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The Queen Shows Importance of the Monarchy in History of English-Speaking World

The movie, The Queen, concentrates on the events surrounding the death of Princess Diana, a week of severe trial for the British monarchy.

by Melvin Rhodes

My wife and I have recently seen *The Queen*—the movie, that is, not the monarch herself. I haven't seen her in person since I was 6 or 7 years of age and she came to visit our hometown in England.

I was reminded of this by another movie we saw recently, a rare gem from New Zealand that was available for rent at our local video store. The name of that movie was *Her Majesty*, which told the story of a young girl in New Zealand back in 1954 when the British Empire was still fairly intact. The queen, having only recently ascended the throne, was making a tour of the empire. The young girl in the movie was determined that the queen should visit the small town of Middleton, New Zealand, and began a one-girl campaign of daily letter writing to Buckingham Palace. Her letters resulted in "Her Majesty" visiting the small community.

In contrast, *The Queen* is a more



The Queen is a new movie that focuses almost exclusively on the events in the week between the death of Princess Diana and her funeral.

adult drama, focusing almost exclusively on the events that took place in the week between the death of Princess Diana and her funeral.

(See "THE QUEEN," page 3)



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Scriptural references are from the New King James Version (© 1988 Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.

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Address changes: POSTMASTER—Send address changes to *World News and Prophecy*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027.

World News and Prophecy online: Read *World News and Prophecy* as soon as it is completed. The next issue is scheduled to be available by Jan. 5, 2007, on the Internet at:

<http://www.wnponline.org>



"Whom heaven must receive until the times of

Restoration

of all things ... ACTS 3:21

Seeing Into 2007 With Fresh Eyes

The year is winding down, and it is time to look ahead to the next calendar year in anticipation of new things. One of the favorite things of those who write on world affairs is to try to predict what will happen in the coming months among all the hot spots in the world. What is needed most of all in looking ahead to 2007 is a set of fresh eyes.

You don't need a crystal ball to foresee the large trends of 2007. It is easy to look at Iraq and the larger Middle East and see more conflict and violence before any hope of a relative peace settlement occurs. Iran will inch closer toward developing a nuclear weapon. China's economy will continue to grow as that nation desires to be the power broker in the Far East, thus undermining the influence of the United States. The rapidly expanding global economy will further flatten our world and bring nations together into a tighter interdependency that will be heralded as the way to peace. These will be the headlines of the coming months.

But one thing I have learned in my years of watching and writing on world affairs is to never forget the biblical perspective. Most writers ignore the fundamental themes of Bible prophecy that form the foundation of our world because they do not believe what God's Word says. Yet the Bible directs our understanding as no other source can. Peter wrote, "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" (2 Peter 1:19).

Christ's Olivet prophecy provides a benchmark for understanding our world and the course of events. When the disciples asked Him, "What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?," He gave clear and unmistakable trends to watch for in the unfolding of end-time events. The first two deal with false religion and war. Jesus said, "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet" (Matthew 24:4-6).

These twin problems of false religion and war are in the headlines today, and will be more so in the next year. In the Middle East the seeds of religious strife continue to swell and grow and will drag other powers, including those from Europe and Asia, into their affairs. Pope Benedict XVI's recent trip to Turkey serves to accentuate the role of religion in world politics. His September speech at a German university sparked outrage in the Islamic world over the presumed slight to Islam. Churches were sacked and a priest and nun were murdered. World attention was focused on an academic speech that quoted an obscure source.

The pope's trip to Turkey last month created no more fireworks, nor did it signal a retreat by this pope or the Vatican on its position toward Islam. The lines are still drawn in this age-long struggle between two world faiths. The final round is yet to come. Religion will play a significant role in the events that lead to the end of the age.

Jordan's King Abdullah recently said the Middle East is on the verge of at least three civil wars, in Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon. The Lebanese government is on the verge of collapse, with mass protests led by the Shiite Hezbollah. It seems any institution or person who supports or is supported by America, the West or anything capitalistic and modern is under attack. And frankly, demographics will determine much of the outcome in the short term as the sheer number of Muslims dominates Israel or any Christian entity in the region. Muslims are also outpacing the native populations of France, Spain and the Netherlands. In Lebanon the Muslim majority seems to be pushing out the Christian/Western elements that remain in Beirut. Will the trend continue?

The "fresh eyes" we all should use to look into the future come from God's Word, the sure word of prophecy. It takes the Holy Spirit to discern what is behind the headlines and what they mean in the light of God's Word.

—Darris McNeely



Darris McNeely

“THE QUEEN,” (Continued from page 1)

Princess Diana’s death was the first major crisis confronting the new government of Prime Minister Tony Blair. His party had won a general election in early May of 1997. Princess Diana was killed less than four months later. Mr. Blair at that time was still quite popular. The queen’s popularity was to be severely tested in the days following the death of her former daughter-in-law.

It should be remembered that meetings between the queen and her prime ministers are kept confidential, so nobody knows exactly what was said between Tony Blair and the queen during the week leading up to the funeral. Palace insiders, however, have been quoted as saying that the movie gets it right. Both the prime minister and the queen come out looking good, which is not the case for everybody else involved.

It is often forgotten outside the United Kingdom that Tony Blair is the leader of Britain’s Labour Party. As a socialist party, many of its members are naturally antimonarchy, seeing monarchy as an antiquated system of privilege. Tony Blair dismisses the idea of Britain without a monarchy as “unthinkable.” This view is not shared by his wife, Cherie, who is of Irish-Catholic background.

Duty before self

The film highlights the dilemma of Queen Elizabeth II not only during the week of the crisis, but also at other times—duty must always come before self! Today, to most people, that is an antiquated outlook on life. But it’s the way the queen was brought up.

My mother was born just a few days after the queen. She had the same outlook on life—duty before self! Her family always came first. This was clearly a virtue among many of their generation.

In contrast, the apostle Paul writes of our era, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves...” (2 Timothy 3:1-2). Self-centeredness rules!

Jesus Christ showed the contrast, when He condemned the style of leadership common in the gentile world. “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it

over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:25-28).

An attitude of service is required of

help me to make good my vow and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.”

