

# WORLD NEWS *and* PROPHECY

## Biblical Perspectives on Current Events

November 1999

Vol. 2, No. 9

# Ten Years After the Wall Came Tumbling Down

*How is Germany faring a decade after the Berlin Wall? Is the eastern half better off? Is the western half pleased with the results of the added costs of unification? What will fully solidify this country?*

by Paul Kieffer

When German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder moved into his office in Berlin in September, a major milestone in the process set in motion by German unification was reached. With the German parliament, the Bundestag, and the head of government, Chancellor Schröder, residing in Berlin, a unified Germany is now being governed from Berlin for the first time since the end of World War II. Ironically, the month of September witnessed two other reminders of German unification nearly 10 years after the historic opening of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989.

Chancellor Schröder provided the first reminder on a visit to Budapest. Chancellor Schröder personally thanked

the Hungarian government for Hungary's courageous act of opening its western border with Austria in the summer of 1989. Hundreds of East Germany's citizens made use of the hole in the Iron Curtain to travel to Austria and from there to Germany. The opening of Hungary's border led to more East Germans traveling to Hungary and to Czechoslovakia, where dozens of people sought refuge in the German embassy in Prague. After successful negotiations with the Czech government, West German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher traveled to Prague to announce to the refugees in the embassy compound that they would be permitted to emigrate to West Germany. Before he could finish reading his state-

ment, loud cheering from the assembled refugees drowned his words out.

These events in the summer of 1989 sealed East Germany's fate. In thanking the Hungarian government, Chancellor Schröder emphasized that German unification would not have been possible without the opening of Hungary's border to the West. Without a secure border to the West in other Eastern European countries, East Germany faced the choice of prohibiting its citizens from traveling anywhere at all or capitulating to the new reality created by Hungary's decision.

The other reminder was a much less joyous occasion. In September Raisa Gorbachev, the wife of former Soviet

*(See "WALL," page 3)*

### *In This Issue...*

**Ten Years After the Wall — From *Father Knows Best* to "No Father Is Best" —  
The Population Bomb — "Neither Shall They Learn War Anymore"**

# WORLD NEWS and PROPHECY

Biblical Perspectives on Current Events

November 1999

Vol. 2, No. 9

*World News and Prophecy* is published monthly by the United Church of God, an International Association, 5405 Dupont Circle, Suite A, Milford, OH 45150. © 1999 United Church of God, an International Association. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form without written permission is prohibited.

The mission of *World News and Prophecy* (WNP) is to provide our membership and interested persons with commentary and analysis of selected world news topics in the light of Bible prophecy.

Its purpose is to help readers discern the times and increase their awareness and understanding of the answers Christ gave to His disciples' questions: "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3).

Editor: Don Ward  
Managing editor: Darris McNeely  
Senior editor: Melvin Rhodes  
Contributing editor: John Ross Schroeder  
Copy editors: Doug Johnson, Cecil E. Maranville  
Layout/design: Peter W. Eddington, Mike Bennett

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

**Subscriptions:** *World News and Prophecy* is sent free to the membership of the United Church of God, and all who request it. There is no subscription price. To request a subscription, write to *World News and Prophecy*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, telephone (513) 576-9796 or download a copy off our Web site at <http://www.ucg.org>

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

#### International addresses:

**AUSTRALIA:** United Church of God—Australia  
GPO Box 535, Brisbane, Qld. 4001, Australia  
Phone: 0755 202-111 Fax: 0755 202-122

**BAHAMAS:** United Church of God, P.O. Box N8873, Nassau, Bahamas. Phone: (242) 324-3169 Fax: (242) 364-5566

**BRITISH ISLES:** P.O. Box 4052, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK13 7ZF England. Phone: 0181-386-8467 Fax: 01257-453978

**CANADA:** United Church of God—Canada, P.O. Box 144, Station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada  
Phone: (416) 231-9379, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (416) 231-8238

**FIJI:** United Church of God, P.O. Box 10-577, Nadi, Fiji.  
Phone: 723-678

**FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS:** Église de Dieu Unie—France, B.P. 51254, 45002 Orléans Cedex 1, France

**GERMANY:** Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 30 15 09, D-53195 Bonn, Germany. Phone: 0228 - 9454636 Fax: 0228 - 9454637  
E-mail: [gutenachrichten@compuserve.com](mailto:gutenachrichten@compuserve.com)

**ITALY:** La Buona Notizia, Chiesa di Dio Unita, Casella Postale 187, 24100 Bergamo, Italy  
Phone: 0039-035583474 Fax: 0039-035582140

**The NETHERLANDS:** Verenigde Kerk van God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A.

**NEW ZEALAND:** United Church of God, P.O. Box 22, Auckland, 1015, New Zealand. Phone: 0508-463-763

**SOUTHERN AFRICA:** United Church of God, Southern Africa, P.O. Box 2209, Beacon Bay, East London 5205, South Africa  
Phone/Fax: 043 748-1694

**SPANISH-SPEAKING AREAS:** United Church of God, P.O. Box 458, Big Sandy, TX 75755, U.S.A.  
Phone: (903) 636-4928

#### Internet access on your computer:

The United Church of God, an International Association, has a home page on the Internet's World Wide Web. The address <http://www.ucg.org> gives you access to general information and news about the Church, issues of *The Good News* and *United News*, as well as our booklets. The address <http://www.ucg.ca> accesses the Church's Canadian Web site, <http://www.ucg.org.au> the Church's Australian Web site, <http://www.labuonanotizia.org> the Church's Italian Web site and <http://www.goodnews.org.uk> the Church's British Isles Web site.

# Contents

## Ten Years After the Wall Came Tumbling Down

by Paul Kieffer . . . . . page 1

## From *Father Knows Best* to "No Father Is Best"

by Cecil E. Maranville . . . . . page 4

## The Population Bomb Keeps Ticking Away

by Mario Seiglie . . . . . page 6

## Global Power Shifts— Not All Change Is Good

by Rod Hall . . . . . page 9

## Review of *The Abolition of Britain*

by John Ross Schroeder . . . . . page 11

## In Brief... World News Review

by Peter Eddington, Darris McNeely,  
Cecil Maranville, John Ross Schroeder . . . page 12

## This Is the Way... "Neither Shall They Learn War Anymore"

by Robin Webber . . . . . page 16

Read *World News and Prophecy* as soon as it is completed. The next issue is scheduled to be available on December 9 on the Internet at <http://www.ucg.org/html/literat.shtml#4>.

The United Church of God provides *World News and Prophecy* (WNP) as an educational service for interested persons. The purpose of WNP is to help readers discern the times and increase their awareness and understanding of current events in the light of Bible prophecy. Although the staff strives for truth and accuracy in its reporting, analysis and Bible commentary, WNP is not a doctrinal publication. Articles do undergo both an editorial and a review process.

“WALL,” (Continued from page 1)

Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, died of leukemia after having been treated unsuccessfully at a clinic in Germany. Her funeral in Moscow was a reunion of three key players involved in the agreement to allow the unification of Germany: Hans-Dietrich Genscher (Germany's foreign minister at the time), Mikhail Gorbachev and Helmut Kohl. Concerned about the possibility of political instability in a post-Gorbachev Russia, Chancellor Kohl sought Mr. Gorbachev's approval for German unification during a visit to the Soviet Union in the summer of 1990. During a walk in the Caucasus Mountains, Mr. Gorbachev agreed to Mr. Kohl's request.

