

WORLD NEWS and PROPHECY

Biblical Perspectives on Current Events

May 2001

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Doctor's Firsthand Account of South African AIDS Crisis

"Then it hit me, 'I'm playing God,'" writes a doctor treating AIDS patients in South Africa. Read the doctor's emotional account of the horrors of the unending calamity.

by Cecil E. Maranville

Due to the shockingly candid details given, the doctor has asked that we delete any comments that might reveal the author's identity. Warning: What you are about to read is extremely distressing.

South Africa, February 2001—"The main reason I can't wait to get out of here is that my personality is suddenly altering. They say it's called, 'becoming a doctor.' In South Africa, that means your main emotion when a patient dies is relief.

"The AIDS down here is becoming alarming. *Most of our beds are filled with HIV+ [HIV positive] patients.* They talk about the 'pack-

age deal' down in the emergency department. An extremely skinny patient comes in, coughing, complaining of tiredness. On examination, they have oral thrush, often so bad that even their lips are covered with a white fungus, as it climbs out of their mouths. And immediately, you know that they have HIV, TB and oral candidiasis.

"We go through the motions of testing them, but I don't know why. We admit them, rehydrate them, and all that we succeed in doing is prolonging their death by a week or two. *We are now at the point where we refuse to give them any active treatment (antibiotics, antifungals, even*

blood), which includes resuscitation. It's quite simple—even with active treatment, the only difference you make is a few weeks. (They always wait until they are terminal before arriving at the hospital.) So, why waste money you don't have to begin with?

"The other day, I caught myself saying out loud that we should start refusing to admit HIV+ patients, since we're only prolonging the inevitable. *We're turning away patients with asthma and diabetes, patients with controllable diseases who could contribute to the economy, because AIDS patients are taking up all the beds.*

(See "AIDS," page 3)

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Read *World News and Prophecy* as soon as it is completed. The next issue is scheduled to be available on June 13 on the Internet at <http://www.ucg.org/articles/wnp/>.

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.

Playing God

“And then, it hit me, *‘I’m playing God.’* If we start doing that, we might as well start denying medical care to old people and premature babies, because they no longer contribute to society. We might as well start turning away patients with other terminal illnesses, like cancer and multiple sclerosis, because we’re only prolonging the inevitable.

“You have no idea what kind of hell it is to do ward rounds in [the name of city where the doctor was working when this was written] in the morning. You walk through rooms of skeletons, their chests rattling with each cough. The sisters, too, are beyond caring. Many of the patients lay in beds [soaked with] their own urine, because the sisters never get around to washing them unless it’s ‘that time of the morning.’ Their lips are caked with white fungus, their faces mottled with blood-flecked sputum. They watch you from their beds, their eyes often the only body parts they can still move. Some of them still beg with their eyes for help. And we do nothing.

“Some are beyond caring. Their eyes are already dead, which is why you check each patient’s pulse before discussing them.

“We use pseudonyms like ‘retrovirus’ or ‘high five’ for HIV and ‘Koch’s bacillus’ for TB in an effort to maintain privacy. But they all know the telltale wailing following the post-test ‘You have HIV’ speech.

Haunting experience

“Not all of the deaths here go unnoticed. One of my patients will always haunt me. As I mentioned, most of the AIDS patients have pretty typical appearances (skinny and coughing). Some (especially the children) never reach that stage. This particular young girl (19 years old) didn’t fit the typical profile at all. She was educated, eloquent and still looked very healthy. She had known

she was HIV+ for three years prior to her admission. (Her boyfriend had told her that he was monogamous, and so he was. Unfortunately, his previous girlfriend had not been.) She came after she suddenly started battling to breathe, rather like a severe asthma attack. In well-fed HIV+ patients in Africa, this normally is due to pneumocystis pneumonia. This was the diagnosis in her case.

“If we could pull her through the pneumocystis pneumonia, she could still have a few good years left. So we put her on oxygen, nebulisations

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“You wander between patients and know that, but for the grace of God and a single needle-stick wound, that could be you”

and antibiotics. For two days, I had to walk into the ward and watch her struggling to breathe. For two days, she couldn’t sleep for fear of forgetting to breathe. The nursing sisters were unfortunately ‘forgetting’ to give the full dose of antibiotics. On the morning of the third day, she looked worse than ever when I arrived. I can’t describe the feeling of powerlessness when you realize that you can’t give anything to ‘make it go away.’ The only option left to us was to give her small doses of opioids to make the struggling for each breath at least seem less painful.

“When we came round later in the day with the consultant, the patient had finally fallen asleep. He was impressed by her improvement and decided to forego the opioids. As we moved on to the next patient, I suddenly knew that I would never see her alive again. She died that night.

But for the grace of God

“Most of all, you wander between the patients and know that, but for the grace of God and a single needle-stick wound, that could be you.

“I’m beginning to hate medicine in South Africa.”

“Diagnostically, it’s no challenge, because they all have HIV. Therapeutically, it’s no challenge, because we do nothing. *Emotionally, it takes you to places where you simply don’t care about life anymore.* And still we work...a full day plus after hours for no pay and the constant danger that the next time you draw blood or put up a drip, you could get HIV. And, the state doesn’t give a [care]. They no longer even provide us with free anti-HIV drugs (AZT, etc.), following a needle-stick injury. Most of us are studying on loans, earning no money, and they expect us to dig out 3,000 rand a week for drugs following a needle-stick injury treating their patients. We can’t afford that.

“And...they wonder why we’re leaving the country.

“I hope [these letters get] people thinking twice, whether it’s about unsafe sex or an awareness of human fragility.”

(End of doctor’s letters. Emphasis added throughout.)

No easy way to say it

There’s no easy way to describe the desperate situation gripping Africa. A recent South African government report revealed that one in every nine of its citizens and nearly

25 percent of pregnant women are HIV positive. The same report forewarned that, by 2016, the country's population would begin to shrink, because the number of deaths due to HIV will surpass the number of births.

A single faint glimmer of hope appeared in statistics that show a marginal decline in HIV infection rates in regions where there have been sex education campaigns—no easy task, given the centuries-old taboos and traditions.

Promiscuity alone is not the reason for the rapid spread of AIDS on the African continent. Many diseases that have been largely controlled in the West by advanced medicine are rampant in Africa. They include malaria, syphilis, gonorrhea, tuberculosis and pneumonia. Diseases that involve open sores and exposure to bodily fluids boost the proliferation of AIDS.