Elizabeth, who became queen upon the death of her father less than five years later, has certainly lived up to the commitment she made. However, she was not able to preserve the “great Imperial family” she spoke of, for the empire was transformed during her reign as its com-



Queen Elizabeth II learned from the example of her mother, who put duty before self through the dark days of World War II.

any leader seeking to serve people successfully.

Queen Elizabeth, then Princess Elizabeth, turned 21 while in Johannesburg, South Africa. She, her sister and her parents, King George VI and his wife (also named Elizabeth, who became known as the queen mother after her husband’s death), were on a tour of the empire specifically to thank the various nations that composed the British Empire for the contributions they had made to help Britain during World War II.

Speaking to the peoples of the empire on April 21, 1947, on the occasion of her coming of age, Princess Elizabeth uttered the following: “I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial family to which we all belong... God

ponent parts received full independence. Earlier in her speech she had spoken of “the British Empire which had saved the world, and ‘has now to save itself,’ and of making the Commonwealth more full, prosperous and happy” (Ben Pimlott, *The Queen: A Biography of Elizabeth II*, 1996, p. 117).

Of course, no human government is perfect. That adjective can only be used to describe the coming Kingdom of God, which will be established at Christ’s return (Isaiah 9:6-7). But the fact remains that the period of British rule in much of the third world gave the various peoples political stability that they have not experienced since, parliamentary government (which has frequently been abolished during periods of dictatorship) and economic development. These benefits have mostly gone backwards in the four decades since independence.



Former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin seized power violently and had an estimated 10 percent of his nation's people killed.

Bible prophecy emphasizes the role that the modern descendants of Israel would play in the world in the period before Christ's second coming. Israel told his son Joseph that his name would be named upon his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh (Genesis 48:16). In other words, they are primarily the Israel of today. One of these two sons, Ephraim, was to become "a multitude of nations" (Genesis 48:19). The other son, Manasseh, "also shall be great" (verse 19).

"Ephraim" means "fruitful." A great deal of economic development took place throughout the world during the British colonial period. Some of the most successful economies of today were initially developed as British territories.

"And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh" (verse 20). Ephraim's greatness came before Manasseh's. The British Empire was the fulfillment of the prophesied "multitude of nations." Common values were shared throughout the empire, but no institution was more important in holding it together than the British crown, to which all its member countries owed a common allegiance.

It wasn't until Queen Victoria (who ruled from 1837 to 1901) that the modern monarchy emerged and became popular, partly as a result of Victoria's personal dedication to duty before self. This attitude set the trend for future monarchs. Only Edward VIII (1936) succumbed to the vanity of self before duty, as evidenced by his affair with, and then his marriage to, a twice-divorced woman, costing him the throne.

The monarchy has played an extremely important role in the long political stability of those nations that have retained a direct link to the crown. They have enjoyed a greater

period of longevity than the peoples of other nations. Not since 1689 has Britain suffered any political upheaval.

Fifteen other nations in addition to the United Kingdom have retained a direct link to the crown, making Queen Elizabeth II the monarch of 16 fully independent countries. Her ceremonial role in the other 15 is filled by a governor-general, but the loyalty is to the queen herself, who visits the various nations regularly.

The 38 other former British colonies that make up the Commonwealth of Nations all have presidents. Many of them have suffered through periods of instability since independence, including decades of brutal dictatorship.

Another new movie, *The Last King of Scotland*, highlights this contrast. The film is set in Uganda, a country that went from Elizabeth II to Idi Amin in less than a decade. Idi Amin seized power violently and had an estimated 10 percent of the nation's people killed. The movie title is inspired by his irrational desire to be the king of Scotland.

The American historian James Truslow Adams predicted the troubles that would come from the demise of

the Empire in his history, *The British Empire 1784-1939*, published in 1940. Writing during the Battle of Britain when the British Empire seemed in danger of falling, he warned that "the possible overthrow of the British Empire would be a catastrophe scarcely thinkable. Not only would it leave a vacuum over a quarter of the globe into which all the wild winds of anarchy, despotism and spiritual oppression could rush, but the strongest bulwark outside ourselves [outside the United States] for our own safety and freedom would have been destroyed" (p. 358).

In view of the developments of the last five decades, it is interesting to note an irony in the movie *The Queen*. Concerned that polls showed that one quarter of the British people had turned against her during the week that was the subject of the film, the queen expressed concern to the prime minister.

The irony? Any politician would be ecstatic if only 25 percent of the population was against him or her! Politicians on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world could learn a lesson from Queen Elizabeth, who has been serving the people longer than any of them: If you wish to remain popular, be sure to put "duty before self."

For a deeper understanding of the role of the English-speaking nations in Bible prophecy, please request our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* from our office nearest you or on the Web at www.wnponline.org. ❖

Recommended Reading

The United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and other English-speaking peoples have played a major role in modern world history. What does the Bible say about the role they will play in the future?

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Contact any of our offices listed on page 15, or request or download it from our

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Venezuela—Six More Years of Chavez

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez won reelection Dec. 3 to another six-year term. Should the world take him seriously? Should the United States be concerned about his rhetoric? Yes!

by Cecil E. Maranville

Supplying approximately one-twentieth of the world's oil, Venezuela's economy is locked to the petroleum market. Hugo Chavez has ridden the crest of rising oil prices since he took office in 1999 and with it, has enjoyed a swelling national treasury that has enabled him to pursue his international ambitions.

Reelected to another (and his last constitutional) six-year presidential term on Dec. 3, Chavez will continue to be a thorn in the side of the United States for some time.

Clearly, he opposes U.S. interests anywhere he can. Latin America's chronic problems of poverty, debt and inequality are blamed upon U.S. companies' exploiting the continent's cheap labor and natural resources. Chavez capitalizes on this populist theme in his blustering rhetoric, not only to promote himself, but also to promote leftist politicians throughout Latin America.

Many liken him to Fidel Castro, but there is a striking difference between the two—Chavez has an independent source of income from oil revenues. Proven Venezuelan oil reserves and the country's potential for future ones are the keys to his power. At the current rate of production, Venezuela is guaranteed strong revenues for the next 80 years.

