

Future NEWS

Volume 7, No. 2

February 2003

“The success of the gospel message does not depend upon learned speeches, eloquent testimonies, or deep arguments. It depends upon the simplicity of the message and its adaptation to the souls that are hungering for the bread of life. ‘What shall I do to be saved?’—this is the want of the soul.

“Thousands can be reached in the most simple and humble way. The most intellectual, those who are looked upon as the world’s most gifted men and women, are often refreshed by the simple words of one who loves God, and who can speak of that love as naturally as the worldling speaks of the things that interest him most deeply.

“Often the words well prepared and studied have but little influence. But the true, honest expression of a son or daughter of God, spoken in natural simplicity, has power to unbolt the door to hearts that have long been closed against Christ and His love.

“Let the worker for Christ remember that he is not to labor in his own strength. Let him lay hold of the throne of God with faith in His power to save. Let him wrestle with God in prayer, and then work with all the facilities God has given him. The Holy Spirit is provided as his efficiency. Ministering angels will be by his side to impress hearts.

“If the leaders and teachers at Jerusalem had received the truth Christ brought, what a missionary center their city would have been! Backslidden Israel would have been converted. A vast army would have been gathered for the Lord. And how rapidly they could have carried the gospel to all parts of the world. So now, if men of influence and large capacity for usefulness could be won for Christ, then through them what a work could be accomplished in lifting up the fallen, gathering in the outcasts, and spreading far and wide the tidings of salvation. Rapidly the invitation might be given, and the guests be gathered for the Lord’s table.

“But we are not to think only of great and gifted men, to the neglect of the poorer classes. Christ instructs His messengers to go also to those in the byways and hedges, to the poor and lowly of the earth. In the courts and lanes of the great cities, in the lonely byways of the country, are families and individuals—perhaps strangers in a strange land—who are without church relations, and who, in their loneliness, come to feel that God has forgotten them. They do not understand what they must do to be saved. Many are sunken in sin. Many are in distress. They are pressed with suffering, want, unbelief, despondency. Disease of every type afflicts them, both in body and in soul. They long to find a solace for their troubles, and Satan tempts them to seek it in lusts and pleasures that lead to ruin and death. He is offering them the apples of Sodom, that will turn to ashes upon their lips. They are spending their money for that which is not bread and their labor for that which satisfieth not.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 232-233.

Future for America produces and mails out a monthly newsletter and audio presentation in English and Spanish. For information you may contact the following brethren who are affiliated with this work:

Future News

PO Box 7

Bonnerdale, AR 71933

Telephone: 888-278-7744

Circulation Manager—Kathy Pippenger

Editor & Speaker—Jeff Pippenger

JeffPippenger@msn.com

Contributing Editor—Pat Rampy

Patrick.Rampy@juno.com

Contributing Editor—Dean Ferrell

Seventhseal@firstVA.com

Spanish Department—Al & Lupe Perez

Futuro de America

PO Box 353

Glenwood, AR 71943

Telephone: 870-356-7049

aperez77@alltel.net

Future News—Canada

Phyllis Vallieres

RR 3, 2552 Cooper Road

Madoc, Ontario, K0K 2K0, Canada

Telephone: 613-473-5332

FAX 613-473-5630

phyllisv@primus.ca

Future for America—Great Britain

Russell & Charmaine Williams

29 Lascelles Close

Leytonstone, London

Telephone: 208-279-6903

judicium@aol.com

Future for America is a self-supporting 501-C3 non-profit corporation; funded by readers like you. The cost of this newsletter and audio-tape reaching a home is approximately \$3.50.

This publication is sent out free of charge. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

MISSION STATEMENT

The ministry of *Future for America* is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the prophetic word includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, *Future for America* emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. *Future for America* upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

Future for America intends to print and distribute truth-filled literature, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a printing operation with their own resources.

The requests for meetings around the world and in the US are greater than any time that we have been in this ministry. Some of the requests are from those we have never before met, who have received our information providentially while some of the meetings we have been involved with for some time.

A year and a half ago we supplied the funds to have the majority of our presentations translated into the Russian language in order to hold a prophecy school for 200 pastors in the Ukraine. The material is now translated and ready to go, and in the mean time the way may have opened for us to share also with the Adventist Seminary students in Russia. We desire to follow these requests up, but we have prayed that when we did so the Lord would supply some additional funding so we could provide the pastors and future pastors with their own set of notes. We also hope to professionally record the meetings so the message is available in audio and video for the former Soviet Union countries that are almost all familiar with the Russian language. We are hoping the Lord supplies funds so we can take our video man with us in order to have confidence in a sound recording of the meetings. If the Lord impresses you to help in this work, please mark your funds, "Ukraine Project". We have roughly estimated six thousand dollars for this project. This will provide three airfares, monies to print the appropriate amount of handout materials and produce masters tapes in audio and video.. Airfare is very high in the former Soviet Union compared with many other areas of the globe.

We just finished the January evangelistic series in the Philippines, and at the time of this update I do not yet have a report to share with you, as I am writing this newsletter in early January in order to help keep on top of the work we see developing here at the ministry. Our March update will give you the overview of the January meeting in the Philippines. This week we have reached half the goal for our April Philippines series. That amount provides the monies for the Bible workers to begin their three-month advance preparation for the series. We are seeking the balance of the budget for that series which is another three thousand dollars. This provides for the rental of the hall, the living arrangements for those involved with the meetings, the literature and Bibles for handout materials to the attendees. We solicit your prayers for this series, and remind you that if the funding arrives to cover this series, then we will also step forward in our planning for the third series in the Philippines in the June or July time period. In the April series we will also hold a prison series at one or a few prisons in the Cebu area. We budget six thousand dollars for a single series, but we do not include the airfare of the speakers or any funds for the additional literature that we provide above and beyond the budgeted series literature. It has been amazing to watch the Lord fulfill the financing of thirteen different series over the last five years. Praise His name! If you can help with this work, please mark your offering, "Philippines 2003".

