

FUTURE NEWS

Volume 5, No. 5

May 2001

A CRISIS IS TO BE REVEALED

“All heaven is represented to me as watching the unfolding of events. A crisis is to be revealed in the great and prolonged controversy in the government of God on earth. Something great and decisive is to take place, and that right early. If any delay, the character of God and his throne will be compromised. The armory of heaven is open; all the universe of God and its equipments are ready. One word has justice to speak, and there will be terrific representations upon the earth, of the wrath of God. There will be voices and thunderings and lightnings and earthquakes and universal desolation. Every movement in the universe of heaven is to prepare the world for the great crisis.

“Intensity is taking possession of every earthly element; and as a people who have had great light and wonderful knowledge, many of them are represented by the five sleeping virgins with their lamps, but no oil in their vessels; cold, senseless, with a feeble, waning piety. While a new life is being diffused and is springing up from beneath and taking fast hold of all Satan’s agencies, preparatory to the last great conflict and struggle, a new light and life and power is descending from on high, and taking possession of God’s people who are not dead, as many now are, in trespasses and sins. The people who will now see what is soon to come upon us by what is being transacted before us, will no longer trust in human inventions, and will feel that the Holy Spirit must be recognized, received, presented before the people, that they may contend for the glory of God, and work everywhere in the byways and highways of life, for the saving of the souls of their fellow-men. The only rock that is sure and steadfast is the Rock of Ages. Those only who build on this Rock are secure.

“Those who are carnally minded now, notwithstanding the warnings given of God in his word and through the testimonies of his Spirit, will never unite with the holy family of the redeemed. They are sensual, debased in thought, and abominable in the sight of God. They have never been sanctified through the truth. They are not partakers of the divine nature, have never overcome self and the world with its affections and lusts. These characters are all through our churches, and as the result the churches are weak and sickly and ready to die. There must be no indifferent testimony borne now, but a decided, pointed testimony, rebuking every impurity, and exalting Jesus. We must as a people be in the attitude of expectation, working and waiting and watching and praying.” *Special Testimonies*, number 2, 1892.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 5 Fingerprint May Soon Be Needed To Buy Groceries
- 8 Church/State Legislation
- 9 Inattention, Apathy, and Liberty
- 10 Bush Aims to Strengthen Catholic Base
- 12 The Sublimest Theme

By David Lin

Future News is published monthly by:

Future for America, Inc.

PO Box 7
Bonnerdale, AR 71933
(888) 278-7744

Future for America seeks to supply meat in due season for God's flock. It is present truth that the flock needs now:

"God cannot display the knowledge of His will and the wonders of His grace among the unbelieving world unless He has witnesses scattered all over the earth. It is His plan that those who are partakers of this great salvation through Jesus Christ should be His missionaries, bodies of light throughout the world, to be as signs to the people, living epistles, known and read of all men, their faith and works testifying to the near approach of the coming Saviour and showing that they have not received the grace of God in vain. The people must be warned to prepare for the coming judgment. To those who have been listening only to fables, God will give an opportunity to hear the sure word of prophecy, whereunto they do well that they take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. He will present the sure word of truth to the understanding of all who will take heed; all may contrast truth with the fables presented to them by men who claim to understand the word of God and to be qualified to instruct those in darkness." *Testimonies*, volume 2, 631-632.

Future for America is a self-supporting 501-C3 nonprofit 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.

Future News

Editor Jeff Pippenger
JeffPippenger@msn.com
Contributing Editor Pat Rampy
Patrick.Rampy@juno.com
Circulation Manager Kathryn Pippenger

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.

MINISTRY UPDATE

Philippines:

We have received the budget for the 2002 evangelistic series in the Philippines. To hold a series, buy land and build a church is fourteen thousand dollars. We intend to hold three series next year if the Lord opens the way. We will be working with Steve and Donna Dickie and their ministry, *Strawberry Meadows*, as we did this year. We expect them to raise most of the funding for their series. We are expecting the brethren from London to raise the finances for the series they will present. If the Lord convicts you to help support this ongoing work in the Philippines, please mark your offerings *Philippines 2002*. We will keep you informed of the plans as they further develop. It is very helpful if the funding arrives well before the meetings, which will take place in January, as we plan to have Bible workers in the target area 3 months prior to the meeting, and we will need to locate property to purchase as well.

The work we have done in the past has some ongoing needs as well. We have three churches that we have contributed to the construction that are still incomplete. We have a weekly radio broadcast, several requests for small jungle chapels, and we are supporting a Bible worker who is assigned to prepare and follow up the areas where we have and will work in the future. If you could help in these projects please mark your funds, *Philippine Work*. Our monthly budget for the Bible worker and radio broadcast is four hundred and fifty dollars, and the goal to finish the three churches is nine thousand five hundred dollars.


Ukraine:

A few years ago I met a evangelist from Canada at an ASI meeting in California. I shared my material with him and we began a friendship though email and telephone. His appreciation of the prophetic material is what generated an invitation to share at a camp meeting in Canada last year. He was also there and we further cemented our friendship and relationship.

After 33 years in pastoral work and evangelism Vic Gill is retiring in May. He will stay on in a contract capacity for another year, but he then intends to continue to do free-lance evangelism where the Lord opens the way. Though primarily doing his evangelistic work in Canada for the last 11 years, he has also held 16 crusades in the Ukraine. His most recent ended a little over a month ago. As the Lord supplies, *Future for America* intends to support Pastor Gill in his ongoing free-lance evangelistic work.

We have an evangelistic series of his material, which consists of 26 presentations, which we are offering for you to listen to. It will be a great blessing to your non-SDA friends and even SDA friends who need to go over the old time Advent message. I believe you will be blessed by his powerful messages. We are supplying these at a special price of forty dollars, which is twelve dollars off the regular price. (Remember our shipping and handling formula has increased to three dollars, plus fifteen percent.)

I asked pastor Gill to send a letter I could include in this newsletter. The following is the slightly edited letter:

 Dear Brother Jeff, Enclosed you will find material along with various and sundry letters from my crusade in Dubno, Ukraine. This was my second series in Dubno.

Laws have changed since I was there last, (two and a half years ago). Now they have a law forbidding the use of public halls for the use of religious purposes. But, praise the Lord! God intervened and our brethren so arranged things to get the use of a music college auditorium for a month. We went 26 nights straight—no breaks.

Our little hall seated 340, but we managed to pack over 500 in there each evening. The entryway was also packed. We set up an additional 160 chairs in the entrance and we used a video system so that people there could see what was happening in the hall. The people who came were from all walks of life—teachers, doctors, nurses, ministers from other churches (mainly Baptist and Pentecostal), KGB officers, and the head of the mafia for that area. There were business people and also common people from all over that area.

We rented a bus to bring people from some of the neighboring villages. Many of them walked for miles because there wasn't room for them on the bus—or the bus wasn't coming to their village. Our own members were asked to stay home because there wasn't enough room. I would have been glad to run two sessions a night, but the hall was only

available for a short time as the college needed the hall until just a short time before the time to begin the meetings. We had 125 children in the children's meetings.

We had over 200 decisions for Christ in this crusade with 23 of them being baptized the last Sabbath of the series. There are about 50 plus that are in a baptismal class at present with most of the others, who have made their decisions, coming to church on Sabbath. There are a number of other people that are coming, interests from the interests that came to the meetings. And so the circle is widening.