Numerous factors determine actual revenue, including the initial costs of exploration, development, pumping or recovering the crude oil, as well as its quality and, of course, the world market. It costs more to refine Venezuela's "sour" crude (with its high sulfur content) than the "sweet" crude of most Middle Eastern oil fields.

Because the state controls oil production through PDVSA (Petróleos de Venezuela S.A.), its actual oil income is unknown. Venezuelanalysis.com estimates it at about \$25 billion dollars currently, with an average of \$14.5 billion annually for the years Chavez has been in office. That's \$101.5 billion. Tax revenues account for the remaining 50 percent of the government's income, making



Reuters

Venezuela's reelected president, Hugo Chavez, drives away in a VW Beetle after voting Dec. 3.

a total figure of \$200 billion. While rich in comparison to most Latin American countries, Venezuela isn't wealthy on a par with Middle Eastern sheikdoms.

Venezuelan foreign policy—"ABUS"

Venezuela's foreign policy under Chavez can be summarized as ABUS, "Anything But the U.S." He says, "Capitalism will lead to the destruction of humanity," and to him, the United States epitomizes capitalism. He stokes the populist sentiment that the United States is the cause of the region's poverty and encourages anti-U.S. politicians wherever he can throughout Central and South America.

Early in his administration, it appeared that he was swaying much of Latin America to the left. However, several countries this year have turned more moderate—not necessarily pro-U.S., but not overtly anti-U.S. either. Perhaps the basic concept of European socialism best describes the current trend.

(It's not the purpose of this article to deal

Many liken Hugo Chavez to Fidel Castro, but there is a striking difference between the two—Chavez has an independent source of income from oil revenues.

with the strength or weaknesses of U.S. policy toward Latin America, but rather to focus upon Venezuela and its president. Because *World News and Prophecy* and its publisher are nonpolitical, we neither support nor oppose political issues.)

Venezuela under Chavez has spent between \$16 and \$25 billion dollars in foreign aid. He subsidized samba parades in Brazil, provided eye surgery for poor Mexicans, purchased \$2.5 billion of Argentina's debt, gave oil at cut-rate prices to 13 Caribbean nations—spreading largesse to up to 30 nations!

This is out of proportion with what his country can afford, but as one critic put it, “politics always trumps economics” with Chavez. Even his supporters lament the amount of money he is spending outside the country.

He led Venezuela to join Mercosur (common market of the south) in July. The trade bloc has a combined market of 250 million people with an annual output of \$1 trillion in goods and services. It is, of course, logical for nations to organize into common markets, but Mercosur is becoming a tool for avoiding the U.S.-proposed FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas).

Chavez immediately sought to assume a leading role in the group, even though Venezuela won't have full voting rights until 2010, and his aggressiveness alienated long-term members. Most member nations are resisting turning Mercosur into a Chavez political soapbox.

Moreover, Chavez charges that the United States is using the FTAA to attempt to influence other nations to accept its political views. (Of course, that is precisely what he is attempting with Venezuela's wealth!)

He has trade or cooperation pacts with several nations that are at odds with the United States. He is spending billions to purchase weapons, gunboats, helicopters and jet fighters from China, Russia, Spain and Iran, as he seeks to build up Venezuela's military.

There are rumors that Iran's Ahmadinejad is negotiating for Venezuelan uranium as an unmonitored supply for Tehran's nuclear



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Venezuelan oil and refineries currently supply 11 to 15 percent of U.S. oil needs. Venezuela may also have the world's largest petroleum reserves.

program. Of course, the Islamic firebrand's anti-Western rhetoric coincides with Chavez's, an unsettling combination in this unstable world.

An ocean of heavy oil

Venezuela is in the process of certifying its deposits of heavy oil, located in the Faja of the Orinoco River valley. Heavy oil has the consistency of peanut butter, and it is difficult to extract. However, oil prices at over \$50 per barrel and ever-more-efficient methods have made it cost-effective to work these fields.

Certification of recoverable oil is underway in the Faja, which holds up to 1.3 trillion barrels of oil. Of that figure, 270 billion barrels are currently recoverable. Added to the other 80 billion barrels of reserve crude, this would make Venezuela the world's largest holder of petroleum reserves. Geologists debate whether the vast Middle Eastern oil fields have reached their peak. Regardless of when they do, they will eventually diminish their output. Heavy oil is next in line as a source of petroleum, making Venezuela of monumental strategic importance to the energy security of the United States, as well as to the rest of the world.

Currently, Venezuela supplies 11 to 15 percent of U.S. oil needs. Venezuela owns several refineries in the United States outright, which handle 70 percent of its exported oil. It is important to realize that few refineries in the world are tooled to handle the sour (high-sulfur) crude that Venezuela produces, including the heavy oil of the Faja.

Chavez has threatened to cut off oil shipments to the United States on several occasions. He is so volatile that it is difficult to predict if he would do so. However, if he does, he would cause more problems for Venezuela than for the United States. He would lose revenues Venezuela obtains from its U.S. refineries, as well as from the direct sale of crude. He cannot simply sell the sour crude elsewhere, for the United States is currently the only nation that can process it.

China is interested in building this capacity, but that is far in the future.

Gross mismanagement

Chavez's self-described revolution has not reversed poverty in Venezuela, where CIA estimates place it at a staggering 47 percent. One in 3 Venezuelans has inadequate housing.

Nor has his rule eliminated a rich

upper class. Luxury car sales are expected to more than double this year, and property prices in Caracas rival Manhattan. Country clubs and expensive restaurants flourish.

In the recent election, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez told PDVSA employees that they must vote for Chavez or lose their jobs. After a brief strike in 2002-2003, the government fired 40,000 highly skilled workers for suspected disloyalty, wreaking havoc with oil production.

This year, the government unilaterally took over 32 oil fields, cancelled existing contracts and demanded that investing companies surrender at least a 51-percent stake in all exploration and production to PDVSA. Those companies have invested billions of dollars in high-risk ventures to open fields, including the Faja. Obviously, their only motivation for doing so is to receive a return on their investments. Chavez's erratic and dictatorial management is ruining the investment climate in Venezuela.

