

Future NEWS

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“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book.’ Daniel 12:1. When this time of trouble comes, every case is decided; there is no longer probation, no longer mercy for the impenitent. The seal of the living God is upon His people.

“This small remnant, unable to defend themselves in the deadly conflict with the powers of earth that are marshaled by the dragon host, make God their defense. The decree has been passed by the highest earthly authority that they shall worship the beast and receive his mark under pain of persecution and death. May God help His people now, for what can they then do in such a fearful conflict without His assistance!

“Courage, fortitude, faith, and implicit trust in God’s power to save, do not come in a moment. These heavenly graces are acquired by the experience of years. By a life of holy endeavor and firm adherence to the right, the children of God were sealing their destiny. Beset with temptations without number, they knew they must resist firmly or be conquered. They felt that they had a great work to do, and at any hour they might be called to lay off their armor; and should they come to the close of life with their work undone, it would be an eternal loss. They eagerly accepted the light from Heaven, as did the first disciples from the lips of Jesus. When those early Christians were exiled to mountains and deserts, when left in dungeons to die with hunger, cold, and torture, when martyrdom seemed the only way out of their distress, they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ, who was crucified for them. Their worthy example will be a comfort and encouragement to the people of God who will be brought into the time of trouble such as never was.”

Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White, 188.

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

Future News

PO Box 7

Bonnerdale, AR 71933

Telephone: 888-278-7744

Circulation Manager—Kathy Pippenger

Author & Speaker—Jeff Pippenger

JeffPippenger@msn.com

Editor—Bronwyn Peck

calica4@hotmail.com

Spanish Department—Al & Lupe Perez

Futuro de America

PO Box 353

Glenwood, AR 71943

Telephone: 870-356-7049

aperez77@alltel.net

Future News—Canada

Phyllis Vallieres

RR 3, 2552 Cooper Road

Madoc, Ontario, K0K 2K0, Canada

Telephone: 613-473-5332

FAX 613-473-5630

phylv@primus.ca

Future for America—Great Britain

Russell & Charmaine Williams

29 Lascelles Close

Leytonstone, London

Telephone: 001-44-208-279-6903

judicium1844@aol.com

Future-Is-Now—Germany

Pietruska Family & Blaesing Family

Hoehenweg 11

D-74613 Oehringen, Germany

Telephone: 001-49-794-191-480

FAX 001-49-794-191-483

architekt@w-blaesing.de

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.

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

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

Readers Response

Happy New Year to You,

Sorry my sister and I could not be with you at Angwin Village Church the weekend you folks were there. I ordered all of the tapes, eleven in all. Thank you again for the Pioneer Calendar 2005. Appreciate all the mail and tapes that you send me. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry. What would we do without the precious Bible? How blessed we are! Lovingly.

V.K.—CA

Hi Jeff and Kathy,

Hope all is well. Unusually cold weather earlier in California. Another year passed already. I'd like to request additional copies of *The Time of the End*, a prophetic study of Daniel 11:40 as I've been passing a couple out. Periodically, I'll give people Spirit of Prophecy material, however I ran out while in New York city and gave a Jewish young lady the only remaining item available; the aforementioned *The Time of the End*. Could I also have another copy of *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North*? Bill me as necessary. Well, have another safe and fruitful year. Take care.

T.H.—CA

Future for America,

Keep working for the Lord by the grace He gives. Gain back lost ground. Don't give the enemy an inch or any won ground. You are in our prayers. Jesus be with us always and save us to the uttermost. In Jesus.

M.J.L.—WA

Hi Jeff and Kathy,

We are learning amazing things and at the same time alarming. How I wish our church would have followed the blueprints laid out by God. We would have been so far ahead of the world instead of joining them and even trailing behind in some ways. Our prayers are with all of you.

B.C.A.—CA

Dear Sir,

Listened to your tapes a friend gave us. Really enjoyed it! I haven't been this excited about Bible study in years! I am also interested in your newsletter and any other material you can give me. Thank you.

J.C.—MO

Dear Future for America,

Thank you so much for your newsletters. They keep me very informed on these last day events. I learn so much on how to prepare for these events about to happen. Jesus is coming soon. He is at the door. I thank God for all the knowledge He has given you so that everyone can be ready. Thank you. Sincerely.