In December 2000 the United Nations announced its estimate on the African-AIDS condition. It said *24.5 million people in the sub-Saharan region are HIV positive*. Contrast that with the total figure worldwide of 34.5 million infected. More than 7 out of every 10 cases in the entire world are in the sub-Saharan countries of this plague-stricken continent.

A race to develop an AIDS vaccine is underway in the international medical community. Billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates has personally donated \$100 million to the research, challenging other wealthy people to contribute generously as well. Mr. Gates' Microsoft Corporation has raised nearly a quarter of a billion dollars for the project so far.

AIDS drugs are notoriously expensive, literally out of reach for the average African government or private citizen. However, there are cheaper, generic versions of the patented drugs available. Fearing a huge loss of revenue, 39 pharmaceutical companies filed a lawsuit to block South Africa from importing the cheaper generic drugs, a blow that would be fatal to what feeble attempt

the nation could mount against this insidious enemy. Thankfully, the pharmaceutical companies withdrew their suit in mid-April.

Even if an effective anti-AIDS drug is developed and made available in generic form to the afflicted African nations, could AIDS be stopped?

No one to run between the dead and the dying

Numbers 16:4–48 tells of a plague that struck Israel, when Moses and his brother, Aaron, governed it. At Moses' urging, Aaron literally ran between the dead and the dying with the means to stay the plague.

African governments do not work as efficiently.

Michael Ledeen, who spent many

Clearly, two kinds of healing are needed—an immediate intervention to restore physical health, along with a spiritual healing of the character of individuals and their governments that have brought on the dark days in which we live.

years in sub-Saharan Africa and saw AIDS firsthand, wrote in his March 27th column that distributing medicine through African governments would never work. "There is no infrastructure capable of delivering medicine to those who need it, nor to ensure that patients take the full course of treatment" ("Fighting AIDS Is a Losing Proposition").

Unless the West virtually creates and imposes the missing infrastructure, Mr. Ledeen continues, "No matter how generously we donate medicine to Africa, a huge bloc of Africans will never receive it...." African leaders, he warns, would enrich them-

selves by selling cheap medications at a markup. Further, they likely would use medicine as a political weapon. Those who ally themselves with the leaders would receive medication, while those who did not would be frozen out of any supplies. Witness that type of political manipulation in the distribution of food relief in famine-stricken African countries.

"Is it hopeless, then?" Mr. Ledeen asks. His answer: "*Most likely, it is*, at least in the sense of 'solving the problem.'"

Hope for the hopeless

We sincerely hope that Mr. Ledeen is wrong, and that there will be ways to bring relief to the millions suffering from this dread disease. However, our hope doesn't rest in man's capabilities. The example of Aaron mentioned above is a type of the coming Christ, who will interpose Himself between the dead and the dying to bring healing to the nations. Clearly, two kinds of healing are needed—an immediate intervention to restore physical health, along with a spiritual healing of the character of individuals and their governments that have brought on the dark days in which we live.

A messianic prophecy in Isaiah 52 and 53 foretold that the blows that marred Jesus Christ before His crucifixion would bring about the healing of all people. Is this but a spiritual allegory, announcing spiritual salvation? No doubt that is the main reason Christ gave His life. Yet the additional benefit of physical healing also was purchased by the stripes whacked across His body (Matthew 8:17). So that we would not fail to comprehend and hope in this blessing, He intertwined physical and spiritual healing by restoring the health of a paralytic with this postscript: "that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" (Matthew 9:6).

Therein lies the hope of Africa. God speed the dawning of that day of healing. ❖

French Intellectuals See Germany as Potential Threat

Several recent books published in France have warned about Germany. The authors differ on various points, but all agree that missteps now could mean a future dominated by Germany.

by Joel Meeker

As efforts continue to bring about a political union of European states, several French books have appeared (none yet translated into English) that raise warning flags about France's neighbor to the northeast.

At least three books have appeared in the last two years warning about the nature of Germany and possible conflicts, and even wars, to come. The authors differ on how France should act to meet the threat represented by Germany, but all agree that missteps could well spell future German domination of France, Europe and perhaps beyond.

The next war

Essayist Phillipe Delmas has written a book called *De la prochaine guerre avec l'Allemagne* (*Of the Next War With Germany*, published by Editions Odile Jacob). Mr. Delmas begins by saying very bluntly: "Fear of Germany is back. It [that fear] is already the greatest political force in Europe as well as the most widely shared feeling. The reunification [of Germany] did not bring about this fear, it liberated it. It laid bare the fact that the European construction and the Cold War were simply ways of restraining Germany and the fear it inspires" (p. 11; all translations in this article are mine—JM).

Mr. Delmas describes Germany as a nation unsure of itself and its own identity, because of the fractured nature of its history (until the middle of the 19th century, there was no nation of Germany, but rather a patchwork of independent principalities). He believes this identity crisis led the Germany of 1914 into a "patriotism" that caused it to fight against the rest of the world (p. 39). And, he maintains, the identi-

ty crisis that led to the First World War is still present in Germany today.

He concludes that if France and Germany are not able to find a way to live together harmoniously, then there will certainly be another war: "It has taken four centuries of wars to learn just how much France and Germany can only live one with another, because one without the other today means one against the other tomorrow. That is why Germany is the vital interest of France" (p. 191).

He concludes: "Time is short because Germany is fragile and its consolidation is tied to its friendship with France. If we hold back, it will cost us our future, because the power of Germany which we will have left alone will spread beyond Europe. 'And that,' said [Charles] de Gaulle, 'can only be dealt with by war'" (p. 197).

Return of a German empire

Mémoires de l'ombre (*Memoirs From the Shadows*, published by Flammarion), is a memoir written by the former head of the French secret service, Pierre Marion. Mr. Marion also sounds a sharp warning about the dangers of a Germany growing steadily stronger. In the first chapter of his memoir, he sketches the recent history of France and Europe and explains his view on the developing union of Europe, as it will affect France.

First, he points out that France has been invaded five times in the last 125 years and Paris has been occupied four times during that period. He states that in reality France "has lost all its wars since 1812" (p. 21). Based on this, he suggests France should be less confident than it is in its dealings with Germany. "The

One author concludes that if France and Germany are not able to find a way to live together harmoniously, then there will certainly be another war.

