



WORLD NEWS and PROPHECY

Biblical Perspectives on Current Events

May 1999

Vol. 2, No. 4

After Kosovo — What Then?

Now that the alliance, while celebrating its 50th anniversary, has used its troops to help resolve another nation's internal problems, which country will be next?

by Melvin Rhodes

In hindsight, wars are often turning points in world history. They alter the balance of power, boundaries are redrawn, leaders are replaced and peoples are uprooted. As it has been throughout history so it will be with Kosovo. Perceptions take time to change, but there will be significant changes over Kosovo.

Clear signals have been sent by allies America and Britain that ground troops will likely not be used in future conflicts, except in short minor wars. This could have grave consequences and not only in the immediate situation. Imagine if, in World War II, Churchill and Roosevelt had stated at the onset of hostilities that they would

not use ground troops in their attempt to defeat the Axis powers. The reluctance to use ground forces was compounded by announcements on both sides of the Atlantic that they would not be used—sending a message to Serbia's leadership that there was a limit to what the NATO alliance would do to try to defeat them. Lessons from the last conflict in the Balkans seem to have been lost—it wasn't western air power that defeated the Bosnian Serbs against the Moslems earlier this decade, but Croatian ground forces helped by allied air power.

Television has made ground wars less likely as public opinion could not

stomach the nightly coverage of carnage and of body bags arriving back on home soil. Opinion among voters is always fickle with people quickly changing their minds on the issues of the day. This has long been the case, predating television. In 1876 public opinion in Britain was antagonistic toward the Turks after atrocities they committed against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, (the scene of more atrocities earlier this decade at the hands of Serbia's present leadership). Less than two years later the same public was supporting the Turks against the Russians who had come to the aid of their Slav brothers in the

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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

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: Dick Marr, United Church of God, P.O. Box 10-577, Nadi, Fiji

FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS: Église de Dieu Unie, association internationale, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A.

GERMANY: Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 30 15 09, D-53195 Bonn, Germany. Phone: 0228 - 9454636 Fax: 0228 - 9454637
E-mail: 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

SOUTH AFRICA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 4345, 2125 Randburg, South Africa
Phone: 011 886-4650 Fax: 011 886-7610

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

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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.

"KOSOVO," (Continued from page 1)

Balkans. A former British Foreign Secretary wondered at the time how any democratic government could possibly have a foreign policy "if within 18 months the great majority of them are found asking for things which are directly contradictory."

Public opinion is now sympathetic to the Kosovar Albanians who have been ruthlessly evicted from their country. Seen nightly on television the scenes are reminiscent of the Holocaust almost 60 years ago and naturally have stirred the emotions of people throughout the world. But what happens after the refugees have been resettled

and there is no more TV coverage of their plight? The bombing of Serbia will doubtless continue for some time with greater coverage of the plight of "innocent" victims killed, maimed, or left homeless by NATO's state of the art technology. Public opinion could soon turn against the allied effort to defeat Serbia with people claiming that the people should not suffer for the sins of their leaders.

Little Support for Ground War

It was difficult enough fighting wars overseas 50 or 100 years ago, but today's news coverage makes it much more difficult for western governments. Added to this is the lower birth rate in North America and western Europe. A century ago most families had six, seven or eight children, half of them statistically boys. If one boy was lost fighting for his country, they still had two or three to continue the family farm and support the parents in their old age. Today, most couples have two children and many only one. Parents will naturally be reluctant to risk the life of their one son fighting in a conflict thousands of miles away that they find difficult to understand. In effect, Britain and the United States want to win wars without any loss of life, unrealistic if you want to win.

Not since World War II have the major western allies (the U.S. and Britain) won a major ground war. Britain won its war against Argentina over the Falkland Islands, part of which was fought on the ground, but the war was over quickly before opinion back home turned against government policy.

"According to one estimate, the Gulf War temporarily or permanently displaced 5.5 million people. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) last year reckoned there were 12 million refugees around the world, as well as 1 million asylum seekers, 3.5 [million] recently returned refugees and millions more displaced within their own countries. At least 3.2[million] Palestinians are still classified as refugees. In Iran alone, some 2 [million] refugees—from Afghanistan and Iraq—live in border camps. Well over 1 [million] Afghans have sheltered in Pakistan since 1979" (*The Economist*, April 4, 1999).

In the Persian Gulf conflict ground forces were only used after a long bombing campaign. Iraqi troops fled before the allied forces so casualties were minimal and the fighting was over in a few days. Even then, eight years ago, it was decided not to go deeper into Iraq to find and arrest the Iraqi leadership—partly out of concern of losing too many young men. As

a result of this hesitancy over the deployment of ground forces Iraq still poses the same threat as it did before the Gulf War. Great numbers of servicemen and much military hardware are still in the Gulf in case of more trouble from Iraq. If the problem had been resolved completely in 1991 those forces would now be free for use elsewhere.

When British public opinion was seen to be in favor of the use of ground troops, the BBC pointed out that Britain already had 62 percent of its forces committed outside the country itself. If another 20 percent or so were sent to the Balkans there

would be few left behind to handle any emergency at home.

Gone are the days when "five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight" (Leviticus 26:8), a consequence of obedience to Almighty God. Rather we now see the lack of the "mighty man and the man of war...the captain of fifty and the honorable man" (Isaiah 3:2-3).

Leviticus chapter 26 shows clearly the connection between obedience to God and the resultant blessings, and disobedience and the coming curses. One of the blessings for obedience that God gives is many children (verse 9). While the peoples of the western democracies have limited the size of their families, the populations of many coun-

tries have been increasing at a very high rate. This has put western nations at a considerable disadvantage, leaving advanced technology as the only way to win wars, if they can be won this way.

Defense Spending and Recruitment Down

Military recruitment is down in the U.S. and Britain, the
(See "KOSOVO," page 9)



The Death of Innocence

Terrorism continues to strike America's schools. How can we understand such tragedy?

by Darris McNeely

Evil manifested itself on a spring morning at a high school in Littleton, Colorado, last month. In its wake is a community trying to grasp another act of terrorism in America.