The Faja already produces 625,000 barrels per day. More will become recoverable with advanced methods. However, doing so will literally require inventing new technologies, something that Chavez has invited Brazil, Belarus, China, Russia, Spain, India and Iran to create, presumably with an opportunity to share in the profits. Yet, how can they be certain they would?

Unstable and unpredictable

The future of Venezuela is in Chavez's unpredictable hands and the future of Chavez is in the price of oil. It's as simple as that. If the price remains over \$50 a barrel, he will be able to continue his anti-U.S. policies, as well as building the Venezuelan military into a formidable force.

The United States should be afraid, although not necessarily of Chavez. He cannot harm the U.S. economy without virtually crippling Venezuela's own economy. Yet his hatred of all things American is strong enough that he is susceptible to the radical Islamists seeking resources, as well as a pathway into the United States to inflict

damage. His passion also plays into the hands of other major players that seek to pull the United States down from its hegemonic role, including Russia and China.

Few realize that the United States' vast wealth, power and consequential dominant role in today's world is part of God's plan or that He requires an accounting for His blessings. No nation is going to be able to bring the United States down without God allowing it to do so.

Yet God has used other nations in times past to accomplish that calling to account, when His beneficiaries take His bounty but shun the responsibilities that accompany it. "To whom much is given,... much will be required" summarizes God's approach (see Luke 12:48).

Is the United States as a whole living in a way that shows it realizes its gifts come from God? There is no question but that a sizable portion of its people act as though they

deserve their benefits. They scoff at the idea that God has anything to do with their success. Their behavior mocks the absolute laws of behavior God decrees. Yet He is patient, calling upon them to realize and change their error.

If they don't, the hammer will one day fall, whether because of a Chavez, radical Islamists or other power-seeking dictators. If you enjoy the blessings of life in the United States (as well as in its brother nations of Canada, Great Britain and much of its commonwealth), what are you doing personally? Do you respect the Source of your advantages? Do you have the humility to submit to God's laws, regardless of the hedonism around you?

The future of the United States is one thing; yours is another. The latter is in your hands. We recommend our booklet *Making Life Work* to help you sort out your life the way you must if you are to enjoy God's blessings. ❖

How Can You Make Sense of the News?



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Signs and Lying Wonders: Will You Be Deceived?

Bible history and prophecy show that not all miracles are from God. At the end time, there will be counterfeit miracles to deceive the nations and, if possible, even God's people.

by Mike Bennett

The Bible foretells a time when religion will play a major role in places like Europe, where religion was written off many decades ago. How can church again dominate state in such a secular wasteland?

In our modern age, many people are skeptical of claims of healings, miracles or any supernatural events. The miracles of the Bible are looked at as quaint fairy tales developed by primitive cultures to explain the mysteries of nature. Today, science claims to give man the godlike ability to explain those wonders, and the rational mind believes all phenomena can be explained by nature—without God.

Yet there remains something just below the surface of the modern psyche that is tantalized by the mysterious and unexplainable. UFOs, ghosts, magic and witchcraft are still incredibly popular. And the mystical elements of various religions attract myriad new converts every year. Sites like Fatima, Lourdes and Medjugorje (see sidebar) draw millions of pilgrims each year.

The Bible foretells a time when religion will play a major role in places like Europe, where religion was written off many decades ago. How can church again dominate state in such a secular wasteland? It seems the prophesied miracles will play a major part in bringing about this change in the “zeitgeist” (spirit of the times) of the Continent.

First, can supernatural wonders really come from a source other than God?

Lying wonders

Even those with a passing knowledge of the Bible have heard of the Exodus and the parting of the Red Sea. Before the pharaoh was willing to let his Israelite slaves go, the Bible records 10 devastating plagues God brought on the stubborn Egyptian ruler and his people.

Interestingly, the pharaoh’s magicians were able to duplicate, on a smaller scale, the first two plagues, making water appear as blood and making even more frogs appear on Egypt than those God had sent (Exodus 7:22 and 8:7). They were also able to make their rods change into snakes (Exodus 7:11-12). Whether these were

tricks and illusions or actual supernatural miracles from an evil spiritual source, they had the intended effect. They hardened the pharaoh’s heart, meaning they cemented his resistance to the demands of the Israelites.

Eventually, though, the magicians admitted they were outclassed and could not duplicate God’s third plague. “This is the finger of God,” they said (Exodus 8:19).

Because of the existence of false miracles and false prophets, God warned Israel to reject any miracle worker who denies Him or speaks contrary to His laws and teachings (Deuteronomy 13:1-3). God says just because someone’s prophecy happens or a miracle occurs doesn’t mean we should follow that person.

These warnings continued to apply in the New Testament. “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits,” Christ warned (Matthew 7:15-16).

Those fruits obviously went beyond whether the prophecies occurred or the miracles happened. Christ described some who cast out demons and did many wonders in His name. “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness’” (Matthew 7:23). Denying God’s laws remains a fruit of the way of darkness (Isaiah 8:20).

End-time warnings

In a prophecy for the end times, Jesus the Christ warned, “False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Matthew 24:24).

The apostle Paul expands on this in 2 Thessalonians 2, with a warning about “the lawless one” who comes with “all power, signs, and lying wonders” (verse 9). Paul says it takes

a love of the truth—the Bible and God’s law—to avoid being deceived by this man of sin, this lawless one (verse 10).

The apostle John also expands on this warning in Revelation 13. This chapter starts by talking about a “beast” representing a great end-time empire—a government that will rule much of the earth. Then in verse 11 it talks about another beast with two horns like a lamb—meaning he tries to appear like Christ, the Lamb—but who speaks like a dragon, Satan. This is the same one who is called the False Prophet in Revelation 19, who we believe will be a religious leader in Europe.

Revelation 13:13-14 says: “He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.”

For more about the meaning of this prophecy and the framework of end-time prophecy, read or request our free booklets *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* and *You Can Understand Bible Prophecy* at www.wnponline.org/litreq.