We have requests to go to three, and possibly four countries in Latin America. The brethren there have always depended on the funding from those of us in the US to cover the expense of these trips. Once again, these requests have come with the understanding that the brethren there do not have the funds to cover the travel. Yet there is a serious need for the prophetic message to be shared at this time in these countries.

Particularly distressing is the rampant teachings of futurism that is causing great problems there, partly due to the lack of financial ability to obtain Spirit of Prophecy to clarify the truth of God's prophetic message. We are praying the Lord allows the funding for these countries, yet as is the case with all charitable organizations in the US since September eleven—funding is down. We have always walked by the conviction that if the funding is not there, then this is the Lord's voice saying not to go, so we are not anxious over the funding we receive, but simply needed to keep our readers informed. If you have a burden to help with the work in Central and South America, please mark your offering "Latin Project".

We have a request to return to Malaysia, but with the same condition. Those being a lack of funds on the part of the Malaysian brethren. The prophetic message which we share is currently being well circulated in that part of Asia and it would be an excellent time to go and hold a school of prophecy for the brethren there. If the Lord convicts you to help in this line please mark your funds, "Asia project". We use the word Asia instead of Malaysia, for we may very well visit some other countries in that area of the globe while we are there, in order to save on travel expense.

THE MESSENGERS

"The Lord has often given me a view of the situation and wants of the scattered jewels who have not yet come to the light of the present truth, and has shown that the messengers should speed their way to them as fast as possible, to give them the light. Many all around us only need to have their prejudices removed and the evidences of our present position spread out before them from the Word, and they will joyfully receive the present truth. The messengers should watch for souls as they that must give account. Theirs must be a life of toil and anguish of spirit, while the weight of the precious but often-wounded cause of Christ rests upon them. They will have to lay aside worldly interests and comforts and make it their first object to do all in their power to advance the cause of present truth and save perishing souls.

"They will also have a rich reward. In their crowns of rejoicing those who are rescued by them and finally saved will shine as stars forever and ever. And to all eternity they will enjoy the satisfaction of having done what they could in presenting the truth in its purity and beauty, so that souls fell in love with it, were sanctified through it, and availed themselves of the inestimable privilege of being made rich, and being washed in the blood of the Lamb and redeemed unto God.

"I saw that the shepherds should consult those in whom they have reason to have confidence, those who have been in all the messages, and are firm in all the present truth, before they advocate new points of importance, which they may think the Bible sustains. Then the shepherds will be perfectly united and the union of the shepherds will be felt by the church. Such a course I saw would prevent unhappy divisions, and then there would be no danger of the precious flock being divided and the sheep scattered without a shepherd.

"I also saw that God had messengers that He would use in His cause, but they were not ready. They were too light and trifling to exert a good influence over the flock and did not feel the weight of the cause and the worth of souls as God's messengers must feel in order to effect good. Said the angel, 'Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord. Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.'

“They can accomplish but little good unless they are wholly given up to God and feel the importance and solemnity of the last message of mercy that is now being given to the scattered flock. Some who are not called of God are very willing to go with the message. But if they felt the weight of the cause and the responsibilities of such a station, they would feel to shrink back and say with the apostle, ‘Who is sufficient for these things?’

“One reason why they are so willing to go is that God has not laid upon them the weight of the cause. Not all who proclaimed the first and the second angel’s message are to give the third, even after they fully embrace it, for some have been in so many errors and delusions that they can but just save their own souls, and if they undertake to guide others, they will be the means of overthrowing them. But I saw that some who have formerly run deep into fanaticism would be the first now to run before God sends them, before they are purified from their past errors; having error mixed with the truth, they would feed the flock of God with it, and if they were suffered to go on, the flock would become sickly, and distraction and death would follow. I saw that they would have to be sifted and sifted, until they were freed from all their errors, or they could never enter the kingdom. The messengers could not have that confidence in the judgment and discernment of those who have been in errors and fanaticism that they could have in those who have been in the truth and not in extravagant errors. Many, also, are too apt to urge out into the field some who have but just professed the present truth, who have much to learn and much to do before they can be right in the sight of God themselves, much less point out the way to others.

“I saw the necessity of the messengers, especially, watching and checking all fanaticism wherever they might see it rise. Satan is pressing in on every side, and unless we watch for him, and have our eyes open to his devices and snares, and have on the whole armor of God, the fiery darts of the wicked will hit us. There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is ‘present truth’ that the flock needs now. I have seen the danger of the messengers running off from the important points of present truth, to dwell upon subjects that are not calculated to unite the flock and sanctify the soul. Satan will here take every possible advantage to injure the cause.