### The Drama of Unification

At a ceremony in Moscow on September 12, 1990, the four World War II allies (Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States) and the two German states signed the treaty that permitted Germany to reunite. On October 3, 1990, unification was proclaimed in a special ceremony held at the Reichstag building. Viewed technically, the former East Germany “joined” the West German State by becoming subject to West Germany's *Grundgesetz* or “basic law”—in effect the German constitution.

The final unification of the two German states was a foregone conclusion from the day that the Berlin Wall was opened on November 9, 1989. In the early evening East German television broadcast a live press conference at which a member of the ruling German Socialist Unity Party (SED) announced that effective immediately private visits to foreign countries would be permitted without any prerequisites. The announcement hit the wire services quickly and was given to members

of West Germany's Bundestag, who were in evening session in Bonn at the time. Realizing the full impact of the announcement, the Bonn parliamentarians interrupted their session to gather around television sets. Shortly thereafter they spontaneously sang the German national anthem. Within a couple of hours the first East Germans had traveled through the Wall to visit West Berlin.

The opening of the Berlin Wall and the unification of Germany less than 11 months later electrified the German people. In the emotional high resulting from unification, the Bundestag voted to move the seat of government to Berlin. Chancellor Kohl promised economic prosperity for Germany's newest citizens and their homeland. His promise helped him to be reelected in 1990, although opposing politicians, including Oskar Lafontaine, emphasized the potential high cost of reunification and the creation of a viable economic infrastructure for Eastern Germany. Their cautions were ignored at the time.

### Unity Hasn't Been Quick—or Cheap

A decade after the opening of the Berlin Wall, unification has been a mixed blessing for Germany as a whole and for Eastern Germany in particular. Billions of marks have been invested in construction projects in the new German states to repave and widen old autobahns, to improve the public transportation system and to provide Eastern Germany with a state-of-the-art telecommunications backbone—more modern, in fact, than parts of the system in Western Germany. Wages in Eastern Germany have been raised gradually to be now nearly the same for key union-dominated industries and civil service jobs as in the western half of the country. In addition to tax monies from the German national government, paid for in part by a special “solidarity” tax surcharge on taxpayers in Western Germany, Eastern Germany has benefited from European Union funds for economically depressed areas.

Despite the massive spending in Eastern Germany, resulting in a clearly visible improvement in Eastern

Germany's overall appearance, unemployment remains higher than in the western part of the country. A population drain has set in as young people move west to seek better opportunities for economic advancement. The promise of prosperity for the former citizens of East Germany has not been fulfilled, although many would agree that their economic situation has improved since 1989.

As a result, a sense of disillusionment has been evident in the eastern half of the country. Nostalgia for the old days is rekindled occasionally as products from the East Germany era are remarketed. It is an understandable reaction, because the former citizens have lost their country and many do not yet feel fully “at home” in their new environment. This may be a partial explanation for the higher occurrence of radical right-wing incidents in the eastern half of the country in recent years, although, as a whole, they do not convey an accurate picture of the overall contemporary German mindset. (In this year's state elections, right-wing parties have lost votes.)

Disillusionment has not only been evident in the eastern half of the country. Germans in the western half are tired of the higher tax burden they have had to shoulder to pay for unification. The cost of moving government ministries to Berlin, originally estimated to be 20 billion marks, has been questioned repeatedly.

In a survey commissioned in September by the magazine *Stern*, 20 percent of West Germans voiced their desire to see the Berlin Wall rebuilt. Even more surprising was the 14 percent result for the East Germans surveyed. It is this kind of attitude that has led many prominent Germans to call for an end to the “division of Germany in the mind.”

Kurt Masur, who is originally from the former East Germany and is currently the conductor of the New York Philharmonic, said on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Berlin Wall: “We have to listen to each other more, we have to learn to respect each other.” Masur, already a renowned conductor in 1989, is credit-

(See “WALL,” page 8)

#### Erratum

The article “Divorce Revolution Spawns Cohabitation Generation” in the September *World News and Prophecy* contained an error in a bracketed comment about Matthew 5:27–28. The comment incorrectly said that the Greek word *porneia* was used in these verses. *WNP* regrets the error.

# From *Father Knows Best* to “No Father Is Best”

*The American Psychological Association published an article asserting that fathers are not essential in the healthy development of children! In fact, they claim, fathers do more harm than good!*

by Cecil E. Maranville

*The premise appears to be that many of today's fathers do such a poor job that their children would be better off if they were absent from the children's lives!*

**F**ather Knows Best was an acceptable title for a popular television program in the '50s because the concept that the father was a necessary and fixed head of every family was widely accepted. This past summer the American Psychological Association published an article asserting that just the opposite is true—that fathers are not essential in the healthy development of children! In fact, they claim, fathers do more harm than good!

*The American Psychologist*, journal of the American Psychological Association (APA), ran as its lead in the June 1999 issue an article titled “Deconstructing the Essential Father” in which the authors argued that fathers are really nonessential.

Psychologist Wade Horn, in his *Washington Times* column of July 6, 1999, properly takes issue with the APA's shocking reasoning and bizarre conclusion. “The authors begin their first argument by stating that their ‘research experience has led us to conceptualize fathering in the way that is very different from the neoconservative [Read: *anyone who thinks fathers matter*—Dr. Horn's comment] perspective.’

“While acknowledging that ‘the presence of a father may have positive effects on the well-being of boys,’ two paragraphs later the authors come to the stunning conclusion that ‘...the empirical literature does not support the idea that fathers make a unique and essential contribution to child development.’”

The premise of the APA article appears to be that many of today's fathers do such a poor job at fathering that their children would be better off if they were absent from the children's lives!

“The authors warned, for example, of ‘the potential costs of *father presence*,’ and especially their propensity to fritter away family resources on ‘gambling, purchasing alcohol, cigarettes, or other nonessential commodities’ thereby ‘actually increasing women's workload and stress level.’”

## Should “Family” Be Redefined?

Did you notice the psychologists' choice of words—“father presence”—as if having a father in a home is but one of many possible options? Conceivably a home could be clinically presented as having a “mother presence,” a “stepfather presence,” a “stepmother presence,” a “male friend of mother presence,” a “grandparent presence,” etc.

What is so wrong with the “normal home” of the *Father Knows Best* era? The parents of today's parents were born and raised in that environment. Why haven't the values of yesterday been passed along to the present generation of parents? Should “normal” be redefined to suit today's world? Or should today's world seek to redefine itself?

Joseph A. Califano says it's the latter. Califano, a former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, is now president of the National Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. His group, like the psychologists mentioned above, found that a teenager who has a poor relationship with his father in a two-parent household is at a higher risk for smoking, drinking and illegal drug use than one with a strong relationship with a single mother.

But his group's study went further and reached a different conclusion. It found that fathers are irreplaceable in helping children to become and stay drug-free.

