluto. Sedna is the most distant object yet found orbiting our Sun. It is three times further away than Pluto (average distance to the Sun is 5.9 billion km or 3.6 billion miles).



ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF SEDNA: THE TENTH PLANET?

A trillion here, a trillion there.

(Gary North) Earlier this year, the U.S. government's official debt topped \$7 trillion for the first time. The last time the official debt rolled over a trillion-dollar limit was June 28, 2002. You could say we're on a roll. Thirty years ago, Senator Everett Dirksen uttered his famous words about the U.S. government's spending: "A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking big money." What is a billion? I did some calculations. A billion seconds takes us back 31 years, to 1973. A billion minutes takes us back 1902.5 years, when the Roman Empire was at its peak of power. A billion dollars of U.S. government spending takes us back a little over 3 hours and 40 minutes.

"Poor" depends on where you are. (Davan Maharaj, Los Angeles Times) In the United States, an individual who makes less than \$9,310 a year is considered poor. The World Bank sets its poverty line at \$730 a year—\$2 a day. Half of sub-Saharan Africa's 600 million people live on about 65 cents a day—less than what an American might spend on a cup of coffee.

Tooth erosion in teenagers up due to sodas. (Medical News Today) Dentists in the UK say that fizzy soft





MORE SODAS = MORE TOOTH DECAY IN KIDS

drinks (called sodas in the US) have a dramatic effect on tooth erosion on teenagers. If you are a 14-year-old and you have fizzy drinks, your risk of tooth erosion TRIPLES. If you are 14 and have four glasses of fizzy drinks a day, your risk increases by a staggering 513%. 37% of 14-year-olds drink many glasses a day. **(Dad:) Sodas rot your teeth and poison your body. You'll avoid'm if you know what's good for you, kids—and adults, too.**

Persistence goes the distance. (from *Growing the Distance: Timeless Principles For Personal, Career, And Family Success*, by Jim Clemmer) Success is rarely easy or quick. It is the product of consistent effort, repeatedly applied. Failure often results from following the line of least persistence. There are no "success secrets." However, there are success systems, success habits, and success

principles—and these are applied through discipline and persistence.

As the 19th-century English biologist Thomas Henry Huxley once advised his students in a university address on medical education, "Patience and tenacity of purpose are worth more than twice their weight of cleverness."

Many people give up just as they're about to achieve success. They often stop digging when they're inches from their vein of gold. Then they decide to start digging in new places, get discouraged and give up just before they're about to reach their dreams.

Studies have shown that Nobel Prize winners most often have only average levels of intelligence compared to their peers, but exceptionally high levels of tenacity and persistence. **(Dad:) There's no limit to what God can do with you and through you if you'll just stick to it! Stick to your job, stick to loving the Lord and others, stick to fighting the Enemy, and stick to the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, and God will stick a crown on you!**

Stay calm everyone, there's Prozac in the drinking water. (Mark Townsend, *The Observer*) It should make us happy, but environmentalists are deeply alarmed: Prozac, the anti-depression drug, is being taken in such large quantities that it can now be found in Britain's drinking water. Environmen-



DRUGS IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

talists are describing the build-up of the antidepressant as "hidden mass medication."

The discovery raises fresh fears that doctors are overprescribing Prozac, Britain's antidepressant of choice. In the decade up to 2001, overall prescriptions of antidepressants rose from nine million to 24 million a year.

European studies have also expressed disquiet over the impact of pharmaceuticals building up in the environment, warning that an effect on wildlife and human health "cannot be excluded." **(Dad:) That's just one more reason why the Lord will eventually have to burn off the entire surface layer of the Earth and start all over again! (See 2Peter 3:10.)**

◆ **A few for fun**

Guys' brains really are different

BY DAVE BARRY, MIAMI HERALD

I like to think that I am a modest person. (I also like to think that I look like Brad Pitt naked, but that is not the issue here.) There comes a time, however, when a person must toot his own personal horn, and for me, that time is now. A new book has confirmed a theory that I first proposed in 1987, in a column explaining why men are physically unqualified to do housework. The problem, I argued, is that men—because of a tragic genetic flaw—cannot see dirt until there is enough of it to support agriculture. This puts men at a huge disadvantage against women, who can detect a single dirt molecule 20 feet away.

This is why a man and a woman can both be looking at the same bathroom commode, and the man—hindered by Male Genetic Dirt Blindness (MGDB)—will perceive the commode surface as being clean enough for heart surgery, whereas the woman can't even "see" the commode, only a teeming, commode-shaped swarm of bacteria.

When I wrote about Male Genetic Dirt Blindness, many irate readers complained that I was making lame excuses for the fact that men are lazy pigs. All of these irate readers belonged to a gender

that I will not identify here, other than to say: Guess what, ladies? There is now scientific proof that I was right.

This proof appears in a new book titled *What Could He Be Thinking? How a Man's Mind Really Works*. According to an article by *Reuters*, the book states that a man's brain "takes in less sensory detail than a woman's, so he doesn't see or even feel the dust and household mess in the same way." We're like: "What snow tires in the dining room? Oh, 'those' snow tires in the dining room."

And this is only one of the differences between men's and women's brains. Another difference involves a brain part called the "cingulate gyrus," which is the sector where emotions are located. Presumably in women this is a structure the size of a mature cantaloupe, containing a vast quantity of complex, endlessly recalibrated

emotional data involving hundreds, perhaps thousands of human relationships; whereas in men it is basically a cashew filled with NFL highlights.

So anyway, according to the *Reuters* article, when a man, instead of sharing feelings with his mate, chooses to lie on the sofa, holding the remote control and monitoring 750 television programs simultaneously by changing the channel every one-half second (pausing slightly longer for programs that feature touchdowns, shooting, car crashes or bosoms) his mate should "not" come to the mistaken conclusion that he is an insensitive jerk. In fact, he is responding to scientific biological brain chemicals that require him to behave this way for scientific reasons, as detailed in the scientific book *What Could He Be Thinking? How a Man's Mind Really Works*, which I frankly cannot recommend highly enough.

CHASTE