Two teens dressed in black garb and loaded with weapons and bombs walked into Littleton's Columbine High School on April 19 and began shooting students and faculty at random. When it was over 13 were dead and approximately 25 wounded. The two teens also died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

At the first news of the shooting you thought, "Oh no, not again! Another school shooting." Then there was the inevitable live coverage from CNN telling us that another school in America had suffered an act of violence on its grounds. We are shocked, we ask "Why?", and "How could this happen here?"

It is being called the "deadliest school massacre" in American history. That very phrase defines a chilling epoch of modern society that is hard to grasp and understand. Instead of safe places of learning for children have schools become the stages upon which the cancers of our age erupt with frightening regularity?

Consider what has happened in American public schools in the past 19 months. In nine separate shooting incidents at least 29 students and faculty have been killed while 70 others were wounded. They have occurred in the south, the west and the north, in middle class neighborhoods. The perpetrators have been as young as 11 years old up to age 18. The motives are varied. One of the killers said he "had no choice but to

do it," others had no explanation for their crime. In at least two of the cases the shooters were members of fringe cult-like groups.

Early reports from the Littleton, Colorado, shooting described the two students responsible for the shooting as members of an outcast group known as the "trench-coat Mafia." They did not fit into the mainstream life of the school and were known to have a fascination with guns and an obsession with death. In exiting this life their anger gathered many inno-

for his daughter was advised to buy his home in Littleton. "Littleton is the safest suburb in Denver," he was told. I talked with him the day after the shootings and like the whole city he was stunned at what happened. He had just come from a meeting with a group of counselors, men who were trained at talking people through such a crisis, and he said that these men were at a loss to comprehend and explain why this tragedy occurred.

And that is the crux of the matter. All of the professional training and all of the knowledge offers little understanding and hope through such an event. Senior students at this school were less than three weeks from graduation. Memories of those happy days are now permanently clouded. Having lived through a manic assault on decency and order these students may never fully recover. Like veterans of war this experience will be tucked into mental closets, always there, kept behind a closed door that hides the trauma and horror of witnessing a life extinguished before its time.

Christ said the end of the age would see a period of desensitizing resulting in the "love of many waxing cold" (Matthew 24:12). The apostle Paul described the end times as brutal and its people having little self-control (2 Timothy 3:1-3). No one can deny there are deep structural problems in American society, which contribute to a sense of hopelessness and frustration in some of our youth. Despite the efforts of good people to address these ills, an effective solution has not been found. Could it be because the nation has rejected the word of God?

Like veterans of war this experience will be tucked into mental closets, always there, kept behind a closed door that hides the trauma and horror of witnessing a life extinguished before its time.

cent victims in its grasp, and left permanent scars upon the minds of friends and family.

How Could This Happen?

So many ask how could this happen? This Denver suburb is considered to be the safest in the area. I have a friend who relocated to Denver a few years ago and when looking for a good community with quality schools

Isaiah's description of Israel applies today. "Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the LORD; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him. Why should you be beaten any more? Why do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness—only wounds and bruises and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil" (Isaiah 1:4–6, NIV).

Something Fundamentally Wrong

When so many acts of terror in schools keep occurring it means that something is fundamentally wrong with society. God lays the blame on those who have turned away from Him and do not consider His righteous teachings. In Ezekiel 34 He states that the leaders of the land have led people away from true paths of righteousness. God is calling out for the nation to repent and turn to Him. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). We need to understand that there is an evil spiritual being, Satan the Devil, who walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may destroy (1 Peter 5:8). We must not be ignorant of his devices. God has given us the power to overcome this present evil age.

In His ministry Christ confronted Satan and his demons on numerous occasions. He clearly understood the impact this evil spirit has within the world. On one occasion Christ called

Satan a murderer and the father of lies (John 8:44). He said that Satan "does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him." Called by Paul "the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), Satan works as "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2). He and his demons can influence events and trends in this world. The Scriptures also show that they can possess individuals and force them into irrational and self-destructive

Satan and his cohort of demons will continue to influence the course of events in the entire world, leading up to the crisis at the close. The political and religious system called Babylon which will dominate the world is said to be the "habitation of demons" (Revelation 18:2). His influence and spirit will not be quenched until a powerful angel throws him into the restraint of the bottomless pit. Then, and only then, will the earth be at peace. The message of the Day of Atonement points God's people to this event.

Christ told His followers to pray for deliverance "from the evil one" (Matthew 6:13). Daily we should ask God for the protection of His angels around us. Divine safety is a promise we can claim. Only God's shield of protection prevents the unrestrained march of evil through the world.

How Can Such Evil Be Explained?

How then do we explain and come to an understanding of such an evil event as the recent school shooting in Colorado? A few years ago I read a story told by a criminal psychologist who dealt with hardened criminals imprisoned and awaiting trial. His job was to interview and evaluate those who had committed heinous crimes and try to determine why they committed them. Working for the defense and the state his mission was to find some psychological explanation that could keep a jury from giving the death penalty.

He listened to their stories of alcoholic parents, physical and sexual

(See "KILLING," page 8)



actions (Mark 5:1–20).

Evil, flowing from the mind of Satan, periodically intrudes the thin veneer of our cultured society and visits its wrath on an unsuspecting and deceived world. It finds a breeding pool within the pockets of social decay around the world. The difference in destruction is only by degree—whether it is hundreds of thousands of ethnic Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda or 12 teenagers and a teacher in Colorado.

Sharp Rise in Teenage Promiscuity Afflicts Britain

by John Ross Schroeder

As many as 150,000 British girls have been infected with a sexually transmissible disease primarily transmitted by promiscuous sexual activity. Many teenage girls don't even know that they have it. This disease among girls has soared by 56 percent in the last two years with 100,000 more likely to catch it in the next year. The worst thing about this particular disease is the serious threat to their future fertility.