What this means for us

Someday in the not-too-distant future, miracles will occur that will be widely publicized and that will convince even many of the skeptical people of our day. Perhaps supernatural fire will destroy enemies, or other spectacular miracles will occur. Will they convince you to follow the ones who perform them?

The antidote to lying wonders is to know what the Bible teaches and be prepared. Those who fall for the “unrighteous deception” of the “lawless one” are those who “did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved” (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10).

God’s people, on the other hand, are those “who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17). But even to the Church Christ said, “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain... Hold fast what you have...

anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see” (Revelation 3:2, 11, 18).

The biblical description of God’s Church compared to the counterfeits is laid out in detail in the booklet *The Church Jesus Built*, also online at www.wnponline.org/litreq.

Examine the fruits. Are the miracle workers teaching God’s laws and

fulfilling His will? Or are they using miracles to trick people into supporting a government and a religion that are actually opposed to God’s law and His plan? Many people will believe that the miracles they see are of God. Study God’s Word; examine the fruits.

Don’t be deceived! ❖

Lourdes, Fatima and Medjugorje Show Modern Attraction of Signs

In today’s skeptical world, and on the most secular continent, there is still evidence of man’s innate attraction to signs and miracles. Consider three European sites that attract millions of visitors.

Lourdes, a small town in the foothills of the Pyrenees in southern France, attracts some 5 million tourists and pilgrims a year because of the visions seen by a 14-year-old girl nearly 150 years ago. Bernadette Soubirous first saw visions of a woman in white at a remote grotto on Feb. 11, 1858.

Within months, visitors were claiming healing from the waters of the grotto, and of approximately 7,000 who have felt they were healed and sought confirmation, nearly 70 have been declared scientifically inexplicable miracles by the Lourdes Medical Bureau and by the Catholic Church.

In Fatima, Portugal, three shepherd children saw six visions of “Our Lady of Fatima” between May 13 and Oct. 13, 1917. They told of three secrets that were revealed to them, and the second has been seen as predicting World War II and the “immense damage that Russia would do to humanity by abandoning the Christian faith and embracing Communist totalitarianism” (www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html).

Speculation abounded about the third secret, which was not released by the Vatican until Pope John Paul II’s visit to Fatima May 13, 2000. There, the third secret’s description of a bishop clothed in white making his way among corpses of those who were martyred and being shot himself was explained as being fulfilled in the May 13, 1981, assassination attempt on John Paul II.

Then there is Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where six people began seeing visions 25 years ago on June 24, 1981. Since then, some say more than 30,000 messages have come and more than 30 million people have visited the site, though these pilgrimages are not encouraged by the Vatican.

With such interest in visions and secrets seen by a few, is it any wonder that millions more will be convinced by incontrovertible miracles seen with their own eyes? ❖



Lourdes in southern France attracts millions of visitors each year because of visions seen nearly 150 years ago.

Why U.S. Population Growth Has Produced Little Joy

Throughout most of its history, a growing population was considered the United States' most treasured national resource. Yet the news about America's population reaching the 300 million mark has caused almost no celebration among the populace. Why?

by John Ross Schroeder

Back in 1944 the U.S. population was only about 120 million. In just over 60 years another 180 million have come on board. To a nation with room for growth and fewer people per square mile than many countries on the globe, additional millions could be viewed as money in the bank.

Yet because a substantial portion of the growth has been fueled by immigration, many observers are skeptical of its real value to the nation. True, part of the spin-off has been overcrowding in metropolitan areas and on the highways, as well as seriously straining our tax-funded facilities, including hospitals and school.

It is relatively easy to produce statistics showing that America's 11 million illegal immigrants are responsible for a disproportionately greater share of the nation's criminal activities. But these and other negatives do not reveal the complete picture.

Another side to the story

The overall picture of American immigration is a more complex one. As Michael Barone, senior writer of *U.S. News & World Report*, has written: "Immigration remains, as it has always been, *one of the engines of America's economic growth and prosperity*. Every year, about half of the world's emigrants—more than a million people—come to the United States" (*The New Americans*, 2001, p. viii, emphasis added throughout).

Populist conservative Patrick Buchanan shares a similar view of responsible immigration. "Most of the 36 million foreign-born came to share in the dream and be part of our national family. They are good people who seek the same things as our ancestors sought: a new start, a more rewarding life, the chance to raise a family in a better and freer place than the one they left behind..." (*State of Emergency*, 2006, p. 13).

So neither sheer numbers nor immigration

Understanding the origins of the United States goes a long way toward understanding its national legacy. But even more important is comprehending our potential spiritual identity.



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The Statue of Liberty has greeted generations of immigrants to the United States.

itself is the crux of the problem. How large the perceived crisis looms depends on your point of view and perhaps where you reside. The southwestern part of the United States faces acute problems.

At this writing the federal government appears to be at an impasse in addressing matters. Big questions remain: "Do immigrants lower wages? Do they expand the economy? Should people who entered the country illegally be allowed to become citizens?" These questions and many more are part of the current national



Facing the future: What's ahead for the 300 million now living in the United States?

debate. It is not within the focus of this publication to join the political debate over these matters.

We direct our comments to the spiritual dimensions associated with immigration. Population growth, whether by birth or immigration, can be a very good thing depending on how we live our lives as a nation. If we are God-fearing, law-abiding, industrious, hardworking, resourceful and love our neighbors as ourselves, then 300 million and more to come are like a blessing from above.

Immigration affects our national legacy

Samuel Huntington asks a number of important questions in his book *Who Are We?* “We Americans face a substantive problem of national identity epitomized by the subject of this sentence. Are we a ‘we,’ one people...? If we are a ‘we,’ what distinguishes us from the ‘them,’ who are not us? Race, religion, ethnicity, values, cultures, wealth, politics, or what?”

“Is the United States, as some have argued, a universal nation based on val-

ues common to all humanity and in principle embracing all peoples? Or are we a Western nation with our identity defined by our European heritage and institutions?” (2005, p. 9).

Understanding our origins would be a big help in addressing some of these questions. You may wish to request our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*. This attractive, full-color publication covers important aspects of U.S. history about which most people are totally unaware. Yet these largely unknown facts go a long way toward giving us a proper perspective for understanding the essentials of our national legacy. Many of us are the direct descendants of the biblical patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel) and Joseph.