French have developed the habit of nourishing themselves on illusions about their past successes” (p. 28). This overconfidence, Mr. Marion believes, led the French to miss the warning signs of impending disasters in the past, and he believes France is currently missing warning signs about what will happen in the European Union.

According to Mr. Marion, Europe must have a dominant heart at its center to direct and stimulate it, and this is often identified as the Franco-German couple. But today, he says, this couple is unequal: “It’s Berlin who wears the trousers, and Paris who follows, sometimes complaining but only for appearance’s sake. Because, when one looks carefully, it is Germany that now has the manifest superiority between the two countries” (p. 31).

Mr. Marion doesn’t believe that the three Franco-German wars of the 19th and 20th centuries were accidents: “They prolong the German hegemonic impulses that have been manifested and spread since the 17th century.... The drama of the Second World War has contributed to masking the permanent will of our neighbors to impose their way of life, of thinking and of ruling” (p. 35-36).

Mr. Marion warns that the European Union will profit Germany the most and allow it to dominate the continent. “Finally,” he concludes, “we will end up with this empire of which Germany has unflinchingly dreamed since the 17th century.... The European Union therefore will above all serve the grandeur and the power of Germany” (p. 41).

After taking the leaders of France to task for misunderstanding that the “dreams of grandeur” for France will actually come true to the profit of Germany, he concludes “We must therefore forearm ourselves against German hegemony” (p. 45).

Looking into an abyss

Alain Griotteray was an active member of the French resistance during World War II and is now an editorialist with the conservative *Le Figaro*

Magazine. He teamed with journalist and German specialist Jean de Larsan to write *Voyage au bout de l’Allemagne, l’Allemagne est inquiétante (Journey to the End of Germany, Germany Is Disquieting*, published by Editions du Rocher).

The choice of title is interesting because it plays off that of a famous French novel *Journey to the End of the Night*, the bleak story of a soldier during World War I when France was fighting Germany. These writers are openly pessimistic about the ability of the European Union to contain the German threat.

The authors argue that three elements are currently allowing Germany to achieve long-standing goals at the expense of other European countries. The first of these factors is the reunification of Germany and the reestablish-

*A long section toward
the end of the book
goes so far as to
maintain that Germany is
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the Third Reich.*

ment of the German capital in Berlin. This represents the rebirth of a “greater Germany,” a goal Germans have had since 1945.

Second is the rise of what the authors call “King Capital,” the globalization of a capitalist economy, which allows Germany to spread its influence through a “pan-Germanism” by acquisitions in Eastern Europe and economic alliances with the Anglo-American world. This, they argue, gives Germany an overarching dominance in Europe.

The third context is the construction of Europe, which, the authors maintain, aims at the eventual disappearance of borders in the name of free circulation of goods and people. This

would enable Germany to reestablish ties with, and perhaps legally recover, German-origin peoples driven into Eastern Europe, including Poland and the Czech Republic.

Griotteray and de Larsan warn that there is a clear will on the part of Germany to dominate Europe. This is to be achieved through what they call a “pacific pan-Germanism,” which seeks by peaceful means to have the capacity to “influence the debate [in Europe], to impose orientation in the exclusive sense of German interests” (p. 125).

They cite three examples: 1) Germany’s behavior in European discussions about import laws (specifically bananas from former French colonies, which France wanted to protect and which Germany blocked on the grounds of free trade); 2) Germany’s desire to make Airbus Industries an autonomous multinational corporation (instead of the politically directed entity it is now), diminishing the French say in the direction of Airbus; and 3) the fact that European monetary policy will be decided in Frankfurt, with an eye, the authors maintain, to protecting the German economy above all.

Griotteray and de Larsan conclude, “Germany is European, because Europe is German” (p. 149).

A long section toward the end of the book goes so far as to maintain that Germany is now building what it was unable to build or keep during the time of the Third Reich. The authors base this on cultural, monetary and military developments in Germany in recent years.

The last chapter contains a long quote from a book entitled *The Soul of Peoples*, by André Siegfried, a French sociologist and geographer who died in 1959, who wrote a famous analysis of Germany. Siegfried wrote:

“I finish my study on an impression of discord. On the exterior, what do we see across the Rhine? Order, efficiency, accomplishment, but in the interior it is a bog and chaos. Germany believes that truth is obscure and that in going toward it, one sinks into the night. For our part, we believe that truth

is light accompanied by clarity. Some countries have an initial simplicity that makes one think of a wave, transparent and without mystery. Here we are on the bank of black waters that, one says with disquiet, must be bottomless. That is also its prestige, but when one looks into this pool, one has the impression of looking into an abyss” (p. 209).

Griotteray and de Larsan believe this is still true of Germany. They conclude that Germany is *very* disquieting, that it is dangerous to the well-being of France, Europe and beyond.

Early in their book, they make a startling statement about the possible future of the German people: “In several decades, having established their authority over Europe, they may decide to measure their strength against the United States, another of their dreams from the 19th century. But what is a century compared to all of history?” (p. 18).

What does the Bible say?

Bible prophecy points to a union of nations coming together for a final time just before the return of Christ. The book of Revelation records a vision that Jesus Christ caused the apostle John to see and record so that God’s people could understand events to come (Revelation 1:1; 4:1).

One striking image revealed was that of a wild animal, a beast in symbolic biblical language, with seven heads and 10 horns (Revelation 17:3). The heads represent different manifestations of a governmental system not of God. They are resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire (centered in Europe).

The seventh revival of that system is yet to come. We know this is a future event because the last head is associated with 10 horns (Revelation 17:11–12). Those horns are identified as “kings,” rulers that will band together under one leader to fight against the Lamb, Jesus Christ, at His return to the earth (verses 13–14). The return of Christ is yet to come, and so is this *short-lived* (verses 10, 12) union of nations (see our free booklet,

The Book of Revelation Unveiled).

There is now a political and military union forming in Europe. It is becoming increasingly clear that Germany will be the dominant influence in that union (see “Radical Changes in EU Constitution Would Create a Strong Parliament,” on page 12). Even some people who do not understand Bible prophecy are beginning to see the handwriting on the wall. Though well-intentioned democratically elected people are bringing about the European Union, the Bible indicates that one day perhaps a different set of leaders will turn despotic and warlike.