The *Daily Mail* has looked at the problem and summed up the British plight very well: "How have we allowed sex to become such a threat to the future of the family?" Well put, and

The Liberal Sex Lobby Betrayed our Children

"As the father of two daughters I read with dismay the latest proposals by the Royal College of Nursing that girls as young as 11 should be given free access to contraception including the 'morning-after' pill—without the knowledge of their parents. This is the most irresponsible suggestion yet to emanate from the 'sex lobby,' who conspire to betray the protection given to children under the law and the rights of parents.

"It is a sad indictment of our amoral society that, after 30-plus years of increasing sex education in British schools, we appear to have succeeded only in producing one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancies in the Western world, and an associated rise in sexually transmitted diseases."

—D.T., Lancashire (quoted from *The Daily Mail*, March 13, 1999)

a good question with a very simple answer. Because those responsible have *not* brought up our youth to keep the Ten Commandments. Their religious and moral education has been sadly neglected by those who ought to know better.

Virtually untaught by the clergy and by their parents, today thousands of young girls gamble with their precious capacity to have children. This should not be so.

Young women should be able to look forward in hope to that special time in their lives. Obedience to the biblical commandments intended to protect family life is designed to prevent the tragedies afflicting our youth today. That is why the Bible underscores the value of motherhood and morality, acting in tandem.

The Curse of Chlamydia

The offending disease is called chlamydia, one of the most easily transmitted of all STDs. Perhaps 70 percent of those females infected develop no symptoms. But if untreated the bacteria can lie dormant for months before passing through the cervix and possibly inflaming and blocking the Fallopian tubes, down which a woman's eggs must travel. The damage done is often permanent, rendering the victim unable to bear children.

Although boys (now in sharply increasing numbers) also contract and of course transmit the disease, the long-term health consequences are much less serious because symptoms soon emerge and treatment is generally demanded. Nonetheless, this trend is still very serious as *The*

Daily Mail observed: "Between 1995 and 1997, cases of chlamydia in 16 to 19-year-old boys rose by 57 percent and cases of gonorrhea by nearly 55 percent." These are staggering figures from the Office for National Statistics and they are caused by the wild growth of teenage promiscuity in Britain.

Among both girls and boys in the 16 to 19 age groups, one in five admitted having two or more intimate partners in the preceding year. One in 20 girls said they had sexual relations with four or more male partners in the last year. With no apologies, one professional 19-year-old said she had ten male partners in a year's time with half of those liaisons being so-called "one-night stands."

The statistical office revealed that right along with growing promiscuity is an alarming lack of awareness of the dangers of various sexually transmissible diseases.

Moral Guidance Needed

However, it is encouraging that more adults are beginning to wake up to the unwanted effects of allowing teenagers almost unlimited sexual freedom, while giving them little or no moral guidance.

The Ten Commandments is one of the most popular booklets published by the United Church of God. Perhaps no other non-serial publication is needed more in Britain at this particular time. If you don't yet have your personal copy, please write or telephone our office nearest you.

Source: *The Daily Mail*, March 16, 1999. ♦

Wanted — Parents Who Show Their Children How to Live

This generation has mortgaged the morality of the next, and struggles for a way to comfort itself.

by Cecil E. Maranville

Conservative author Peggy Noonan wrote a commanding and powerful editorial for the *Wall Street Journal* of April 22, 1999, in response to the violent murders at Columbine High School. Drawing an analogy with fish that swim in deep waters without any choice about their environment, she questions if people realize that today's children exist in an "ocean" of the wrong way to live—and have no more choice than the fish.

Many adults assume that because they have "turned out OK" the children of today will likewise have the good sense to throw off the evil influences of their environment. "But they never had a normal culture against which to balance the newer, sicker one. They have no reference points to...normality. We assume they know what we know: 'This is not right.' But why would they know that? The water in which they swim is the only water they've known" (*ibid.*, emphasis added throughout).

For selfish reasons, the present generation has excused itself from its responsibility to adequately prepare its children for life. It has taken pride in becoming an "enlightened" society that is remarkably creative in excusing itself from individual responsibility for its actions, that hesitates to be too specific about expected behavior lest it infringe upon "the rights" of all creatures.

Adults are able to survive the pleasure-binge mentality of the present culture because *they* have some foundation in the right way to live, thanks to their parents or grandparents. In selfish

shortsightedness, they claim that this sick culture of violence is okay, not realizing that they are mortgaging the morality of the next generation. In short, children do not know how to live right if they do not see how to live right.

The Lesson Eludes Many

Many would-be healers have come forward in the aftermath of Columbine's tragedy, advising that the lesson to our society is that we need to "listen to our children." "They have something to say." "They are basically good." All true, but pabulum. No reasonable person would disagree with these suggestions. But they miss the point, and unless many get the point and do something about it, *the worst is yet to come*.

Children need to be led, parented. Parenting means adequately equipping children to be able to live their own lives and eventually to bring up their own families. *But before they can do that*, parents must come to grip with the fact that they have a serious responsibility—a responsibility that too many are leaving unfulfilled. Parents must themselves know the way of life that is right, shun the way of life that is wrong, and then teach the right to their children *by their examples*. Sure, it needs to be done in the context of a loving environment, in the context of listening to them, in the context of respecting them for their unique talents and abilities.

But until parents *live godly lives*, they will not produce children that are

In selfish shortsightedness, they claim that this sick culture of violence is okay, not realizing that they are mortgaging the morality of the next generation. In short, children do not know how to live right if they do not see how to live right.

upstanding citizens. To the contrary, children will be swept in whatever direction the current of “the ocean” of our evil culture carries them.

Who will counter the present culture, asks Noonan? “The *good parents* and good families of our children. They are kind enough, sensitive enough to give them religious belief, the knowledge of a God, the sense that life has coherence and purpose. They are generous enough, and loyal enough to the future, to show through their actions that doing your best to show love is good, doing your work is good, contributing is good. ‘This is *what we do*,’ they do not [only] say but [they also] show. ‘*This is how to live*’” (*ibid.*).