This area is building a new church. They have the walls, roof, windows, etc. in. They didn't have any heat and I was able to raise enough money for the heating system before I went. They should now installing the heating system. The pastor went to Poland to pick up the furnace and all the fixings that he needed for the project. We are very thankful to the generous people who help support the work in the Ukraine.

There are many interesting experiences that I could tell you about, but time does not permit—except to say briefly, that the Lord blessed wonderfully. A young man who was on his deathbed was healed through the power of prayer. He had a ruptured appendix for a whole day before they discovered it. The doctors said there was no hope for him unless God intervened. He did. Praise the Lord! This young man was baptized three years before when I was there. He was released from the hospital and was able to attend the last meeting and came personally to thank me for our prayers in his behalf.

One night we had seven Orthodox priests who came to see what the meetings were all about (the night I preached on Daniel 7). Shortly after that they tried to shut us down. Our meetings were the talk of the town. People everywhere were saying in all the years no one ever had so many people coming to that hall every night for such a long period of time, as Victor Gill. All glory be to God.

We have also helped to build churches and to purchase home churches. There is one church that is desperate for help. This church is located in Vinnitsa in the Podolska Conference. They have the walls up (we brought money for that three or four years ago) but they haven't the money for the roof. Now the main structure needs a roof and windows to get it out of the weather. We had so many people who came to see us, begging for assistance. It is so hard to turn them down. But we can only do so much!

I hope this will give you a glimpse into what this crusade and our work is all about. I am looking forward to going back again as soon as I possibly can. I don't know when that will be, but the Lord can open a way.

I will be retiring the end of May this year. However I have committed myself to do another year of evangelism on a contract basis for the Maritime conference of which I am presently employed. That means another five crusades. I plan on moving out west the first of June and getting settled there somewhere close to our children and grandchildren. That will be home base from then on. We have no address there yet but will keep you posted as to our whereabouts as soon as we get settled.

We are praying that the Lord will help us find a place somewhere that we can afford without going into debt. I think that it is too late in earth's history to do that. That may be hard to do with only \$20,000, if that. That doesn't go very far nowadays. But with God all things are possible. He says, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you." I'm claiming that promise. But if we could get settled soon then possibly we could go again in August. We'll see, there's a lot of planning and preparation that has to go into getting one self and the team ready. Whenever I go, though, it will be to the city of Mariupol in the far east of Ukraine, almost to the Russian border, down by the coast of the Black Sea.


God bless you, dear brother. Keep up the good work! There's so much yet to be done. Truly the "Harvest is ripe but the laborers are few". Sincerely, your brother in Christ, Vic.

P.S. I was invited to preach in a Baptist Church. The minister came nearly every night to my meetings along with 50 of his members. The day I spoke at his church he told his members that if they felt a conviction to join with the Seventh-day Adventist church that they had his blessing. He told me that he is convicted on the Sabbath truth, and on most everything else as well. He is continuing his studying.

We are seeking to raise eight thousand dollars for the upcoming series Pastor Gill will hold in Mariupol, Ukraine. If you can help please mark your funds, *Ukraine Meeting*. If you would like to help with the church just mentioned mark


your funds, *Ukraine Church*. I hope you can listen to his audio sermons, for you will see that his style is the old Advent message.

Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein. Jeremiah 6:16.

 Dear Jeff and Kathy, I sincerely love these tapes and studies. They are blessing me greatly. Thank you so much for sharing with me what God has been blessing you with. I always pray for God to lead me to the truth and He does. I'm sending you some money. Please send me the series titled, *The Purification of God's Church*, also the magazine which goes with the video, *The Daily or Revelation 16*. I can't remember which. I am writing this from work, so I can't listen to the tape to find out which it is.

I have been sharing these tapes with some people in the church. The pastor and the elders pitched a fit. They told me, "If you continue to share these tapes, you will be disfellowshipped."

I asked them to listen to them, but they would not even listen to anything I said. I asked them how they could condemn anything before listening to it? The Bible says we are to test the spirits, prove all things. They wouldn't even listen to me. They are going behind my back and talking to all the membership. They are telling them not to listen to anything I have to say or to take any literature or tapes. One poor woman is so afraid of me that she won't even come near me anymore. How sad. Please continue to pray for me. I really need your prayers. We all do. I will continue to help you until God says otherwise. I will also continue to pray for you both. May God bless you always. Love Always Your Sister in Christ, L.L.

 Dear Mr. And Mrs. Pippenger, Thank you for your books and prayers. Our stand for the truth has cost us our job here in the Colorado Conference, but it does not mean we will stop proclaiming the straight truth. Jesus is coming soon! God bless your ministry. We'll be in touch again I'm sure. D. and N. H.

Fingerprint May Soon Be Needed to Buy Groceries

The day will come when you put your finger on a scanning device to prove who you are before you engage in transactions at retail stores, ATMs, banks and even when you buy groceries. One company making such a device is engaged in a pilot project with the nation's largest grocery chain.

Biometric Access Corp. has teamed up with four *Kroger* stores in the Houston area to test a point-of-sale fingerprint-scanning device for retail transactions. The pilot project has been under way for just over a year and is working well, even though some customers don't like it, according to *Kroger* spokesman Gary Huddleston.

The *Kroger* stores are using the device to provide positive identification for payroll check cashing, not for actual sales. Huddleston says customer acceptance is one of the challenges that must be overcome if the device is to be used for all transactions.

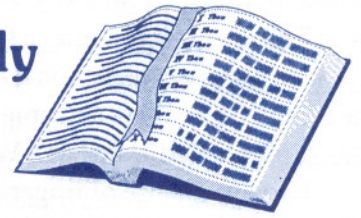
"Many customers have seen the value of the security in the system. The finger image is positive identification," Huddleston told *NewsMax.com* in a phone interview. He said a personal identification number was not very secure.

Will the finger-image scanner become common in all retail stores in the future?

"I'm sure it will," said Huddleston. "Customer acceptance is one challenge, and cost is the other challenge. As soon as we overcome those."

EGW Study Bible

Large Study Bible



Deluxe Study Bible

Available for \$50.00.

The Deluxe Study Bible no longer is available in Burgandy.

The finger-image scanner can easily be used for all point-of-sale transactions, including the use of checks, credit cards and debit cards, according to *Biometric Access Corp.* spokesman Hal Jennings. The system is also used for computer security and for clocking workers in and out of work, replacing old-fashioned time cards.

The use of finger-image scans is hailed by some and highly criticized by others.

“My primary objection is to government surveillance of citizens, more so than that of private businesses. However, the trend by retailers and employers to use biometrics to screen customers and employees is alarming,” said activist Scott McDonald, who has a Web site (www.networkusa.org/fingerprint.shtml) that fights the use of fingerprints.

He says the use of finger-image scans by retail stores is one way the government can “condition” the public to “accept the same kind of perpetual scrutiny by government using the same technologies.”

McDonald told *NewsMax.com* that he was concerned about an increase in the number of government and business partnerships.

“It is likely the information generated by private biometric scanning by banks, businesses and employers will eventually be linked to, or accessible by, government computers,” explained McDonald.

Biometric Access Corp. has also established a contract with *H.E. Butt Grocery Co.* in Texas “which will result in a large-scale implementation of the *SecureTouch On-Time*(tm) time and attendance system,” Jennings said.

More than 700 units will be installed in stores using biometric fingerprint readers to keep track of 50,000 employees as they clock in and out of work. *Biometric Access Corp.* also sold 6,000 similar readers to the state of New York for the Office of Mental Health to be used to protect highly confidential files. *NewsMax.com*.