“We want fathers to wake up tomorrow morning, whether their kid is three years old or is 17 years old,” said Califano. “Parent power [fathers and mothers working together] is the most important weapon we have in dealing with substance abuse with our children. This problem is going to be solved across the kitchen table [meaning in a normal home situation in which the family eats together and talks together]” (“Relationship With Fathers Affects Teens Use of Drugs, Study Finds”

by William P. Bulletin, *Chicago Tribune*, August 31, 1999).

“Every father should look in the mirror and say, ‘How often do I eat meals with my children?’” Califano declared.

### **Fatherless Boys Suffer Poor Moral Development**

Michael Gurian, author of *The Good Son: Shaping the Moral Development of Our Boys and Young Men*, concluded after studying 30 cultures around the world that “American boys have the least moral development of any boys in the world.”

Gurian attributes this discouraging phenomenon to the breakdown of family, which he defines as a threefold system: the nuclear, expanded and communal family. He notes that our modern society causes us to end up “with kids being raised with one parent, no extended family, and going to a school with 2,500 kids. That means less chance for moral development” (“Mapping the Journey from Boy to Man,” by Brad Knickerbocker, *The Christian Science Monitor*, October 13, 1999).

“Boys are really hungry for male attention. That’s primal, and that’s natural. I find it in every culture. As a boy hits puberty, he starts looking to men, and it’s the culture’s job to provide him with men. That means his dad, but it doesn’t just mean his dad.

“A boy can become a male adult, physically and socially, but he isn’t a man until he has become loving, wise, and responsible” (ibid.).

In response to the interviewer’s question, “What is needed for boys to become good sons and eventually good men?” Gurian cited four things. We quote two for the purpose of this article.

“No. 1 is the bond or attachment between the primary caregiver and her son—I say ‘her’ because it’s generally the mom. We would cut down on a lot of [school shootings] if in the first two years of life we had better attachment between our infant boys and their caregivers.

“...No. 3 would be the dad. All sorts of studies show us what happens when a boy is not attached to his dad, how he’s more likely to live in poverty, more likely to end up in jail, do drugs, and so on. So

we just have to say, ‘Look, if we want moral sons we’ve got to have fathers.’ And by father I also mean the ‘second father,’ ...an uncle or a grandfather.”

### **Daughters Need Fathers, too**

What Gurian says about the need for fathers in the life of boys is no less true for the development of girls.

“It is said that the best thing a father can do for his daughter is to love her mother,” noted Kathleen Parker in *The Orlando Sentinel*. “A girl lucky enough to observe her ‘first man’ [her father] demonstrating affection and respect for the woman with whom she most strongly identifies [her mother] grows up with confidence and high self-esteem. More likely than not, she’ll set her standards high when seeking her own mate.

“Now, new research published in the August issue of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* suggests that there’s more fathers can do: *Be there*” (“A Father’s Best Gift? His Presence,” October 3, 1999).

The research found that girls who had fathers as active caregivers entered puberty later in life, and therefore were slower to develop sexual interests—and attendant problems. “Apparently, girls’ biological clocks are tuned not only to their physical environment but to the emotional atmosphere as well” (ibid.).

It is good for children, sons and daughters alike, to have fathers!

That is not to ignore the reality of our present, sick and dysfunctional society. Fathers who are cruel, abusive, immature and selfish do serious harm to the development of their children. But the solution is not to excise the fathers from the lives of their children.

Fathers need to be godly men, aware of their profound responsibility to their children, and to conduct themselves accordingly.

“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged” (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21).

The fact that it was necessary to inspire this instruction tells us that adult

males are not inherently “nurturing fathers,” but rather that they need to *choose* to become such. And further, we—our whole society—need to train boys from the time they’re young in the qualities of fatherhood. An invaluable part of that training, of course, is regular contact with nurturing adult males—above all others, their own fathers.

### **A Proven Solution**

Many people can see that today’s family faces serious problems and challenges. Responsible, caring people wrestle with possible solutions. The proposal by some people to redefine families without “a father presence” is being put forward as a plausible solution, because they are convinced that their new concept is better than the present reality.

There is, however, a *proven* solution—one that is studiously avoided by many professionals because they are so used to distancing themselves from the words that God has spoken. That is, by the way, also the reason why today’s parents have not absorbed the values more commonly embraced by the past generation. Somewhere along the way, people decided to go it without God—the God of the Bible.

A prophecy of a world so wretched that God warns He may be forced to eradicate it entirely enjoins us to “remember the law of Moses, My servant” (Malachi 4:4). A key component of that law, of course, is to “honor your father and your mother.”

One cannot carve the position of father out of the home and think that he/she has “solved” the present crises assaulting our society. How naïve! How arrogant! How dangerous, considering the fact that the Creator finds it necessary to contemplate the destruction of a society that fails in its relationships between fathers and their children (Malachi 4:6).

Thankfully, the dark cloud of that prophecy has a silver lining, foretelling a spiritual work in the end time that will “turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers” (Malachi 4:6).

*World News and Prophecy* is pleased to have a part in it. ❖

# The Population Bomb Keeps Ticking Away

*Should we celebrate that the world's population now tops six billion—or should we be alarmed? The population explosion portends problems that may crescendo into the end of this present age!*

by Mario Seiglie

According to the United Nations, the six billionth person was recently born on October 12, 1999. A celebration took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia, with Secretary-General Kofi Annan holding up the baby considered to have set this phenomenal record.

Yet, looking at it from a historic and prophetic point of view, crossing the six billion mark is more a cause for concern and alarm than for celebration. With this dubious “record” in mind, it seems a good time to pause and consider the negative impact this current population explosion is having on planet earth.

According to population experts, it has taken almost 2,000 years for the world population to slowly rise from an estimated 250 million at the time of Christ to a billion and a half at the beginning of the 20th century. Then, in just this century, the population truly exploded as it *quadrupled* in size and reached the mark of six billion. Despite advances in birth control, the world population is still burgeoning as the 21st century arrives.

A glimpse at the trend shows why we should be concerned. According to the U.N. Population Division, it took 123 years to get from one billion to two billion people. Yet, it took only 33 years to reach the three billion mark and 14 years to arrive at the four billion level. Next, it took only 13 years to reach five billion and now just 11 years later it crossed the six billion mark. From now on, it is estimated that one billion people will be added approximately every 10 years. Provided this growth rate of some 80 million new people per year continues, our present population will again double within 50 years.

What do these facts signify? Is the earth equipped to sustain this constant over-population without bringing dire consequences?



*U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan visited Sarajevo October 12 to greet Adnan Nevic, the baby symbolically designated as the world's six billionth citizen. U.N. Photo by Milton Grant*

Population experts consider an ideal population to be around two billion people, since this balances development with a healthy environment. Yet we have already reached *triple* that amount of people and continue to multiply at breakneck speeds. Even with a further slowdown in the birthrate, there are already so many billions of people today that, in a manner similar to the action of compound interest, the sheer momentum is causing the population to skyrocket.

## Signs of Global Environmental Fatigue

Already the world is suffering serious consequences from this excessive population increase. In 1989, the fishing industry reported a dwindling of fish catches in the world's oceans, and the decline has continued ever since. Diminishing reserves of metals, fossil fuels, forests, arable lands, fresh water and wildlife are

*Our six billion will again double within 50 years. Is the earth equipped to sustain this constant over-population without bringing dire consequences?*

a fact of life. Pollution has reached global proportions, with hardly any part of the earth now free from contaminated air, water and soil. This is not an extremist view, but rather it is the perspective of prestigious world organizations such as the U.N. and the Red Cross.