Is Noonan overly optimistic about the existence of enough “good parents” to make a difference? Perhaps, but she is certainly on the right track. In advising the people of Israel how to preserve the prosperity of their nation, God told them: “You shall teach [My Commandments] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:7–9).

Here is a dramatic portrayal of that “ocean,” the broad environment in which our children live. “Doorposts” is symbolic of the everyday comings and goings from one’s house—the individual family environment. Similarly, “gates” refers to the entrance to the city, and is symbolic of the comings and goings, the everyday activities of the community environment.

“Your hand” is symbolic of action, and “your eyes” a reference to the influences of thought. In other words, how parents *live*, as well as what they read or watch (printed material, television, and movies), is critical to their success in preparing their children for life. It is also critical to the survival of their communities—and their nation.

Understandably, people all over the world were horrified by the shootings that turned a pleasant, middle-class suburb of Denver into a symbol of the worst of the present culture. But will they consider *their own* actions, that they may well have helped to create and sustain our present evil world? More importantly, will their shock motivate them to the level of change that is needed?

A culture that excuses its disobedience to and ridicules respect for the Ten Commandments of God has mortgaged the morality of the next generation. Until it returns to *that* foundation, our culture will continue to bequeath evils such as the assault on us all that took place in Littleton, Colorado—and worse... ♦

“KILLING,” (*Continued from page 5*)

al abuse, divorce, parental deaths, tough neighborhoods, uninterested teachers, and poverty. Some of them had low intelligence and learning disabilities that put them at a disadvantage. Listen to his questions about what he heard:

“But millions upon millions of Americans are born with these handicaps, or worse, and they don’t kill. From all those with hard lives, how does fate choose its lustful murderers?”

“Late in the evening, in the security of my home, I lie awake as my wife and children sleep, pondering what dark force might be working right now in some other home.”

“I am forced to ask: Is there evil?

“Not since my youthful debates on theism and agnosticism have I faced such a basic question. Some teach that such questions are silly and without meaning, but could there be such a thing as evil? Could there be an extra force, a dark force that works through humans and perpetrates terror? Are they evil, or does an evil force temporarily inhabit their soul?”

Coming to understand the many acts of mindless violence in today’s world is impossible without the spiritual revelation from God’s word. The most carefully crafted gun control legislation will not prevent such atrocities. Compassionate and skilled counseling will help patch the scars but never give the answers that completely heal.

Look To The Bigger Picture

In Christ’s day there were two tragic events that shocked the people. They wanted to know the significance and hear Christ’s comment. “Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish’” (Luke 13:1–6 NIV).

Sometimes no satisfying answers can be found for the pleading questions of “why?” that ring out after such a terrible tragedy as the Littleton shootings—or the tragic deaths to which Christ referred. Sometimes all we can do is look to the bigger picture. Those listening to Him then, and those of us reading these words today, can choose to turn and change upon hearing the true words of life. The emotional impact of such tragic accidents and atrocities can motivate those who are wise to devote their lives more zealously toward the work and goal of the kingdom of God.

The sting and the tears of death will not be wiped away this side of the kingdom of God. But by being lights in a dark world we can offer hope and comfort to those in despair. We can make a difference today as we earnestly pray “thy kingdom come.” ♦

"KOSOVO," (Continued from page 3)

result of a falling birthrate and lower unemployment. In the U.S. the military is considering lowering standards to allow high school dropouts to join the forces. In Britain they are trying to entice young people at the age of 16 (though they cannot be used until aged 18), in the hope of getting them away from home before they are tied down by other jobs or romantic relationships. It has been frequently pointed out that the U.S. today, just eight years after the conflict in the Persian Gulf, could not put together the same force it used at the beginning of this decade. Partly, this is the result of cuts in the military budget due to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the euphoric feeling in the Clinton administration that this meant there was less of a threat to U.S. interests around the world. At the time former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned that the collapse of communism had left the world more dangerous than before, a fact illustrated by events throughout this decade.

Before this decade America's defense policy was based on the need to be able to fight two long term conflicts in different parts of the world at the same time and win both, the result of having to do just that in World War II. Military authorities claim this remains U.S. policy, while some observers believe that the policy was actually abandoned a few years ago. Now the U.S. finds itself fighting two prolonged conflicts in different parts of the world with no end in view. Both Serbia and Iraq can hold out indefinitely, their leaders becoming more popular and politically secure as allied bombing continues.

The United States, like Great Britain before it, is increasingly prone to what is called "imperial

overreach," where international military commitments cannot be sustained without negative repercussions back home, economic or political and with military forces over committed and over stretched. In a period of just six months the U.S. bombed four different countries, with lightning strikes against Sudan and Afghanistan following the bombings

keeps thousands of troops in the country in case the North attacks again. Bosnia is a more recent example, setting a possible precedent for nearby Kosovo. The enemy in both cases is the Serbs. U.S. troops were sent to Bosnia as a peacekeeping force for twelve months. They are still there and must continue to remain there unless war is to resume. It is probable that the Kosovo conflict will result in the stationing of allied troops in Kosovo as a peace-keeping force, also for an indefinite period of time.

50 Years of Stalemates

The fact is that over the last 50 years America's military adventures overseas have usually ended in a stalemate, with neither side gaining a clear victory. Such scenarios are set to increase in number as a result of events in Kosovo. Now every ethnic group in the world will have

hopes raised for independence, knowing that the U.S. and Britain will have to come to their aid if they are not to be accused of racism and inconsistency.

The rebels

themselves can provide

the ground forces if the allies will just bomb their oppressive overlords. Rebel demands for "democracy" always help to gain sympathy in the West, but democracy is unlikely to follow after independence. But, by that time, the cameras have gone and the electorate in the West is none the wiser.

Added to the above are the ripple effects of the war on relations between the U.S. and Russia, where anger at the bombing of fellow Slavs in Serbia has led to increased anti-

(See "KOSOVO," page 13)



of the American embassies in east Africa, in addition to regular sus-

tained bombing of Iraq and Serbia. Ground troops are still committed in different parts of the world, usually in case of renewed conflict following wars fought years ago that were not completely resolved. Korea is the best example of this. The war there ended 46 years ago but the U.S. still

Increasing Poverty In Today's Technological World?