Privacy: Smile! They’re watching you.

Many visitors to Tampa last month may not have noticed the surveillance cameras at the Super Bowl or outside the bars, restaurants, and cinemas in the historic district. But the cameras noticed the visitors, scanning their faces and feeding the images to a computer. It electronically rifled through a database of digital mug shots, looking for a match. No arrests were made, but Tampa police say the facial recognition technology could be deployed “anywhere the public gathers.” Software makers say it would also improve security for concerts, amusement parks, and schools. And one company, *Visage Technology*, says officials from the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics are considering its system.

Critics say the “faceprint” technology may constitute an illegal search. A further worry: Several states are building databases of digitized drivers’ license photos, which could enable the system to track the public movements not only of criminals—but of nearly all adults. *U.S. News & World Report*, February 8, 2001.

Anyone who wonders why kids are so messed up today need only take a look at the most recent *Youth Manifesto*, published by the *International Planned Parenthood Foundation*, that’s been **given to school children across the country**. The magazine says it is designed to “meet the sexual and reproductive needs of young people.” Society must “recognize the right of all young people to enjoy sex and to express their sexuality in the way they choose.” *Spotlight*, May 7, 2001.

Newsweek Poll Results

Should your place of worship bless same-sex “commitment ceremonies”?

(33,298 responses)

51% Yes, it should.

39% No, it shouldn’t.

4% Yes. I don’t agree with them, but the option should exist.

6% No. Civil unions are ok, but they violate my religious beliefs.

⌚ Scalia slams “living document philosophy”

The Constitution is an enduring document but not a “living” one, and its meaning must be protected and not repeatedly altered to suit the whims of society, US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said in Milwaukee. Scalia, often reviled as an arch-conservative who would do the nation harm, admitted to a respectful crowd of more than 1,000 people at Marquette University that his “originalist” judicial philosophy is not popular.

In contrast, the idea of a “living Constitution” in which the meaning can be interpreted as society changes is “seductive,” he said. He insisted that only his approach—interpreting the Constitution based on the Framers’ precise words and the meaning they intended at the time—can preserve the Constitutions guiding principles. *Journal Staff Sentinel*.

⌚ Key to Liberty

“History has taught us that freedom cannot survive unless it is based on moral foundations,” former British Prime Minister Maragaret Thatcher said in a speech in Fort Meyers, Florida, as quoted in the journal *Imprimis*. “You can get the economics right, but in addition liberty must be cultivated as a moral quality . . . I like very much what John Adams, your second president, wrote in 1798: ‘Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.’ That idea was right at the heart of your nations founding.” *Spotlight*, May 7, 2001.

“How is it with our lawmakers, and the men in our courts of justice? If it was necessary that those who minister in holy office should have clear minds and full control of their reason, is it not also important that those who make and execute the laws of our great nation should have their faculties unclouded?” *Temperance*, 46.

⌚ Imagine:

Imagine a company with just over 500 employees and the following statistics.

29 have been accused of spousal abuse. 7 have been arrested for fraud. 19 have been accused of writing bad checks. 117 have directly or indirectly bankrupted at least 2 businesses. 3 have done time for assault. 71 cannot get a credit card due to bad credit. 14 have been arrested on drug related charges. 8 have been arrested for shoplifting. 21 are currently defendants in lawsuits. 84 have been arrested for drunk driving within the last year.

Can you guess which organization this is?

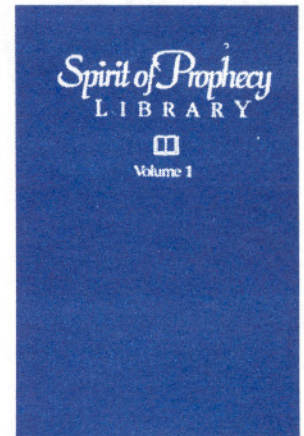
It is the 535 members of the United States Congress.

“Remember the warning, ‘As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.’ It was because of the wickedness of the inhabitants of the old world, that they were destroyed; and today the world is following in the same way. No flattering signs of millennial glory are to be seen. Human lawmakers open their law-books, and pronounce sentence against those who do not keep their laws. But those who frame and enforce these laws are themselves transgressors of God’s law, and their transgression is filling the earth with wickedness.” *Review and Herald*, December 27, 1898.

**Spirit of
Prophecy**

3 Vol. Set

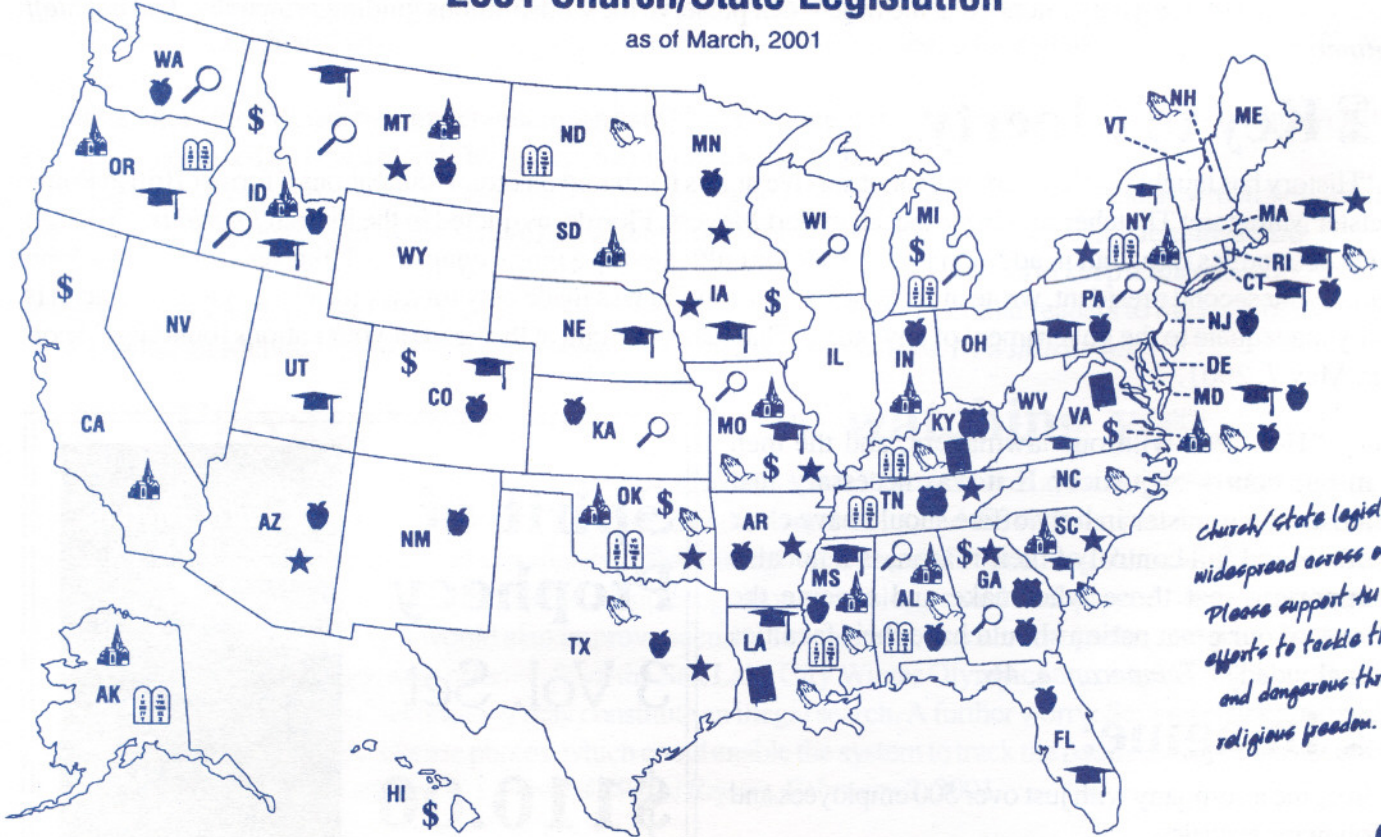
\$110.00



The following map is from the March, 2001 Americans United for Separation of Church and State mailing. It points out the different states that currently have Constitutional battles underway:

2001 Church/State Legislation

as of March, 2001



Church/State legislation is widespread across our nation! Please support AU in our efforts to tackle the enormous and dangerous threats to religious freedom.



