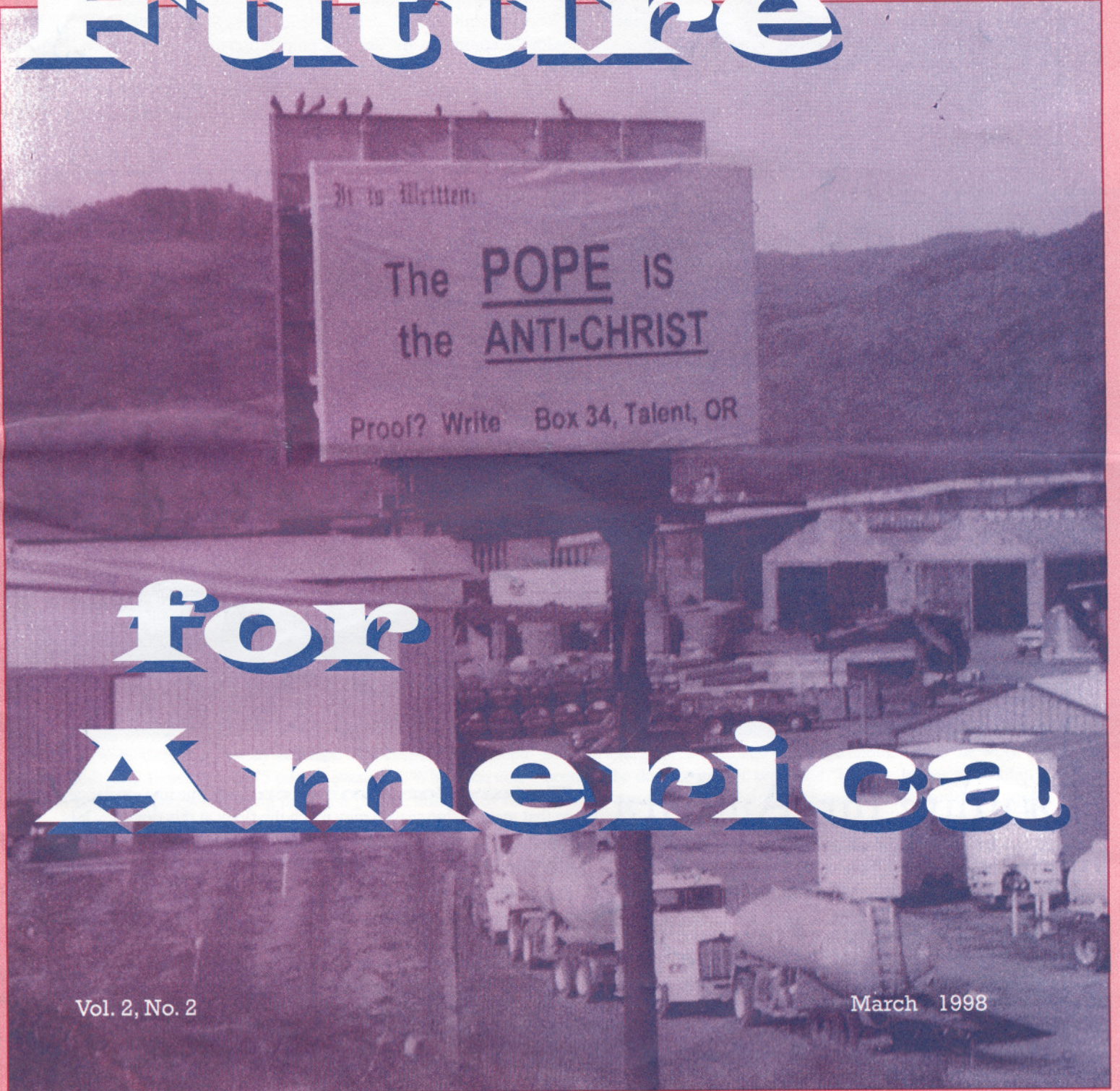

Future



It is written:
The POPE IS
the ANTI-CHRIST
Proof? Write Box 34, Talent, OR

for America

Vol. 2, No. 2

March 1998

Future for America

Mission Statement

The ministry of *Future for America* is proclaiming 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. The promises of God's Word provide 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.

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Future for America

Editor Jeff Pippenger
Managing Editor Denise Matlean
Assistant Editor Alex Sanchez
Contributor Steven Dickie
Circulation Steven Spencer

Future for America
March 1998
Vol. 2, No. 2

E-MAIL
Jeff Pippenger JeffPippenger@msn.com
Denise Matlean MIZPAHSEAL@aol.com

Future for America

This Newsletter is published monthly by Future For America Inc.,
PO Box 1982, Eatonville, Washington. Ph. (888) 278-7744

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

Cover Picture:

Dean Ferrell was on his way back to Eatonville, WA, from 6 months working in a printing ministry in Mexico, when he spotted this sign along I-5 just north of Medford Oregon and stopped to take this picture. A couple of days later we got the E-mail quoted on page 5 regarding the Catholic response. Coincidence? I do not believe so! God's timing is perfect!!

Future for America has come into existence so that meat in due season may reach the flock at this time. . . . It is present truth that the flock needs now. We look to add our *flavor* to the many present ministries available today.

Future For America is a self supporting 501-C3 nonprofit corporation, and funded by readers like you. We exist to assist those who are striving to be among the 144,000—through the prophetic Word and the Health Message—by the power of the Holy Spirit.. We hope to help God's people teach our Health Message by effective learning tools which we will provide. We hope to inspire lay persons to do this by arousing them to the lateness of the hour through the Prophetic messages found in this publication, in seminars, and available on audio and video tapes.

Greetings from Jeff Pippenger and the staff of *Future for America*.

First, we would like to extend our apologies to you for not having a February Newsletter. We only have one person who has ever done any desktop publishing or formatting work, and he was called away because of his father's death. Please pray for this family in this time of trouble.

The Lord has blessed Jeff and Norberto (Tico) Restrepo, Jr. In getting all the video taping done. Tico and his family have now returned home to **Colombia**, and we miss them very much. They were a nice little addition to our *Future for America* family. The tapes are in the process of being edited, and there is still a lot to do in this area, because of all the graphics, Spirit of Prophecy quotes and texts that they are planning on inserting. Please pray that these tapes be completed in such a way that they can be used to the glory of God, both in the home and over the television stations. Be sure to look for the advertisements as soon as the editing is completed.

We are indeed fortunate to have Elizabeth Ordonez visiting with us. Elizabeth has been working with Pastor Norberto Restrepo's ministry in **Venezuela**, and has come here to improve her English. She has been a great help with the Spanish Newsletter, and those on our Spanish mailing list should have already gotten their first issue. Elizabeth is very friendly and helpful, and a sweet Christian lady. We are very happy to have her with us, and to have a chance to get to know her.

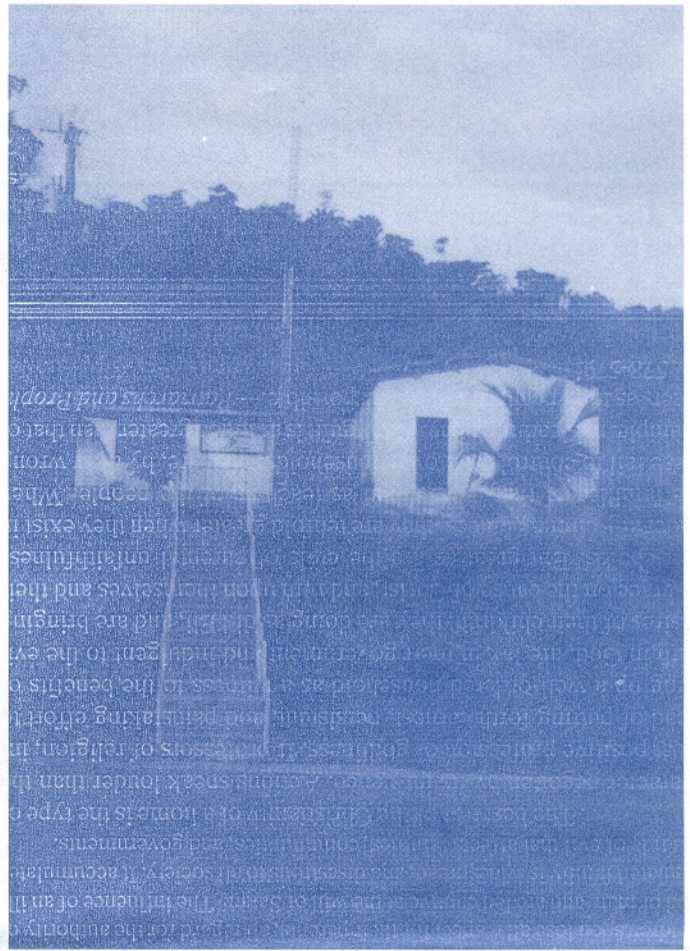
We are also missing Jeff Pippenger as he is traveling for the Lord in Central America. Jeff has just completed the presentations in **Honduras**. While in Honduras he stopped to see the radio station for which we are trying to raise \$5,000 to pay off the loan which requires an exorbitant 37% interest. This loan was not of our making, but came with the radio station. We do not believe that it is God's will that any of His institutions should be in debt, so we are seeking to completely eliminate this debt. Please pray for this radio station as it seeks to spread the good news of the soon return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ among our Central American brothers and sisters.