Perhaps in the United States, Europe and Japan, where funds are available to curb the most damaging effects of the rise in population, there is not as much concern. But then again, these nations comprise less than a sixth of the world's inhabitants. The rest of the world is in a far sorer condition.

Peter Raven, director of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, is so concerned with the damage being done to the earth, that he compares this destruction to the five previous massive catastrophes that appear in the fossil record. Dr. Raven believes that if this latest one continues to develop, "the sixth mass extinction of living organisms will be brought about by people, by a mushrooming population that has doubled in 40 years, to six billion, and by human carelessness and commerce" (*Time*, April 26, 1999, p. 33).

### More Famines Predicted

The exponential increase of the world population has placed great strains on political, military, economic and social systems around the planet. Some relief agencies already consider parts of Africa to be in a chronic state of hunger. Recently, the U.N. supplied information of yet another mounting famine in sub-Saharan Africa, with 16 countries and 10 million people at risk. The reasons? Severe droughts, crop diseases and bloody civil wars.

In 1950, Europe had a population three times that of Africa, while today Africa, with almost a billion people, has three times as many people as Europe. "Such growth," says Joseph Chamie, the U.N.'s chief demographer, "is simply beyond the carrying capacity of an already beleaguered continent" (*Newsweek*, May 3, 1999, p. 2).

Unfortunately, the population explosion is not only a problem of quantity, but of quality of life—due to differ-

ent living standards. While the birth rate in industrialized countries has plummeted, in less developed regions it remains quite high. Alarming, it is estimated that over 95 percent of the future population growth will take place in the world's 130 poorest countries. Already, one-fourth of the earth's inhabitants live with less than a dollar a day and yet this group is part of the population that is multiplying exponentially.

In the meantime, the voracious nature of an industrialized world on the one hand, and an impoverished one on the other, is rapidly depleting the earth's vital resources. Ola Ullsten, former Swedish prime minister and head of the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development, recently said that in the past 20 years alone, forests have disappeared in 25 countries, and another 18 have lost more than 95 percent of their tree cover. Just

*In the end-time scenario described in the book of Revelation, a 200-million-man army will cross the Euphrates River and cause a disastrous world war.*

before World War II, there were an estimated 60 billion hectares of forest; now there are barely 3.6 billion globally. The causes? Logging, indiscriminate cutting for firewood and desertification (*Newsweek*, op. cit. p. 2).

As the population grows, it strains the human relations within cities and even between nations. More crime, violence and disease will invariably appear as people are increasingly forced to live in more cramped and unhealthy quarters. According to 1990 U.N. statistics, Tokyo was the most populous city in the world with 25 million, followed by New York City with 16 million. But in the next 15 years, the U.N. calculates the largest cities will be in the poorer

nations. Those cities include Bombay with 28 million, Lagos with 24 million, Shanghai with 23 million, and Mexico City and Sao Paulo with 20 million each. Can impoverished nations continue to provide basic services and social peace as their resources dry up?

Unfortunately, one thing that is not diminishing is worldwide investment in military hardware. Explains Pranay Gupter, editor of *The Earth Times*, "The industrialized world's investment in sustainable economic and social advancement in underprivileged states was at an all-time low—barely \$45 billion a year. In contrast, global expenditure on weapons touched almost \$1 trillion" (*Newsweek*, op. cit. p. 2).

### Shadows From the Past

During World War II, one of the reasons Adolf Hitler sought to justify his invasion of neighboring countries was Germany's supposed need for *lebensraum* or more living space. He claimed the overcrowded Germans were entitled to new territories. He wrote in his book, *Mein Kampf*, "This soil of Europe exists for the people which possesses the force to take it. The law of self-preservation will go into effect; and what is refused through amicable methods, it is up to the fist to take" (p. 138).

As the population soars, future leaders could be tempted to justify their invasion of neighboring countries with a similar rationale. This is presently happening on a smaller scale to a weakened Russia. "In the far east," writes Igor Malashenko for *Newsweek*, "massive numbers of illegal immigrants from China are pouring into depopulated regions of neighboring Russia. The future territorial integrity of Russia cannot be taken for granted" (*Newsweek*, October 4, 1999). This Russian weakness could be a source of future wars, as the struggle for space and resources becomes more critical.

### Prophecy on the March

How is all of this related to prophecy? In the end-time scenario described

in the book of Revelation, a horde of Asians will cross the Euphrates River and cause a disastrous world war.

“And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, ‘Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates. So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was *two hundred million*. I heard the number of them...” (Revelation 9:13–16).

In order for this prophecy to come to pass, there must exist billions of people, since just this part of Asia will enlist 200 million able-bodied soldiers. Until the latter part of the 20th century, Chinese and other Asian people could not muster even half that number, but now for the first time in history, they can easily provide this immense figure.

Also, as world population multiplied in the 20th century, so did the explosion of knowledge, made possible by improved communications, global travel and shared technology. More than ever before, this modern society fulfills the prophecy given to Daniel by God, “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase” (Daniel 12:4).

We now take for granted such things as international travel and the knowledge explosion, but these have only been around during the latter part of the 20th century.

### Parallel With Noah’s Day

In addition, this prediction of a rapid increase in the world population is related to the conditions in Noah’s time. Christ compared the society of Noah’s day to the end time in Matthew 24:37–39.

In Noah’s day, people were caught off guard by God’s judgment, in spite of His warning through Noah’s preaching. The Bible says the earth was full of violence and corruption in Noah’s day, which was the reason God brought

about the Flood. “Meanwhile, the crime rate was rising rapidly across the earth, and, as seen by God, the world was rotten to the core. As God observed how bad it was, and saw that all mankind was vicious and depraved, he said to Noah, ‘I have decided to destroy all mankind; for the earth is filled with crime because of man’” (The Living Bible, paraphrase of Genesis 6:11–12).

Another condition mentioned about Noah’s day was a notable rise in world population. “Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth...” (Genesis 6:1). The paraphrase in The Living Bible captures the sense of the verse: “Now a *population explosion* took place upon the earth...” (Genesis 6:1). The population explosion was clearly linked to the fact that the earth became literally “filled with violence” (Genesis 6:11).

Christ’s prediction that end-time conditions will be similar to those of Noah’s time certainly does fit the description of our days—although we don’t know exactly how long God in His patience will permit time to go on before He intervenes decisively.

As the population of impoverished nations continues to explode, men could react in two ways. First, there will be those who want to control the earth’s population by any means possible, including war and ethnic cleansing. Secondly, as the population of third world nations explodes, their leaders will be pressured to invade their neighbor’s land in an attempt to feed their people. Both scenarios point toward the time of the opening of the seven seals of the book of Revelation. There will be war, famine, pestilence and millions will die.

Yes, it is certainly significant that the sixth billionth person was born at the close of this 20th century. But instead of thinking this a great feat, we should consider it to be an alarming sign that world population has gotten out of hand. This uncontrollable population explosion could help usher in the prophesied end-time scenario and with it, the true solutions to this troubled world that only a merciful God can bring. ❖

“WALL,” (Continued from page 3)

ed with having intervened with church and Communist Party officials in the fall of 1989 to prevent the use of force to quell peaceful demonstrations against East Germany’s political leadership.