V.R.—CA

We received many phone calls, letters, and emails regarding the fourth quarter Sabbath School Quarterly of 2004. Here is what some of you said:

Jeff,

Your *Rise and Fall of the King of the North* makes so much sense. It seems the fourth quarter quarterly dances right around Daniel 11:40-45. I was disappointed but without G. editing who knows what we would have gotten. God bless your ministry.

J.L.—CA

Brother Jeff,

I am quite upset with this weeks Sabbath School lesson on Daniel 11:1-45. I follow your teaching of Daniel 11:1-45 which our church does not teach as you can see in the Sabbath School Quarterly for this Quarter. All your remarks about Daniel 11:30-45 come from reliable sources like Uriah Smith, Ellen G. White, and the Bible. As I listened to today's lesson (December 18, 2004) all of your comments on your videos titled *The Rise and Fall of the King of the North* were classified as dogmas! In other words all your research and diligent study and recourse of the Spirit of Prophecy and Bible are nothing but dogmas. I was enthralled at such blasphemy!

The idea of members of God's last day church saying all your works, Brother Jeff, of the Spirit of Prophecy and Bible are dogmas. I'm sorry but I have to agree with your research in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy as correct, not dogmas.

May our Lord bless all those who are following the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. Our Lord be with you all at Future for America.

J.C.—WA

Hi Jeff,

Have been listening to your series regarding the three enemies and am so grateful for your

ministry. Each time I hear that in the end times we will be deceived by those who offer us "food offered to idols," each time I hear that phrase in that context; it seems to mean the wafer offered in the sacrilegious mass, the wafer resting on a sickle moon inside a sun shape.

Already we see the word "Eucharist" more frequently used by our leaders. It even showed up in a recent quarterly. And we know that bowing to the wafer meant life to an accused person during the Dark Ages. Refused meant execution.

As our church celebrated "agape feasts" now instead of communion or the Lord's Supper, one is aware of the spread of ecumenism within our sleeping church.

May God have mercy on us, and may more awaken to the magnificence of His word and His presence in their lives. Your sister and supporter.

J.H.—DE

Jeff,

As you probably know, the Sabbath School lessons this quarter are on Daniel. Yesterday morning, Sabbath, I woke up, as usual like I had to go to work at five a.m., so I studied the lesson. It is about Daniel's image. My wife was gone visiting her aunt, so I went to church for Sabbath School about ten a.m. as they are never on time. One woman waiting outside, Pastor and daughter of the church owner and two women finally show up. One of the women asked me if I was going to teach. I said I hadn't planned to but could. Pastor was outside planning church with the daughter and said for me to go ahead and teach.

I went through the lesson in about a half hour and had time left so I talked about the rest of Daniel, significance for our time, remnants, gathering prophets, three woes and ended up reading Daniel 11:40-12:1 explaining each phrase as you understand them, ending with Christ becoming warrior and then King, close of probation for Adventist's, now being the time to get ready and we will be going home. Then I walked down the aisle to my PA console.

Pastor got up and said he thought I was leaving to go home right the, but I came back and sat down. He made some comment about my being a good Bible student. Which I am not, I just drew on information from all yours and Steve Dickie's tapes I have listened to, and others as

well. I had expected the pastor to interrupt and pontificate like he usually does, but he was mostly silent the whole time.

There was still time left after that and He talked about Psalm 137, a lament of the captives in Babylon and went through each phrase. It seems to tell about Edom helping to destroy Jerusalem which he did not explain. Is this one of the children of the east used of God to punish Israel that I heard Stephen talk about?

Pastor then gave a nice, effective sermon on the eleventh hour workers and called for each of us to stand and promise to become active spreading our message. I had to compliment him on it for once as being the message of the hour. It was a nice Sabbath. If I am not asked to teach again, I have at least go many of your points across all in one shot.

K.

"While there is need of thorough investigation of the Word of God, that precious truth may be discovered and brought to light, we should be guarded, that the spirit of controversy does not control in our discussions of the Sabbath-school lesson. In bringing out points upon which there may be a difference of opinion, the grace of Christ should be manifested by those who are seeking for an understanding of the Word of God. There should be liberty given for a frank investigation of truth, that each may know for himself what is the truth. Among the pupils of the Sabbath-school there should be a spirit of investigation, that those who are old enough to discern evidence may be encouraged to search for fresh rays of light, and to appreciate all that God may send to His people. The light which God will send to His people will never appear unless there is a diligent searching of the Word of truth.