Jeff has now left Honduras and is currently in **Mexico City**, where he is holding a prophecy seminar. The response has been very good, with an average of 75 people attending. When you consider that the meetings are being held in a private home, that is a significant number of people! Surely the Lord is good.

He will have a few days to rest after the seminar is over, then he and Tico will be going to **South America**. They will be holding prophecy seminars in both English and Spanish in the countries of **Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia** and **Venezuela**.

Then Jeff and his wife, Kathy, will be heading over to the **Philippines** for a 3-week evangelistic series with Ron Goss. Please continue to pray for God's guidance in all of these seminars.

In the meantime we are still asking the Lord's will in the matter of a **piece of property** on which to locate the *Future for*



America ministry. There are many aspects of ministry which will be difficult to do in the days ahead, if we do not have our own property. The health work requires a place in which we can teach people the **medical missionary work** which is to be the last work God's people will be able to do in the last days. We would also like to be able to take in some people who are in ill health, and bring them back to health using the **8 natural remedies**, possibly in a sanitarium-like setting. The **printing work** requires a place in which to establish the print shop. We know that the time is coming when we will not be able to have others print our books, tracts, magazines and papers for us, and we need to prepare for that time now. We are not planning on a large press, but one just large enough to do the work that needs to be done to get the word out "like the leaves of autumn."

Another subject of prayer is our need for **computer equipment**. We need a scanner and color printer to help with our magazine and with some books and pamphlets that we are planning to produce.

We are very thankful to the Lord for all of His blessings, and to you for your faithful support, both in offerings and in your prayers. May God richly bless you as you seek to do His will and prepare for His coming.

In the blessed hope of His soon return,

Denise Matlean
Managing Editor

What do we Really Believe?

Is the Pope the Anti-Christ?

By Denise Matlean

The following article by Ed Langlois, found its way onto the SDANet Website. It reads as follows: "As new 'Anti-Christ' billboards go up, Catholics decide to pray, not argue.

" 'Pray for those who per-secute you.' That's a piece of Scripture Dee Marks can embrace. Marks, along with other southern Oregon Catholics, has suffered the questionable theology of a small religious group that employs biblical passages out of context to attack the pope and Roman Catholicism.

"For the second time in four years, SDA Remnant Ministries has posted a massive billboard claiming that Pope John Paul is the Antichrist (see cover picture), the ultimate usurper who will try to foil God's plans at the end of time.

"The new billboard, alongside Interstate 5 just north of [Medford, Oregon a] city of 55,000, simply reads: 'It is written: The pope is the Antichrist. Proof? Write P. O. Box 34, Talent, Oregon.'

"The 1994 billboard, which included a crude drawing of a monarch on a throne, called the pope 'the man of sin.'

"Last time the vicariate made a big deal about it and all it did was draw more attention to them,' says Marks, a pastoral associate at Shepherd of the Valley Parish in Central Point and chair of the Southern Oregon Catholic Vicariate. "We decided now the best thing to do is just to pray for those who are so misguided.'

"SDA Remnant Ministries has spread its message on television and in mass mailings, but the billboards appear to receive the most attention. The huge advertisement seemed particularly aggravating last month, as churches the country over were observing a week of Christian unity.

"The group, based in the small town of Talent, has 40 members, but receives financial support from all over the region. Members believe the papacy is

embroiled in a plot to undermine U.S. liberties. The intrigue was prophesied in the Bible, adherents claim, referring to a book written in the 1840's by Ellen G. White, a prophetess of the Adventist Church.

" 'Billboards attacking the pope, and by implication the Catholic Church, are not associated with any ministry sponsored or approved by the Seventh-day Adventist Church,' says Helen Smith, director of communication for the Adventist's Oregon Conference. 'The group calling themselves SDA Remnant Ministries . . . chooses its form of theology and ministry outside of that which is approved by the Seventh-day Adventist organization.'

"Smith, seeming weary of the small group's antics, said that Adventists 'abhor acts of hostility toward anyone, and strive to promote a spirit of mutual respect for Christianity and the beliefs of any religious group.'

"Adventist officials have pointed to passages in Ellen White's book that advise against attacking religious denominations.

"Larry Weathers, proprietor of Hairy Larry's Barber Shop in Talent, heads SDA Remnant Ministries. An amiable yet stubborn man, he justifies his group's campaign by launching into long analyses of the biblical books of Daniel and Revelation.

" 'Something is about to happen just before Christ comes again,' he concludes. 'In Daniel and Revelation, there is no doubt about who the Antichrist is defined as.'

"Sometimes, Weathers says that Babylon is a code word for the Catholic Church. Other times, he takes apocalyptic references to the ancient Roman Empire as prophecies about the Vatican of the 1990's.

" 'We are very close to the last days,' says Weathers, who realizes that

he has a reputation as 'that crazy barber.'

"Billboard companies have defended the anti-Catholic advertisement by appealing to First Amendment rights. 'I'm a business man; this is a business deal,' Jeff Herson of Outdoor Media Dimensions in Medford said in 1994. 'I have nothing to do with what goes on my boards.'

"Father Mark Cache, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish here, says the billboard is not very prominent and has advised his parishioners to ignore it.—*Catholic Sentinel*, February 13, 1998."

The *Catholic Sentinel*, is the weekly newspaper of the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon.

We may not agree with all aspects of this billboard campaign, but we should be concerned about the reaction by official representatives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Do we, as a people, still believe that the papacy is the antichrist? Or was Helen Smith correct when she said that their "theology" was "outside of that which is approved by the Seventh-day Adventist organization?" And, I ask you, how are we to give the warning cry, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4), if we are to "strive to promote a spirit of mutual respect for Christianity and the beliefs of any religious group?" And does "any religious group" include pagan religious groups?

Is there a basis for the belief that "the papacy is embroiled in a plot to undermine U.S. liberties?"

Not only was "the intrigue . . . prophesied in the Bible," and in "a book written in the 1840's by Ellen G. White," it was confirmed by Vatican insider Malachi Martin in his book, *Keys of This Blood*, for which he provided the following subtitle: *Pope John Paul II Versus Russia and the West for Control of the New World Order*. Malachi Martin, a well respected author and authority on Vatican political aspirations, makes it very plain that at the time his book was

written (1990—150 years after Ellen White's prophesies), the pope was involved (embroiled?) in a battle with the United States (the leader of the Western world) and Russia for control of the world.

It is no secret that the United States joined with the pope in causing the downfall of Soviet Russia. Now the battle is joined between the pope and the United States of America, and it is being waged so subtly that most do not even realize there is a war going on for control of the world.

If you have any doubts about the reality of the battle, read what Malachi Martin wrote:

"Willing or not, ready or not, we are all involved in an all-out, no-holds-barred, three-way global competition. Most of us are not competitors, however. We are the stakes. For the competition is about who will establish the first one-world system of government that has ever existed in the society of nations. It is about who will hold and wield the dual power of authority and control over each of us

as individuals and over all of us together as a community. . . .

"No holds barred because, once the competition has been decided, the world and all that's in it—our way of life as individuals and as citizens of the nations; our families and our jobs; our trade and commerce and money; our educational systems and our religions and our cultures; even the badges of our national identity, which most of us have always taken for granted—all will have been powerfully and radically altered forever. No one can be exempted from its effects. No sector of our lives will remain untouched.

". . . Speak about this new world order not as something around a distant corner of time, but as something that is imminent. As a system that will be introduced and installed in our midst by the end of this final decade of the second millennium."—*Keys of This Blood*, 15-16.