Revelation 17:15 says the beast is ridden by a woman (representing a church or religious system), who uses the power of the political union and “sits on,” or rules over, “many waters” (verse 1). The waters are revealed to represent “peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues” (verse

15). This union will be a dominating influence, subjugating many countries at a time of frightening wars and destruction immediately preceding the return of Christ.

The good news is that after these world events finally culminate in this politico-military-religious union turning warlike and aggressive, it will last but a short time. Though its “kings” will fight against Jesus at His return, they will be vanquished, and Jesus Christ will be revealed to be “King of kings” (verse 14).

The time of human governments, with their selfishness, greed and aggression, will be at an end. Of that time, Revelation 11:15 says “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.”

Then will begin a wonderful time of peace when men will not “learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4). ❖

The Other Side of the Story

Apart from some extremist political elements in society, there are no strong political opposition parties in present-day Germany perceived to be a serious threat to postwar democratic governments. None would countenance aggressive behavior towards France. All mainstream parties are democratically oriented and in the main have a desire to maintain a cordial relationship with France and the other EU member states.

John Schmid is the *International Herald Tribune’s* correspondent in Germany. Recently he wrote a story that emphasizes the way Germans see themselves. He states: “Berlin’s politicians are taking pains to deny that EU expansion has become a German project... ‘We have a broken relationship with our history,’ said one German diplomat. ‘We do not belong to the glorious nations like France and Great Britain. Germany searches for its role and European integration is what we want.’”

Schmid continued: “Thomas Mann gave a speech that German diplomats

continue to quote: ‘We do not want to have a German Europe,’ the novelist said in 1948. ‘We want to have a European Germany’” (April 23). To be fair, Germany’s postwar approach has generally honored this basic political theme.

However, the political landscape of Europe could very well change. Embracing a democratic society today is no guarantee that this form of government will automatically be retained in the future. The ever-changing historical map of Europe has shown us that in reality all political options of governance remain open. Acute economic problems in Germany and elsewhere could one day usher in a system of a much more rigid and autocratic nature where democracy would become an early casualty. When economic privation and social unrest stare a nation (or group of nations) in the face, democracy could become a signature on a meaningless piece of paper. Witness the emergence of the Third Reich in the early 1930s.

—Editors

Reversal of Fortune for Two African Nations

Once one of the most unstable of African countries, Ghana is now a model of stability and success. What turned Ghana around in the past 20 years? What lessons are there in its success story for the other struggling African nations?

by Melvin Rhodes

The English lady sitting next to me on the plane was speaking eloquently about her just completed fourth visit to Ghana. The British Airways stewardess and I were listening and agreeing with what was said. Then the lady made an innocent comment that led to my reminiscing on the seven years my wife and I lived in the West African country, seven years that began almost a quarter of a century ago. “There’s nowhere else you can go in West Africa,” said the English visitor. “Ghana is the only stable country.”

Two decades ago, exactly the opposite was true. Ghana at that time was in the midst of a 20-year period of chaos and instability that seemed to be without end. When my wife, Diane, and I first arrived there in May 1978, the country was led by an incompetent military government that had presided over severe shortages of just about everything and an inflation rate of roughly 600 percent.

Six weeks after our arrival, a palace coup removed the head of state from power and replaced him with another military figure. A few months later, a bloody revolution overthrew one military government and replaced it with another, led by junior officers in the air force. Anger was so great that all Ghana’s previous presidents were publicly executed, a bloody act of revolutionary finality that was to inspire similar events elsewhere in Africa.

A promised election led to the establishment of the Third Republic, which lasted a little over two years before another military coup toppled a corrupt civilian government and ushered in a period of unrivaled chaos and total economic collapse, including a man-made famine. It seemed then that Ghana’s troubles would never end.

Now Ghana is a ray of hope in a continent that sorely needs a good role model. In the 10 years since my last visit, Ghana’s two main cities have doubled in size, new hotels adorn the skyline, everything you could possibly want is for sale in the stores and there is food aplenty. Modern communication centers enable most people to make phone calls to anywhere in Ghana or overseas, mobile phones are ubiquitous and Internet cafes have sprung up in even the most remote towns. Two decades ago, the only way to communicate was by sending somebody with a written message to deliver.

What changed? What was it that Ghana did that has led to this reversal of fortune?

A study in contrasts

Before I answer that question, I want to update readers on the situation in another African nation, the one we lived in before transferring to Ghana in 1978. That nation is the southern African Republic of Zimbabwe, which until 1980 was the white-ruled nation of Rhodesia, originally colonized by British settlers in the 1890s.

When we left Rhodesia, it was in the middle of a civil war. The economy was sound and the government, by African standards, quite stable, but the minority white government was beleaguered. The country was ostracized at the international level and subject to United Nations’ sanctions that made trading difficult. African guerrilla forces backed by Moscow, Havana and Beijing, based in neighboring countries, were increasingly effective at disrupting life and terrorizing the native population into supporting them.

The war was not the simple black-white

While Zimbabwe falls apart, Ghana progressively moves forward. What lesson is there here for other African nations?

conflict it was often made out to be overseas. About 78 percent of the “white” army was black, while black African casualties were primarily victims of African nationalism. The African death toll was in the tens of thousands; the white, a few hundred. Africans were the ones who suffered the most. Their suffering was not to end with what was touted as “victory”—the establishment of the newly independent African nation of Zimbabwe in April of 1980.

Now, 20 years later, Zimbabwe is in a state of economic ruin. After inheriting a thriving economy in 1980, Zimbabwe has suffered increasingly incompetent economic mismanagement. It now faces total collapse and massive food shortages (another man-made famine), as pressure is put on the European farmers to leave the country.

While Zimbabwe falls apart, Ghana progressively moves forward. What lesson is there here for other African nations?

Interestingly, while Ghana was the first former British colony in sub-Saharan Africa to receive independence, Zimbabwe was the last. In a cycle that was repeated throughout Africa, Ghana was the “first” English-speaking African nation to experience a series of negative developments.

Ghana was the first to receive independence from Great Britain, the first to abolish the tie with the British Crown and become a republic, the first to abolish parliament and declare the president “President for Life,” the first to suffer complete economic collapse, the first to experience a military coup, the first to attempt a restoration of democracy, the first to see its Second Republic overthrown by the military, the first to see junior officers overthrow their seniors, the first to experience a man-made famine and, finally, the first to turn to outsiders for help. Recently, it became the first nation in postcolonial Africa to see one democratically elected government replaced by another of an opposing political party.