### Problems Will Be Resolved, by Work or by Crisis

With the traditional German virtues of hard work and thoroughness, the economic differences within Germany will be resolved. It may take longer for the cultural differences to be resolved that result from two parts of the country having been separated for 45 years by two opposing political systems—capitalism and communism. One often hears mention of the possibility that it will take one or two generations of Germans living together to achieve full internal unification. Of course, the process can be speeded up by Germans being inspired by their achievements internationally. News commentators emphasized frequently that Jan Ulrich, winner of the 1997 prestigious Tour de France bicycle race, is originally from Eastern Germany.

Another possibility for speeding the mental unification of Germany would be the need to respond to a crisis. The worst flooding in a century along the Oder River on the German-Polish border in 1997 caused an outpouring of sympathy and active support to help the people affected by the flooding. Hundreds of volunteers from all over Germany helped to build dikes, evacuate threatened towns and villages and provide food and shelter for displaced flooding victims.

Another possible scenario would be a response to an external threat or challenge. Americans might be reminded of the Spanish-American War in 1898, which provided an opportunity for a country once divided by its Civil War to face a common enemy.

Ten years after the opening of the Berlin Wall, Germany is united politically, but much work remains to be done to heal the internal breach caused by nearly 50 years of separation. ❖

# Global Power Shifts— Not All Change Is Good

*Nations are drifting more and more towards becoming one world, but the result will not be the utopia that many expect!*

by Rod Hall

According to the United Nations, the world is made up of 185 countries today. Some are huge nations and some are tiny. Over the past half century, these basic units that make up our world civilization have all become less dominant, less independent and in many ways less separate than before. The world is converging toward one global system. This is due to many individual factors including new forces created by international economic interests, technological advances and modern political and foreign policy strategies that are streaming in separate powerful rivulets like mighty rivers converging toward a common destination—one global community.

As it has become easier and cheaper to move goods from one place to another, the lingering belief in national self-sufficiency has weakened. Almost every country now buys from abroad a larger proportion of what it consumes than it did 50 years ago and a far bigger share of the world's capital is owned by multinational companies, operating freely across national borders.

With this economic revolution comes a more united yet unstable world. William Greider in his book *One World Ready or Not* summarizes our rush to economic change. "Economic revolution, similar to the impulse of political revolution, liberates masses of people and at the same time projects new aspects of tyranny. Old worlds are destroyed and new ones emerge. The past is up-ended and new social values are created alongside the fabulous new wealth" (1997, p. 11).

While Greider urges individual nations to strive to regain some of their economic control, he also realizes this is unlikely. "Economic difficulties are immense, but the real question involved in stabilizing the globalized financial system is about political power. Who shall govern these important matters, governments or private markets? Finance capital wants government to get out of the way and

let the markets rule, but global capital needs old-fashioned national governments much more than it acknowledges. If the nation-state loses its authority to govern, who will protect the sanctity of property rights or rescue capital owners in a market crisis? Without trustworthy national governments, who will issue money that people can trust...? Governments, in essence, must reclaim the governing obligations of the nation-state from private markets... But it is the major governments, of course, that are as yet unwilling to consider any measure to moderate the effects of financial liberalization" (ibid., pp. 256, 317, 319).

## **Military Changes More Dramatic**

In military matters the changes that flow from technological advances are even more dramatic. Until about 60 years ago, the only way in which one country could successfully use force to impose its will on another was to defeat its soldiers on the ground. Between two countries of approximately equal strength, that could be a long and hazardous business. Nations often worked hard to maintain peace and made alliances, especially among their closest neighbors.

Today, smart bombs, intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarines and long-range bombers, can all deliver powerful conventional, nuclear, chemical or biological weapons across borders anywhere in the world. At the push of a button a region in a sovereign country can erupt in war. Nations are searching for more effective ways to maintain the peace, relying on the United Nations and other international groups and associations for support.

The third technology-based challenge to the power of the old nation-state is the information revolution. People in different countries now have the means to know far more about each other. They can see news instantaneously, share cultures and

*Over the past half century, nations, the basic units that make up our world civilization, have all become less dominant, less independent and in many ways less separate than before.*

enjoy international entertainment via television. Radio signals from neighboring regions can inform as well as share culturally specific music, ideas and interests. They can argue about politics or share information about their neighbors on the Internet or on ever-cheaper telephones and cell phones. As knowledge is more easily transmitted across borders, the distinctiveness of nations grows less sharply defined.

Greider summarizes the emerging new world order. "But the essence of what is forming now is an economic system of interdependence designed to ignore the prerogatives of nations, even the most powerful ones" (ibid., p. 17). A comment in *The Economist* article titled "The Shape of the World," captures the effects these rivulets of technological change have had on the nation-state. "The wondrous machine of global revolution is oscillating out of control, widening the arcs of social and economic instabilities in its wake.... The nation-state is not what it used to be, ignored by the global money markets, condescended to by great multinational corporations, at the mercy of intercontinental missiles, the poor thing can only look back with nostalgia to its days of glory" (January 5, 1996, p. 17).

### New Worldview

The rushing of our world toward one global community is not the result of economic and technological forces alone. A new worldview among many leading politicians affects their governments' foreign policy. This changed ideology now plays a big part in reshaping our world.

Charles Krauthammer, in a speech at the Manhattan Institute, said many foreign policy experts in high administration advisory positions are strong advocates of three principles that underlie many of the actions we see being made in America and other leading nations.

He cites internationalism, legalism and humanitarianism as having an especially strong impact on American foreign policy efforts over the last two presidential terms. "Taken together, these three reflect a vision of the world that is coherent, consistent, and dangerously at odds with the realities of the international system. It is truly a world imagined" (*The*

*New Republic*, March 15, 1999, p. 22).

Internationalism is the belief in the moral, legal and strategic primacy of international institutions over mere national interests. Krauthammer foresees a problem with enforcement as international institutions take primacy over national interests. "The international arena is a state of nature with no enforcer and no universally recognized norms. Anarchy is kept in check, today as always, not by some hollow bureaucracy on the East River, but by the will and power of the Great Powers, and today, in particular, of the one great superpower" (ibid., p. 22).

Legalism is the belief that the sinews of stability are laws, treaties and binding international contracts that can domesticate the international arena. Therefore the main work of foreign policy is to sign pieces of parchment. "At root, the idea is to transcend power politics with a regulated system of agreements that creates new norms, obligations, and constraints on the behavior of otherwise lawless nations.... But this is hopelessly utopian. The basic difference between the international system and domestic society is that in domestic society there exists a monopoly of the means of coercion, an enforcer, a sovereign. There is generally also a preexisting community of norms" (ibid., p. 23).

James Hirszen, Ph.D., in his book *The Coming Collision—Global Law vs. U.S. Liberties*, indicates that the intricate web of international agreements currently being woven will change existing norms and affect our personal liberties. "Because international law activity takes place on the global stage, it seems very distant from matters that typically concern most people in their daily lives. International law generally manifests itself in the form of treaties. Most people think that treaties deal exclusively with relations among nations. Yet the treaties that are being crafted by internationalists deal specifically with some of the most intimate and private details of our existence, including family relationships, public education, and religious beliefs" (1999, p. 9).