Brothers and Sisters, we are already living in 1998! Soviet Russia has fallen, and only we are left. If this one-

world system is indeed to be "introduced and installed in our midst by the end of this final decade of the second millennium," then it is in truth "imminent."

We are supposed to be students of prophecy. But do we study God's Word as we should? God has warned us of the papal plans for supremacy. And now we can see the very plans that were prophesied thousands of years ago spread out plainly for all to see. Surely the Lord is good to open these plans to the world so that His people may be awakened and may prepare themselves for the time which is shortly to come upon them.

We, as a people have much to do—both in our own lives, and in spreading the message of warning—to prepare for our Saviour's return. This is no time to close our eyes and sleep in carnal slumber. This is the time to stand and proclaim the truth with a loud voice, for surely the Bridegroom cometh, and is even now at the door!

Where are the watchmen on the walls of Zion?

EARTHQUAKES

China — On January 8th a powerful earthquake—6.2 magnitude—toppled mud and brick houses near the Great Wall in northern China killing at least 37 people, and leaving 20,000 families homeless. More than 164 people were injured and hundreds of buildings were damaged as approximately 80% of the houses collapsed along the Hebei province's border with Inner Mongolia. In the two days since the quake 57 aftershocks have coursed through the area.

Many people in China see earthquakes and other natural disasters as omens of political upheaval. Two months after the last major quake hit China—a 7.8 magnitude that killed more than 240,000 people in 1976—revolutionary leader Mao Tse-tung died.—*ABC News*, January 10, 1998

Afghanistan — Between 2,150 and 4,450 people died in remote northeastern Afghanistan as a result of Wednesday's magnitude-6.1 quake, which set off landslides that buried many in their rugged hillside villages. New tremors split mountain roads and crumbled villages Saturday, worsening the lot of survivors and aid workers

trying to reach them. Another 150 deaths were reported from Saturday's quake. Eleven villages were destroyed in the quakes and 2,930 houses were leveled. Afghanistan's ambassador to neighboring Tajikistan said that rescuers have recovered 3,681 bodies.—*The News Tribune*, February 8, 1998.

ELNINO

The unusually warm El Nino weather pattern this year is being blamed for the disastrous weather along the eastern portion of North America, as well as rains, flooding and mud slides on the west coast.

California — Five houses slid down soaked hillsides Saturday as the latest in a series of storms blew drenching rain through Northern California. The mud flowed so fast that at one point emergency crews and home owners had to run from it. Nobody was injured, but officials evacuated the residents of 300 other houses in the area for fear that they could be isolated by washouts or mudslides.

Wind gusts of 125 mph were measured at the top of Mount Diablo in the east San Francisco Bay area, with gusts up to 65 mph

on the San Mateo coast. Bridges were closed to trucks, trailers and tall vehicles because of the wind.

Cloudbursts dumped up to an inch of rain in some areas, and power outages blacked out 87,000 customers and shut down bay Area Rapid Transit trains under San Francisco Bay for several hours.

West Virginia — While California was wet, heavy snow was the problem in the East, where a Kroger's supermarket and 6 other stores in a shopping plaza in West Virginia had to be evacuated February 7th, after its roof started to collapse under the weight. Another Kroger's store roof had caved in on February 6th, injuring four people in Beckley. As much as 4 feet of snow had fallen in southern West Virginia during the first week of February.

Canada — Ten deaths have been blamed on Canada's worst ice storm on record as it wreaked havoc though five eastern provinces. The storm, now in its 6th day, has left travelers stranded and nearly 3 million people without power.

Further north, hundreds of thousands of people were burning wood and kerosene
(Continued on page 15.)

Examples of Fatherhood

Eli

God held Eli, as a priest and judge of Israel, accountable for the moral and religious standing of His people, and in a special sense for the character of his sons. He should first have attempted to restrain evil by mild measures; but if these did not avail, he should have subdued the wrong by the severest means. He incurred the Lord's displeasure by not reproofing sin and executing justice upon the sinner. He could not be depended upon to keep Israel pure. Those who have too little courage to reprove wrong, or who through indolence or lack of interest make no earnest effort to purify the family or the church of God, are held accountable for the evil that may result from their neglect of duty. We are just as responsible for evils that we might have checked in others by exercise of parental or pastoral authority, as if the acts had been our own.

Eli did not manage his household according to God's rules for family government. He followed his own judgment. The fond father overlooked the faults and sins of his sons in their childhood, flattering himself that after a time they would outgrow their evil tendencies. Many are now making a similar mistake. They think they know a better way of training their children than that which God has given in His Word. They foster wrong tendencies in them, urging as an excuse, "They are too young to be punished. Wait till they become older, and can be reasoned with." Thus wrong habits are left to strengthen until they become second nature. The children grow up without restraint, with traits of character that are a lifelong curse to them and are liable to be reproduced in others.

There is no greater curse upon households than to allow the youth to have their own way. When parents regard every wish of their children, and indulge them in what they know is not for their good, the children soon lose all respect for their parents, all regard for the authority of God or man, and are led captive at the will of Satan. The influence of an ill-regulated family is widespread, and disastrous to all society. It accumulates in a tide of evil that affects families, communities, and governments.

... The best test of the Christianity of a home is the type of character begotten by its influence. Actions speak louder than the most positive profession of godliness. If professors of religion, instead of putting forth earnest, persistent, and painstaking effort to bring up a well-ordered household as a witness to the benefits of faith in God, are lax in their government and indulgent to the evil desires of their children, they are doing as did Eli, and are bringing disgrace on the cause of Christ, and ruin upon themselves and their households. But great as are the evils of parental unfaithfulness under any circumstances, they are tenfold greater when they exist in the families of those appointed as teachers of the people. When these fail to control their own households, they are, by their wrong example, misleading many. Their guilt is as much greater than that of others as their position is more responsible.—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 578-579.

Abraham

"He will command his . . . household." There would be no sinful neglect to restrain the evil propensities of his children, no weak, unwise, indulgent favoritism; no yielding of his conviction of duty to the claims of mistaken affection. Abraham would not only give right instruction, but he would maintain the authority of just and righteous laws.

How few there are in our day who follow this example! On the part of too many parents there is a blind and selfish sentimentalism, miscalled love, which is manifested in leaving children, with their unformed judgment and undisciplined passions, to the control of their own will. This is the veriest cruelty to the youth, and a great wrong to the world. Parental indulgence causes disorder in families and in society. It confirms in the young the desire to follow inclination, instead of submitting to the divine requirements. Thus they grow up with a heart averse to doing God's will, and they transmit their irreligious, insubordinate spirit to their children, and children's children. Like Abraham, parents should command their households after them. Let obedience to parental authority be taught and enforced as the first step in obedience to the authority of God.

The light esteem in which the law of God is held, even by religious leaders, has been productive of great evil. The teaching which has become so widespread, that the divine statutes are no longer binding upon men, is the same as idolatry in its effect upon the morals of the people. Those who seek to lessen the claims of God's holy law are striking directly at the foundation of the government of families and nations. Religious parents, failing to walk in His statutes, do not command their household to keep the way of the Lord. The law of God is not made the rule of life. The children, as they make homes of their own, feel under no obligation to teach their children what they themselves have never been taught. And this is why there are so many godless families; this is why depravity is so deep and widespread.

Not until parents themselves walk in the law of the Lord with perfect hearts, will they be prepared to command their children after them. A reformation in this respect is needed—a reformation which shall be deep and broad. Parents need to reform; ministers need to reform; they need God in their households. If they would see a different state of things, they must bring His Word into their families, and must make it their counselor. They must teach their children that it is the voice of God addressed to them, and is to be implicitly obeyed. They should patiently instruct their children, kindly and untiringly teach them how to live in order to please God. The children of such a household are prepared to meet the sophistries of infidelity. They have accepted the Bible as the basis of their faith, and they have a foundation that cannot be swept away by the incoming tide of skepticism.—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 142-143.

God Knows You!

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, . . . elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.” 1 Peter 1:1, 2.

One of the most comforting truths we can grasp from the Bible is the reality that God knows the past, present and future for you and for me, even as His foreknowledge included the death of Jesus, and foretold it by the prophets from the very creation, [even telling Adam before he and Eve were expelled from Eden (Genesis 3:15)], as noted in Acts 2:22-24: “Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a Man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it.”

God’s foreknowledge is truly one of the most wonderful and most precious blessings offered His people in all the Scriptures, as you will see in drawing the following insights together. The Scriptures have many beautiful things to say about those whom God knows: “For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified.” Romans 8:29-30.