Other nations are at different stages of the cycle. Perhaps Zimbabwe has to go through the same cycle before it, too, can improve and move ahead.

Turning to outsiders

The single most important decision made by the leaders of the military coup that overthrew Ghana’s civilian government at the end of 1981 did not come easily. With a revolutionary government that was inspired by Libya’s Colonel Gadhafi, Ghana sought allies in Eastern European communist nations and Cuba. Nonetheless, after 18 months of severe hardship, there was no sign of any improvement in Ghana’s situation. A decision was made to seek help and advice from international organizations and Western governments. Foreign investment and expertise were to come later.

The prescribed medicine was not easy to take. It was controversial and meant some compromising with idealistic notions of “independence.” But slowly, gradually, it worked. Now 18 years later, Ghana is the most stable and progressive nation on a continent that badly needs to take the same medicine.

Interestingly, this same medicine was prescribed thousands of years ago in the pages of your Bible. As a result of Abraham’s obedience, God promised that He would make of him “a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you” (Genesis 12:2–3).

Abraham and his descendants were to receive unsurpassed blessings as a result of God’s promise. Those blessings could be extended to other nations as they, in turn, blessed and cooperated with Abraham’s descendants, the 12 tribes of Israel through his son Isaac and grandson Jacob (Israel).

The tribe of Joseph, modern Britain and America, were to receive particularly great physical blessings in the “last days” (see Genesis 49:1, 22 and the free booklet, *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*). Ghana, called the Gold Coast prior to 1957 when it was a British colony, became the most prosperous of all African colonies when it was a part of the prophesied “multitude of nations”

descended from Joseph’s son, Ephraim. Not only was the Gold Coast blessed, but also Britain itself received a blessing back as soldiers of the Gold Coast volunteered to serve Great Britain during World War II. It was a mutually beneficial partnership.

Friends I was with on my recent visit to Ghana told me of a conversation they had with some of the hotel staff members. The staff members were lamenting the upheavals that had befallen Ghana since independence and expressed the opinion that the people had not been ready to rule themselves. Corruption had become the norm among the ruling elite, leaving the common people far poorer than they had been under colonialism. They made it clear that they did not want to be servants to the British, that a change was necessary and desirable at the time of independence, but they had not wanted to sever the tie with the British. Ghana today is a member of the Commonwealth and receives positive benefits from that relationship.

Blessings available

Zimbabwe is still going through the anti-British phase of its cycle that Ghana was going through two decades ago. The angry rhetoric of its president blames all of the country’s problems on the nation that once presided over the greatest empire in history. The descendants of the British and other European settlers are subject to violent attacks and constant threats that their land will be taken and they will be expelled from the country. Sadly, such actions will only worsen Zimbabwe’s plight. God said He would “curse him who curses you [Israel].”

At some point, Zimbabweans will come around to seeing what Ghanaians already see—the need for a close working relationship with the physical descendants of Abraham, the people best placed to help them prosper in today’s modern world. The promise made to Abraham was not just for a minor nomadic people thousands of years ago, but also for all nations today. ❖

To Tell the Truth

It isn't easy to face the ugly truth about one's past actions. It's even harder for an entire nation to come to grips with a collective guilt. But if there is ever to be hope that the past is not repeated, then everyone must look at the facts and learn to tell the truth.

by Darris McNeely

In the movie *A Few Good Men* the Tom Cruise character demanded, "I want the truth!" The Jack Nicholson character then screamed in reply, "You can't handle the truth!"

The whole truth and nothing but the truth can indeed be hard to handle. Sometimes a nation of people must acknowledge a difficult truth about their past before they can move on to tomorrow.

It's difficult for the Serbian people in Yugoslavia to come to terms with the truth of the atrocities committed in their name during the ethnic wars of the 1990s. Since the arrest last month of former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic, there is increased discussion of what really happened during the years of his government.

Current president Vojislav Kostunica has established a Truth and Reconciliation Committee to examine and bring to light all the war crimes of the period. It is still unclear how effective this effort will be at overcoming the strong nationalistic feelings among the Serbs. Those feelings were shrewdly manipulated and will be difficult to alter.

Srebrenica

In the summer of 1995, in the predominantly Muslim Bosnian town of Srebrenica, a staggering atrocity occurred. When Serbian forces captured the town, they gathered thousands of men of military age and brutally slaughtered them. Called "the worst case of genocide in Europe since World War II," more than 7,000 males were rounded up and murdered during a five-day period.

The Western press has chronicled the fact of this slaughter extensively. After a wide-ranging investigation, including indict-

ments by an international tribunal, a United Nations report confirmed the atrocity. "After Srebrenica fell to besieging Serbian forces in July 1995, a truly terrible massacre of the Muslim population appears to have taken place. The evidence tendered by the Prosecutor describes scenes of unimaginable savagery: thousands of men executed and buried in mass graves, hundreds of men buried alive, men and women mutilated and slaughtered, children killed before their mothers' eyes, a grandfather forced to eat the liver of his own grandson. These are truly scenes from hell, written on the darkest pages of human history" (Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/35: The fall of Srebrenica).

And yet, a majority of Serbs, including many who live in the United States, continue to deny the severity of this tragedy. Recently, this author watched an American journalist receive calls during a session of a popular cable news program. The journalist had written extensively about the Srebrenica atrocity and received several calls from Americans of Serbian descent who strongly disavowed the truth of Srebrenica. Nationalistic feelings run deep within peoples who view themselves as historically pushed aside or ignored by world opinion.

A new foundation

For the Serbs to accept personal and collective responsibility for this and other atrocities during the Balkan wars will take a long time. A generation may not be enough. The recent arrest of Milosevic does not guarantee a national awakening to its collective responsibility. A recent survey of Serbs revealed that 18 percent of those polled felt

Since the arrest last month of former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic, there is increased discussion of what really happened during the years of his government.

Milosevic's biggest crime was the loss of Serbian lands in Kosovo and Croatia. Just 11 percent felt he should be sent to the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

While 20 percent said he doesn't belong in prison at all, 59 percent said he should be put on trial in Belgrade, the Yugoslav and Serbian capital. About 40 percent said his worst crime was abuse of office, the charge for which he was arrested, including allegations of corruption ("Serbs Face Their Past, Dose of Truth at a Time," *Los Angeles Times*, April 17, 2001).