The poor continue to lag behind the spiraling pace of technology.

by Fred Nance

The rich get richer and the poor get poorer," says an old depression-era song and it still rings true today. It seems hard to believe in this world of computers, technology and information that there could also exist an age-old problem: poverty. And the irony of this proliferating problem is that poverty is increasing in the world amid abundance. The gap is widening between rich and poor.

Poverty is nothing new to the world. The Bible prophesies in Deuteronomy 15:11, "For the poor will never cease from the land." Jesus Christ repeats and confirms the prophecy in Matthew 26:11: "For you have the poor with you always." As long as the governments of this world exist, the alarming rapid growth of poverty poses a grave threat to the Western Hemisphere and the world. But why the sudden increase in the last part of this decade?

Global Financial Crisis

The financial crisis that began in Asia in 1997 has been a huge factor in the increase of poverty from Asia to Africa and to Latin America. James Speth, an administrator of the United Nations Development Program, reports on this trend in *Foreign Affairs*. In an article titled "The Plight of the Poor," he says "if current recessionary trends continue, the number of poor in East Asia will increase sharply in the next two years from 40 million to more than 100 million." He continues with the sobering statistic that "the number of Indonesians living on less than a \$1 a day will jump from 13 million in 1997 to 34 million in 1999." The article adds that "among the 4.4 billion people in developing countries around the world,

three-fifths live in communities lacking basic sanitation; one-third go without safe drinking water; one-quarter lack adequate housing; one-fifth are undernourished; and 1.3 billion live on less than a dollar a day."

People in Asia, Africa, Russia and Latin America have felt the ill effects of the global financial crisis as developing countries and emerging markets have seen a drastic downturn in growth. Add to that natural disasters such as Hurricane Mitch that struck Central America last October, and the recent crisis in Kosovo, and the number of people living in poverty balloons.

Due to Mitch, the United States has had to brace itself for a massive wave of illegal migration as close to 300,000 people have left their hurricane ravaged homelands in search of work and a better opportunity. The U.S. Information Agency reports that up to 600,000 adults in Central America may try to brave the 1,000 mile journey through Mexico to try to reach the United States this summer. Many children are left behind, alone, to fend for themselves and wander the streets trying to survive.

Another direct cause of increasing poverty is decades of graft and patronage politics in many countries. A prime example is Venezuela, which has had a democracy for more than 40 years. Half of that country's 23 million people live in poverty even though it has more oil reserves than any nation outside the Middle East.

What are the dangers to this technological world with the rapid growth of poverty? According to Mr. Speth, economic decline inevitably translates into political instability and unrest. Already we have seen much rioting and looting in East Asia. Brazil, another country affected by the financial crisis, has had to deal with massive unemployment and violence with

government paralysis due to bureaucracy. The United States has had its hands full trying to deal with the effects of natural disasters at home and abroad. Its resources are also strained by trying to aid poor victims around the world, the latest being the hundreds of thousands displaced by the Kosovo crisis. Mr. Speth adds that the risk of a huge global underclass undermining international stability is quite real.

Needed: Justice and Judgment

Obviously, ever-increasing technology is not the answer to the problem of poverty, for despite the fact that we live in a world of expanding technology, poverty still exists. And giving aid to the needy isn't a sufficient solution, because such aid to poor countries is often just a drop in the bucket. The Bible prophesies a future government set up by the returning Jesus Christ that will rid the world of *the causes* of poverty. Isaiah 9:6 reads: "Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with justice and judgment from that time forward, even forever."

Justice and judgment are both sadly lacking in this world. People are impoverished because of politics, corruption and greed. The eighth chapter of the book of Zechariah talks about a time when Christ will establish a poverty-free society where "the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets(verse 5), and the seed shall be prosperous, the vine shall give its fruit, the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew" (verse 12). There are virtually *billions* in the world today that need that government set up so that they can be freed from the poverty that they suffer in their daily lives. Only when the kingdom of God is finally established will poverty come to an end. ♦

In Brief... World News Review

The Next Trouble Spot?

Iraq and Yugoslavia have been occupied by American and allied troops for the past several months. Where might the next flash point be which would require U.S. troops and firepower? According to analysts it could be the Korean peninsula. Last August North Korea launched a rocket capable of carrying a nuclear warhead as far as the western United States. The obvious danger to any Asian country, especially South Korea, is obvious. The Korean War is far from settled.

Less than three years ago North Korea failed in an attempt to land a squad of commandos on the South Korean coast. A submarine carried 26 North Korean commandos and sailors whose mission was to infiltrate and reconnoiter military installations along South Korea's east coast. When the sub's engines failed, the commandos escaped ashore near the port of Kangnung. This probing operation was part of North Korea's plan to launch a surprise blitzkrieg against South Korea.

Reunification with, or "liberating" the south has been a long held goal of the bizarre and fanatical communist north. From time to time massive numbers of troops have been deployed near the border between the two countries.

And now, according to a recent analysis by the Stratfor Agency, the United States and South Korea are poised to sign a formal agreement lifting restrictions on South Korean commercial rocket development and raising the current range restrictions on domestically produced military missiles. This announcement comes only weeks after South Korea tested a rocket that was deemed illegal under the previous agreement, suggesting the United States may have been forced into accepting a fait accompli.

Fear of North Korean missile advancements coupled with a desire to project power and influence in Northeast Asia has prompted South Korea's urgent desire to develop and deploy long range missile technology. The new agreement could mark a change in long term relations between the United States and South Korea. The United States must keep troops stationed on South Korean soil to protect the fragile peace in this corner of Asia.

With under manned and under equipped American troops deployed in the Persian Gulf and Yugoslavian campaigns, the country can little afford another battle ground at this time. Sources: Eric Margolis, *Toronto Sun*; and Stratfor Global Analysis.