God knows you and me personally, even by name: “Moses said unto the LORD . . . Thou hast said, I know thee by name. . . . And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in My sight, and I know thee by name.” Exodus 33:12, 17. “Thus saith the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, . . . I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: . . . that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.” Isaiah 45:1-3.

God knows even the occupation and location of each of us, even when we are staying temporarily in the home of another: “a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, a devout man, . . . saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, . . . call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: he lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea.” Acts 10:1-6.

This foreknowledge goes farther than merely knowing the activities or locations of those now living, for God told

Jeremiah: “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” Jeremiah 1:4-5.

Although Scriptures clearly teach that all, both the righteous and the disobedient, are seen and known of God, yet there is a difference in the way in which God knows them. This delicate matter is brought to view in the contrast presented in Jesus’ parable of God sorting the “sheep” and the “goats” at the final judgment: “I am the good Shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine.” “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” John 10:14, 27. “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His.” 2 Timothy 2:19. “The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him.” Nahum 1:7. By contrast, to the disobedient, God declares, “then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.” Matthew 7:23.

Other Scriptural references clearly indicate that God knows our thoughts, our needs, our ways, our actions and, indeed, all things about us. “For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.” Psalm 1:6. “The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man.” Psalms 94:11. “God knoweth your hearts.” Luke 16:15 [Also Acts 15:8, 9]. “For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.” 1 John 3:20. “For the LORD thy God . . . knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness.” Deuteronomy 2:7. “He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. . . . I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.” Job 23:10, 12. “For His eyes are upon the ways of man, and He seeth all his goings.” Job 34:21 [21-27]. “Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him.” “Therefore take no thought, . . . for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:8, 31-33 [also Luke 12:29-32]. “The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.” Psalms 37:18, 19. “For He knoweth vain men: He seeth wickedness also.” Job 11:11.

What is your position in the knowledge and foreknowledge of God? Do you stand with those who trust Him, those who follow Him, those who are righteous? Or have you chosen to remain a worker of iniquity, a vain man, to whom He will eventually say, “Depart from Me, I never knew you?” “Shall not God search this out? for He knoweth the secrets of the heart.” Psalms 44:21.

What does God know about you?

JAMES

In the stream of time,
near the end of the line.

~ AN INCREASE OF KNOWLEDGE ~

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Daniel 12:4.

DIGITAL REVOLUTION

"On Dec. 23, 1947, the Digital Revolution was born. . . when two Bell Labs scientists demonstrated a tiny contraption they had concocted from some strips of gold foil, a chip of semi-conducting material and a bent paper clip. . . . They showed how their gizmo, which was dubbed a transistor, could take an electric current, amplify it and switch it on and off.

"That Digital Revolution is now transforming the end of this century the way the Industrial Revolution transformed the end of the last one. Today, millions of transistors, each costing far less than a staple, can be etched on wafers of silicon. On these microchips, all the world's information and entertainment can be stored in digital form, processed and zapped to every nook of a networked planet."—*Time*, December 29, 1997.

ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

In Europe, Southeast Asia and all sorts of places in between, something remarkable is happening. Carbon-free energy technologies that do not rely on fossil fuels are moving from experimental curiosity to commercial reality, economically turning sunlight, wind and other renewable resources into useful forms of energy. Although the new devices provide less than 1% of the world's energy, they are advancing rapidly. The transition to a 21st century energy system is gathering speed.—*Time*, December 15, 1997.

SHARD ATTESTS TO KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

"A recently discovered pottery shard may contain the oldest extra-biblical reference to King Solomon's Temple. The artifact, which is nearly 3,000 years old, records a donation to the 'House of Yahweh.' It is the oldest record outside of the Bible which refers to the Jewish holy site.

"The origin of the piece is uncertain, though . . . testing of the piece has convinced scholars of its authenticity. *Biblical Archaeology Review* reported on the finding in its November-December issue.

"Solomon's Temple, built sometime in the 10th century BC and destroyed by the Babylonian soldiers some four centuries later, is frequently referred to in the Bible as 'the house of the Lord.'

"The inscription found on the pottery shard is believed to have been created at the request of a Judean king, who would have sent it to command a donation of three shekels of silver for 'the House of Yahweh'—slightly more than one ounce of silver. The note is written in ink on the pottery, and may have been meant as a receipt, an invoice, or a command.

"Though the shard makes no specific mention of Solomon's Temple, scholars say it was the only Jewish temple at the time. Authorities are not certain which king sent the recently discovered message, but say likely candidates are Josiah, Yoash and Yehoash."—*Southern California Christian Times*, December 1997.

MARK OF THE BEAST?

Los Angeles — Superior Court judge Diane Wayne ordered the state's Department of Motor Vehicles to accommodate the concerns of five men who want to apply for driver's licenses without providing their Social Security numbers as required. The men object to Social Security numbers on religious grounds, saying they may be the 'mark of the beast' mentioned in the Bible's Book of Revelations.

She said, "the DMV can find another method for identification that accommodates the men's 'sincerely held religious convictions. . . that anyone who uses his or her Social Security number is in danger of not receiving eternal life.'

"The Bible identifies the 'number of the beast' as 666, but also talks about a 'mark of the beast,' which some Bible scholars believe could be a numbering system that will eventually be used to control all world commerce. . . .

"Paul Villandry . . . believes that being 'locked into' a Social Security number would send him to Hell. He does not object to having a number assigned by the DMV, but objects to the universal application of the Social Security number, which has become a de facto national identification number in the U.S."—*Southern California Christian Times*, December 1997.

CROSSES

"Germany's top court turned away an appeal of a Bavarian court's decision to let crucifixes hang in public school classrooms throughout the German state. The Federal Constitutional Court said on Nov. 7 that the state constitutional court had jurisdiction in the matter, and no federal involvement was needed. The lower court ruled Aug. 1 that displaying a cross in classrooms does not violate the rights of non-Christian students. In 1995 the high court struck down a state law requiring crosses in public school classrooms; state officials responded with a law requiring crosses but making an exception in cases where a parent raises a 'serious and reasonable' objection. According to Bavaria's Culture Ministry, only 14 crosses have been removed from classrooms since the law was passed."—*Southern California Christian News*, December 1997.

FORMING THE IMAGE?

For the first time since the Bill of Rights, a U.S. House of Representatives panel has approved a constitutional amendment addressing religious liberty.

The proposal offered by Reps. Ernest Istook, R-Okla., and Sanford Bishop, D-Ga., would for the first time insert a reference to "God" into the Constitution and would allow for some forms of government endorsed religious speech and school sponsored prayer.

It would also open the door for vouchers and other government benefits for religious groups that would otherwise be barred by the Establishment Clause. Rep. Robert Scott, Democrat, Virginia,

says, "The Amendment would end church-state separation."—*Baptist Joint Committee—The Report From the Capital*, November 4, 1997.

Representative Ernest Istook's "Religious Freedom Amendment" would allow officially sanctioned prayer in public schools, requires government to give taxpayer funding to religious schools and other sectarian institutions, and permits government to endorse religion as part of acknowledging our *heritage and traditions*. The resolution (H.J. Res. 78) has 130 co-sponsors in the House but has yet to be introduced in the Senate.—*Church & State*, July/August, 1997.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS & PUBLIC FUNDS

Cloaking vouchers as "scholar-ships," house speaker Newt Gingrich and congressional allies launch another campaign to subsidize religious schools in DC. Republican leaders in Congress announced last April that they plan to make religious school voucher subsidies a top legislative priority. After receiving criticism for lacking a coherent national agenda, GOP strategists outlined specific legislative objectives at a congressional retreat in Florida.

At a Capitol Hill press conference, House Majority Leader Dick Arme and Senators Joseph I. Lieberman and Dan Coats announced a \$28 million voucher proposal for the District of Columbia. Senate bill 847 and House bill 1797. The measure, dubbed the "District of Columbia Student Opportunity Scholarship Act," by its sponsors, would authorize vouchers of up to \$3,200 to pay for tuition for 2,000 poor children at religious and other private schools starting in 1998.

Voucher boosters clearly see the Arme plan as a foot in the door for a nationwide religious school aid campaign. The last time DC residents voted on a referendum for a voucher-style private school program, 89 percent voted against it.