“But such subjects as the sanctuary, in connection with the 2300 days, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, are perfectly calculated to explain the past Advent movement and show what our present position is, establish the faith of the doubting, and give certainty to the glorious future. These, I have frequently seen, were the principal subjects on which the messengers should dwell. If the chosen messengers of the Lord should wait for every obstacle to be moved out of their way, many never would go to search for the scattered sheep. Satan will present many objections in order to keep them from duty. But they will have to go out by faith, trusting in Him who has called them to His work, and He will open the way before them, as far as it will be for their good and His glory. Jesus, the great teacher and pattern, had not where to lay His head. His life was one of toil, sorrow, and suffering; He then gave Himself for us. Those who, in Christ’s stead, beseech souls to be reconciled to God, and who hope to reign with Christ in glory, must expect to be partakers of His sufferings here. ‘They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.’ Psalm 126:5, 6.” *Early Writings*, 61–63.

IS SISTER WHITE RELEVANT TODAY?

CONTRIBUTED BY RALPH MOSS.

Subject: Economy and Society

“There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 13.

Comment: What do we see today?

Subject: New York City Buildings

“On one occasion, when in New York City, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising story after story toward heaven. These buildings were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify the owners and builders. . . .

“The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fireproof buildings and said: ‘They are perfectly safe.’ But these buildings were consumed as if made of pitch. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 13.

Comment: The news accounts said that the workers in the buildings were told to remain at their work places as the buildings were fireproof and perfectly safe. The fact that the buildings were thought to be fireproof prevented quick evacuation. Over three hundred firemen died trying to operate the fire engines that were rendered useless.

In Sister White’s day the highest building was the Flatburn Building, twenty stories high. The World Trade Center was one-hundred and ten stories tall.

Subject: A Series of Events

“There will be a series of events revealing that God is master of the situation. . . .

“More and more, as the days go by, it is becoming apparent that God’s judgments are in the world. In fire and flood and earthquake He is warning the inhabitants of this earth of His near approach. The time is nearing when the great crisis in the history of the world will have come, when every movement in the government of God will be watched with intense interest and inexpressible apprehension. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another—fire and flood and earthquake, with war and bloodshed.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 96–97..

Comment: The summer of 2002 was a droughtyear and the forest fires were greater than ever on record. Floods in Europe and America devastated towns and cities. The world is on the verge of a broadening the war in the Middle East to include Iraq, while North Korea and Iran are on the back burner. God’s mercy and forbearance are lingering while He waits for His people to sound the final warning.

Subject: Destruction of Thousands of Cities

“The time is near when large cities will be swept away . . .

“O that God’s people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry.” *Evangelism*, 29.

Comment: *NewsMax* stated in its August 7, 2002 report that FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is preparing for mass destruction attacks on cities. This is one of the most massive undertakings in the agencies history. What natural disaster would require FEMA to create emergency cities in different geographic areas of the US at the same time?

Subject: Health Reform

“Tell them that the time will soon come when there will be no safety in using eggs, milk, cream, or butter, because disease in animals is increasing in proportion to the increase of wickedness among men. The time is near when, because of the iniquity of the fallen race, the whole animal creation will groan under the diseases that curse our earth.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 349.

47—Percentage of Americans polled in January who thought the government should violate their civil liberties to prevent terrorism.

33—Percentage polled in September who thought the government should violate their civil liberties to prevent terrorism. *Time*, December 23, 2002.

THE SHRINKING CIRCLE OF RIGHTS

Once the state got into the business of enforcing (rather than merely observing) civil rights, definitions began to collapse, new “rights” kept popping up (along with correlative obligations), the state invaded everything, and people began having to worry about whether their customary activities were still legal and lawyer-proof. Freedom is becoming a mere residue: it refers not to God-given, inalienable rights (since “rights” are now created by the state), but to the shrinking circle of things we are still allowed to do.

After visiting America in the 1830’s, Alexis de Tocqueville marveled that Americans were pretty much free to do whatever they pleased. They took for granted the right to start a new church, business, or charity without seeking the permission of the state. Bogus rights had not yet begun to devour real rights. Our original rights freed us from the state’s power. Nowadays most alleged “rights” increase the state’s power over us. *The Conservative Chronicle*, December 25, 2002.

“ . . . our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and Republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions . . .” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 451.

HOMELAND SECURITY: WHAT WE GOT INSTEAD

“An evil exists that threatens every man, woman and child of this great nation. We must take steps to ensure our domestic security and protect our homeland.” Adolph Hitler, writing about the creation of the Gestapo in Nazi Germany.

Look closer at the powers granted under the *Homeland Security Act* and you will find things that make Hitler proud. They include provisions to allow private citizens to spy on other private citizens without fear of prosecution if the Department determines their actions were conducted “in the national interest”.

“I have read some of the abstracts on the new law and they take the handcuffs off people like me,” says private detective Andrew Burlingame. “I can tap anyone I please. All I have to do is claim I thought the guy was a terrorist.”

Under the new law, an agent of the *Department of Homeland Security* can walk into your bank, flash a badge and demand to see your checking and saving account records. No court order. All they need is the “presumption of guilt.” They can stop you in your car without cause and search it and you. They can hold you in jail for thirty days or more without filing charges or allowing you to make any phone calls. They can call up *America Online* and put a trace on all your Internet activity without a court order. They can require VISA to turn over all your credit card activity records without notice.

“Again, the process only requires an internal administrative review and not the involvement of any independent judicial authority, says retired judge Macklin. “It violates all previous standards for due process and probable cause.” In other words, they can do anything they want and there isn’t a thing any of us can do about it. November 20, 2002, www.capitalhillblue.com

"Stab someone for no reason then set them on fire, throw them off a cliff, watch them suffer and with their last breath, just before everything goes black, spit in their face." Passage labeled, "Satan's mission for you this week," posted on the Internet by a Michigan high-school student. A federal judge ruled that suspending the student is a violation of free speech. *Newsweek*, December 9, 2002.