"The world is full of all manner of error of a misleading nature, and it is essential that both pupils and teachers know that they know what is truth. There is need that we reverence the Word of God and recognize His voice in the living oracles, that we

may practice its precepts and live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Those that do the will of God shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God, for no deception will cloud their minds. God calls every one, both old and young, to make a diligent search in His Word, that they may discover the rich jewels of truth. Ministers and people, teachers and scholars, are all called to the work of studying the Bible.” *Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, 65.

Hello Jeff, Kathy, and Staff at Future for America,

Thank you again for your information on the book of Daniel and the Spirit of Prophecy counsel how to correctly bring about the interpretation of the prophecies of Daniel linked closely to the Book of Revelation.

Proper understanding comes only with much prayer and study. Maybe you know by now that D.B. taught Sabbath School lessons of Daniel 12 over satellite last week, his belief in the pioneer’s correct interpretation of the three time lines, the 1260 years (days), the 1290 years (days), and the 1335 years (days) starting with Clovis in the year 508 A.D. Then he invited the Sabbath School class to consider the possibility that these prophecies could also be literal and gave them Bible and Spirit of Prophecy evidence why he, himself is considering it.

I hope I copied this Spirit of Prophecy reference correctly for it impressed me the most. It was found in Manuscript Releases 59, 1900 by Ellen G. White. In it she was reproofing a man for teaching two errors. (He was from Dead River.) I can’t remember the first error, but the second error went something like this: “You are incorrect in teaching that the 1335 days (years) have been fulfilled...”

I copied this from the screen. Those of you who have access to this can verify this since I don’t have access and cannot.

May the Lord continue to bless you as you carry on His wonderful work and making it a blessing to us.

S.W.—CA

Reply to S.W. in California-
Here is the closest reference to yours that I could find.

Bronwyn

“On our return to Brother Nichol’s, the Lord gave me a vision and showed me that the truth must be made plain upon tables, and it would cause many to decide for the truth by the third angel’s message with the two former being made plain upon tables. I also saw it was as necessary for the paper to be published as for the messengers to go, for the messengers need a paper to carry with them containing present truth to put in the hands of those who hear and then the truth would not fade from the mind, and that the paper would go where the messengers could not go. Other things I saw, which will appear in the paper. . . .

“We told him [Brother H] of some of his errors in the past, that the 1335 days were ended, and numerous [other] errors of his.

“Then I saw souls that were needy. They were honest and they needed the prejudice torn from them that they have received from their leaders and then they can receive the truth. I saw the burden of the message should be the first, second, and third angels’ messages, and those who had any hope in God would yield to the force of that truth.

“How mighty and glorious it looked to me. Oh, what privilege is ours, and that of being among the children of God and believing the mighty truth, a poor, despised company, but how honored of God.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 5, 203.

“When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost.”

Reverend Billy Graham

Current Events

THE DRAGON

The UN's Sickness

The UN is a corrupt institution, one that long ago squandered whatever moral legitimacy it once had. The UN's founding documents venerate justice and human rights, but for the past 40 years, the organization has been dominated by a bloc of states—essentially the Afro-Asian Third World—most of whose governments routinely pervert justice and violate human rights. Cynicism, hypocrisy, bigotry—these are the hallmarks of the modern UN. *The Conservative Chronicle*, December 15, 2004.

If the member states of the UN already pervert justice and violate human rights, then it is easy to see that they will be quite willing to do more of the same when they come under the command of the Pope of Rome.

Resurrecting the UN?

In 2005, we anticipate the debate over the viability of the UN as an instrument for international cooperation will continue—and the body will continue to serve as a springboard for those wishing to attack the United States, global democratization, free markets and western values as a whole. Fortunately, the Bush administration has demonstrated its independence from the corruption and ineptitude of the UN and its Security Council. The UN will continue to attempt to control the direction and pace of the war on terror, but the body will remain ultimately impotent in its efforts to derail US foreign policy.

The reality is that an organization consisting of all nations can be no more than the sum of its members' own politics, policies and ambitions. And, such an organization can have no coherent agenda of its own. Amid its scandals, corruption and general incompetence, any hope for resurrecting the UN as a productive international body appears unfounded. *The Federalist.com*, January 14, 2005.

The UN looks weak now, but keep watching, the papacy was weak at one time too.

Through Humble Instruments

“As the time comes for it [the message of the third angel] to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of Spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power,—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these.” *The Great Controversy*, 606.