Community leaders see this as a slap in the face of Gen. Julius W. Becton, Jr., who just six months ago was asked by the DC financial control board to take over the city's 157 public schools. On the same day as the Arme press conference, a House-Senate conference committee . . . refused to consider a request from Becton for an immediate

appropriation of \$22 million to repair deteriorating schools. Without the financial assistance, some District schools will find it next to impossible to correct the fire-code violations that forced several local schools to close last year. Critics are left wondering why congressional leaders would reject funds to repair public schools that may close due to fire-code hazards and on the same day unveil a plan to spend even more federal money in a new private school voucher program.—*Church & State*, July/August, 1997.

Comment: Could it be that our government is more interested in tearing down the partition between church and state than it is in providing safe places in which to educate our children?

"When the leading churches . . . shall influence the state to . . . sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy. . . Rulers and legislators (i.e. the Christian Coalition controlled GOP), in order to secure public favor will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance."—*The Great Controversy*, 445, 592.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

"The Rev. Bill Phipps, moderator of the United Church of Canada, says he is sorry about the controversy, but has no intention of backing away from heretical remarks published in a newspaper article Oct. 24. Phipps told a crowd of 300 church members that while he believes that Jesus is unique, he does not believe that Jesus is 'all of God.' He said that the important thing is not whether Jesus is God or whether He rose from the dead, but that he is 'alive in the world today.' His remarks drew a standing ovation from about one-third of his audience, and stony silence from the other two-thirds. A 1994 survey of more than 2,000 United Church members found that while the majority of United church members held 'traditional beliefs concerning the existence of god, the divinity of Jesus, and life after death,' that faculty at United Church seminaries disagreed—only one in four said it was very important to confess 'Jesus as Lord and Savior.' The United Church is Canada's largest Protestant denomination, with some three million adherents."—*Southern California Christian Times*, December 1997.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH ATTACKED IN IRAQ

"An evangelical church being constructed in the Northern city of Dohuk was attacked in mid-September by a mob of stonethrowing Muslims, according to a report from *Compass Direct*. Following the attack, four armed men reportedly came back and threatened to kill the Iraqi pastor if he did not 'leave Kurdistan immediately.' They vowed to bomb the church with rocket-propelled grenades if it opened again.

"Pastor Yusef Matti was reportedly forced to close his church and go into hiding with his family after the Sept. 18th attack against Grace Evangelical Church. Together with his wife and three children, Matti had lived on the ground floor of the partially completed church.

"The attackers reportedly broke out all of the windows and attempted to storm the family living quarters when Matti left his home to call the police.

"Two days later, Dohuk Police Chief Ahmed Nazar informed Matti that local authorities could offer him no protection, and urged him to leave the region. A Kurdish guard at the church property reports that the four men who threatened Matti were driving a new Mercedes-/benz owned by a high-level Kurdistan Democratic Party official in Dohuk.

"The September attack came five months after a Kurdish Christian was shot to death by an unknown assailant in one of three Christian bookstores operating under official permits from the KDP government. Mansour Hussain Sifer, 43, was murdered in the KDP regional capital of Arbil on April 21. The bookstore outlets are all managed by Matti."—*Southern California Christian Times*, December 1997.

MORMAN GROWTH RATE SLOWING

"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Commonly known as the Mormons, has grown to 10 million members. The cult began in New York state in 1830 with six members. Today the church is based in Salt Lake City, Utah. Just under half of its 10 million members are in the U.S., with the rest spread around the world. Church officials said the rate of growth is falling from an annual average of 10.8 percent during its first century, to 4.8 percent in the next five decades, and 3.6 percent over the last few years.—*Southern California Christian Times*, December 1997.

“A U.S. immigration court has granted asylum to a woman who is a member of the Church of Scientology, according to the *New York Times*. “The German woman claimed she would be the victim of religious persecution if she returned home. Officials at the U.S. State Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Washington said they were unaware of the case, according to the *Times*. It is believed to be the first time the United States has given asylum to a Scientologist. The Church of Scientology has lodged inter-national protests against the German government’s efforts to crack down on the cult. In a news release, cult leaders said the woman was granted asylum after making a ‘clear and convincing showing of a well founded fear of persecution by the German government solely because of her religious belief.’” — *Southern California Christian Times*, December 1997.

UNITED RELIGIONS

Can you imagine an interfaith organization designed to accomplish in the field of religion what the United Nations was designed to do to the nations of the world? While the United Nations targets national sovereignty for destruction, an organization called United Religions, (UR), would have all faiths abandon their core beliefs and join together in a worship-the-earth form of religiosity. Already on the drawing board, UR is gathering supporters, raising funds, and setting its sights on opening a world headquarters in San Francisco.

The prime mover behind the United Religions concept is Episcopal Bishop William Swing of San Francisco. Swing claims he dreamed up the idea during a sleepless night just prior to leading an ecumenical worship service coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the UN in 1995. “It struck me profoundly that the nations of the world have been moral enough to get together to struggle for moral good for 50 years,” he enthused, “but in those same 50 years, the religions of the world hadn’t spoken to each other.”

At his “religious” celebration of the UN’s 50 years, Swing attracted such global notables as Britain’s Princess Margaret, Poland’s Lech Walensa, UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and U.S. Ambassador to the UN Madeleine Albright. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that at

Swing’s ecumenical service, these luminaries “sat in the front pew as Sikhs, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Jews filed past in an eclectic parade of mitres, turbans, vestments and saffron robes.” The Rev. Alan Jones, dean of the Episcopal cathedral where the eclectics paraded, called on participants to labor “as workers for peace, as guarantors of the sacredness of the earth.”

Swing would like to see the UR structured just like the UN, with a general assembly, a security council, a secretary-general, “peacemaker teams,” and a “Value Bank” to help people invest in “corporations or non-profits that further their spiritual values.”

With \$150,000 of seed money from unnamed private foundations, Swing took off in February, 1996 for a three-month pro-UR world tour. During the trip he met with Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, the Archbishop of Canterbury, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and an array of leaders from the Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Sikh faiths.

Back home in June 1996 after circling the globe, Swing gathered 60 backers for an important planning session. Support for the entire undertaking came from former UN Assistant secretary-general Robert Muller, now chancellor of the University of Peace located in Costa Rica. Muller is so enthused about the UR that he has written: “If Christ came back to earth, his first visit would be to the United Religions to see if his dream of human oneness and brotherhood had come true.” Muller told Swing’s assembly, “Peace will be impossible without the taming of fundamentalism through United Religions that professes faithfulness only to the global spirituality and to the health of the planet.” It is obvious that the same kind of pantheism evident at the UN’s 1992 environmental conference in Rio de Janeiro will undergird UR, and fundamentalism is indeed its target.

The UR’s June 1996 session produced plans for creating its charter by June 1997 and for establishing its headquarters at San Francisco’s Presidio by the year 2000. The organizers hope to have UR fully functioning by 2005. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, Swing claimed that “more than 700 people have already expressed an interest in attending the charter writing.” Swing told the gathering, “We are on the threshold of a new global civilization.”

A report in the *San Francisco Chronicle* noted that Swing’s UR allies include the Gorbachev Foundation—which is

also located at the Presidio. Writing for the Buffalo, New York-based *Catholic Family News*, Cornelia Ferreira listed Gorbachev Foundation backers as former Secretary of State James Baker, George Bush, Margaret Thatcher, Brian Mulroney of Canada, Tansu Ciller of Turkey, Vaclav Havel, George Shultz, Rupert Murdoch, Bill Gates, Shirley MacLaine, Robert Muller, and Ted Turner.

In saner times, this sort of nonsense could have been laughed off as the hare-brained scheming of crackpot extremists. But these aren’t sane times. These godless people are targeting human behavior and religious beliefs. What they are planning is no laughing matter.—*The New American*, April 14, 1997.

Editor’s note: Well-meaning Protestants will already have laid the groundwork when the Papacy takes over!

CHEESEBURGER POLICE

TEL AVIV — “The cheeseburger police are on the lookout. Israel’s Chief Rabbinate, operating under the authority of the government’s Religious Affairs Ministry, has urged the public to call a 24-hour hotline to report violations of Jewish dietary laws in places where kosher food is served. Rabbinate official Rafi Yochai said the response has been ‘tremendous’ since the hotline was initiated, and noted that his office has been levying fines ranging from “290 to “580. Jewish law forbids pork and certain other foods, requires special slaughtering and preparation techniques for animal products, and forbids mixing milk products with meat—as is done in cheeseburgers.