SOCIAL CATAclysm

"Here is the grim truth: We are only one act of madness away from a social cataclysm unlike anything our country has ever known. After a handful of such acts, who knows what kind of civilizational breakdown might be in store?" *The Federalist Digest*, November 20, 2002.

"It will be declared that . . . those who present the claims of the fourth commandment . . . are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity." *The Great Controversy*, 590.

SCIENTIFIC NATURALISM

"Did God create Man, or did Man create God? Theism—whether Christian, Jewish, or Islamic—proclaims the former. Scientific naturalism, the philosophy of contemporary natural science, proclaims the latter. According to the scientific naturalist version of cosmic history, nature is a permanently closed system of material effects that can never be influenced by something from outside—like God, for example. For governmental and educational purposes today, science is defined as proceeding from naturalistic premises, and science is given exclusive authority to portray objective reality. This means scientific naturalism is effectively the established religious philosophy of America." *The Federalist Brief*, December 11, 2002.

SCIENCE DECLARES ITSELF GOD

"It's over now. Science has declared itself God. And government is its high priest. Let us worship, or else. The 'or else' may come anyway because others have now acquired the right to decide the conditions under which you will be permitted to continue your life or whether, for the supposed 'good' and 'benefit' of others, you will have to die." *Ibid.*, November 11, 2002.

DOES TV HELP YOU UNWIND OR UNRAVEL?

After a long day at school or at work, do you ever feel like rolling up the sidewalk, turning on the TV, and just "forgetting" about your troubles? It works. But watch out—You may forget more than you bargained for! Instead of "unwinding" you may actually be "unraveling!"

Dementia is the clinical term used to describe an "irrecoverable deteriorative mental state." There are a number of forms of dementia, and various causes. Mental deterioration can occur as a result of alcohol consumption, certain diseases or drugs, a high fat diet, inactivity, or chronic stress, to name a few. Now medical researchers are turning their attention to the possibility of excessively television watching as a significant contributing factor in the development of senility. Why?

TV spectators are exposed to a mass of successive, rapid stimuli with little or no possibility of rationally processing what they are watching. In addition, much of what they see tends to be stress producing. Stress causes a biochemical response in the brain. It stimulates the production of glucocorticosteroids (an adrenal hormone) which in large amounts can actually damage the delicate nerve fibers in the hippocampus portion of the brain. And it is this area that is responsible for short-term memory storage. Clinicians are now being advised to inquire into suspected dementia patients' television viewing habits as a possible factor in the development of the disease. One study suggested that viewing TV four hours a day or more may induce stress-related damage to the brain. Quoted from Vicki Griffin in *Inside Report*—October 1995.

LOST FBI STUFF

"It is impossible to determine if the lost laptop computers contained national-security or investigative information." From a report by the FBI inspector-general that found that from late 1999 through last January, the FBI, along with four Justice Department agencies, lost 775 weapons and a "significant" number of portable computers. *Newsweek*, August 19, 2002.

“Angelic perfection failed in heaven. Human perfection failed in Eden, the paradise of bliss. All who wish for security in earth or heaven must look to the Lamb of God.” *Our High Calling*, 45.

MUSLIM & CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALISTS

Muslim fundamentalists can be pretty extreme, but what about all our Christian fundamentalists? Unfortunately, for the old moral equivalence to hold up, the Christians really need to get off their fundamentalist butts and start killing more people. At the moment, the brilliantly versatile Muslim fundamentalists are . . . [flying planes into sky-scrapers], gunning down Maryland school-kids and bus drivers, hijacking Moscow musicals, self-detonating in Israeli pizza parlors, blowing up French oil tankers in Yemen, and slaughtering night-clubbers in Bali, while Christian fundamentalists are, er, sounding extremely strident in their calls for the return of prayer in school. *Federalist Digest*, December 11, 2002.

Editor’s note: Christian Fundamentalists, and others, will eventually get into the act.

BUSH EXECUTIVE ORDERS

President Bush’s faith-based initiative, stalled in Congress, gets a jump-start later this month. Insiders say Bush will sidestep Congress by signing several executive orders to broaden his program, including adding a faith-based office in every cabinet department to make sure that religious charities get a fair shake on federal contracts. *U.S. News & World Report*, December 16, 2002.

ITALIAN DISPUTE OVER SUNDAY SABBATH

VATICAN, December 19, 2002—Italian religious and political leaders have been caught up in a heated debate about the observance of the Sabbath. The European Union has set up the policy that every member-state must have one day of rest during the week. But the policy explicitly states that the designated day need not be Sunday, since for reasons of “religious pluralism” a nation’s government might choose another day.

In Italy, the designation of Sunday as a “day of rest” was first set in 1993. That policy was changed in 2000, however, when— in order to grant more flexibility for employers— the nation required only that every employer produce workers with a 24-hour rest period each week. But by August 2003, under the new European policy, Italy will again be required to fix a certain “day of rest.”

In an interview with the daily *Corriere della Sera*, Bishop Giancarlo Bregantini— who heads a committee dealing with social issues for the Italian bishops’ conference— remarked that attitudes on the observance of the Sabbath are “already bad enough” without a change in national policy. He said that any move away from the Sunday rest would be “a perverse act.”