Americans United
for Separation of Church and State
518 C Street, N.E. • Washington, D.C. 20002
Phone - 202-466-3234
Fax - 202-466-2587
web - www.au.org
e-mail - AmericansUnited@au.org

- Parochial aid**
government funds to religious and other private schools
- Charitable Choice**
using public tax dollars to fund social services provided by religious groups
- Vouchers**
- Free Exercise of Religion**


- School Prayer**
prayer, moment of silence, "In God We Trust," selected religious statements from historical documents
- Bible Classes**
- In God We Trust**
National motto on state flag


- Ten Commandments**
posting in public school classrooms, buildings, events and in other government buildings


- Evolution/Creationism**


- Miscellaneous**
release time from public school for religious education, covenant marriage, constitutional amendments on funding sectarian organizations


This is an ugly picture—far worse in number and nature of threats than any map we've compiled in recent years. Why? Because the Religious Right—with its candidate in the White House, and major political appointments being made in response to its demands—is emboldened as never before. None other than rightwing icon Paul Weyrich noted, "This administration is shaping up to be the best." and he and his cohorts are pulling out all of the stops at every level of government. Americans United for Separation of Church and State, March 2001


 Hello Jeff, Thank you for sending me your tapes each month. They are real inspiration and blessing. May God richly bless you in serving Him. May you endure until the end. Peace and Joy, L.R.—CA

 Dear Jeff, Please add N.S. to your list for your letter and tape. Enclosed find money. Thank you. No receipt necessary. In Revelation 12:6 the woman was kept for 1260 years in verse 14 she is nourished for 3 and ½ seasons. The work-translated time can't be translated except season.

 Dear Mr. Pippenger, I am really enjoying the material you sent. Sorry it has taken me so long to send you some money. Thank you for your patience. I will continue to support your ministry, as I am able. Thank you again. May God continue to bless you in your ministry. G.S.

 Dear Friends in Christ, Here is a little year-end gift. Use it wherever it is needed most. May our Heavenly Father bless you as you work for Him. I am looking forward to meeting you in the spring. Yours in Christ, R.M.

 Dear *Future for America*, Greetings in the name of our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Praise His holy name. We appreciate your newsletter and tapes and mostly your open and honest truth. Hope you come to Riverside church soon. We'd love to see you and hear of your new adventures. May God continue to bless you and may we all be faithful till the end. Enclosed is some money. God bless and keep you all. G.C.

 Hi Jeff., Just to let you know that I got the 2-tapes and the February issue of *Future News (Ecclesiastical Meglamania)*. Very interesting. The man certainly knows what he is talking about. Not sure if he has read *The Great Controversy* but I am sure that he would find it most interesting. (Have you thought of sending him a copy?). God Bless. M. PS Best regards to your wife. Canada

Response: We gave John Robbins an *Illustrated Great Controversy* at the interview. Jeff.

Inattention, Apathy, and Liberty

The greatest threat to civil liberties is not from a single, dramatic event, such as a terrorist attack or computer blackout. Rather, the true danger lies in a popular loss of esteem for the civil and religious rights of minorities. Our constitutional order is endangered most by the inattention and apathy that allow the spirit of its liberties to fade away from the consciousness of the people, and then, by natural progression, from our civil institutions and courts of justice.

History shows that **the loss of personal liberties occurs over a period of time**. When a chronically indulgent, apathetic, and spiritually careless people are plunged into economic, social, or military distress, they will often allow their freedoms to be exchanged for a stronger economy and greater security. But the willingness to make this trade-off cannot happen overnight, especially in a democracy—it takes years of civic inattention. **The irony is that those predicting a sudden, spectacular loss of liberty** may well be distracted from the day-to-day work of preventing the slower degradation of those same liberties.

The increasing willingness of the majority to insist on the acceptance and practice of its religious traditions in the public sphere does not bode well for the fate of First Amendment freedoms in whatever “crisis” we first encounter in the new millennium. *Liberty*, January-February 2000.

“We are living in the closing scenes of these perilous times. The Lord foresaw the unbelief that now prevails respecting His coming; and again and again He has given warning in His word that this event **will be unexpected.**” *Testimonies*, volume 6, 129.



Bush Aims to Strengthen Catholic Base

Since taking over the White House, President Bush and top advisers have been assiduously cultivating Catholic voters in an attempt to realign a once-Democratic constituency in much the same way that the Republican Party in the 1970s and 1980s won over southern evangelical Protestants.

A number of Republican operatives view the Catholic vote as the linchpin of a larger Republican strategy to gain solid majorities among all white religious voters—critical to Bush’s reelection prospects.

“Religiously active voters have been gradually migrating to the Republican Party, leaving the Democrats as the party of the religiously indifferent as well as the politically liberal,” pollster Steve Wagner, who is a member of an informal Catholic advisory group to the White House, recently wrote in the conservative Catholic magazine *Crisis*. “The migration began in the 1970s among morally conservative evangelical Protestants, especially in the South. Now, with Election 2000, it seems clear that religiously active Catholics are joining in, moving inexorably away from the solidly Democratic voting patterns that used to be a hallmark of American Catholics.”

Bush, seeking to capitalize on those trends, has met privately with at least three high Catholic Church officials and has adopted Catholic themes in speeches; his staff has instituted a weekly conference call with an informal group of Catholic advisers; and the Republican National Committee is setting up a Catholic Task Force.

In the 2000 election, Bush made large gains among Catholic voters. According to *Voter News Service* (VNS) exit polls, Bush lost the Catholic vote to Al Gore by three percentage points, 50 to 47. In contrast, Bill Clinton’s margin among Catholics was 16 percentage points in 1996 and nine points in 1992.

Wagner said those gains were largely the result of Bush’s success among the 42 percent of Catholics who regularly attend Mass.

“Among religiously active Catholics, who have a discernible political identity in contrast to the nonreligiously active, Bush won by 55 percent to Gore’s 24 percent,” Wagner wrote, citing private polling by his firm, *QEV Analytics*, and *Penn Schoen & Berland Associates Inc.* “This was the best Catholic showing for a Republican presidential candidate since 1972, equal to Ronald Reagan’s 1984 showing and better than his 1980 showing.”

Wagner’s findings are supported by broader trends: The more religious a voter is—based on church attendance—the more likely the voter is to be a Republican. At the two extremes, voters who attend services more than once a week voted for Bush by 63 percent to 36 percent, said VNS, while those who never attend services voted for Gore, 61 percent to 32 percent.

Bush, bidding to improve on those margins in 2004, has met with Archbishop Justin Rigali of St. Louis, Bishop Donald Wuerl of Pittsburgh and Washington’s Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. His staff has created an informal advisory group that includes *Crisis* publisher Deal Hudson and Princeton University political scientist Robert George.