The campaign targets only restaurants which have kosher licenses but are violating them.”—*Southern California Christian Times*, December 1997.

PAPACY IN THE NEWS

EDUCATION MINISTER ACCUSED OF IMPOSING CATHOLIC BOOKS

Managua, Nicaragua—A group of Protestant congressmen has accused Nicaragua’s minister of education of trying to “impose Catholic Textbooks” on the country’s public schools and has demanded his impeachment. The Education Ministry denied the charges. “It’s untrue that [the government] wishes to impose religious teaching on public schools and that over a million children will be obliged to study textbooks orientated

toward Catholicism," said a statement issued by the Education Ministry. Some 15-20 percent of Nicaraguans profess to follow the religion of the Protestant evangelical churches, while 87 percent of Nicaraguans claim to be at least nominally Catholic.—*National Catholic Register*, March, 1997.

40-DAY FAST PRESSED

"For 40 days last year, Linda Creager prepared dinner and sat down with her two sons at the table, but ate nothing. For 40 consecutive days she fasted, swallowing nothing but liquids. Creager says she was not on a diet, but on a religious mission, to find guidance from God. . . .

"Thousands of evangelical Christians, hopeful that the nation is on the threshold of a huge spiritual revival, have quietly taken to preparing fasting and praying, on their own and in large groups.

"Now prominent evangelicals, led by Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ and Pat Robertson of the Christian Broadcasting Network, are calling for 2 million Christians to join in a national 40-day fast beginning on March 1 and ending on April 9, the day before Good Friday—roughly corresponding with Lent, the period of penance preceding Easter.

"Many fasters will buy automatic juicers and sustain themselves with fresh-squeezed fruit and vegetable juices. . . . Others will go on modified fasts by denying themselves a favorite food.

"What is important to them, they say, is that while they may appear to be carrying on their work and family routines, in private they will be deep in prayer and immersed in Bible study.

"Fasting and prayer is the atomic bomb, or the hydrogen bomb, of all the Christian disciplines,' Bright said in a recent interview. 'Prayer has great power, but fasting with prayer has infinitely more power.'

"Biblical accounts, he said, show that God responds to the faithful who fast because it demonstrates true repentance, humility and contrition.

"Fasting has never been widespread among evangelical and Protestant denominations. Roman Catholics and many Orthodox Christians fast before Christmas and Easter, Muslims during Ramadan, Jews on Yom Kippur and American Indians before rites of passage and to cleanse their bodies of toxins.

"The adoption of fasting by evangelicals coincides with their growing hope for a great spiritual revival, a fervor that scholars say is fueled by the coming end of Christianity's second millennium, but even more by what evangelicals see as a dismal moral climate.

"... Robertson said, '... I believe we're in the middle or the beginning of a major spiritual revival in America, and I believe this is the kind of thing that is needed to bring forth a truly sweeping revival.'

"By revival, these religious leaders mean not simply a lively prayer service in the church, but a widespread, prolonged phenomenon in which legions of people ecstatically 'awaken' to Christ. . . .

"For many evangelicals, these years before the millennium are a time of utmost urgency, of darkness just before the dawn. Yet theologians say the renewed fervor for revival among evangelicals has also arisen because of moral concerns.

"Some evangelical leaders talk of the United States as 'Sodom and Gomorrah.' As evidence, they rattle off statistics on the high rates of abortion, teenage pregnancy, divorce, suicide, drug addiction, alcoholism and prostitution, even though some social indicators, especially crime rates, are improving.

"In addition, the evangelicals say, the current White House controversy has intensified their sense that sin reigns.

"Desperate measures require drastic measures, evangelical leaders say. . . .

"As a nation, we are faced with the gravest crisis in our more than 200 year history, because we have rejected God and His commandments,' Bright warned last year. . . .

"Judgment has already begun with rapid social disintegration during the last three decades, but far worse awaits us,' he warned. 'Unless we believers truly repent, further judgment and ultimate destruction loom drastically ahead. . . .

"Yet some evangelical leaders say they are uneasy about Bright's campaign to promote fasting, because the Bible says that people who fast should not talk about it publicly. For that reason, many observers of the Promise Keepers' rally in Washington last year were unaware that thousands of the participants and many of the group's leaders speaking from the podium had ended 40-day fasts that morning."—*The News Tribune*, February 8, 1998.

GOOD FRIDAY COMPROMISE

"April 10 is Good Friday. It's the first night of Passover. And in Boston, it's the home opener for the Red Sox. 'The Red Sox made extensive attempts to reschedule the April 10 opener, but circumstances prevented the date to be change,.' Said a team statement announcing the 1998 schedule. 'In recognition of the religious observances, traditional ceremonies will be limited to the introduction of both teams, and no alcoholic beverages will be sold in the park.'"—*Southern California Christian Times*, February 1998.

PARENTS CONCERNED ABOUT EDUCATION

SAN LEANDRO — "Child Protection Services (CPS) has dropped its case against a mother who had raised a number of concerns in regards to her child's education.

"According to Brad Dacus, president of Pacific Justice Institute (PJI), the mother—Vivian K.—decided to visit her son's school, Corvallis Elementary School, after he mentioned something that was bothering him at school.

"After complaints about her presence, Mrs. K. was ordered to let the school know when she was coming—and to stop taking notes.

"School Staff then began taking her seven-year-old son out of classes 'for questioning,' said Dacus.

"The mother protested this intrusion into her family's privacy, but leadership at the school stated that they had every right to question the boy.

"School officials then contacted Child Protective Services, alleging abuse. The San Lorenzo Unified School District justified their actions, said Dacus, on the grounds that Mrs. K. had allegedly been seen 'raising her voice' to her child.

"Dacus explained that, under current law, abuse can be either physical or emotional, with emotional abuse covering 'almost everything under the sun,' so 'yelling could be a pretext for potential abuse.'

"After receiving legal counsel from PJI, Vivian took her child to a pediatrician and received a report stating that there was no evidence of abuse. As a result of these preemptive measures, CPS was forced to drop its investigation.

"Dacus called the case 'a classic example of unchecked power by CPS, and a school system with too much power against parents who want to be involved in their children's lives'

"Parents who raise concerns about their children's education 'should not be targeted for unnecessary and unwarranted harassment by school officials or CPS,' he said."—*Southern California Christian Times*, December 1997.

CHURCH OF SATAN

"Anton LaVey, founder of the Church of Satan died Oct. 29. . . . LaVey was cremated after a Satanic funeral. LaVey founded the Church of Satan in 1966, and drew national attention the next year when he performed a Satanic wedding ceremony. . . . He also wrote *The Satanic Bible* and four other books. . . . The church claims more than 10,000 members. . . . His daughter told a news conference, 'He said that his epitaph should be . . . "I only regret the times I was too nice."'—*Southern California Christian Times*, December 1997.

'ALLAH'—NOT GOD OF THE BIBLE

WETZLAR, Germany — "Criticizing efforts to minimize the fundamental differences between Christianity and Islam, the Rev. Horst Marquardt, president of the German branch of the Lausanne Committee, told the German news service IDEA that emphasizing the similarities between the two world faiths had led to the 'unfortunate misconception' that 'Allah and the God of the Bible are one and the same.'

"Marquardt said Germans are greatly confused in their assessment of Islam. He noted that Islam differs from Christianity in significant ways, including denying the Trinity, denying Christ's resurrection, and denying that Jesus is the Son of God. He noted, however, that Christians who point out these significant differences are increasingly being dismissed as 'fundamentalist' by Muslims and Christians alike.

"Marquardt said Islam must bear responsibility for icy relations with evangelicals, noting that Islam has often nursed the image of 'the Christian enemy' with 'often fatal consequences.'"—*Ibid*.

MEDICATION ERRORS INCREASE

Deaths from medication mistakes in the United States more than doubled between 1983 and 1993, with the sharpest increase coming in deaths among outpatients. During that period, the number of deaths from accidental poisoning by drugs and other medicines climbed from 851 to 2,098, said the report published in the February 28th issue of the British medical journal *The Lancet*. Included in those figures is the number of deaths among outpatients, which increased from 172 to 1,459.—*America Online News*, February 27, 1998.

CATHOLIC HEADS FEDERAL EFFORT TO FINANCE PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

Ed Anthony, a veteran Catholic lobbyist, and former director of the Office for Educational Assistance of the U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC), has been hired by the U.S. Education Department to head the tuition tax credit effort, according to *Church and State*, a publication of **Americans United for the Separation of Church and State**.