A “spiritual” immigration

But much more important than determining our national identity is truly comprehending our potential spiritual identity. The Bible shows that God is drawing a certain number of people from every nation on earth known as “the firstfruits.” Christ called this unique group of people “little flock” (Luke 12:32). They are called to spiritual salvation during this present age of man. They are separated out by God from the many millions residing on this wondrous planet.

Those who are called now (and accept this divine calling) are given a passport to eternity. They have, so to speak, passed from death into life (John 5:24). These firstfruits of God have to meet certain conditions in order to obtain this unique passport. Among these are unfeigned repentance, living faith, obedience to God’s spiritual law and water baptism. Although eternal life is a free gift, it is neither cheap nor easy. It is through overcoming many obstacles, suffering many trials and troubles that we enter the Kingdom of God (Acts 14:22).

In one sense God is practicing a “spiritual” immigration control. You cannot emigrate into the Kingdom of God of your own will. It is “as many as the Lord

our God shall call” (Acts 2:39).

However, those who have not yet been called are not excluded from salvation. Our free booklet *God’s Holy Day Plan* shows that He will give everyone an opportunity for everlasting life in His Kingdom, first during Christ’s millennial reign and then during the Great White Throne Judgment period when all who have ever lived before without the true knowledge of God will be restored to physical life and given an opportunity for salvation. It is God’s desire, and our hope, that the vast majority will choose God’s way of salvation (1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 11:26; Ezekiel 37:1-14).

Who will compose the Kingdom?

Ethnic and racial background, color, nationality, economic status, gender—all the things that seem to concern human beings so very much—will not determine who is in the Kingdom of God. The apostle Paul made this very clear to the Galatians. “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; *for you are all one in Christ Jesus*. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed [spiritually], and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:28-29; compare James 2:1-9).

Paul reiterated these principles to the congregation at Colosse. “There is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all” (Colossians 3:11).

Your identity will be based on a right relationship with God and Christ. While the United States is part of modern Israel (along with the Israel of the Middle East and other nations descended from the 10 lost tribes), the Church is the Israel of God (Galatians 6:16). Earthly contentions and divisions should disappear within God’s Church (Ephesians 2:11-15). Some key parables show that the Church starts very small, but ultimately and over time grows into an innumerable company of brethren who obtain eternal life.

God is very pleased to welcome His sons and daughters into His Kingdom. “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). ❖

Do You See the Canaries?

Canaries were once used to warn miners of toxic gas in underground mines. There is a lesson for our cultures. Can you see the "canaries" warning us about a toxic society?

by Graemme Marshall

Coal mines are hazardous places to work. In the 20th century, more than 100,000 miners died working in them. Apart from roof collapses, miners also risk exposure to toxic or explosive gases released as the coal is mined.

In the early 1800s, after a gas explosion, coal miners used canaries to test for carbon monoxide. If the canary died, the miners increased ventilation in the mine to remove the dangerous gases. The miners then conducted the same test with another canary and repeated the process until a bird survived. When the canaries died, they knew it was unsafe. When the canaries lived, they knew it was safe to return to the mine.

Do you see the "canaries"—the warnings of the age in which we live?

Canadian environmentalist Dr. David Suzuki (recipient of UNESCO's highest international distinction in popular science) described making a connection with our environmental "canaries" in an interview in 1989.

He said, "Well, when a coal-miner took a canary in the coal mine and the canary fell over, the coal-miner didn't say, 'Oh, that bird just died but I'm not a bird.' The canary fell over because it was sharing the same air. When you see 22 Beluga whales dying in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and they are so full of toxic chemicals you have to wear gloves and a mask to touch them..., when people tell us that two species an hour are going extinct and 20,000 seals died in the North Sea and they don't know why, surely those are canaries and if we think we're not in the same environment as those organisms, we're nuts" (Merrily Weisbord, "Suzuki Speaks Out," 1989).

School shootings

Can you make a connection with the "canaries" all around us? What about recent shootings at schools? For one example, let's consider the "canaries" involved in the tragic random shooting at Dawson College, Montreal, Quebec, in September 2006.

On the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 13, did any of the adult students at Dawson College consider that by noon that day more than a doz-



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When a canary died in a mine, the miners knew they were in danger too. But the "canaries" in our society are being ignored.

en of them would have gunshot wounds from a semiautomatic rifle? Or that one 18-year-old girl would be dead, as well as the 25-year-old gunman?

In the aftermath of this event did anyone make a connection to the "canaries"? Few did. The shooter's mother didn't. One insightful journalist did.

Within two weeks of this tragedy, there were two more school shootings in the United States: One in Colorado with girl hostages taken; and the other in Pennsylvania at an Amish school, where five young girls were murdered by a married man, shortly after he saw his own children safely off to their school.

Let's consider the "canaries" and why it is we don't seem to connect the dots or take notice of what dying canaries are telling us.

What were the canaries?

The 25-year-old man in Montreal was heavily involved in a Web site with demonic overtones. He posted multiple photos with a variety of weapons. In one, he was pictured making the sign of the devil.

He wrote extensively in a survey on the Web site, calling himself "the Angel of Death" and claiming that he disliked the world and everything in it. He identified his most missed memory as "being young." He said he had been on

What about recent shootings at schools? For one example, let's consider the "canaries" involved in the tragic random shooting at Dawson College, Montreal, Quebec, in September 2006.

drugs in the past, and that he wanted to die “in a hail of gunfire.” In his blog (an Internet journal), two hours before committing his murder, he wrote that he had consumed some whiskey and had listened to music from Megadeth. He wore a long black leather trench coat and had a Mohawk haircut.

His favorite video game was Super Columbine Massacre RPG based on the April 20, 1999, mass murder of 13 students and one teacher at Columbine High School in Colorado by students wearing trench coats and dubbing themselves the “Trench Coat Mafia.” He had a semiautomatic rifle and handguns, all legally registered.

Did his mother recognize any “canaries”—see any connection from his life-style?