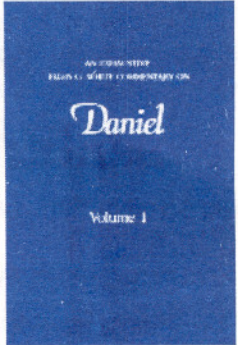
Perhaps most important, Bush has incorporated language familiar to Catholics—what strategists call Catholic “buzzwords”—into speeches. In a March 22 address for a new Catholic University center honoring Pope John Paul II, Bush told a gathering that included Detroit Archbishop Adam Cardinal Maida and McCarrick:

“The culture of life is a welcoming culture, never excluding, never dividing, never despairing, and always affirming the goodness of life in all its seasons. In the culture of life we must make room for the stranger. We must comfort the sick. We must care for the aged. We must welcome the immigrant. We must teach our children to be gentle with one another. We must defend in love the innocent child waiting to be born.”

The effort to recruit Catholic voters has led to a striking change in the political climate in Washington. George noted in an interview last week that “in 1960, John

The Daniel And Revelation SOP Commentary

Available for \$50.00



Kennedy went from Washington down to Texas to assure Protestant preachers that he would not obey the pope. In 2001, George Bush came from Texas up to Washington to assure a group of Catholic bishops that he would."

Republican advocacy of "compassionate conservatism" meshes well with Catholic doctrine, in contrast to more hard-edged Republican themes of free-market conservatism and the libertarianism promoted by groups such as the Cato Institute, Hudson and George both argue.

"It's almost too good to be true, how much they have come to understand what appeals to religiously active Catholics," Hudson said. "We have a leader who is not afraid of sharing his vision of a country that welcomes life, protects it by law, but does it in a way that is not moralistic or self-righteous."

Republican appeals to Catholics are in many ways more complex than appeals to Protestant evangelical voters because Catholics are less hostile to government and many believe in the obligation of the state to relieve poverty, George maintains.

What George describes as a Catholic "third way" dates to the Encyclical letter "on the condition of the working classes" issued by Pope Leo XIII in 1891, and has been evident throughout the 20th century. George cites John Paul II's 1991 Encyclical as an example:

"The obligation to earn one's bread by the sweat of one's brow also presumes the right to do so. A society in which this right is systematically denied, in which economic policies do not allow workers to reach satisfactory levels of employment, cannot be justified from an ethical point of view, nor can that society attain social peace. . . . Love for others, and in the first place love for the poor, in whom the church sees Christ himself, is made concrete in the promotion of justice."

Opposition to abortion is crucial in appeals to religiously active Catholics but inadequate on its own, Hudson and George agree.

"Pro-life won't seal the deal," George said. "People have to think the Republican Party is not just the party of the rich and the exploitative."

Bush's ability to seal the deal with moderate Catholic voters will be determined in 2004, but in the interim, he has strengthened his base of support among conservative Catholics, including Paul Weyrich, head of the Free Congress Foundation.

Weyrich wrote that he recently asked senior Bush adviser Karl Rove to tell the president "that he has mastered the art of Catholic governance." Rove, according to Weyrich, replied, "That's pretty good for a Methodist." Thomas B. Edsall, *Washington Post*.

Quote: "It must always be clear, when the expression *sister Churches* is used in this proper sense, that the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic universal Church is not sister but mother of all particular Churches." John Paul II, *The Pope Speaks*, page 139, May, 2001 issue.

And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. Revelation 17:5.

Catholic priests

"It appears that priests are dying of AIDS at a rate at least four times that of the general US population," acknowledged the editor of the Catholic weekly newspaper, *Our Sunday Visitor*, in an article condemning attacks against homosexuality in the priesthood. *Christian News*, April 30, 2001.

Knowledge Shall Increase

In just the past four decades we have amassed more scientific knowledge than was generated in the previous 5,000 years. Indeed, 90 percent of all the scientists who ever lived are alive today, and they are using more powerful instruments than ever existed before.

What does it all mean for the future? Scientific information is now increasing twofold about every five years. Information doubles every 2½ years. New knowledge makes most technology obsolete in just five to seven years.

Even computers are out of date in less than two years. Recently, IBM announced that it is going to build a super-computer working 500 times faster than the fastest computer today. "Blue Gene" it is called, and its target speed is a thousand trillion calculations each second! *U.S. News & World Report*, December 27, 1999.

"And knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4.

Netherlands Legalizes Euthanasia

The Netherlands has become the first country in the world to legalize euthanasia after its Senate passed legislation April 10 allowing for "mercy killings." The 75-member senate voted 46 to 28 in favor of the measure, which will take effect when the Queen of the Netherlands signs it into law. *Adventist News Network*.

Observe Sunday, Save the Environment

Trieste, Italy—There may be a solution to global warming after all: Keep holy the Lord's day. Following last weekend's session of the G8 Environment Ministers, held in Trieste, Italy, a writer for the Italian newspaper *Avvenire* ventured a suggestion. "The eight Ministers of the Environment seemed to have come to an agreement in Trieste to play a different tune in our planet, threatened by miasmas and poisons resulting from unbridled consumerism," Vittorio Morero writes.

On Sunday, the eight renewed their commitment to struggle against global warming and promised to try to reach an agreement to reduce gas emissions that influence the warming. *Avvenire's* proposal, an alternative to rampant consumerism, is to continue to keep Sunday as a day dedicated to cleaning up the environment, to rest, and, in the case of Christians, to Sunday Mass.

The newspaper applauds, for instance, the initiative to have "no cars on Sundays," which several European cities are observing in their historical centers. Adults and children take to the streets on this day, using non-polluting public transport. *Avvenire* suggests that outdoor cultural events be offered in the summer. "As Christians, it is natural that we should try to understand the urgent invitation in *Novo Millennio Ineunte* to the Christian community to go out to sea, after having been refreshed by Sunday worship, the Word of God, and participating joyfully in the liturgy," Morero writes.

"If John Paul II offers Sunday as the program for renewal it is because it is well known that also, in the area of Christian tradition, Sunday has been and continues to be ruined by the passive acceptance of consumer models that lack quality," Morero continues. "Needless to say, it is not enough just to bet on Sunday, but on a Sunday that is rich in content and very attractive. The stadiums will have to be closed and museums, libraries and theaters (theaters that do not disdain the classical) opened; brief tourist trips organized to nearby places, so that we are not ignorant of the beauties surrounding us."

"We will have to abandon the logic of the market and for at least one day entrust ourselves to our imagination; to our own, and not one imposed by the priests and acolytes of the *global empire*. . . . Pastors of souls must think about it, who have received . . . the Lord's commandment: 'Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.'"

The article concludes: "Let us save Sunday, the place and time of our civilization." *Zenit.org*.

The Sublimest Theme

By David Lin

"God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Galatians 6:14.

On Calvary, the universe witnessed Satan at his worst and God at His best. It was the climax of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. The devil vented all his venom on the Son of God, who bore it out of love for you and me. The only begotten Son of God, who had ever been in the bosom of the Father, was for the first time forsaken by Him. Christ endured the mysterious agony of separation from His Father. It is beyond our comprehension, that in Gethsemane and on Calvary, Christ tasted the sufferings of death for every man.