Among the Serbs, there is an effort to expose the truth and reeducate people about the war crimes committed in their name. It isn't easy.

Last fall an independent Yugoslavian television station started a prime-time weekly series that examines the history of the recent wars of Milosevic. The goal is to provoke a wider debate "so that people feel this needs to be cleared up," said Veran Matic, the network's editor in chief. "We will try to tell people there is a lot of evil that should be disclosed, that things shouldn't be reduced just to questions of financial corruption. We have to prove that the foundations themselves, the reasons

to start these wars, were not right" (ibid.).

From whence come wars?

Nationalism, hatred and xenophobia form the basis for much of the strife in today's world. In countries like Northern Ireland, the Middle East and the Congo, the historic chords of national and ethnic pride fuel conflicts which seem to defy solution. Memories are long and unforgiving when people hold their point of view to be the only true perspective. When Christ spoke of the end time with its "wars and rumors of wars" and nations (*ethnos*, Greek) rising and fighting against one another (Matthew 24:6-7), He was

The challenge for the people of Serbia is to acknowledge the truth of their recent past. Only then can they begin the long march toward true freedom.



Former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic was arrested last month (Petar Kujundzic/Reuters photo)

addressing a problem of a people not willing to hear truth and look deep within themselves to acknowledge the sin of pride and lust which fuels continuing acts of murder and war (James 4:1-2).

In John 8:32, Jesus Christ said, "...the truth shall make you free." The challenge for the people of Serbia is to acknowledge the truth of their recent past. Only then can they begin the long march toward true freedom. Their challenge is to throw open the windows and let the light of their true history stream into their collective conscience. It will be difficult, but not impossible. The Serbs are no better or worse than any other people. As a young student put it, "We are normal and healthy and good people, like all other people, and among us are some who are bad, rotten, evil, sick, as much as any other nation" (ibid.).

It will be difficult for some of these people to acknowledge the unsavory truth about their nation's sins. But their fellow citizens, their neighbors, and the entire world, await that kind of rare, but godly change of heart. The truth is indeed hard to handle. ❖



It's difficult for the Serbian people to come to terms with the atrocities committed in their name during the ethnic wars of the 1990s

In Brief...

World News Review

Radical Changes in EU Constitution Would Create a Strong Parliament

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder will push for a radical restructuring of the European Union's governing institutions to create a centralized EU government with a two-chamber parliament and expanded powers, a spokeswoman for his party said on April 29.



Source: BBC Online

Mr. Schroeder's plan, if accepted in an EU constitutional convention in 2004, would lay the foundations for what the most ardent integrationists see as an eventual United States of Europe. The proposal is meant to advance a postwar dream of European political unification and reflects Berlin's efforts to carve a greater German leadership role in Europe, EU analysts said. But the notion of a unified Europe, which inevitably would dilute the authority of national governments and parliaments, remains a flash point of deep division within the 15-nation bloc and would take years to implement.

The leadership of the governing Social Democratic Party, which Mr. Schroeder heads, outlined its blueprint for Europe's future in an internal party document, the newsmagazine *Der Spiegel* reported in its April 30, 2001, edition. Grit Auerswald, spokeswoman for the party, confirmed the report Sunday and said that the party's national board would review the paper on May 7 and present it at the party's annual convention in November.

The German vision is likely to receive a hostile reaction from Britain, which has not yet joined the 12-nation common currency and exhibits a popular distrust of a European "superstate." Analysts said that Mr.

Schroeder's plan was likely to go beyond the aims of the French political elite, who want to retain a greater degree of national influence but who also support a future EU constitution in some form. The Danish, Swedish and Finnish governments also are likely to give it a cool reception, EU analysts said. Spain, too, will not likely endorse this idea.

The April 28th edition of *The Economist* featured a piece about Elmar Brok, a German member of the European Parliament. Mr. Brok's ideas of European unification echo those of the German chancellor. He is calling for a constitutional convention that would draw up a new constitution by the year 2003, a full year ahead of schedule. He talks eagerly of a "new treaty of Rome to seal the process started at the first one, in 1957."

Sources: *International Herald Tribune* and *The Economist*.

"Economic Earthquake" in Japan Soon to Rattle World Economy?

George Friedman, an expert on international affairs and intelligence, recently compared the internal forces of the Japanese economy to the tectonic plates that make up the earth's crust. These plates move very little for long periods, in spite of monumental pressures on them. When they finally do move, an earthquake results. Similarly, warns Friedman on his Strategic Forecasting Web site, the relatively stable Japanese economy is subject to "a sudden rendering [that] turns everything upside down."

Japan's finance minister told the country's parliament on March 9, "Japan's fiscal condition is approaching a state of collapse." Because Japan's deficit is already huge, the government has few options that it can exercise. Unemployment has risen to 4.9 percent—a high figure for Japan.

Mitsubishi Motors Corporation is projected to lose \$2.1 billion this fiscal year, a projection 79 percent worse than what Mitsubishi offered just last November. Mazda, another Japanese car manufacturer, recently announced that it will shift its compact-car production from Japan to a Ford plant in Spain. Japanese stocks have plunged to a

15-year low, representing a 67 percent decline from their high in 1990.

How significant is the Japanese economy? It's the second largest in the world. Economic columnist Mort Zuckerman puts it into perspective: "A financial disaster of the size implicit in their latest numbers would send huge waves everywhere. Japan is the largest economy in Asia. The spending power of its 127 million residents exceeds that of the 1.8 billion inhabitants of East and Southeast Asia. It is also the world's largest gross and net international lender, with over \$2.5 trillion outstanding" ("Japan on the Brink," March 15, 2001). Clearly its financial troubles have the ability to disrupt global financial markets.

Dr. Friedman warns, "Japan's economy is so close to the edge it will not take much to nudge it over." He made the comment in the context of an editorial about why U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan is concerned about reducing U.S. interest rates too rapidly. The world's largest economy and the world's second-largest economy are inextricably linked. Lower interest rates in the United States stimulate its domestic economy at the same time as they weaken the U.S. dollar abroad. Fewer Japanese products would be imported into the United States because they would be more expensive. Fewer Japanese products would be sold in Europe because American exports would be more competitive than the Japanese ones. These market fluctuations occur all the time, but Friedman says, "a drop in cash flow due to declining exports could be the straw that breaks the camel's back."

Sources: Times Newspapers Ltd., Strategic Forecasting LLC, CNN, Reuters.