And Cardinal Pio Laghi, the former prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, asked *La Repubblica*: “How can you overlook the fact that Sunday is a special day for millions of Europeans?” CWNews.com

EFFECTIVE COUNTERCULTURE

People often think that resistance to the world would be to identify with the different countercultures of the city. But today counterculture has been swallowed by the culture: it used to be that you could rebel against your parents by doing weird things, such as taking drugs in the sixties, piercing your body parts, or doing something to make a statement that you are different — but nothing like that exists today. There’s no way to rebel effectively. Except if you believe the kingdom of God is the reality of this world. *Adventist Review, Cutting Edge edition*, December 19, 2002.

FALLING FINANCES IN THE STATES

The news gets worse as financial estimates arrive. The states are broke! “Nearly every state is in fiscal crisis,” the *National Governors Association* concludes after surveying the states. The problems? Diminishing tax revenues as personal incomes have declined, and rapid boosts in medical bills paid by the states have combined to produce the worst financial conditions for state governments since World War II. *The Federalist Digest*, December 11, 2002.

“Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth . . .” *The Great Controversy*, 592.

CALIFORNIA’S “FIXED” GAME

[After describing the “shell-game” swindle technique.]

Sacramento is running a similar scam. They need money to fill the \$21 billion budget hole, but for political and practical reasons, cannot simply raise taxes to fill the gap. Last year, they used a series of accounting tricks to borrow and shift money from a variety of sources into the general fund. Altogether, over \$2.5 billion was taken from special funds to balance the budget. This allowed them to claim that they balanced the budget without raising taxes.

But if you are only watching Sacramento, then you are looking under the wrong shell. One of the “revenue shifts” was a \$251 million raid on a low-income telephone assistance account. This was allegedly taken from a surplus that existed in this fund. A few short months later, though, the Public Utilities Commission staff has recommended that the fee that fills this fund be tripled to replenish the “borrowed” money. This would increase the surcharge on phone bills from 1.42% to 4.5% beginning January 1st.

Here’s the scam: If the Democrats who run Sacramento wanted to triple a tax, they would need six Republican votes to help them get the necessary two-thirds majority. The Republican caucus is unified in its opposition to new taxes. By merely borrowing the money from special funds, there was no tax vote. Now, the PUC can vote to triple the fee without any Republican Legislative support whatsoever. That’s the shell game. While you were watching your elected representatives in Sacramento to make sure your taxes weren’t being raised, they were passing the bean to an unelected board who could later raise “fees” with impunity.

This is likely only the first example. Other funds were raided by the Legislature, and any number of the boards that oversee these accounts could take action to increase their own revenues through “fees” without a vote of the legislature. We expect to see even more of the shell game this year, but perhaps on an even broader scale. If, as expected, the Legislature decides to take money away from local governments, many of these governments (cities, counties and special districts) will be forced to raise taxes and fees to fill the gap in their own budgets that the state created for them. The state will be able to claim that they didn’t raise your taxes. The local governments will be able to claim that they aren’t responsible and were forced to “increase revenues” by the state. Both will be right. In the end, no matter how closely you think you’re watching the game, you will lose. California Senator Ray Haynes’ *Monday Morning Memorandum*, December 11, 2002.

Editor’s note: If the world’s seventh-largest economy goes down the tube, how much of the national “temporal prosperity” will go with it?

THE US HANGOVER IS JUST BEGINNING

Wages for most folks have not kept pace, but more importantly, thanks to phony free-trade deals, millions of American jobs have been exported overseas. The main effect is that we have more people earning less and having to pay more, while, of course, the cost of government has ballooned to gigantic proportions. Corporate corruption is far more pervasive than just the outright crooks who have looted their corporations. The whole attitude in most American corporations is to use the business as a cash cow, tout the stock, get rich and get out. It’s almost as if we Americans have been on dope for the past 20 years, hallucinating about affairs both economic and foreign. People were buying stock from companies that had never earned one penny’s profit, and were hailing the defeat of Third World countries as “world-class military victories.” At the same time, abnormality and pornography were redefined as normal and acceptable, so the only people worth of condemnation were the few who pointed out the liars and the reprobates. World-class chumps is what we’ve been, and the hangover is just beginning. *The Conservative Chronicle*, August 7, 2002.

“Those who hold the reins of government are . . . are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 13.

BIG BUCKS IN THE US'S CULTURAL DECLINE

Now, NBC has taken demographic targeting to a new level, aiming its programs not so much to age groups as to wealth. NBC claims a huge lead in viewers under 50 who earn more than \$75,000 per year. In being able to reach the most affluent viewers, NBC can charge advertisers big premiums. As an NBC executive told *The Wall Street Journal*, “NBC is the place to buy if you are selling to people who actually shop, not shoplift.” The wealthy it aims at are not the sort associated with small businessmen, hard workers, or the Republican Party, rather, its affluence is that associated with America's particular cultural elite.

The NBC world, for example, is noticeably lacking in children. Families do not have as much disposable income as the DINK (Double Income, No Kids) demographic. Nor are there any minorities, to speak of, apart from the Hispanic maid on *Will and Grace*. Will, of course, is gay, making him a member of a particularly affluent minority group, the acceptance of which, along with other expressions of moral tolerance, is a characteristic value of America's cultural elite. Most everyone in NBC-land lives in a big city, not a suburb or small town, and shares the moral and political values of the “blue states.”