God has no fellowship with sin, so for the first time since eternity, He turned away from His Son, who was made sin for us on Calvary, and this supreme anguish broke the heart of Jesus, who cried, “My Father, My Father, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” This sublimest of all themes, is unfathomable mystery which will be contemplated by the saints through eternity. What the world was as just another Roman execution, was actually the most beautiful picture of God’s love, as well as the ugliest scene of Satanic hatred witnessed by the universe.

Don’t dismiss it as something you’ve heard before. Rather, see it as a profound truth that will fill the minds of the saved through all eternity. We must start now to cherish this truth, stand in awe of its sublimity.

The Chinese say that every man needs three “knows”—to know words, to know things, and to know people. We add three more: We must (1) know ourselves, (2) know the world, and (3) know God.

First to know ourselves. We were made in the image of God, but Satan has robbed us of that image. We are now born with a human nature and an animal nature. We lack a divine nature, which the Holy Spirit wants to give us through the new birth. For Jesus taught that we must be born again of the Holy Spirit. Thus the union of the divine and human nature in Jesus—the Word made flesh—can take place in us, as our flesh is made the Word, when we are born again of the Holy Spirit and feed daily on the word of God, the bread of life.

We should prize this privilege that is ours—to obtain the divine nature that God offers us. 2 Peter 1:4 says, “by which we have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

So we come to know the world, and learn to escape the corruption that is in it through lust. Of His disciples Jesus prayed, “I have given them Thy word, and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. . . Sanctify them through Thy truth, Thy word is truth.” John 17:14, 17. When we know ourselves, and know that the world is corrupt through lust, we will keep the truth that Christ has given to sanctify us. The cross of Christ, which is the central theme of the Bible, crucifies us to the world, and the world to us. It tells us that the present world, which rejected Christ, will soon be consumed in a lake of fire.

As we fill our thoughts with the word of God, we come to know Him. Jesus prayed, “This is life eternal,

that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, who Thou hast sent.” John 17:3.

Ellen White said, “The cross of Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity. In Christ glorified they will behold Christ crucified. Never will it be forgotten that He whose power created and upheld the unnumbered worlds through the vast realms of space . . . humbled Himself to uplift fallen man; that He bore the guilt and shame of sin, and the hiding of His Father’s face, till the woes of a lost world broke His heart and crushed out His life on Calvary’s cross. . . As the nations of the saved look upon their Redeemer and behold the eternal glory of the Father shining in His countenance . . . they break forth in rapturous songs: ‘Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us by His own most precious blood!’” *The Great Controversy*, 651.

Since the cross of Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity, and if we plan to be among the redeemed, should we not be eager even now to study the cross of Christ and tell others about it and how we love this truth? If we give it only passing thought today, how can it be our science and our song in the future? If worldly things occupy our minds today, we will soon be conformed to the world, and become strangers to the cross of Christ, let alone make it our science and our song.

We use our heads to study the science of salvation; and our hearts to sing of its wonders. These activities develop our higher nature, thus sanctifying the human and animal natures in us. This must be our daily exercise.

We need to face this honestly and take a serious look at ourselves. Are we ready now to take part in the science and the song of the redeemed? If not, why not? Why our lack of interest? Is it because the world is holding our attention? If so, we are in danger, must wake up, and see the value of this sublimest theme.

There is a teaching that says that when Christ returns, he will give us a new body, and we will all become holy and stop sinning. People like to hear it—that Christ guarantees us a place in heaven, so we need not resist temptation. “Take it easy,” the devil says, “you can’t help sinning anyway. When Christ returns, He will give you a new body that cannot sin.” So we feel relieved—free to live as we please. That is exactly what the devil wants. He wants you to live as you please and not think of the future. So when the end comes, you will be with him in the lake of fire. Such a false gospel is pleasing to the unconverted

heart. Don't be fooled by it.

The Bible says, "Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." Philipians 3:20–21. John says in 1 John 3:2–3, "We know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in him, purifies himself, just as He is pure."

Here are two words: "subdue" and "purify." Who does the subduing? Christ subdues all things to Himself. Who does the purifying? "Everyone who has this hope in him, purifies himself, just as He is pure." Note that the subduing and purifying take place before our bodies are transformed. In other words, if Christ does not subdue you, and you don't purify yourself just as He is pure, your body will not be transformed like His glorious body.

In the King James Bible the English word "character" does not appear. But the Greek word *charakter* occurs once in Hebrews 1:3, it is translated "express image." The text reads, "Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power. The English word "character" comes from it, and retains its essence. The body is a material, visible thing. The character is not visible, but it determines the destiny of the body. If we have the character of Christ, we have His express image. Only then will we qualify to receive a body like His. So the secret is to build a Christ-like character.

"Purify himself just as He is pure," is challenging. How can we purify ourselves? Well, that is what the Bible says. We must do the purifying, but the means of purification is provided by Christ—He has shed His blood for that purpose. We are to wash our robes in the blood of the Lamb. In actual practice, how is that done? It is to follow Jesus by faith as He applies His blood for us in the sanctuary. His words have a cleansing effect on our minds. Psalm 119:11 says, "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Jesus says, "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you." John 15:3. Ephesians 5:26 says that Christ is cleansing His church "with the washing of water by the word." Our part is to wash our minds with His word.

God works on the plan of cooperation—cooperation between God and man. He does His part, and we do ours. God's part is humanly impossible; our part is possible. Christ often used nature to teach the truth. He talked

of sowing and reaping. We will do the same: man plows, sows and reaps. God gives sunshine and rain. Thus man cooperates with God. We can't sit back and say, Christ has died for me, and there's nothing I can do to merit God's favor. Have you heard that before? It makes you relax and be an easy victim of temptation. Christ says, "Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." The devil wants you to quit praying and fall asleep.

So we concentrate on our sublimest theme. Jesus said, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." God did the humanly impossible thing of giving His Son to die on the cross. Ours is the task of gazing at and lifting up the crucified One for all who are bitten by sin to look and live.

The cross of Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity. Never will it be forgotten that He whose power created and upheld the unnumbered worlds through the vast realms of space, humbled Himself to uplift fallen man. As the nations of the saved look upon their Redeemer and behold the eternal glory of the Father shining in His countenance they break forth in rapturous song: "Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us by His own most precious blood.!"

Revelation 5:9 calls it a new song. Rev. 14:3 again says, "they sung a new song before the throne." When will it be an old song? Never! For this theme will never grow stale, but will always be new. The saints will sing it with renewed gusto as the century's roll. Their spiritual sensibilities will be heightened with passing time, and they will ever be awed by new light shining brighter and brighter from the cross of Christ.

"I take, O cross thy shadow, for my abiding place. I ask no other sunshine, that the sunshine of His face. Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss. My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross."

Quake Deaths Up for 2001

April 16, 2001—The largest number of fatalities so far this year occurred in January, when both India and El Salvador were struck by deadly quakes. Between 30,000 and 40,000 people are estimated to have died in those two temblors. In February, when El Salvador was hit by a second temblor, another 315 people were killed.

Meanwhile, the same number of “significant” quakes—defined by USGS as measuring magnitude-6.5 or larger on the Richter scale, or causing fatalities, injuries or substantial damages—occurred in January 2000 and January 2001. In both months six significant earthquakes struck, but last year only seven deaths occurred from temblors during January.

One of this year’s largest quakes occurred in the United States, when a magnitude 6.8 temblor rocked the Seattle and Olympia areas of Washington state on February 28. Fortunately, no deaths were attributed to the earthquake, and damages were miniscule compared to what they could have been in other, less prepared, cities of the world, USGS geologists said.