Humanitarianism is the belief that the primary world role of the leading nations of the world is, to quote Madeleine Albright upon her swearing-in as ambassador to the United Nations, "to terminate

the abominable injustices and conditions that still plague civilization."

In private conduct, altruism is the ideal. However, for nations living among aggressive, powerful potential foes it can be disastrous, Krauthammer says. "Nations are not individuals. They live in a state of nature with no higher authority to protect them. If they do not protect themselves, they die. Ignoring one's interests, reacting in fits of altruism, is an invitation to a ruinous squandering of blood and treasure.... But what holds the international arena together—what keeps it from degenerating into total anarchy—is not a central authority, not the phony security of treaties, and not the best of goodwill among the nicer nations. What stability we do enjoy is owed to the overwhelming power and deterrent threat of a superpower like the United States that defines international stability as a national interest" (op. cit., *The New Republic*, p. 25).

### A Perfect World?

These ideals are "dangerously at odds with the realities of the international system" (ibid., p. 25). Why? Because this world is a dangerous place, and its nations are not inclined to set aside their self-interests in a way that will result in peace.

God has from the very beginning opposed human efforts to unite into one global community based on mankind's flawed reasoning (Genesis 11:1–9).

One of the main reasons God set up nation-states by family lines is to avoid the massive fighting and destruction that would be the result of man left to his own devices. Globalism is having the same effect today as it did thousands of years ago. "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them" (Genesis 11:6). But God will intervene before humanity destroys itself. The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of God, Christ and the saints, with true peace and prosperity (Revelation 11:15; 5:10). In the meantime we need to be doing the Work of God, watching and praying so these things will not come upon us as a thief in the night (Matthew 24:42–46). ❖

# Review of *The Abolition of Britain*

*A review of journalist Peter Hitchens' book, The Abolition of Britain, published by Quartet Books, London, 1999, 351 pages.*

by John Ross Schroeder

**P**eter Hitchens is a journalist and columnist with 20 years service on *The Daily Express* in London. He has spent the last 20 years plumbing the soul of Britain. He has found aspects of the process enormously disappointing. Especially in the last two decades he discovered a deep shift in the British people's way of life.

## **Unwelcome Changes in Family Life**

Family life is right at the top of some very unwelcome changes. Social activities have shifted dramatically from the home to the workplace. Children dress as miniature adults rather than children. They are more loyal to peers than their own parents.

At the time of Sir Winston Churchill's death in January of 1965, "93% of British marriages, including Churchill's own, endured to the grave." Now the United Kingdom's divorce rate leads all of Europe, and the British easily outdistance their nearest European rivals in the number of illegitimate children. Very questionable distinctions.

At the time of writing this review, the press reported a 26-year-old who is now a grandmother. Her 12-year-old daughter recently gave birth. Apparently the grandmother's ex-boyfriend is the father.

The efficacy of the Anglican Church itself depends upon stable families and lasting marriages to pass on its faith and traditions. As one

famous British novelist wrote during the mid-1930s (quoted by Hitchens): "Making marriage in any serious degree unstable, dissoluble, destroys the permanency of marriage, and the church falls. Witness the enormous decline in the Church of England [this was back in the '30s—a drop in the bucket when compared to present conditions]. The reason being that the church is established upon the element of union in mankind.... The marriage-tie, the marriage-bond, take it which way you like, is the fundamental link in Christian society. Break it, and you will have to go back to the overwhelming dominance of the State."

The decline of the Anglican Church has been the subject of many a crisis-charged meeting within its own bureaucracy. No official attendance figures have been released within the last few years. It is greatly feared that the numbers may have dropped below one million for the first time in its long history. Observers say that some "creative accounting" appears to be necessary.

## **The Decline of Belief in Britain**

It is a well-known fact that belief in God has been going down in Britain for a very long time. Peter Hitchens adds his own comments to this continuing phenomenon:

"Charles Darwin's theory of evolution has provided a popular scientific theory which allows millions to expel

God from the world. A world without God meant no punishment for sin, and therefore no sin. This was an attractive idea to many, in an age where man appeared to be about to do everything and overcome anything.

"If the physical world had limitless possibilities, why should human behaviour be limited by dusty and unwelcome prescriptions from ancient times? While the church absorbed this blow, the bishops lost their grip on the schools, one of their few [remaining] strongholds, as the state began its long and successful takeover of education."

Anglican Church leaders at the very highest level continually question the most basic beliefs in the Bible. This increases skepticism in the public about what the Anglican Church does believe about the most basic of Bible teachings.

Peter Hitchens writes intelligently about many more subjects than coverage in this short review could allow: the further threat of devolution or transfer of governmental power from London to Scotland and Wales, the influence of American culture (good and bad), the decline in sexual morality, the dumbing-down influence of television, etc.

The author may not be right about everything, but his views are well worth considering given our own very firm concerns about sharply declining values and standards in the Western world (Ezekiel 9:4). ❖

# In Brief...

## World News Review

### Canal Returns to Panama

On December 31, 1999, the United States will formally hand over total control of the Panama Canal and withdraw its troops from the canal zone. This is in accordance with the treaty ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1977.

The canal has been a vital sea link for the United States, saving military and commercial ships the long trek around Cape Horn. More than 15 percent of goods imported into and exported out of the U.S. pass through the canal.

A major concern over continued free access to the canal comes from the fact that Panama has granted a Chinese company, Hutchison Whampoa, Ltd., a 25-year concession to operate the Atlantic and Pacific entrances. Because Hutchison has ties to the Chinese Communist Party it is feared this important waterway could come under the control of China. American leaders fear that U.S. naval ships could be denied access to the canal at a time of international crisis (*Forbes*, October 4, 1999).

### Austria and Switzerland Move Right

Today left-of-center governments dominate much of Western and Central Europe. However, there are signs of a movement towards the far right in certain European states.

Most alarming is the recent emergence of Jorg Haider's Freedom Party as the second largest political force in the Austrian legislature. He is known for his pro-Nazi pronouncements and qualified praise of Hitler. More recently, Haider has been in London trying to silence alarm bells in the West in reaction to his controversial statements about the Third Reich. The response in Israel was immediate. Jerusalem threatened to sever diplomatic relations with Austria if Jorg Haider is permitted to join the coalition government.

Three weeks after Austrian voters had boosted the ultra right, neighboring Switzerland seems set to follow suit. Polls show that Christopher Blocher's extreme Swiss People's Party is likely to finish second in upcoming elections, which would place him in a position to play a significant role in a future coalition government. He is known for his highly controversial views about the Holocaust.

Perhaps much less serious is the case of Emin Xhinovci, a fierce fighter with the recently disbanded Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). He recently opened a bar in Mitrovica, Northern Kosovo known as the *Pizzeria Hitleri* complete with a promi-

nent swastika, which French NATO troops promptly removed. Coupled with his pro-Nazi pronouncements, Xhinovci has attracted attention by deliberately enhancing his physical likeness to Adolph Hitler. Reporters say general reaction by international authorities has been weak and muted (*The Guardian*, *Sunday Times*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *Independent on Sunday*, *Daily Mail*, all London).