During his four years with the USCC, Anthony was "primarily responsible for putting together a network of state tuition tax credit coordinators." His presence on the federal payroll now provides coordination between federal efforts and those of the U.S. Catholic Conference to persuade the government to finance their schools through tuition tax credits.

While a recent Senate vote has been as setback to the parochial school aid effort, supporters vow to resubmit it shortly, pressing for passage.

Being the nation's largest system of private education, Catholic schools have much to gain by receiving federal financial assistance. With Anthony's placement in the Department of Education, they now can coordinate their efforts both within and outside the government to help them finance their schools.

Such help is welcome by the Catholic school system, which sits on a virtual economic time bomb. Its teachers grossly underpaid, and its tuition rising beyond many families' ability to pay, this proven method of developing the young into staunch Catholics sees its salvation in a fresh infusion of funds from the U.S. Treasury.

FEDERAL BILL TARGETS RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION OVERSEAS

With broad backing from conservative religious groups, members of Congress introduced legislation May 20 to protect Christians and other religious minorities from persecution in foreign nations. The legislation, titled the "Freedom from Religious Persecution Act," would also create a senior White House position that would be responsible for monitoring international religious persecution and would help expedite proceedings for those immigrants claiming asylum from religious persecution.

Arlen Specter, Republican from Pennsylvania, and Frank Wolf Republican from Virginia, sponsored the bill. It would punish nations with sanctions including a ban on all exports and non-humanitarian aid, denial of visas to officials from offending nations and opposition to efforts to gain development loans from the World Trade Organization. The president could waive sanctions for national security reasons.

Sponsors specifically singled out Sudan for immediate sanctions for alleged crimes against Christians who claim they are sold into slavery and otherwise persecuted by Muslim rulers. Evangelical Christians have been at the forefront of the effort to bring religious persecution to public attention as a human rights abuse. They specifically point to China, Vietnam, Pakistan, Egypt and Kuwait as examples of nations where Christians are singled out for punishment. Groups supporting the Specter-Wolf bill include the Christian Coalition, the Traditional Values Coalition, the Family Research Council, and the National Association of Evangelicals.—*Church & State*, July August, 1997.

Editors note: Working against human rights abuses is a good cause, but the outline is being written that "causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark." Revelation 13:16.

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LETTERS

Future for America,

I would appreciate receiving your monthly tapes, although I am retired and don't have a lot of funds to donate. The tapes are such a blessing.

Received some money for Christmas, and will share some. Will send whenever I am able. Thank you for understanding.

Maranatha. — EN-HI

Please keep us on your mailing list. We are enjoying your material.

Our prayers are with you. May the God of heaven bless you in this imperative work! — HGLM-VA

Dear Bro. Pippenger,

I appreciate your tapes and *Future for America* newsletter. I would like to continue serving them until further notice—or until the Lord's return—whichever is first.

I am an elderly widow with a fixed income, but I will help as I can.

— HM-PA

I really enjoy all your information you send me, and the presentation I go to. Please keep up the good work God has given you. I know ___ is not enough to support your needs. Next time I'll offer more.

God bless. — DC-CA

Dear Bro. Pippenger & Staff,

Greetings from Southern California to each of you.

I heard you speak in the Fontana Historic Adventist Church in approx. early November. I asked you a question and to answer completely, you graciously sent me the 3 tapes on "*The Purification of God's Church*" and I have appreciated them very much! Thank you. . . .

May the Lord continue to bless all of you, and may you have a joyous new year.

In Christian love, — SW-CA

Dear Jeff Pippenger,

Thank you for sending the audio tapes. I would like to receive more, and also your newsletter.

I am sending a check. . . . My wife and I will try to send you a donation as we can.

Thank you. Your brother, — CK-NC

ECHOES OF SODOM

“Likewise also, as it was in the days of Lot. . . .” Luke 17:28.

Last week New Jersey became the first state to explicitly allow lesbian and gay couples to adopt children jointly, just as married couples do.—*Time*, December 29, 1997.

“The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the nation’s first openly homosexual ambassadorial nominee. The committee, led by conservative Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), voted Nov. 4 to endorse the nomination of James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg, and sent it on for confirmation by the full Senate. Officials suggested that Helms must have received assurances that Hormel would not use his post to promote homosexual rights.”—*Southern California Christian Times*, December 1997.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR HOMOSEXUAL PARTNERS

“The cost of providing health insurance coverage to the homosexual partners of teachers is one of the disputed issues in union contract negotiations with the Madison District in Wisconsin. The district is offering to let employees designate an unmarried partner as a spouse for insurance purposes, effective Oct. 1, 1998. The Madison school board believes the proposal would cost an extra \$300,000 in insurance premiums, but the Madison Teachers Inc. expects the cost to be around \$20,000. The Milwaukee Common Council rejected a similar proposal for city employees Oct. 14 by a vote of 14-3. Presently, no public employees in Wisconsin enjoy family benefits as unmarried people.—Ibid.

CLINTON AND HOMOSEXUAL ADVOCACY

“President Bill Clinton made history Nov. 8 when he addressed a fundraiser for the nation’s largest homosexual advocacy organization. No sitting president has ever addressed such a group.

“‘We have to broaden the imagination of America,’ he told the audience of 1,500 at the sold-out \$500-per couple dinner for the Human Rights Campaign. Clinton called on Congress to pass gay rights legislation.

“Clinton said that being a homosexual ‘seemed to have nothing to do with the abil-

ity to read a balance book, set a broken bone or change a spark plug.’. . .

“Clinton said that people who ‘aren’t comfortable yet’ with homo-sexuals need to be shown a new image of homosexuality. ‘Should we change the law? You bet. Should we keep fighting discrimination? Absolutely,’ Clinton remarked. “But we have to broaden the imagination of America. We are redefining in practical terms the immutable ideals that have guided us from the beginning.

“Clinton compared his appearance to a 1947 speech by Harry Truman to the NAACP, and equated the gay rights movement with the struggle for racial equality.”. . .

“Robert Knight of the Family Research Council said Clinton had ‘misused’ the presidency. ‘To use the bully pulpit to glamorize behavior that offends the values of millions of Americans . . . is a disservice to the American people,’ he insisted.”—Ibid.

IRS PAYS EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND GAY CONFERENCE

“The Internal Revenue Service granted paid administrative leave for its employees to attend the Federal Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual Employees (GLOBE) annual conference in San Diego, Nov. 13, according to an internal IRS memorandum that refers to the Internal Revenue Manual 0601 Hours of Duty and Absence and Leave Handbook (subsection 386).

“The agenda for the GLOBE Conference indicates ‘a political purpose,’ notes the Center for Reclaiming America (CRA) which obtained the memo.

“The day-long meeting included sessions such as: ‘Sexual Orientation Issues in the Federal Workplace;’ ‘Barney Frankly (sic) on ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act);’ and ‘Next Steps, Outreach to Others.’

“‘This conference clearly pro-motes special rights and hiring quotas for homosexuals—and now U.S. taxpayers are being forced to support the homosexual agenda,’ said Janet Folger, National Director for CRA, which was formed by Dr. D. James Kennedy as an outreach of Coral Ridge Ministries in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

“‘We call upon the IRS to immediately revoke this policy and apologize to taxpayers for misusing their money to advance the radical homosexual agenda.’”—Ibid.

A NATIONAL PEDOPHILE ASSOCIATION YET!

The death of Allen Ginsberg, the beatnik poet laureate, brought many tributes, all of which mentioned his homosexuality. Only *The Weekly Standard* pointed out that Ginsberg was an advocate of sex with minors and had endorsed NAMBLA—the North American Man-Boy Love Association. Pedophilia is part of the gay subculture. NAMBLA is a regular participant in the annual gay marches and has never been repudiated by the major gay/lesbian groups. It’s equally significant that this fact is rarely reported in the news media.—*Wanderer*, April, 1997.

Editor’s note: Did Sodom and Gomorrah have a national association? Is this not worse? Surely, the end must be nearing!

ALASKA RULES ON GAY MARRIAGES

On February 27th, a judge ruled against Alaska’s ban on same-sex marriages, ordering the state to show why it should be able to regulate who people marry. The ruling does not legalize same-sex unions in Alaska, but forces the state to prove a compelling reason why such unions should be illegal. Superior Court Judge Peter Michalski said choosing a partner is a fundamental right and the state Constitution protects both the “traditional choice and the nontraditional choice.”—*America Online News*, February 27, 1998.