Last year, only about 225 people worldwide died in earthquakes, whereas fatalities topped 19,000 in 1999, when major quakes occurred in Turkey and Taiwan. The deadliest year of the 20th century was in 1976 when at least 225,000 people—and perhaps more than 600,000—were killed in a single quake that jolted Tianjin, China (formerly Tangshan).

The highest quake fatality rate this year occurred in India, where at least 30,000 people—and perhaps 50,000—died from a 7.7-magnitude earthquake on January 26. The death toll from the magnitude-7.6 January 13 quake and its aftershocks in El Salvador, is 1,170. Many of the deaths occurred when quake-triggered landslides crushed homes.

The USGS estimates that several million earthquakes occur around the globe each year. Many go undetected because they hit remote areas or have such small magnitudes that they aren’t felt. USGS records 50 earthquakes each day, or about 20,000 per year. California, which averages 20 quakes per day, has the most frequent seismic activity in the United States. *DisasterRelief.org*.

More Flooding in the Midwest

The Mississippi River crested Monday (April 30) for the second time in the last two weeks in the upper Great Plains. Residents, who had hoped the worst flooding was over, began stacking sandbags again. The river Monday reached 23.6 feet in St. Paul, Minnesota—9.6 feet above flood stage and the third-highest crest ever recorded there. Flood warnings were posted in Minnesota for the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix rivers. In Illinois, the flooded Mississippi was slowly starting to recede, but the Army Corps of Engineers said it would not drop below flood stage in some places for several weeks. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Poison Kills More Than 60 Animals in Colorado

April 9,—A poison so deadly that it is banned in all but four states has killed 35 birds and 30 dogs and cats in a small Orchard Mesa, Colorado, neighborhood, police say. The poison even sickened a police officer who handled a stricken dog. The poisonings started in December, when a few dead starlings were found. Then dogs and cats began to die, some because of poisoned meat thrown into yards.

Police disclosed Thursday that veterinary experts at Texas A&M University have identified the poison as odium monofluoroacetate, widely known as Compound 1080. The compound was widely used in the West for predator control until it was banned in 1972. The poison was so toxic that it didn’t stop with the predator but continued into the food chain, killing birds, coyotes, eagles, bears and others that came in contact with the targeted animal. It takes a very small amount to kill an animal or human. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Outbreak of Boils

April 27, California—A contaminated pedicurist's footbath led to unsightly and potentially disfiguring boils on 109 customers' legs ranging in size from a nickel to a half-dollar. The infections can be treated slowly with antibiotics, but can be painful and unsightly, and may leave scarring. Most people infected in the California outbreak had multiple sores or boils. One woman had 37 boils. State and federal health investigators believe a germ known as *Mycobacterium fortuitum* contaminated a footbath at a salon in Watsonville, California., and caused boils and lesions on the legs of as many as 108 women and one man last fall. Health officials also are investigating the case of a woman who may have been infected by another footbath in the San Diego area. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Mexican Volcano Erupts

The Popocatepetl volcano experienced a moderate eruption Sunday (April 29). The volcano, located about 40 miles south of Mexico City, has been closely monitored since December 18. when the volcano staged its most violent eruption in 1,200 years, spewing red-hot rock and forcing villagers near its base to evacuate for several weeks. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Bolivia Flooding

Heavy rains began falling in December and have continued during the normally dry Altiplano region of Bolivia. Throughout the country, more than 214,000 people have been affected by the subsequent flooding. *Adventist News Network*, April 18, 2001.

Rains Inundate Ecuador

April 4, 2001 QUITO—At least 40 people have died and thousands have been affected by the heavy rains that have battered Ecuador for the past three months. The coastal province of Manabi has been one of the hardest hit. Half of the fatalities have been reported there and extensive farmland has been flooded—losses range in the millions of dollars. The rain has damaged 42,000 acres of crops along the coast, with losses estimated at \$2 million. The Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology believes the rains will continue through April. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Extreme Cold Kills in Mongolia

Mongolia's coldest winter in living memory is unlike earthquake, flood and fire, yet it just as deadly, explains Llewellyn Juby, Country Director for ADRA Mongolia. Many mountain passes were closed all winter, cutting off supplies to parts of the country. The impact of severe temperatures was magnified by the two preceding summers that were the driest in 60 years. Last winter 2.3 million animals died, but this figure is predicted to double before the animals are out of danger when the grass turns green again. It has been correctly called the slow creeping death. *Adventist News Network*, April 18, 2001.

Violent Sandstorms hit China

Ferocious sandstorms have swept China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region since last Friday, reducing visibility in parts of northern Inner Mongolia and northeastern Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces to less than 160 feet. The sandstorm has affected most of northern China, including Beijing. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Northern France Inundated by Floodwaters

April 8, France—Floodwaters have inundated more than 50 districts in northern France forcing families to evacuate nearly 300 homes and leaving others without electricity. Up to 1,200 houses were flooded by the rise of the Somme River, with 280 homes evacuated. Flooding that started Friday after severe rains has been aggravated by high tides caused by the vernal equinox which ends Tuesday. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Epidemic in West Timor

The Jesuit Refugee Service Catholic aid group says dozens of East Timorese refugees are dying from a rapidly spreading diarrhoea epidemic in camps in Indonesian-ruled West Timor. Malnutrition is also claiming lives, and it says there have been no rice supplies to the camps since January. All foreign aid workers fled West Timor after three UN refugee workers were killed in their office in the border town of Atambua by an pro-Jakarta militia mob in September. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Powerful Storm Batters Bangladesh

At least 21 people were killed and more than 100 were injured in a series of storms that lashed parts of Bangladesh over the weekend, officials said on Monday (April 30). *DisasterRelief.org*.

Diarrhea Outbreak

Dhaka—For the past four weeks at least 100 people have died from diarrhea in Bangladesh and more are expected to fall victim in an annual disease outbreak. According to medics, 60 percent of the patients are children aged five or younger.

E coli bacteria is primarily responsible for the deaths. The bacteria is known to propagate at this time of the year as a result of several factors, including higher temperatures. Quick treatment to stop dehydration is the best medicine. The disease has left Bangladeshi hospitals struggling to cope with an influx of seriously ill patients. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Afghanistan Rabies

KABUL, April 9—Afghan health authorities said on Monday there had been a rise in cases of rabies in the capital Kabul but there was an acute shortage of vaccines. At least 80 people became victims of attacking dogs in March alone, about 50 percent more than in the previous month, they said. Residents said most of the victims were lying in hospital death beds because of lack of vaccines and that treatment overseas was beyond their reach. At least 35 people were attacked by rabid dogs in one single district of the city. Most victims are children, health officials said. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Locusts Threaten Drought-Hit Afghanistan

KABUL, April 10—Millions of locusts are threatening a vast area of northern Afghanistan and urgent aid is needed to prevent them spreading to neighboring countries. Sahibdad Pakbeen, a senior official with the agriculture ministry, said millions of locust larvae were scattered over seven provinces, the major fruit and cereal-producing region of the drought-hit country.

He said the ruling Taliban had asked the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to help it tackle the problem, which has added to the woes of a country battered by over 20 years of conflict and a harsh drought for the past two years. “There is no doubt the drought has forced the locusts to move from mountains and deserts to converge on agricultural sites. They have not yet been able to fly and when they do so this will be a global calamity,” he told reporters. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Afghanistan Refugee Crisis Worsens

On Monday (April 30), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers urged a halt to fighting in Afghanistan for at least six months so that desperate refugees can return to their homes. Tens of thousands of Afghans have fled war and drought in their homeland only to be turned away by neighboring nations.