First Guilty Plea in UN Oil-for-Food Scandal

The first criminal charges linked to alleged corruption involving the United Nations' oil-for-food-program in Iraq have been filed against an American who has pleaded guilty to accepting payments from Saddam Hussein's government. The case is just the start of what could be multiple criminal investigations into how a program meant to help the Iraqi people was corrupted.

Iraqi-American Samir Vincent admitted in a New York court Tuesday to acting as an agent of Saddam Hussein's government in exchange for being granted the rights to sell millions of dollars worth of Iraqi oil.

Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the guilty plea, which marks the first US criminal conviction stemming from multiple investigations into the UN oil for food scandal.

“In February of 1996, Vincent traveled to Baghdad and drafted agreements with Iraqi government officials that guaranteed millions of dollars of compensation for Vincent and others if they were able to get the oil for food program implemented,” said Mr. Ashcroft.

Federal prosecutors say Vincent ultimately earned between \$3-\$5 million dollars after selling the oil rights he was secretly awarded.

Normally, the four counts of conspiracy and acting as an unregistered agent of a foreign government would carry a maximum of 28 years in prison. But prosecutors say that sentence will likely be reduced.

"As part of the agreement, Vincent is cooperating with the United States Justice Department's investigation of corruption in the UN oil-for-food program," he added.

The now disbanded program was set up in 1996, at a time when Iraq was under sanctions, as a way of allowing Saddam Hussein to use what were supposed to be strictly monitored oil sales to purchase humanitarian aid for his people. But allegations of widespread corruption in the program began to surface after the fall of Baghdad nearly two years ago. By some accounts, the former Iraqi leader was able to secretly siphon off billions of dollars in oil revenue for himself, while allegedly diverting the rights to sell millions more to a top UN official charged with overseeing the program.

Prosecutors suggest more people could be charged, and at her Senate confirmation hearings Tuesday, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice left no doubt the issue will be a top priority if she is confirmed as secretary of state, as expected.

"We've got to get to the bottom of what happened here and those who were responsible, I think, should be held accountable," said Ms. Rice.

An independent panel appointed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to look into what he has described as "serious allegations" is expected to release its findings as early as this month. In addition, multiple congressional investigations into the scandal are under way. Some in Washington have even called for the secretary general resign over the matter. *english.chosun.com*, January 19, 2005.

Global Conference on Disasters

The US delegation to a global conference on disasters wants to purge a UN action plan of its references to climate change as a potential cause of future natural calamities.

The US stand reflects the opposition of US President George W. Bush's administration to treating global warming as a priority problem.

"It's well known that there's controversy" about climate change, Mark Lagon, deputy delegation head, told reporters Wednesday at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction. "It's our desire that this controversy not distract this conference."

The chief UN official here had a different view.

"I hope there will be a global recognition of climate change causing more natural disasters," said Jan Egeland, UN undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a UN-organized network of scientists, said in its latest major assessment of climate science that the planet is warming and that this is expected to cause more extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and droughts, as the century wears on.

A broad scientific consensus attributes much of the warming to the accumulation of "greenhouse gases" in the atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide from fossil fuel-burning. The Kyoto Protocol, which takes effect February 16, mandates cutbacks in such emissions, but the United States, the biggest emitter, has rejected that international pact.

In its preamble, the "framework for action" drafted for adoption at the Kobe conference this Saturday says climate change is one factor pointing toward "a future where disasters could increasingly threaten the world's economy, and its population." Other passages call for strengthening research into global warming and for clear identification of "climate-related disaster risks."

The US delegation, supported by Australia and Canada, has called for all references to climate change to be deleted from the main document. The move is opposed by the 25-nation European Union a strong supporter of the Kyoto Protocol and by poorer nations potentially imperiled by the intensified storms, rising ocean waters and other effects of climate change.

"We feel there will be more calamities unless there is some action on climate change. The number of natural hazards will increase," said

Siddiqur Choudhury, a delegate from Bangladesh, where a half-million or more people were killed by cyclones in 1970 and 1991.

With global warming, millions more Bangladeshis could be displaced from low-lying coastal regions when oceans expand and rise as they receive runoff from melting ice.

Egeland, the UN emergency coordinator overseeing the relief effort for the Indian Ocean earthquake-tsunami, which killed more than 160,000 people last month, said the world has seen "a dramatic increase in hurricanes, storm surges and climate-caused natural disasters."

In an Associated Press interview, he noted that he hasn't been involved in the floor debate over document language. But, he said, "There is climate change. That is not really controversial. What is controversial is what causes climate change" a reference to dissenters who contend the role of greenhouse gases may be overstated.