Last year, NBC finished third, behind ABC and CBS for most viewers in prime time, and yet it made far more money. ABC and Fox are millions in the red, and, while CBS is projected to show a small profit, NBC will show an operating profit of \$1.42 billion. This year, NBC is first in nearly every category—news, mornings, prime time, late night—which suggests that its rarified values are taking hold of the imagination even of the shoplifting class. *WORLD*, June 15, 2002.

CEO L. DENNIS KOZLOWSKI

\$16.8 million—Price of a duplex on Fifth Avenue in New York City purchased with *Tyco International* money for exclusive use by Kozlowski.

\$14 million— Approximate amount spent on furnishing and renovating the apartment.

\$15,000—Cost of Kozlowski's decorative 19th century umbrella stand in the shape of a poodle.

\$445—Cost of antique Venetian pincushion—in the shape of a turtle.

\$17,100—Cost of leather and bronze toilet box. \$5,960—Cost of a pair of top-of-the-line sheet sets.

\$6,300—Cost of 18th century sewing basket. \$6,000—Cost of shower curtain.

\$1 million—Amount Tyco spent on 40th-birthday party for Kozlowski's wife, in Sardinia, with waiters in togas and an ice sculpture of a Greek god that dispensed vodka from its p*#*s. *Time*, December 7, 2002.

\$44.8 Million—Amount of cash severance Tyco agreed to pay ex-CFO Mark Swartz while he was under investigation by a grand jury, which indicted him for fraud.

\$600 Million—Estimated amount reaped by Swartz and former *Tyco* CEO Dennis Kozlowski through alleged stock fraud and unauthorized bonuses and loans. *Time*, October 7, 2002.

PROSPERITY CONNECTED TO CHOICES

“Our country was not predestined to prosper; it did so through choices made at its founding and renewed by every generation since: the choices of freedom over rule, property over collectivization, the liberty of the individual human spirit over the dictates of the enlightened few.” *The Federalist Chronicle*, December 11, 2002.

GLOBAL ECONOMY TERMINAL CRISIS?

The numbers do not lie. After throwing open US markets, we are now running a \$500-billion-per-year merchandise trade deficit, the largest in human history, equal to 5 percent of our \$10 trillion gross domestic product. And what has a decade of these soaring trade deficits produced?

First, a farm crisis. American farmers are the most efficient on earth, but they cannot produce food for less than in foreign lands where the environmental rules are lax, and the labor is plentiful and cheap.

Second, a crisis in manufacturing. US companies have been closing factories, shedding workers, and building plants in Mexico and Asia.

Third, a growing US dependency on foreign producers, not only of oil but the necessities of our national life and national security.

Fourth, these mammoth trade deficits have poured hundreds of billions of dollars into overseas coffers, that foreigners have used to buy up US assets. According to Bridgewater Associates, foreign-owned US assets rose from 33 percent of US GDP in 1990 to 78 percent today. Foreigners now own 22 percent of US corporations, 24 percent of US corporate bonds and 48 percent of our liquid Treasury market.

But trade deficits of 5 percent of GDP cannot continue indefinitely. Eventually, a currency begins to fall, as has been happening to the dollar, and the price of the foreign goods on which America now depends rises. And as prices rise, Americans will buy less from abroad.

The problem: The world has become dependent on the American consumer. But, if Americans can no longer afford all those foreign goods, and they begin buying less, these nations will go into recession and be unable to service their foreign debts. We may just be headed for the terminal crisis of the Global Economy. *The Conservative Chronicle*, August 7, 2002.

THE AGE OF AMERICAN HEGEMONY

Today the problem—if you can call it that—is that America's got plenty of everything. The US stands alone as the most powerful nation in the world: Its economy, even when it sputters, is a formidable engine. Its military might, as measured by spending on defense, is the equal of the next 25 nations combined. Judged by the sweep of centuries, this position simply is not normal. . . . After a formal strategy session on Iraq had broken up in the Situation Room, two senior officials continued to argue about how the world's only superpower ought to act. The Pentagon's man said that if America has clout, it must use it: "This is the era of American hegemony," he argued, "we don't need allies." The State Department's man countered that it is not enough to impose America's will on the world; other nations must be coaxed to support us. . . . The balance is tipped in favor of the *State Department* view—at least for now. It has fallen to Secretary of State Colin Powell to calm rattled allies. Twice so far—before the war on al Qaeda and again before the UN vote on Iraq—Powell's calls for international coalitions have been heeded. . . . US diplomats have been dispatched to lobby more than 50 countries to join what Bush has privately called is anti-Saddam "posse." *U.S. News & World Report*, December 30, 2002 / January 6, 2003.

And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, . . . These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. Revelation 13:12-13; 17:13.

INTERNATIONAL POLL SAYS, US "BULLIES"

The internationally known *Pew Research Center* says pollsters for its *Global Attitudes Project* were banned in Saudi Arabia, but the new poll of 38,000 in 44 countries found—you guessed it—that we're bullies. *U.S. News & World Report*, December 16, 2002.

US WARNS OF NUCLEAR RESPONSE

December 11, 2002—In a warning to Iraq and other hostile countries, the US says it is prepared to use “overwhelming force”—including nuclear weapons—in response to any chemical or biological attack. The threat was contained in a White House document, called the *National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction*, to be delivered to Congress on Wednesday.

The six-page statement underscores long-standing policy that the US “reserves the right to respond with overwhelming force—including through resort to all of our options—to the use of WMD (weapons of mass destruction) against the US, our forces abroad and friends and allies.”