### Jerusalem Should Be Returned, Says Jordan's King

BEIRUT (AFP)—Jerusalem is "occupied" Palestinian land which should be returned to the Palestinians, Jordan's King Abdullah II said in a magazine interview.

"Jerusalem is for us occupied Palestinian land," said the king, but without specifying whether he was referring to the city as a whole or its Arab eastern sector. "It is regarded as the same as any other occupied Palestinian land and we are backing our Palestinian brothers to enable them to regain their complete rights concerning this issue," he said in an interview with the London-based Lebanese weekly *Al-Hawadeth*.

Jerusalem's status is one of the thorniest issues left in the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians (September 15, 1999: The News Channel).

### British Farming—"Worst Crisis Since the Thirties"

"Millions of animals now worthless." "Prices paid to farmers plummet to all-time lows." "No cash for sheep farmers." These are not scare stories, but stark reality. Such newspaper accounts have been around for weeks. British farmers are losing badly on almost everything they breed or grow. Only wheat has escaped the general trend.

Income on the farm is said to have plunged 75 percent in the last three years. Soon hundreds of rural communities could become ghost towns and the farms transformed into caravan (trailer) sites and theme parks.

Overproduction and the cessation of substantial European Union subsidies are the main culprits. Inevitably farms will be lost to families. As Nick Read, Head of Rural Stress Information, recently reported: "The situation is catastrophic and people who have been around for a long time say that the only comparison they can make is the thirties."

The possible long-term significance of these recent developments should not be lost on us. In a future national crisis, a country may need all of her agricultural lands, particularly if the nation is subjugated and starving (*The Independent*, *The Independent on Sunday*, *Daily Mail*, all London).

## Poll: Teens Fear Violent Rampages

NEW YORK (AP)—Half the teenagers in a poll believe a murderous rampage like the killings at Columbine High School could happen in their school. However, 45 percent in *The New York Times*-CBS News Poll believe increased security made their school safe. In the nationwide telephone poll of 1,038 13- to 17-year-olds, 52 percent said they feared a Columbine-style attack could strike their school, despite added security guards, cameras and other safety measures taken.

Yet the poll also found that the measures made the teenagers feel safer. Overall, 45 percent believed their school was safe or extremely safe and 42 percent characterized it as somewhat safe.

## Israel Looks to the Skies

While the arguments go back and forth whether or not Israel's security is threatened by unilateral territorial withdrawal from the administered territories and the Golan Heights, one issue has been studiously glossed over by advocates for territorial concessions: water.

Israel has a water problem. No country can physically exist without sufficient supply of this most vital liquid, and Israel is no exception. Located on the fringe of a desert, Israel is almost wholly dependent on seasonal rainfall for her water supply. Rarely do Israelis experience rainfall outside of a five-month winter season from November through March.

Moreover, Israel has a growing population that maintains a modest level of Western standard of living, where water (for bathing regularly, drinking freely, etc.) is not considered a luxury. Nonetheless, it shouldn't be assumed that Israeli water consumption is extravagant; by Western standards, it is low. Recent figures show that Israeli average annual per capita municipal consumption is less than half of that of domestic consumption in Southern California, for example—a region with similar climatic conditions (Arutz-7 Net Editor, October 8, 1999).

## Back From the Dead

Prehistoric viruses are lying dormant in the polar ice caps—and a bout of warm weather could release them into the atmosphere, sparking new epidemics. This chilling warning follows the discovery, for the first time, of an ancient virus in Arctic ice. The virus, found deep within the Greenland ice pack, is known as a tomato mosaic tobamovirus (ToMV), a common plant pathogen. The discovery suggests that other viruses, such as ancient strains of flu, polio and smallpox, may also be

entombed and could make a comeback. “We don't know the survival rate, or how often they get back into the environment. But it certainly is possible,” says Tom Starmer of Syracuse University in New York.

Starmer's colleagues Scott Rogers and John Castello had earlier found ToMV in clouds and fog. The virus can survive in such environments because it belongs to a family with particularly tough protein coats. “Since it's widespread, moves in the atmosphere and is very stable, we deduced that we would find it in the Arctic ice,” says Rogers. The team says that a brief rise in temperature could unleash the entombed viruses. “The ice is melting constantly around the poles,” says Rogers. If released, they could cause outbreaks of disease (*New Scientist*, by Matt Walker, September 4, 1999).

## Diseases Find Easy Pathways Into U.S.

NEW YORK—A virus from Africa strikes humans and birds in New York. A microbe common in the Caribbean causes dengue fever in the U.S. And that well-known tropical paradise, Minnesota, reports an increasing number of malaria cases. More than ever, public health experts say, the increase in international trade and travel is giving germs far easier means to hop halfway around the world, hitching rides in unsuspecting travelers. These travelers may not get sick until after they have returned home and exposed others to a disease that local doctors have difficulty diagnosing because they've never seen it before.

“In terms of microbes, borders are irrelevant, but they're more irrelevant than ever,” said Dr. Steve Ostroff, acting deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “Things and people move from one country to another with a speed and frequency never before seen, and that's a trend that is just going to continue” (*Chicago Tribune*, by Stevenson Swanson, October 7, 1999).

## APEC, East Timor and the New Asian Reality

The Asia Pacific Economic Forum (APEC) had more important things than economics on the table. Peacekeeping for East Timor, the stability of Indonesia and *security for critical sea lanes*, the China-Taiwan crisis and North Korea missile tests are all key issues. Economics haven't disappeared, but they have been overshadowed by politico-military issues.

The stunning fact is that where Africa has the Organization of African Unity, Asia has no regional security framework. Asia fantasized that they would never need one, that perpetual economic growth would keep politico-military uncertainty at bay. Asia has hit reality at APEC. Asia is a normal part of the world. The only number Asia used to care about was the growth rate. Now APEC has to focus on another number: the casualty rate (Stratfor.com, September 13, 1999).

*Contributors: Peter Eddington, Darris McNeely, Cecil Maramville, John Ross Schroeder*

“WAR,” (Continued from page 16)

## Meet “Short but Old”

The story continues by spotlighting the plight of Abibu Gandoh. During his eight months in rebel captivity, he learned how to assemble, dismantle and shoot an AK-47 assault rifle. Nicknamed “Short but Old,” the illiterate 10-year-old was kidnapped from his home and forced to lug ammunition to the front and fight. To numb his nerves, he was given marijuana and hard liquor before each attack.

Young Abibu recounts, “Sometimes we would kill some soldiers or capture their weapons.” Remember, he’s only 10 years old! His diet consisted of dog meat soup, wild snails and snakes, which most likely contributed to his bout with intestinal worms. The same rebels who killed his parents turned him into their pawn to do their bidding.

“In terms of child-soldiering, Sierra Leone is among the worst,” said Olara Otunnu, U.N. special representative for children and armed conflict, after a recent visit to the nation. While some children, like David, volunteered to join the insurrection, others were kidnapped by rebels and forced to fight, kill and commit atrocities.

Last January alone, about 3,000 youngsters between the ages of 5 and 18 were reported missing during a rebel offensive against Freetown, the capital. Human rights officials maintain the children were kidnapped. Imagine these modern day Pied Pipers leading children off, not with flutes full of promises, but with machine guns full of terror.