Although sorry for what her son had done, she added, “It’s not our fault” (Graeme Hamilton, “Mother of Killer Feels Sorry,” *National Post*, Sept. 16, 2006). She said she knew he loved his semiautomatic rifle but figured that his frequent trips to the shooting range were just a hobby. He still slept in the same bedroom he had occupied as a child and ate his mother’s cooking. His mother said of her son, “He would never hit or hurt—even with words—so how could he do such a thing?” She said she did not raise him that way.

Yet what were the canaries? He didn’t hide his guns. His mother knew that a friend had taken pictures of him wielding the rifle in front of the family fireplace. She was unaware he had also purchased two handguns. She knew he spent a lot of time on the computer in his bedroom but had no idea he was filling an online journal with hate-filled ravings and violent fantasies.

When he left the house that Wednesday morning, dressed in a black trench coat and taking his weapons, she said she thought he was just going out to look for a job!

How do we fail to see the canaries of family, of behavior, of the influences of society?

Perhaps it is because we so reflect the society around us that we see it as normal. We see no problem with it. An instructive biblical statement informs us, “Cursed are those who give the name of good to evil, and of evil to what is

good: who make light dark, and dark light; who make bitter sweet, and sweet bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20, Bible in Better English).

We fail to see the connection between evil influences and behavior until the result is all too evident in the violent deaths of others.

Do those who create the evil influence see any canaries?

What of the Web site referenced earlier, a site also linked to several murders and rapes, including the triple first-degree murders of three members of a Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, family in May 2006? A 12-year-old girl turned Goth freak and her 23-year-old “boy-friend” are the accused killers.

Is there a moral responsibility upon those who create such Web sites? The Montreal blog was run under the name of Fatality666 (to associate with Satan), and its creator called himself Trench and wrote, “Life is a video game, you have to die sometime” (Licia Corbella, “Hatred Fuelled Killer’s Act,” *The Calgary Sun*, Sept. 17, 2006).

What of the maker of the Super Columbine video game? The 24-year-old maker from California calls his game “art” and “social commentary” and regretted that people misconstrued his message or that people use the game to justify their own immoral behavior. Yet is the canary telling us that such games are disgraceful and exploitive and immoral to an extreme? The maker doesn’t see any canary reflecting a sick society—but do you?

Garbage in, garbage out

The insightful journalist Licia Corbella recognized that we humans are what we eat: Garbage in, garbage out. She recognized from the tragedy that if you consume violence, you will be violent; if you consume hatred, you will be hateful; if you put garbage into your mind, garbage will come out.

She recognized that if you put murderous thoughts into your head, the likelihood is that dangerous and murderous actions will result. The young man who became a murderer acted on the music he listened to, acted out the games he played, acted out the thoughts he allowed himself to meditate on. Thoughts of vio-

lence, anger and hatred toward others became a steady diet.

Put beauty in, beauty will result

Over 1,900 years ago the apostle Paul wrote potent advice to the Philippians that remains as powerful for today. He said to “meditate” or devote concentrated thought to the positives and virtues of life. “Summing it all up, friends, I’d say you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse” (Philippians 4:8, The Message).

Oh yes, I know, doing this would seriously affect the movies, videos, books, Web sites, magazines and television that both you and your children watch and read. But remember, garbage in, garbage out. If we fail to see any connection to the canaries dying all around us from the fumes of our toxic society, we will be no better than family members who see no connection with what causes their sons to become mass murderers.

You can change if you can see the canaries dying and take action.

You can emphasize the positive and eliminate the negative influences in your life.

- Eliminate viewing violent, dangerous or pornographic Internet Web sites on your computer. Parents can set controls on their children’s computers to block access to unwanted material.

- Eliminate viewing violent, dangerous movies or videos and refuse to listen to crudity and cursing.

- Eliminate listening to songs with crass lyrics or discordant music.

Instead, choose clean, upright, wholesome entertainment. Don’t allow a devilish, hurtful, negative influence into your mind. Evaluate your dress, fashion, hobbies and lifestyle. Choose instead to reflect positive, upright biblical values. Make an effort to serve other people in a positive, uplifting, helpful way. Serve others. Help others.

Write for our booklet, *Making Life Work*. Free yourself from a society that is unable to make a connection with the toxic influences all around. Make a decision to walk in a right way. You’ll not regret it. ❖

“MUSCLE MEMORY,” (Continued from page 16)
 tence was sheer survival. Has that much changed since then? No, probably not. It really hasn't. It's still survival, but it is wrapped up in the illusion of materialism and a humanistic notion that man is ultimately capable of solving his own problems.

It is an incredibly beguiling, yet truly thin veneer that separates us from our ancestors. And, it is played out on a much bigger stage that we are all being sucked into almost against our wills.

The Pilgrims' stage was to a large degree only their immediate surroundings. Now, our global village is intertwined, due to technology and the raw reality of the population explosion that is pushing divergent civilizations together. Just as the pressure of grinding tectonic plates results in earthquakes, so this increasing pressure will cause explosive results.

Just this morning, I chronicled a list of discouraging articles: One hundred people were blown up in Baghdad; six people were dragged out of mosques and burned alive; more troops are needed in Afghanistan to quell the growing violence there; a Russian journalistic whistle-blower was poisoned with radioactive sushi; four out of 10 births in America are out of wedlock; some people's desire to annihilate the Jewish state of Israel never diminishes; vitriolic accusations that America is the “Great Satan.”

Amazingly, that was all culled after just a few minutes of reading. And folks, the unmistakable message of the Word of God doesn't say there is going to be any letdown.

Foretelling these times, Jesus described them as “the *beginning of sorrows*” (Matthew 24:8, emphasis added). We have not even hit ground zero of the prophesied wrath of Satan, commonly called the Great Tribulation.

Oh yes, we are in an intersection of life that might well be called Firecracker junction. Things will never be the same. And yet, there



Muscle memory helps us perfect our skills, but even more, it is the trained recall that brings forth strength in times of crisis.

is a spiritual silver lining in all of this, for it can cause us to rely upon God even more. Thus, we need to sustain our training and learn what the young corporal means when he talks about “muscle memory.”

Just what is muscle memory?