Canada and United States at Risk For Bioterrorism

WASHINGTON: (Newsday) — Public health infrastructures in Canada and the United States, in their current states, would be devastated by a "high impact" bioterrorism event in which the attacker used modern germ technology, according to some government officials.

A scenario role-played by public health experts from both countries using smallpox as the biological agent left 15,000 people dead over a period of two months, and 80 million dead within a year, primarily because of insufficient vaccine supplies. The scenario was explored in a day-long exercise attended by more than 1,000 public health leaders, part of a two-day seminar on the issue of potential biological warfare. The seminar follows the announcement from President Bill Clinton that \$158 million (U.S.) is being allocated for research and preparedness in bioterrorism defense.

Millennium Bug — Russia

MOSCOW: (Reuters) — Russia's military says everything is under control to deal with how the millennium bug could affect vast strategic nuclear forces. However, at the same time they say the country has less than four million dollars to deal with it.

Russian specialists on the Y2K problem tell us final tests of reprogrammed systems won't take place until October. They also deny Moscow is tardy or complacent in the way it is tackling the worldwide computer bug.

Major General Vladimir Dvorkin heads Russia's strategic missile research institute. He says automatic control systems governing Russia's nuclear missiles are immune from the central problem in which computers may make a mistake. However, he admits the problem does exist in early warning systems for monitoring satellites or space, and while accidental launch is unlikely it would not be impossible.

Our Planet's Fresh Water: the Coming Crisis

Nearly a billion people in some 50 nations are already

experiencing severe water shortages. And unfortunately official projections tell us that the worst is yet to come.

Also a recent article in *Newsweek* pointed out that every eight seconds a child dies from a water-related disease and 80 percent of diseases in the developing world are caused by contaminated water supplies. Some 50 percent of the earth's population lacks adequate water sanitation.

An even more disturbing possibility is that future wars may very well be fought over water. Wrote the Science Editor of the *Independent on Sunday*: "In 25 years the world will be 20 percent short of water even if every country implements the most efficient conservation programs imaginable." Ismail Serageldin, the chairman of the World Commission on Water, stated that the factors responsible for the coming crisis are a rising global population, an ever-increasing demand and worsening pollution of water supplies.

The Middle East could conceivably be a flashpoint because the general area is already arid, and water disputes, both actual and potential, tend to mark the region. Israel and Jordan are currently in conflict over an Israeli proposal to cut the desert kingdom's water supplies. Also Iraq and Syria fear Turkish designs in building a dam on the Euphrates with the potential power of withholding water from those two countries. The Egyptians have their own concerns as the Nile flows through seven other countries before reaching Egypt. These include Uganda and war-torn Sudan.

World News and Prophecy will be watching global fresh water trends very closely.

Sources: *Newsweek*, March 29, 1999 (Atlantic edition); *The Express*, March 20, 1999; *The Independent on Sunday*, March 21, 1999.

Terrorist Attacks on the United States?

"The U.S. has expressed the belief that Osama bin Laden is preparing more terrorist attacks—a fear no doubt enhanced by reports that a group affiliated with bin Laden has chemical and biological weapons....

"In a related development, the London-based newspaper Al-Hayat ran a story on April 19 about Ahmad Salama Mabrouk, a jailed member the Egyptian militant group Al-Jihad. Al-Jihad is a member of bin Laden's umbrella group International Islamic Front for Fighting Jews and Crusaders (IIFJC). Al-Hayat reported Mabrouk as saying that not only does IIFJC possess biological and chemical weapons but it also is planning about '100 operations' against U.S. and Israeli interests around the world.

"The report went on to state that the details of these planned attacks were found on a computer program, which was confiscated by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in September 1998 at the time Mabrouk was taken into custody in Azerbaijan."

Source: STRATFOR's Global Intelligence Update April 20, 1999.

Japan Warns United States.... Back Off or Face Revival of Nationalism

JAPAN: (SNS) – In a surprisingly blunt speech to the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan on March 16, 1999, outgoing Japanese Ambassador to the United States Kunihiko Saito warned the United States to reduce its criticism of Japan, or risk reviving militant nationalist sentiment in Japan. And while he said continued U.S. pressure could hurt the Japanese economy and Japanese-U.S. relations, Saito warned that the biggest threat may be the revival of Japanese nationalism.

"Memories of the 1930s and 40s are still fresh in our minds. We should always be careful about the revival of nationalism," said Saito. "I'm not worried about a problem yet, but I don't think we should forget that only 50 or 60 years ago we made some big mistakes, and one of the reasons, in my view, was excessive nationalism," he added. Saito singled out the U.S. Trade Representative's Office as a major source of the unwelcome criticism.

He also warned of rising protectionist sentiment among U.S. companies and in Congress. "Tensions surrounding trade between our two countries have...increased in recent months," he said. "Our trade surplus with the United States has been increasing rather sharply and has become a political issue, at least in Washington," said Saito. He added, "If the United States economy starts to have problems, the issue of trade imbalance will surely become a very serious political issue between our two countries."

Raising the specter of Japanese militant nationalism to induce—more precisely to threaten—the United States into being more diplomatic in its criticism goes completely against this policy. Moreover, while made in the context of U.S.-Japanese economic relations, Saito's comments feed into several other heated policy debates as well.

The most prominent debate, and the one that has, understandably, been the most affected by Japan's wartime legacy, is over the role of Japan's military. Japan's Diet is scheduled to address new legislation in its upcoming session that is required to enable the revised U.S.-Japan Defense Guidelines to take effect. Central to this debate is the planned expansion of the roles Japan's "Self Defense Forces" can play and the geographic reach of Japanese military operations.

Under proposed laws, armed Japanese troops would be allowed to deploy abroad for the evacuation of Japanese and other foreign nationals from trouble spots, and to return fire in self-defense if fired upon. Additionally, while still vaguely defined, the area in which Japan can operate in support of U.S. forces will apparently be extended to cover Taiwan, something China vehemently opposes.