We in the West are reared with such literature as *David Copperfield* and *Anthony Adverse*. But such Dickensian classics illustrating the grime, grit and woe of children during Britain’s industrial revolution of the mid-1800s take a back seat to this outright demolition of the human spirit. These children were not simply hauling coal, but hauling bodies! It’s both a crime against humanity and a sin against God.

The words of Christ keep ringing in my ears. “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!” (Matthew 18:6–7).

Make no mistake and consider deeply. God does not take lightly the mistreatment of children.

## They Have a “Lot of Baggage”

Long ago, philosopher Edmund Burke stated, “War never leaves, where it finds a nation.” Simmons verifies that timeless sentiment by reporting, “The war in Sierra Leone is over for now, but thousands of civilians suffered brutal amputations as the rebels spread their terror. The future remains perilous. The just announced peace pact presented by the new administration addresses the special needs of child combatants as it tackles disarmament, demobilization and re-integration. Weaning child soldiers, who committed some of the war’s worst atrocities, from a diet of indiscipline and violence and bringing them back into society is one of Sierra Leone’s most difficult and pressing challenges.”

Regarding the re-integration of children warriors, social worker Roisin De Burca soberly observed that “the child that left is not the child who’s coming back. They have a lot of baggage. Just saying, ‘welcome back’ is not enough.”

What is to be done? Reporter Simmons fills in the details.

## The Precious Key of Education

The people of Sierra Leone believe that education is the key! Kingsley Amaning, a representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees,

warned, “Many of these young people have lost the sense of the meaning of life.”

Arthur Tucker, a local social worker who counsels David and scores of others, echoed Amaning’s concerns. “There is going to be so much trouble in Sierra Leone if these boys are not taken care of.... We need to get them to do something immediately.”

These officials may not know that they are implementing a powerful biblical principle. “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). God does not operate in a “vacuum of inaction” and neither can nations or individuals. Remember the old childhood chant of “out goes the bad air, in goes the good.” Choking on the foul air of civil war, Sierra Leone is striving to do just that.



*Child amputees at Netland Hospital in Sierra Leone.  
Photo by U.S. Embassy staff*

The country's infrastructure is a shambles. Education is a privilege. Employment is a luxury, even for adults. Local observers believe that education is key to saving their "lost young souls."

Simmons mentions the thoughts and frustrations of Paul Kamara, editor of *For Di People*, a Freetown daily, who tells it like it is. "The youth have been marginalized by successive governments. Education has been a privilege, not a right, and this created a youth body who, because they were illiterate, have been used on both sides of the divide."

Under terms of the new peace agreement, the new government is obliged to provide at least nine years of free and compulsory education.

### Where Does the Cleanup Really Begin?

The same U.N. agency that offers counseling, education and training in social skills, has encouraged the practice of traditional cleansing rituals to absolve the children of crimes. In reading this, while recognizing the sincerity of local customs, I had to ask the big question: "How much will the water really scrub away?"

The great Russian author Tolstoy long ago made an astute observation. He said, "Drain the blood from men's veins and put water in instead, and there will be no more war." He recognized that the problem lies deep within the nature of man!

Your Bible recognizes this as well. James 4:1-2 pinpoints the source of the problem. "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war."

James was just amplifying what Christ had initially taught His disciples. The Jewish religious community of His day was also sincerely involved in traditional scrubbings and cleansings. The object lesson this time was over utensils such as pitchers and cups. A lot of energy and time and, yes, education was devoted to this tradition-laden practice.

Concluding His lesson in Mark 7:21-23, Christ boldly proclaimed, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil

things come from within and defile a man." Surface cleaning is simply not enough.

### Why Always the Children?

Robert E. Lee, the American Civil War general, once said upon viewing the carnage of the previous day's battle, "It is well that war is so horrible, lest we should grow fond of it." Consider Isaiah 4:1, "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, 'We will eat our own food and wear our own apparel; only let us be called by your name, to take away our reproach.'" This verse indicates that in the future there could be a devastating shortage of adult men, whether through war, famine or pestilence. Who will take their place on the front lines? Could it be the children?

Beyond this time of woe, the good news is found in Isaiah 2:3-4. A marvelous training facility will draw people from around the world. An academy for world peace! An institution for human survival! Not a West Point, or a Sandhurst, or a jungle barracks in some far-off country. People are going to be "trained in peace." I truly believe there is going to be a disproportionately large number of children among them.

Are you preparing and planning, now, like the citizens of Sierra Leone? Another Sgt. David Samai and another "Short but Old," and countless others like them, will say, "'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.'... Neither shall they learn war anymore."

Meanwhile, a young lad in Sierra Leone named David, who for such a long time was bored and could only think of returning to "the bush," is now considering vocational car repair training. And the young man nicknamed "Short but Old," whose mother named him Abibu, is considering becoming a mechanical engineer one day. For now, especially after a civil war, there are more than a few cars to repair and a nation to rebuild.

In their own way the people of Sierra Leone, including David and Abibu, say to us: "This is the way. We've got to start somewhere, somehow, and our time is now." To the reading audience, our time is also now. Maybe we just need to be reminded of it. By the way, "Do you know where your child is tonight?" ♦



*Sierra Leonean refugees waiting for transport to a refugee camp after walking to Guinea. Photo by Bill Christopher, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Refugees*

# This Is the Way...

# “Neither Shall They Learn War Anymore”

by Robin Webber

**P**arents are often confronted with the attention-grabbing question, “Do you know where your child is tonight?” Normally, this question is raised to shock or jolt parents into remembering their responsibilities. But tonight there are many parents around this globe who will not be able to answer that penetrating question. They simply don’t know the location of their children because of the ravages of war. This month I want to share with you the very real and heart-rending dilemma of little boys in a small country with big problems. This faraway tragedy has very near and dear consequences for every Christian.

These young and precious lives came to light in the article “Saving Sierra Leone’s Ex-Child Soldiers” in the *Los Angeles Times* October 18, 1999. *Times* staff writer Ann M. Simmons paints a sobering picture of how children were “used up” by adults in the midst of a civil war and how a devastated society is trying to rehabilitate these “veterans” of war—the best they know how.

## Meet Sergeant David Samai

Simmons sets a tone of understanding by writing:

“The crackle of gunfire, the pride of being in charge, the experience of attacking a village and being allowed to keep some of the spoils. This is what used to give David Samai a thrill. He ran away from home at age 12 to join forces fighting to overthrow the government of Sierra Leone. By the time he was 14 he had been promoted to sergeant, primarily in charge of other young combatants and fighting alongside some of the toughest, most notorious rebel commanders in one of Africa’s cruelest conflicts.”

David’s reaction? “‘It was fun to be in the bush,’ recalled the scrawny, deceptively reserved teenager with deep-set eyes, now unhappy living with his adoptive parents. ‘I liked being a sergeant.’”

Sgt. David, as he was popularly known, is among thousands of children who either volunteered or were forced to join the ranks of the rebel army during this West African nation’s eight-year civil war. But this portrait stretches far beyond the framework of one person or country. The United Nations says about 300,000 children under age 18 are serving as regular soldiers, guerrilla fighters, scouts, laborers, human shields and sex slaves in conflicts raging in over 50 countries.

(See “**WAR**,” page 14)