HOMOSEXUAL EDUCATIONAL VIDEO INDOCTRINATES AND RECRUITS CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

It’s Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues In School— is the title of a 78-minute film being shown to elementary school teachers nationwide.

Schools in California, Michigan, Massachusetts and New York cooperated in making available live classes for videotaping. Several of the teachers, on camera, announced that they are gay.

Children who asked questions [in the video] were given responses by their teachers that shook any doubts they may have had about the reasonableness of same-sex relationships.

The teachers were driving not only for acceptance of homosexuality, but were recruiting children. Since homosexuals die at an average age of 42, it is imperative for gays to recruit in the schools. The film launches the crusade to take our kids.

Directions for obtaining the \$100.00 video may be obtained by phoning the ADL at (212)-490-2525.—*Christian News*, November 3, 1997.

El Nino (Continued from page 5.)

for heat and burning candles for light. Some 3 million customers lost electricity in eastern Canada.

A state of emergency was declared in Ottawa, Canada's capital city, and repair crews were summoned from the United States to help clear up the damage from heavy ice accumulation. Southern Quebec, including the Montreal area, was hardest hit.

Now as the snow and ice begins to melt, authorities are worried about potential flooding.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada predicted that damage claims could top \$350 million, which would make this the costliest disaster ever in Canada.

Pennsylvania — The ice storms in Canada were matched in Pittsburgh by golf ball-sized hail flying horizontally.

Maine — In Maine, where snow is usually piled high at this time of year, heavy rain falls are leaving nearly half a million people without power. Power is not expected to be returned for some customers for several days. A little more ice was expected in Maine when Gov. Angus King declared a state of emergency.

New Hampshire — Eleven communities declared states of emergency as the ice storm dropped power lines, tree limbs and utility poles, leaving 57,000 without electricity. Four utility men were injured by falling trees. New London, New Hampshire was virtually sealed off in a curtain of ice.

Vermont — Vermont had more rain Thursday [January 8th] than is normal for the entire month of January, with 10,000 powerless.

New York — Ice storms brought down trees and power lines leaving more than 125,000 in five ice-choked counties in upstate New York without electricity. Gov. George Pataki declared local states of emergency, sending 1,500 National Guard personnel to help clear debris, evacuate stranded residents, and set up and run portable generators. He also opened up state prisons to those needing shelter.

Floods of Biblical proportions were ravaging the southeast, and unseasonably warm temperatures in New York City have residents in T-shirts, with a record high of 65 degrees on Thursday. The last high temperature for January 8th was 64 degrees in 1937.

Kentucky — Thousands of people in Kentucky were without electricity on February 8th.

North Carolina — The slow moving weather system which hit the southern plains earlier in the week caused high winds, at least one tornado, lightning, thick coastal fog and snow as well as ice and rain.

Rivers are swelling in the South causing major flooding that has been blamed for at least two deaths. On Wednesday nearly 10 inches of rain fell in North Carolina, bringing mud slides and forcing dozens of families to leave their homes.

Gov. Jim Hunt of North Carolina declared a state of emergency and a state of disaster in four of the state's counties. The cost of damage done to the roadways and bridges alone will run nearly \$10 million.

South Carolina — On Wednesday a tornado touched down in South Carolina, destroying several homes and leaving 4 people injured.

Alabama — Near Birmingham, Alabama, approximately 100 families were displaced by floods.

Tennessee — In Carter County, Tennessee, four people were confirmed dead as the result of the flooding there. A police helicopter rescued 18 people from a rooftop in the county near the eastern tip of the state.

Mississippi — A dam failed in Mississippi Thursday morning. After days of heavy rains, an emergency spillway finally gave out, sending a gush of floodwaters. Officials estimate that nearly 200 homes stand in the way of the rushing flood waters.

And in the midst of all the havoc and ruin caused by El Nino, there was an unusual bit of beauty when, as a result of the unseasonably warm weather, the cherry trees in Washington DC blossomed . . . three months early.

40 DIE IN TORNADO

APOPKA, Fla. State officials now say that 40 people died when tornadoes swept through central Florida late Sunday and early Monday. Rescuers in Osceola County gave up the search today for a missing man in Kissimmee. He's believed to have been killed with his roommates when a tornado demolished their mobile home. Several families buried their dead in services today, while

other continued to clean up from the devastating tornadoes.—*America Online News*, February 28, 1998.

CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

Communism and militant Islam continue to pose the greatest threat to Christians, according to Nina Shea of Freedom House, a human rights group. Shea, author of the book, *In the Lion's Den*, says 11 countries continue to practice systematic persecution of Christians: China, Pakistan, Laos, North Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt, Nigeria, and Uzbekistan.

Few Americans know that Christians today are the most persecuted religious group in the world and that persecution is intensifying.—*Pulse*, volume 32, Number 3.

CHINA CRACKS DOWN ON RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

The Communist Party would like to see religion entirely gone from China, but China's present policy is to tolerate it within the confines of government control. Decrees in late 1994 restricted the religious activities of foreigners, and this is coupled with a new campaign to shut down underground churches. A Communist party leader met in 1995 with leaders of the "official" churches and explained that the communist-designated "religious" leaders would be required to help "consolidate and expand the party's united front," and to ensure that "people in religious circles play their active role in socialist modernization better." Not surprisingly, the "sanctioned" religious leaders promised to "contribute to national unity and the cause of building socialism with Chinese characteristics."—*Calvary Contender*, May, 1997.

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...they did not feel that the blessing
...ent in study, for they discerned that
...God their destiny depended upon
...ion. They were to bring all their
...ed by close, severe taxation of their
...make the most of their opportunities
...were working out their own
...king in them to will and to do
...Here are revealed the condi-
...make God's grace our own; we
...the Lord does not propose to
...the willing or the doing. His
...in us to will and to do
...use for our effort. Our
...to cooperate! The
...us that we may work
...This is the practical
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...Companions had a
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...not become in any way
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...But, as a rule, let them be
...institutions. Be careful
...not to go to other schools,
...in order to complete their
...ve them the impression that
...vantages are to be obtained
...se who do not seek wisdom
...it men of Babylon were
...ed by the instruction that
...aniel, to help the king out
...he interpreters were
...at they were
...in heathen
...of the
...and his
...to such a
...would, in
...vlonians,
...plete, as
...entrusted
...kingdom
...ews entered into no such
...were true to God and God
...ored them. The lesson is for us. Seek
...of God, and his righteousness; and all
...added unto you. (Letter 57, 1896)
...and Intellect Grow Together.—As
...in exact proportion as the spiritual

82, 1900)
The history of Daniel, if all was written
chapters before you that would show you the
he had to meet, of ridicule, envy, and hate,
learned to master the difficulties. He did not
own strength; he laid his whole soul and all his
open to his heavenly Father, and he believed
him, and he was comforted and blessed. He
rior to ridicule; and so will every one who
comes. Daniel acquired a serene and clear
of mind, because he believed God was
and helper. The taxing duties he had
were made light because he brought the
love of God into his work. "All the
Lord are mercy and truth" to such as will
2:37-42: A Dual Representation
work image revealed to Nebuchadnezzar
representing the deterioration of
doms of the earth in power,
also fully represents the deteri-
religion and morality among
of these kingdoms. As nations
God, in like proportion they
weak morally. The
Babylon passed away her
prosperity she forgot God and
glory of her prosperity to human
The Medo-Persian kingdom was
the wrath of heaven because in
God's law was trampled under foot
of the Lord found no place in the
people. The prevailing influences
of Persia were wickedness, in
re corruption. The
The kingdoms that followed
more base and corrupt. They de-
because they cast off their allegi-
As they forgot Him, they sank low
lower in the scale of moral value.
1:243: Iron and Clay-Mingled
and Statecraft.—We have come
when God's sacred work is repre-
feet of the image in which the iron
with the miry clay God has a people
people whose discernment must be sanc-
must not become unholily by laying ap-
odation wood, hay, and stubble, every
loyal to the commandments of God will
distinguishing feature of our faith is the
Sabbath. If the government would
Sabbath as God has commanded, it would
the strength of God and in defense of
delivered to the saints. But statesmen will
spurious sabbath, and will mingle their
with the observance of this child of
placing it above the Sabbath which
sanctified and blessed, setting it apart
keep holy, as a sign between Him
people to a thousand generations. The
of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by
the clay. This union is weakening all the
churches. This investing the church with the
state will bring evil results. Men have almost
point of God's forbearance. They have inv-