On March 16, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi warned that "Japan should take concrete steps...to limit

its defense to its own territory and adjacent waters, and not embark on the road of becoming a military power." Saito's warning of growing Japanese nationalism is not merely a negotiating ploy. The country's economic troubles have been scarcely addressed and are far from over. As a result, relations with the U.S. can only be expected to deteriorate.

Japan is in the midst of a fundamental reevaluation of the Japanese military's roles. And in the midst of this, Tokyo is facing calls from Southeast Asia for it to take a leadership role in Asia. Sovereignty, leadership, defense, foreign economic pressure, all push nationalism to the core of Japan's domestic political debate. The question is, with Japan no longer shy about depositing the nationalism threat smack in the middle of the negotiating table, and the United States likely to be unresponsive, has Japan set off on an irreversible course?

Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria On the Rise

NEW YORK — Faced with mounting evidence that the routine use of antibiotics in livestock may diminish the drugs' power to cure infections in people, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has begun a major revision of its guidelines for approving new antibiotics for animals and for monitoring the effects of old ones.

The goal of the revision is to minimize the emergence of bacterial strains that are resistant to antibiotics. Such resistance makes them difficult or even impossible to kill.

Drug-resistant infections, some fatal, have been increasing in people in the United States, and many scientists attribute the problem to the misuse of antibiotics in both humans and animals. Of particular concern to scientists is that recent studies have found bacteria in chickens that are resistant to fluoroquinolones, the most recently approved class of antibiotics and one that scientists had been hoping would remain effective a long time.

A crucial component of the new guidelines will be the requirement that manufacturers test certain new livestock drugs for a tendency to foster the growth of resistant bacteria that could prove harmful to people. Testing will be required both before a drug is approved and after.

The use of antibiotics as growth stimulators in livestock is a concern of many consumer groups in America. The fear that resistance to disease and bacteria can be reduced in the human population has lead the European Union to ban the use of human antibiotics in livestock production.

Many scientists believe that giving low doses of antibiotics to animals over long periods brings out resistance. Scientists say that resistant bacteria from animals can make people sick in several ways. A person can become ill from contact with an animal carrying a disease-causing resistant germ, or from handling contaminated meat or eating it when it has not been cooked enough to kill the bacteria. The infection may be difficult or even impossible to treat.

In some cases, the resistant bacteria may themselves be harmless, but live on in the gut and cause trouble later by passing their genes for antibiotic resistance to other bacteria, ones that do cause disease. Or, if a person's immune system is weakened by illness or chemotherapy, the otherwise harmless bacteria can turn dangerous.

At the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, researchers said they had been detecting increases in the levels of drug-resistant bacteria found in people with gastrointestinal illness from the microbes salmonella and campylobacter, which are most commonly contracted from contaminated meat or eggs (*International Herald Tribune*).

Contributors:

Darris McNeely, Cecil Maranville
David Palmer, John Schroeder

"KOSOVO," (*Continued from page 9*)

Americanism. This increases the likelihood of the end of democracy and a reversal to a state-controlled economy. The future of NATO is another question: will the European allies be disillusioned with American leadership after realizing that the U.S. will not use ground forces in a foreign conflict? Now that the alliance, while celebrating its 50th anniversary, has used its troops to help resolve another nation's internal problems, which country will be next? What impact will the war have on Germany now that German troops have been deployed outside Germany for the first time since World War II?

It has been frequently pointed out that the U.S. today, just eight years after the conflict in the Persian Gulf, could not put together the same force it used at the beginning of this decade.

Will terrorism in western nations increase as Serbs, Iraqis and others hit back? With the Pentagon already warning that the U.S. is running out of missiles, and since it takes two years to produce more, will this conflict drain America's military resources to a dangerous low?

Long term, the biggest question of all has not even been raised. If the U.S. and Britain can intervene in the internal affairs of other nations, could they intervene militarily in theirs? Their own nations are not immune to ethnic conflict. They may have set a precedent without parallel in their history. ♦

“REFUGEES,” (Continued from page 16)

politically expedient and tolerable back home. Unfortunately, humanity at its best can only offer bandaids to a globe that is hemorrhaging with the victims of this straggling Fifth Horseman. It can seem too much for any of us to fathom.

Remember the Stranger

Long ago, a people were rescued from a land where they had worn out their welcome. Before that rescue came, the host country practiced the most heinous acts of what we now call “ethnic cleansing.” Notice what the Egyptian pharaoh decreed be the lot of his subjects in Goshen. Exodus 2:16 vividly describes his goal by stating, “When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool if it is a son, you shall kill him.” It is an interesting parallel to the slaughters of ethnic Albanians and Bosnian Muslim men who have been led to the woods never to be seen again. The people of Israel were rescued from this environment by a much greater force than any human alliance could forge. They were rescued and offered nationhood.

It is so very human to remember where we have been and to forget that at one time we didn’t have a house, or town, or a national flag to call our own. God saw that Israel was no exception. He instructed them in Leviticus 19:33: “And if a stranger dwells in your land, you shall not mistreat him. The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” In the following verses 34–36, God defines love by stating, “You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume. You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.” God always returns to Egypt to remind them there was a time when they were in the same situation! Abuse of strangers was not allowed or tolerated.

Oppressed and Afflicted

It is an amazing realization to understand the bond of experience that Christ has with Kosovars, Samaritans, Hutus, Bosnians, Tutsis, and all of the refugees of our time and all times. Isaiah’s description of the coming Messiah sounds exactly like a refugee. Breaking into the thought of Isaiah 53:2–3, we gain sense of a tragic scenario—“There is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him. He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.” Verse nine continues the thought by stating, “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers silent.” Christ

would know exactly what it would be like to be despised and depreciated over a lifetime. From the time of His birth when His roaming parents would find “no room at the inn” to the questioning insult of John 1:46—“Can any good thing come out of Galilee?” David, a prophet as well as a king, stated these occurrences would come in the life of Jesus, stating in Psalms 118:22, “The stone which the builders have rejected, has become the chief cornerstone.”

Shakespeare long ago said, “He jests at scars, who never felt the wounds.” Plainly stated—you don’t know until you have been there! Jesus Christ is the spirit of experience in regards to abandonment and lack of aid.