Floating Killing Clinics

The Dutch government is currently debating euthanasia legislation. If a patient is "in continuous, unbearable and incurable suffering," if he or she is "aware of medical alternatives" and has "demanded a second professional opinion," the patient meets the criteria for legal euthanasia under the pending legislation. The bill says, "The request to die must be made voluntarily, independently, persistently and only after careful consideration by a patient judged to be of sound mind."

The law is expected to pass the Dutch upper house.

Philip Nitschke, a doctor and euthanasia campaigner, is poised to take advantage of the law as soon as it is passed. He plans to establish a floating euthanasia clinic in international waters off the coast of Australia. By purchasing a Dutch-registered ship, he can establish a legal clinic that circumvents Australian law, which prohibits euthanasia.

Does that seem strange? Another equally strange and

disturbing development is a movement headed by Dutch doctor Rebecca Gomperts. Dr. Gomperts is currently raising funds to establish a floating abortion clinic that would operate in international waters off the coasts of nations whose laws forbid abortion. Given the volatile opposition to abortion, extensive measures are being pursued to secure the ship against sinking by abortion opponents.

It makes one wonder what comes next—perhaps a floating cloning clinic that will circumvent EU and U.S. laws, which forbid cloning humans?

Source: Guardian Unlimited.

Foot-and-Mouth Seen as Serious Threat to U.S. Agriculture

The United States, which has not had a case of foot-and-mouth disease since 1929, has instituted extensive precautionary measures against infection from overseas, but is preparing as if an outbreak in the United States were a certainty.

Besides Britain, cases of the disease have been confirmed in the Netherlands, France, Ireland, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, South Korea and Taiwan. International air travelers arrive back in the United States to find that they're required to have their feet sprayed with a disinfectant by airport inspectors.

U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) official Bruce Braughman said, "We are certainly treating it like it's a probable likelihood." FEMA was one of several U.S. federal agencies that met on April 18 to outline plans on how to deal with an outbreak of foot-and-mouth. Other agencies included the Agriculture Department, the U.S. Army, the Coast Guard, the Interior Department, the Food and Drug Administration—even the CIA.

Meanwhile, intelligence operators at the Department of Agriculture are working on a vaccine for foot-and-mouth. Looking beyond natural causes, the intelligence community is concerned that the disease may have been started as an act of bio- or "agro-terrorism." Foot-and-mouth disease is easily released with no threat to the terrorist, and it spreads by itself.

Agro-terrorism isn't new, according to Peter Chalk, a Rand policy analyst who has studied the subject. "Germany...had an operation...in 1917 here in the United States [by which they] infected draft animals that were going to be sent to Europe. The Soviet Union had about 10,000 scientists and technicians working on anti-agriculture agents" (UPI, "Livestock Plagues Could Be Bio-Terror Attack," April 5, 2001).

The fact that U.S. livestock is largely concentrated in a few regions makes U.S. agriculture an attractive target

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Here the real point is established. He decries the fact that in government circles and in the press, the information was marginalized and sometimes suppressed. He pinpoints how the *New York Times* reported in the summer of 1942 on an inside page that 1 million Jews had been killed. Later in 1944, the *New York Times* reported in four inches of copy on page 12 that 400,000 Hungarian Jews had been deported to their deaths. Just imagine squeezing the liquidation of 400,000 human lives, a city the size of Portland, Oregon, into an article you could cover over with your thumb. It was done, is being done and will be done again.

Dr. Reich explains that he realizes this was all happening in the midst of an entire world at war with death and conflict everywhere. Even so, such news and such overwhelming numbers demanded greater attention. It is interesting to hear some of the reasons why such stories as the Holocaust, or Shoah, as the Jews commonly referred to it, were tucked away on inside pages. Dr. Reich points, unsurprisingly, to the reality of anti-Semitism, not in Germany, but in the allied countries fighting to liberate Europe. He also argues that allied leaders wanted to focus on military matters rather than humanitarian matters, thus avoiding criticism that the war was being waged on behalf of Jewish interests.

But what is most interesting is his conclusion. The main reason for inattention to this monstrous cancer of genocide, causing America and Britain to marginalize such bad news, was “probably the audacious and almost unbelievable nature of this immense genocidal project.” The American and British peoples could not bring themselves to believe the atrocities, thinking, “How could so civilized and cultured a nation as Germany carry out so savage and inhuman an enterprise?”

Dr. Reich continues his plea for true resolve by sharing the lingering, unbelievable genocidal devastation over the



“It would have been better, of course, if, half a century ago, while it was taking place, the Holocaust had been confronted with the focus and conviction that is now being devoted to its remembrance.”

last decade in Rwanda. By doing so, he brings the argument forward into our time, and indicts global society, which, like biblical Belshazzar, has been “weighed in the balances, and found wanting” (Daniel 5:27). Dr. Reich then places his finger on a problem that besets the human family. The lesson is “the ease with which governments, as well as institutions and populations, can become bystanders as true evil is carried out. Even if they have information about what is happening, they can find ways, if that information is uninteresting or inconvenient, of not absorbing it.”

Denying it doesn't make it disappear

Today each of us is most likely facing news that we wish would simply go away. It can be about our nation, family, workplace, community or congregation. It may be about us. All of us at times, and for too long a time, reflect the same human nature that enabled the Holocaust to occur.

Sometimes it is easier to relegate what should be front-page news in our lives to the back pages of our attention. Somehow, we think that such placement of our problems magically alters the potential size of the problem. It's like putting our thumb over the massacre of 400,000 people and pretending it didn't happen. Normally, our nobler intentions are to delegate such unpleasantness to tomorrow, thinking it will be safer and perhaps even gone. “Tomorrow” is one of the most innocent sounding words in the dictionary, yet it's one of life's most dangerous words.

Recognizing the window of opportunity

Often the window of opportunity for action is narrow. How often have people had information come to them, only to sit on it, even when it is costing human lives? The window stays open for only so long before it slams shut.

Long ago, there was a man who had done evil in the land. In fact, he had sent a man who was in his service to a certain death on the front lines of his army so he could have that man's wife to himself. To those who knew about it, the truth was probably “inconvenient.” If there had been a newspaper in King David's day, I wonder how far back in the newspaper we would have had to go to find Uriah the Hittite's name?