That passage intends to threaten US nuclear retaliation as a deterrent to hostile governments, said senior administration officials who briefed journalists about the document Tuesday.

The officials emphasized that the strategy, developed jointly by national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and homeland security adviser Tom Ridge, is an overall statement of the Bush administration’s overarching principles. Its timing, however, coincides with other muscle-flexing by President Bush designed to show Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that the US is serious about seeing him disarmed.

The White House document gathers into one comprehensive whole several doctrines for prevention, deterrence and defense that Bush has enunciated since taking office, including a commitment to boost programs aimed at containing the damage of any chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack.

The strategy said some unspecified states that support terrorists already have weapons of mass destruction and seek even more “as tools of coercion and intimidation.”

“For them, these are not weapons of last resort, but militarily useful weapons of choice intended to overcome our nation’s advantages in conventional forces and to deter us from responding to aggression against our friends,” the document said.

“We must accord the highest priority to the protection of the US, our forces and our friends and allies” from weapons of mass destruction, it continued.

The broadly worded strategy does not speak with any specificity to the priorities it asserts, nor does it assign them any budget numbers. Instead, those details were contained in classified directives, described as “substantial taskings,” issued to relevant federal departments a couple of months ago, officials said. The strategy’s priorities will be reflected in the new budget Bush submits to Congress in February. *The Associated Press*.

ANGRY NATIONS

War is the health of the state, it has been said. Our Civil War, the two World Wars and the Cold War all brought vast expansions of state power. While the government receded after each war, it never returned to prewar size and now eats up 20 percent of our gross domestic product, and intrudes in all aspects of our daily lives.

Some of us had thought that the \$350 billion we turnover to the Pentagon each year was for homeland defense. Apparently not. For we are now about to create a new 170,000-person Department of Homeland Security. But if it is Tom Ridge’s job to defend the homeland, what is Rumsfeld’s? To defend the empire?

And should this war on terrorism last decades, many freedoms we enjoy today will be gone tomorrow. Which raises a question: What are we fighting for? If we are, as the president contends, fighting to retain freedom, which is the greater threat to freedom—Islamic fanatics, or Big Brother?

And, to be candid, if suicide-warriors of Islam are willing to die in great numbers to drive us out of the Islamic world, we are one day going to be driven out, as the British and French were. When the French and British went home, the terror ended. And the sooner all imperial powers go home, including Americans, the sooner the anti-colonial wars, and the terror that goes with them, comes to an end. *The Conservative Chronicle*, August 7, 2002.

And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged. Revelation 11:18.

Dear *Future for America*,

What is the definition of the daily? Our understanding is paganism. G&JL

The “daily” in Daniel is paganism in a general sense, and sometimes pagan Rome in a specific sense. This was the understanding of William Miller and the majority of pioneers until 1901. This is the position that Sister White understood as accurate, even though there are Adventist theologians who attempt to deny this historical fact. Jeff

Dear Brother Jeff,

Why is your interpretation of the king of the south in Daniel 11:40—atheism? And then in verse forty-two and forty-three you teach Egypt is not atheism? Only by God’s grace, MKL

Dear MKL,

The context of the passage identifies a *distinction* between the king of the south and Egypt, even though the Hebrew word translated as south can be translated as Egypt. Inspiration has made a distinction between south in verse forty and Egypt in verses forty-two and forty-three. Nothing in inspiration is by accident.

The king of the south in verse forty is atheistic France at the beginning and ultimately Russia, later to be the Soviet Union. This identification is established by identifying the power that dominates or controls Egypt. The power that controls Egypt is the king of the south in Daniel eleven. In 1798, “the time of the end” it is a power that controls spiritual Egypt, not literal Egypt, for after the cross time period, prophecy is identified in a worldwide spiritual setting.

There is a distinction between *the king who controls the geographical area* and the *geographical area* itself in the verses. When Egypt is conquered by the king of the north in verses forty-two and forty-three, Egypt is symbolizing the entire world. The conquering of the countries of the world as symbolized by Egypt in verses forty-two and forty-three is identifying when the USA forces the whole earth to receive the mark of the beast (the king of the north) in Revelation thirteen, and also—when the ten kings of Revelation seventeen join together with the beast for one hour.

Prophecy describes the world as being divided up into ten districts. This is exactly how the United Nations divides the world. It (the UN) has divided the world into ten districts, each with a capitol. This is the one-world government of Revelation 17 that will eventually be forced by the USA to come into a union with the papacy to govern the world. When the ten kings agree to govern the world with the papacy, the king of the north (the papacy) will have conquered Egypt in verses forty-two and forty-three. The United Nations has been established upon a socialistic or atheistic form of government. It is not a democracy, as the USA, nor is it a monarchy as is the papacy. Egypt is the entire world in verses forty-two and forty-three, and the one-world government that is in place when the papacy takes control of it is an atheistic form of government. Revelation 17 says that the ten kings, (the United Nations) will rule one hour with the beast, and it could be assumed that the papacy and the UN will have equal power in their arrangement, but Sister White says that this final system will be under one head—the papacy. The system of government for the one-world UN is atheistic (Egyptian) but the philosophical principles that it will be guided by during that final time period are Catholic, and the entire system is sustained by the apostate Protestantism of the USA with its military and economic might.

Verse forty is identifying the powers that primarily dominated spiritual Egypt (atheism) from the 1798 time period until the end. Those powers being first France then Russia. They were the last kings of the south.