Lubbers’ plea came while visiting Maslakh Camp, packed with 100,000 displaced Afghans and the largest of six UN-sponsored camps in the western Herat region. Nearly 2,000 people arrive at the camp daily, most from Badghis and Ghor provinces, where some farmers said it hasn’t rained in more than a year. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Iran Drought

Tehran, April 29—The nation is facing a third consecutive year severe drought as water levels at dams and reservoirs continue to fall. A UN fact-finding team reported from Iran last July that the nation was on the verge of a full-fledged disaster, as the Islamic Republic accepted international aid for only the second time since 1979-Islamic Revolution. Hundreds of thousands of livestock died as Iran was struck by a second straight year of drought, and millions of people are thought to have been displaced. It is estimated that only three of Iran's 28 provinces had enough drinking water. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Millions in Africa Face Food Shortage

Kenya April 9,—An estimated 28 million people in Africa south of the Sahara face food shortages this year, according to a UN agency report released Monday. More than 60 percent of those facing food shortages—about 18 million people—live in eastern Africa, said the report, *Food Supply Situation and Crop Prospects in Sub-Saharan Africa*. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Kenyan Woman Dies

NAIROBI, Kenya—Kenyan medical officials were investigating the death of a woman from suspected hemorrhagic fever on Monday, saying it was too early to determine whether she had contracted the deadly Ebola virus. A 24-year-old police trainee died in Nyeri in central Kenya in early April after “bleeding from body openings and vomiting blood,” according to a statement from Kenya’s public health minister, Sam Ogeri. She fell ill with a high fever on March 31 and died just two days later at Mathari Mission Hospital in Nyeri, which lies 60 miles north of the Kenyan capital Nairobi. The statement did not mention the possibility of an outbreak of Ebola, a disease that struck neighboring Uganda in September, killing more than 170 people. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Ebola Fear Grips Kenya

April 11,—Panic and fear has gripped Kenyans as second suspected Ebola victim got admitted at Nyeri’s Mathari Consolata Hospital in central Kenya. *DisasterRelief.org*.

Epidemic Kills 200 Children

April 9, Nigeria—An epidemic of meningitis and measles has swept through the northern Nigerian city of Kano, killing at least 200 children. International aid workers said Nigerian authorities had declared Kano, the biggest city in the north, an epidemic zone but there was no official confirmation of this. A doctor at the Aishatu Bayero Children’s Clinic in Kano said 200 children had died in the past two weeks of measles and cerebrospinal meningitis. More than 100 new cases were being reported each day. *DisasterRelief.org*

Seven Times the Saints Sing—*The Great Controversy*, Chapter 40.

1st Song

“Their voices rise **in triumphant song**: ‘God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.’” *The Great Controversy*, 639.

2nd Song

“The living righteous . . . with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. Angels ‘gather together the elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.’ Little children are borne by holy angels to their mothers’ arms. Friends long separated by death are united, never more to part, and **with songs of gladness** ascend together to the city of God. *Ibid.*, 645.

3rd Song

“In every hand are placed the victor’s palm and the shining harp. Then, as the commanding angels strike the note, every hand sweeps the harp strings with skillful touch, awakening sweet music in rich, melodious strains. Rapture unutterable thrills every heart, and **each voice is raised** in grateful praise: ‘Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.’” Ibid., 646.

4th Song

“He (Adam) touches the golden harp, and the vaults of heaven echo the triumphant song, ‘Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again!’ The family of Adam **take up the strain**, and cast their crowns at the Savior’s feet as they bow before Him in adoration.” Ibid., 648.

5th Song

“And they **sing ‘a new song’** before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the 144,00. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb, a song of deliverance. None but the 144,00 can learn that song: for it is the song of their experience,—an experience such as no other company have ever had.” Ibid., 649.

6th Song

“Amid the waving of palm branches they pour forth a song of praise, clear, sweet, and harmonious; **every voice** takes up the strain . . . ‘Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.’ And all the inhabitants of heaven respond.” Ibid., 650.

7th Song

“The cross of Christ will be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity . . . As the nations of the saved look upon their Redeemer . . . **they break forth in rapturous song**, ‘Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His most precious blood!’” Ibid., 651.

Seven Times God Speaks to the Saints—*The Great Contro-*

versy, Chapter 40.

1st Time

“By the people of God, **a voice is heard**, saying, ‘Look up’ . . . and from His lips they hear the request, presented before His Father and the holy angels, ‘I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am.’” *The Great Controversy*, 636.

2nd Time

“Again **a voice**, musical and triumphant, is heard, saying, ‘They come! They come! Holy harmless, and undefiled. They kept the word of My patience; they shall walk among the angels.’” Ibid..

3rd Time

“It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people . . . the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up, and clash against each other. In the midst of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes **the voice of God** like the would of many waters, saying, ‘It is done.’” Ibid..

4th Time

“**The voice of God is heard** from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus coming, and delivering the ever lasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest thunder, His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward.” Ibid., 640.

5th Time

“Then **the voice of Jesus** is heard, saying, ‘My grace is sufficient for you.’ The faces of the righteous are lighted up, and joy fills every heart.” Ibid., 641.

6th Time

“Amid the reeling earth, the flash of the lightning, and the roar of thunder, **the voice** of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then raising His hands to heaven, He cries, ‘Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!’” Ibid., 641.

7th Time

“Then **that voice**, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, is heard, saying, ‘Your conflict is ended.’ ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ . . . Christ presents to the Father the purchase of His blood, declaring, ‘Here am I, and the children whom Thou hast given me.’ ‘Those that thou gavest Me I have kept.’” Ibid., 646.

Seven Times the Saints Speak— *The Great Controversy, Chapter 40.*

1st Time

“Again a voice . . . is heard, saying: ‘They come! They come! Holy, harmless, and undefiled. They have kept the word of My patience; they shall walk among the angels;’ and the pale quivering lips of those who have held fast their faith, **utter a shout** of victory.” *The Great Controversy*, 636.

2nd Time

“And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is a **mighty shout of victory.**” Ibid., 640.

3rd Time

“Before His presence, ‘all faces are turned into paleness;’ upon the rejectors of God’s mercy falls the terror of eternal despair. ‘The heart melteth, and the knees smite together,’ ‘and the faces of them all gather blackness.’ The righteous cry with trembling, ‘**Who shall be able to stand?**’” Ibid., 641.

4th Time

“Those who would have destroyed Christ and His faithful people, now witness the glory which rests upon them. In the midst of their terror they hear the voices of the saints in joyful strains **exclaiming**, ‘Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.’” Ibid., 644.

5th Time

“From the prison-house of death they come, clothed with immortal glory, crying, ‘O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?’ And the living righteous and the risen saints **unite their voices** in a long, glad shout of victory.” Ibid..

6th Time

“On each side of the cloudy chariot are wings, and beneath it are living wheels; and as the chariot rolls upward, the wheels cry, ‘Holy’ and the wings, as they move, cry, ‘Holy,’ and the retinue of angels cry, ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.’ And **the redeemed** shout ‘Alleluia!’ as the chariot moves onward toward the New Jerusalem.” Ibid., 645.

7th Time

“As the ransomed ones are welcomed to the city of God there rings out upon the air an exultant cry of adoration. The two Adams are about to meet. . . . As Adam discerns the prints of the cruel nails, he in humiliation casts himself at His fee, **crying**, ‘Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain!’” Ibid., 647.