It's an amazing combination of words put before us. Muscle is that sinewy tissue in our bodies by which we flex our will into action. Muscle develops strength by contact with resistance. It simply cannot develop properly apart from external pressure on a regular basis. Memory is defined as the “function or capacity of recalling or recognizing that which has been previously learned or experienced.”

Thus, muscle memory is the trained recall that brings forth strength in times of crisis, when one cannot take time to think through how to react.

As we cross the intersection of

two calendar years and slip into 2007, we had better be prepared to use some muscle memory. Because when we are faced with trials, we don't find our values in the trial—we take them right on in there with us. The training time is right now, not later.

Please take note: This coming year is not going to be a recess from deteriorating world conditions. The blaring headlines of the clash of the Islamic world with the West are not going to go away. The threat of nuclear proliferation is only going to multiply. The continuing skirmishes of the moral culture wars are going to intensify in the classroom, workplace and the public square. The coarse tone of politics is not likely to soften.

And there are always those ever-waiting-around-the-bend headlines and fault lines in our own personal lives waiting to clash and explode.

Frankly, we can begin to regis-

ter emotional, mental and spiritual fatigue and simply want to melt into the surrounding population as we say, "Let someone else take the point position" in the cause of God's service.

Human premises or God's promises?

One of the greatest sustaining points of spiritual muscle development that can pull us through the tough times of encountering hostile forces is examining and internalizing the very real and ever-present promises of God in our heart, mind and soul. His promises are not simply delicate platitudes penned by man, but are rock-solid assurances that our God will deliver what He has promised.

And it is now that we must be trained up in the promises of God—otherwise, our spiritual muscle, when depleted and exhausted, will have no memory to draw upon to sustain our action. In such cases, we are left alone with just our human premises based upon the predicament of the time to keep us company, rather than the promises of God to keep us in the fight so we can live for Him another day.

For a few moments, let's consider what it would be like to only exist with our human premises in comparison to the strength of purpose God grants us through His promises. Humanly we say, "It's impossible." God replies, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27). We gasp, "I'm tired." Our Creator says, "I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28-30).

We sob, "Nobody loves me." God reminds us that He loves us (John 3:16). We say in exhaustion, "I can't go on." God gently encourages us, "My grace is sufficient" (2 Corinthians 12:19). We grumble, "I can't figure things out." The Master Designer replies that He will direct our steps (Proverbs 20:24).

How about when you're ready to throw in the towel, and you shout, "I can't do it!"? God returns the thought: You "can do all things

through Christ" (Philippians 4:13).

And then, just when our knees start shaking and we don't think we can take one more second, God quietly assures us that we can cast all our cares upon Him (1 Peter 5:7). And when the Firecracker junction of our lives explodes with the heat, light and motion of a world gone crazy, and we don't think we can go another step on our own strength, God saves the best promise for last. "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Promise memory? Muscle memory? Survival? Yes!

Get a reality check, now!

Long ago, God told His servant Jeremiah to get a reality check. He basically told Jeremiah to "toughen up," letting him know that this isn't going to be a sprint, but rather a marathon, and to start developing some spiritual bulk.

He pulled no punches as He chided, "If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan [River]?"

Young Corporal Cory Schneider could relate to that kind of straight-from-the-shoulder coaching as he and his comrades held on till help arrived. They held on in a subconscious, almost involuntary manner when all the voluntary abilities were exhausted.

Through this soldier, we can learn one more way to apply "This is the way, walk in it" (Isaiah 30:21) as we move into our advancing forward positions for God's Kingdom as a new calendar year dawns. It is a simple lesson and a wonderful reality.

"As you get exhausted, it is your training that kicks in and keeps you going even if your mind is not there... It was muscle memory. You keep doing what you are supposed to be doing!" ❖



Robin Webber

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by Robin Webber

Flexing the Muscle Memory

Words, phrases and short, to-the-point bumper sticker philosophies are designed to make us think. Every so often we pick up the gauntlet and accept the challenge of pondering our values against the stark bluntness of a few words. Recently, while flying to a *World News and Prophecy* seminar, I came upon a phrase that jolted me into a state of deep introspection.

Here I was on my way to offer thoughts and reflections on history, current events and prophecy to others, and smack dab in front of me in an article was a personal lesson in the making for that weekend, and beyond! Here was help to survive in an age of ever-increasing hostility to God.

The phrase that grabbed me came from an article titled "A Clash of Wills at 'Firecracker'" that appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* on Nov. 3, 2006, written by reporter Julian Barnes. It was an account of a "day in the life" of four Marines in Iraq assigned to a lookout spot rightfully nicknamed "Firecracker," because it is the most dangerous forward position for assessing the movements of insurgents. It vividly depicted the soldiers' precarious routine being suddenly broken up as they came under assault.

Training kicks in

As the men move around and fight in their goldfish bowl of survival, they begin to tire. Certainly there must be incredible physical, mental and emotional fatigue that begins to wear a soldier down, with people screaming, guns blasting, sudden move-

ments here and there, smoke stinging their eyes and then, the eerie silence that betrays the next round of ammunition discharge. Exhaustion sets in! It is here that reporter Julian Barnes captures the battle reality.

It is in the recorded battle-hardened wisdom of a young 19-year-old corporal, Cory Schneider, that I am confronted with the ageless maxim of survival: "As you get exhausted, it is your training that kicks in and keeps you going even if your mind is not there. Not that I am saying my mind wasn't there. But it was muscle memory. You keep doing what you are supposed to be doing."

Muscle memory? How does that relate to the average reader of this publication? What do the soldiers of Firecracker junction and you have in common?

Each of us has a responsibility to use the training we have received in preparation for the respective warfare we have been summoned to wage. One is temporal and the other is spiritual.

In many ways the battle that you have been called to wage at the human level is just as demandingly complex, never ending and exhaustive in nature as the ongoing struggle at Firecracker junction.

Recognizing life's complexities

What do I mean by that? On this Friday after Thanksgiving, I was pondering the vast difference between my world and the world of my American forefathers, the Pilgrims. Their day-by-day exist-

(See "MUSCLE MEMORY," page 14)