One man had the discernment and courage to make it “front-page news.” With no thought of tomorrow or concern for his future in the palace, the prophet Nathan stared evil in the face and declared to David, “You are the man!” (2 Samuel 12:7.)

There was no sweeping this under someone else's rug. Nathan had to confront the evil of his time and place. Was he scared? Perhaps. The venerable Hollywood cowboy John Wayne once said, "Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway."

David did come to recognize his sins and Nathan is recognized as a godly man. It has never been humanly easy to identify evil and strive to crush it. Sometimes there is success and sometimes, for the moment, there is perceived failure. Ronald Reagan will long be known for identifying the Soviet Union as the "Evil Empire destined for the trash bin of history." And his legacy was strengthened. Fifty years before that, another man pointed to an emerging threat in Europe known as Nazism. That man, Winston Churchill, was hounded from Parliament and went into his famous "wilderness years."

Nathan the prophet, Ronald Reagan and Winston Churchill each portrayed a rare quality in the world of politics. Courage! It takes courage to stand up and be counted, but it takes even more courage to keep standing after you have been counted. There truly is a difference between living a life of resolve and vigilance versus an existence of regrets and commemorations of what could have been. Perhaps each of these men was locked into the truth of the principle found in James 4:17, "Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin."

Tell it all, and tell it now

World News and Prophecy is dedicated to the same principles that allowed Nathan to stand before a powerful ruler and tell it like it is, not burying the truth in a sinkhole of obscurity. The goal of our staff is to share the truly front-page events that will affect the life of every human alive today.

In Matthew 24:21, Jesus Christ plainly stated, "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time." This time is yet in the future. It's a time that will even be, incredible as it might seem, more traumatic than the Holocaust perpetrated on the Jews. Based on the living reality of James 4:17, we would be held accountable if we did not warn people today about what is emerging politically and religiously once again in Europe and how it will affect your very life and the life of your dear ones.

God's Word does reveal what is going to occur, and now is the time to tell the story that is emerging, of a system that is going to overwhelm the world not only with its glitter, but also with its evil. We strive to follow the prophet Nathan in presenting the facts, in courage and discernment publishing what belongs in the front pages of our hearts and minds. Our goal is not to allow the news of lesser importance to crowd out the important world trends of which we need to be aware. We don't want to look back on what we could and should have said, and hang our heads in silent remembrance.

Nathan's bold front-page headline of what was really happening in the world of his day sets the standard we are striving to emulate, a standard that heralds the millennial refrain of Isaiah 30:21, "this is the way, walk in it." Like Nathan, we should tell it all, and tell it now! ❖

"NEWS," (Continued from page 13)

for the agro-terrorist. As Britain knows all too well, the economic consequences could be disastrous.

Sources: *USA Today*, UPI, Reuters.

Germany: Microsoft Products a Security Threat?

Germany's defense and foreign ministries are reported to have made the decision to stop using software from U.S. software giant Microsoft Corporation. The reason for the decision: Germany's security. German authorities received information that the U.S. Secret Service has the capability to decode all Microsoft products and data files generated using those products. The German defense ministry plans to use decoding technology made only by German companies, either Siemens AG or Deutsche Telekom AG.

Security concerns are also the reason for the cancellation of German foreign ministry plans to use satellite-videoconferencing technology with its embassies.

Source: *Der Spiegel*, March 19, 2001.

Europe Prepares for War

A former German admiral has laid out reasons why NATO and the European Union are putting themselves on a war footing. In a long article titled "Who Are Our Enemies?" Vice-Admiral Ulrich Weisser has explained the so-called threats which Europe and NATO now face. "The threats of yesterday," he says, "have been replaced by a multiplicity of risks which have a different quality." In the foreground are ethnic, religious and nationalistic rivalries which can lead to "the collapse of state order..."

"It is not the main task of the German army to be stationed in places but instead to be ready for action." There are dangers of "unpredictable regimes," "organized crime" and "cyber-terrorism" attacking the world economic information system. Germany is at particular risk because it is "a leading industrial and exporting nation and thus extremely dependent on the outside world and interlinked with the international community." Military force, to put it bluntly, must protect Germany's interests as an exporter, but must also ensure freedom of movement for trade and the supply of raw materials. To be sure, all these problems cannot be solved by armed intervention—which is why "conflict prevention" is required.

Source: *The European Foundation/Intelligence Digest* Issue No. 113/February 8-21, 2001.

Contributors: *Cecil E. Maranville, Ken Martin and Darris McNeely*

This Is the Way... What's on the Front Page of Your Mind?

by Robin Webber

Most of us are familiar with the old question, "If a tree falls in the forest, and no one is there to hear it, does it make a noise?" I'm sure many of us have put our mind into that "proverbial forest" and sought the answer. But that is only hypothetical.

A more significant question is, If evil occurs and no one pays attention, will it just go away? What happens when we are made fully aware of an injustice and turn our back on the matter hoping that it will disappear? In other words, are we ignoring the "crash of news" and the "crush of reality" coming down all around us?

Walter Reich wrote an op-ed piece in the *Los Angeles Times* focusing on Holocaust Remembrance Day, which was April 19. This designated day reminds a modern audience of the real threat of man's inhumanity to man by spotlighting the organized and methodical extermination of nearly 6 million Jews during World War II under the Nazi war machine.

Dr. Reich is a professor of international affairs, ethics and human behavior at George Washington University. He was the director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum from 1995 to 1998. His article, titled "Holocaust Remembered, the News Went Nowhere," gives each of us

a lot to think about, not only about the past, but what we plan to do in the future.

Lessons and legacies for our time

Dr. Reich begins, "On this Holocaust Remembrance Day, mourning the victims of that society is a compelling act of memory. It would have been better, of course, if, half a century ago, while it was taking place, the Holocaust had been confronted with the focus and conviction that is now being devoted to its remembrance."

He woefully adds, "But that didn't happen. And in that sad fact, lies a tale full of lessons for our time." The thrust of his thought is that while regrets and commemoration are noteworthy, the true essence of devotion is resolve and vigilance at the very moment that evil is being perpetrated.

He goes on to state, "By 1942, it was clear to Allied governments that Europe's Jews were being murdered by Nazi Germany. Reports of mass killings by mobile killing squads in the Soviet Union, and then of the use of gas chambers, were transmitted to Allied capitals. News of the annihilation of millions of Jews eventually appeared in American and British newspapers."

(See "FRONT PAGE," page 14)