Proclaim Liberty to the Captives

It is stunning to read the words of Christ’s first recorded sermon found in Luke 4:18–19. He plainly states the role of His ministry to this earth, then and now, by alluding to Isaiah 61:1–2. “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are

oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.” It is clear that Christ understood that all of humanity has been displaced from God’s purpose. There has been an agent of terror who through all ages has had one goal—the extermination of humanity, thus thwarting God’s desire to make man in His image.

Satan is steadily motivating humanity towards extinction. Christ alludes to this potential when He says in Matthew 24:8 that “all these are the beginning of sorrows” in a world which will not yield to God’s ways. Christ was building upon the foundation of Daniel 12:1 which declares: “and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.” Jesus stated the extent of this “trouble” at the end of the Olivet Prophecy in Matthew 24:22: “Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved.”

When we think of Kosovo in one portion of the earth and then contemplate these warnings it is incredibly sobering. Yes, Satan like all dictators, is working with a plan. They know exactly what their goals are and how to achieve them! But, there is good and exciting news beyond the accounts of Daniel and Matthew. God also works with a plan and knows exactly what He is doing. After all, He is not simply the Creator of time, but the Author of perfect timing.

Deliverance From On High

Just at the moment when this human tragedy is about to occur, God moves forcefully to triumph. In a sense He seizes the execution date from Satan, and makes it the inauguration of His

kingdom on Earth. God all along has said what He is going to do. In the parlance of today, God is going to introduce His spiritual ground troops to halt violence and to secure a future for a world of refugees. Jude 14–15 states, “Now Enoch the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also saying, ‘Behold, the Lord Comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all.’” Zechariah 14:2–3 gives a clear location of the point of entry for human liberation. “Then the Lord will go forth, and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives.”

“I Will Seek What Was Lost”

God is going to restore all of humanity to a condition of peace. The context of Ezekiel 34:11–16 is about Israel in its future return to God, but it is a forerunner of what God intends for all peoples. “For thus says the Lord God; ‘Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land.... I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down,’ says the Lord God. ‘I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick.’”

God never changes His mission, plans or goals. He is not driven by history, feelings or polls—but only what is truly good for all of His children. Christ, the Lord of the Refugees, hears the cry of Israel on behalf of humanity so woefully echoed in Ezekiel 37:11: “Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off.” Christ hears in full and will answer in full.

God Shows No Partiality

Long ago, Peter came to an amazing understanding through his multi-cultural experience with the Roman centurion known as Cornelius. A man of a conquered people shared time with a man of the conquering tribe. Almost like a Kosovar sitting down with a Serb. Almost, no, just like you sitting down with someone you

are at odds with right now because of historical injustices or cultural conditioning. In Acts 10:34, he opened his mouth (can I also imply, his heart) and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.” God has *no* room in His kingdom for hate, bigotry, envy, or subtle putdown through name-calling or humor which diminishes the worth and integrity of any of His children. We may not all exactly look alike, talk alike, or walk alike, but we all have a common Father, a common goal, and many common life’s experiences.

Perhaps Shakespeare put it best nearly 400 years ago, when through Shylock’s tortured and questioning plea in the “Merchant of Venice” he addressed the age old persecution of Jews. “He hath disgraced me, and hindered me half a million; laughed at my losses, mocked at my gains, scorned my nation, thwarted my bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies; and what’s his reason? I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? Fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?”

Ultimately, answers to Shylock’s question are going to be



taught to a world that has been displaced from the truth of God regarding its ultimate destiny and held captive by a spiritual enemy.

Long ago in a moment of anguish, Christ cried out “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” It is the universal lament of all refugees. Who better to say, “this is the way, walk you in it,” than “the Lord of the Refugees” who will show the way of return. ♦

This Is the Way... The Lord of the Refugees

by Robin Webber

There is no more timely topic to discuss than what is occurring in the Kosovo region of the Balkans. The overwhelming refugee crisis of men, women and children escaping from the raw brutality of the Milosevic Regime has pulled at our heartstrings.

It is probably safe to say that for the people of the 21st Century the term "Kosovo" will not simply define a location on the map, but a state of mind. For the moment though, let's apply a biblical focus to the subject of refugees. What does your Bible say about this subject?

Will the United Nations and NATO solve the scourge of forces that creates refugees, or, is there a time in the future in which there will be an even greater catastrophe producing even greater numbers of displaced persons? You need to know and you need to be preparing, now!

The Dilemma of "The Fifth Horseman"

The prophetic outline of human history, i.e., humanity left to its own devices apart from God, is discovered in what is known as the Olivet Prophecy of Matthew 24. Christ said in Matthew 24:4-8, "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. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All

these are the beginning of sorrows." This powerful panorama of human history is further defined in Revelation 6 with the forceful imagery of the first four seals, which have come to be known as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. They ride into human history in the order of religious deception, war, famine and pestilence. Behind these four thundering realities of history is the straggling, unmentioned horseman, which turns people into refugees.

This past century has shattered the illusion of "Social Darwinism" that mankind is climbing out of the jungle and basically is on an upward climb of social progression. Our century has witnessed and endured two world wars and numerous conflicts that have killed millions of people of every race, language and religion. Headlines like "Flashflood of Humanity," "Exodus," "Hopeless March," "Ruined Lives—Wasted Talent," "Will the Door be Shut?" and "Welcome Mat Appears to be Wearing Thin" tend to repeat themselves. There are many reasons behind this daunting scenario.

The question always comes up, Who is responsible? Is it the military, civilians, or relief agencies? Is it the role of an alliance or a superpower? Everyone gets caught in the crunch of the numbers game. In recent days, we have witnessed on a daily basis numbers like 3,000, then 10,000, then 30,000 all fleeing at once! Reading on, we discover 5,000 are sent to this country, 10,000 to this country, and 20,000 here and there. Refugees are so often used as pawns for political aspirations and present advantages. The numbers are based upon what is

(See "REFUGEES," page 14)