In verses forty-two and forty-three Egypt is being used to identify the one-world system that controls the entire world through the force of the USA. There is a close relationship between the king of the south and Egypt, for the one-world system is built upon atheistic principles as was France and Russia, but the message of verse forty-two and forty-three is about the conquering of the entire world by the king of the north in fulfillment of the complete healing of the deadly wound. Therefore atheism has a part in defining both the king of the south and Egypt, but through the context of the passage, Scripture identifies a difference between the king of the south and Egypt. That distinctive difference adds to the depth of information within the passage. Jeff

Brother Jeff,

In my studies one evening I ran across this statement, what do you think of this.

“In past years whenever definite proof has been found that the writers of our Adventist literature had come short of finding the exact proof regarding details, mother (Ellen White) has taken the position in favor of correcting those things that were clearly found to be in error.. When she was consulted about the efforts that were being made to revise and to correct the good book Daniel and Revelation, she has always opposed making many changes, and has always favored correcting those things that were plainly shown to be incorrect. Willy White, *Selected Messages*, book 3, 447.

Does this mean that Ellen White knew that some things in Daniel and Revelation (U. Smith) were incorrect? Did she ever make any corrections in his book that you know of? Let me know what you think. It may be good to consider the source of the foregoing quote for a clearer rendering. BL

Dear BL,

My understanding is that the book was written with the provision that when better historical information came to light, the book would be updated. It does not exclusively mean errors, but simply clearer historical information. I read an article on revisions to the book *Daniel and the Revelation*, by Smith, that stated that by 1950 there had already been over fifty changes. I have never heard of her personally making any changes. That was left to the editorial committees, I assume. Jeff

Dear Jeff,

I first want to thank you for your recent presentations in London, England, which we attended, which were very informative and interesting. My family and I are studying these final events, and I've collated a few questions we have which I hope you'll have time to answer briefly.

“. . . the Judgment of the Living, which began in 1988, 100 years after the rejection of the Jones & Waggoner messages of Righteousness by Faith.” Found on a website linked to yours. Could you please explain briefly, or point me to a relevant information source, how we know that this commenced in 1988. Does it by any chance have any relationship with the collapse of the Iron Curtain, which we know is the first of the “king of the north's” final battles?

In your October 2002 issue of *Future News*, on page 18, in response to a letter, you say that “the inspired commentary on the Sunday Law, etc. is that we are to do everything to hold back these final evil times.” By doing this, though, would we not also be delaying Christ's return, for which most Adventists pray will come soon? Has Jesus already delayed, due to our sincere prayers, or is it because the world's not ready yet?

In *Time of the End* page 49, referring to Daniel 11:44, you imply that the “death decree” is only intended, but never actually gets legislated: is this because of the national or worldwide ruin, or because Jesus returns by that time?

We know there will be many martyrs after the Sunday law, but will any of them be Adventists, or are they all the “11th hour workers” who exited from Babylon then? Surely some Adventists who are still in Christ will die between the Sunday law and Christ’s return, and not be in the 144,000, and if they are not martyred, how do they die?

Finally, the “great time of trouble”: will these events here be brought by God directly, or does he simply allow Satan a free reign of terror at that time? Kind regards, B

Dear B,

Sister White has a very clear statement where she states, “No man knows when the judgment of the living will begin”, and I reject the 1988 conclusion you refer to. We know during the Sunday law time period it is under way simply by the fact that men are receiving the mark of the beast and the seal of God, but their characters have been set before the test. So sometime before the Sunday law many men will have finalized their eternity. But I think we should be careful about implying the judgment of the living is under way against such strait forward counsel.

Until we understand our responsibility in this final crisis we will not enter into the experience that finalizes our personal preparation for the seal of God. Those who receive the seal will be those who stand as defenders of religious liberty. By not entering into the defense of religious liberty we are placing our personal salvation on shaking ground, for this is our work at this time. By entering into the work we will enter into an experience designed by the Lord to purify and prepare our characters for the seal of God. By not entering into the work of trying to hold back this great crisis we are delaying the return of the Lord. By entering into the work—we are hastening it.

I am reprinting the *Time of the End* magazine. When it was first published the editors made *supposed* grammatical changes, that in actuality watered down and undermined the overall message. If, as you say, the magazine only implies a death decree, that is unfortunate, for there will definitely be a death decree! I do comment on verse forty-four where the Hebrew implies martyrdom, not because I question that it will happen, for it certainly will happen. Sister White says there will be many martyrs, but those in Adventism who oppose the message of Daniel eleven, sometimes argue that you cannot insist on martyrdom in verse forty-four because of the Hebrew in the verse. I simply identify that the Hebrew allows either understanding. Therefore, when brought together with the rest of inspiration, the Hebrew in verse forty-four must be understood as identifying martyrdom.

Sister White says those who are weak, the old and very young will be laid to rest before the great time of trouble. By context she is referring to faithful people. After the Sunday law, but before Michael stands up and probation closes for all mankind, there will be Adventists who are laid to rest. Understanding the purpose of a martyrs blood, combined with the fact that we are identifying the latter rain time period, indicates that some of those Adventists will be laid to rest while giving their testimony as a martyr. How they die is beyond my knowledge.

Did Pharaoh harden his heart or did the Lord harden Pharaoh’s heart? The inspired answer to that question is, Yes. The plagues are God’s judgments on an unrepentant world. Whether He directly acts or uses His providence to accomplish them—the results and responsibility are the same. Jeff