John Horekens, the UN conference coordinator, said he saw room for compromise on the language: Inclusion of a brief reference to climate change in the action plan, and additional references in a less significant annex. *Associated Press*, January 19, 2005.

"Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah, and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would—He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some, in order to further his own designs;

and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.

"While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. 'The earth mourneth and fadeth away,' 'The haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.' Isaiah 24:4, 5.

"Some will be tempted to receive these wonders as from God. The sick will be healed before us. Miracles will be performed in our sight. Are we prepared for the trial which awaits us when the lying wonders of Satan shall be more fully exhibited? Will not many be ensnared and taken? By departing from the plain precepts and commandments of God and giving heed to fables, the minds of many are preparing to receive these lying wonders. We must all now seek to arm ourselves for the contest in which we must soon engage. Faith in God's word, prayerfully studied and practically applied, will be our shield from Satan's power and will bring us off conquerors through the blood of Christ. *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 1, 302.

Plan for Global Natural Disaster Warnings Launches

A programme to develop a global early warning system for natural hazards has been launched at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, just three weeks after the Indian Ocean tsunami that killed an estimated 160,000 people.

The International Early Warning Programme brings together UN agencies and other organizations, with the aim of creating or building on existing warning systems for hazards including droughts, wildfires, floods, typhoons, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, and landslides, as well as tsunamis. About 250 million people are affected by such natural disasters every year.

"The goal is that all communities everywhere should have recourse to early warning as soon as possible, and certainly within the 10-year period that we are embarking on," said Jan Egeland, the UN's head of humanitarian affairs.

About 90% of all natural disasters are related to weather or to water. And early warning will play a key role in achieving the World Meteorological Organization's goal of halving the number of deaths due to water-related disasters over the next 15 years, said Michel Jarraud, WMO secretary-general.

An advisory committee for the programme - and precise plans of action - are yet to be established. But the Indian Ocean tsunami "underscored the high price to pay when systems are not in place", Jarraud said. Tsunami warning systems should now be set up not only in the Indian Ocean, but in all other regions at risk, he said.

What form an Indian Ocean system might take was the focus of a special session on the promotion of tsunami mitigation in the Indian Ocean on Wednesday.

UNESCO, and its International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), which coordinates the tsunami early warning centre in the Pacific, is seeking to take the lead in coordinating the establishment of new tsunami warning systems. UNESCO has outlined plans for a \$30 million system for the Indian Ocean, to be established by 2006, before being rolled out globally by 2007.

The IOC has scheduled two tsunami-related meetings to be held in Paris, France, in March 2005. The first aims to harmonize the various early warning initiatives announced by individual countries - such as India and Indonesia - and to define the scope of a global tsunami warning system. At the second meeting the IOC hopes member states will agree on their roles.

The global tsunami warning system should be part of a multi-hazard warning programme, which could also provide warnings on storm surges, for instance, said Maryam Golnaraghi, chief of the Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme of the WMO. Such a system would be more cost-efficient and effective at saving lives than systems for individual hazards, she said.

Global hazard warning programmes will benefit from the intergovernmental Global Earth Observing System of Systems initiative, established in 2002 and due for completion within the next 10 years, Golnaraghi said. The aim of GEOSS is to integrate satellite and ground- or water-based observations of oceans, earth, the atmosphere and ecosystems.

"It makes sense to develop a global tsunami warning system within the GEOSS framework," agreed Koichiro Matsuura, director general of UNESCO. The WMO will ensure that GEOSS collects the necessary data, Golnaraghi said. *newscientist.com*, January 19, 2005.

Ancient Infidelity

"The dwellers on the plain of Shinar disbelieved God's covenant that he would not again bring a flood upon the earth. Many of them denied the existence of God, and attributed the flood to the operation of natural causes. Others believed in a supreme being, and that it was he who had destroyed the antediluvian world; and their hearts, like that of Cain, rose up in rebellion against him. One object before them in the erection of the tower of Babel was to secure their own safety in case of another deluge. By carrying the structure to a much greater height than was reached by the waters of the flood, they thought to place themselves beyond all possibility of danger.

And as they would be able to ascend to the region of the clouds, they hoped to ascertain the cause of the flood. The whole undertaking was designed to exalt still further the pride of its projectors, and to turn the minds of future generations away from God, and lead them into idolatry." *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 119.

Global Business Network Proposed to Help Cope with Natural Disasters

A global business alliance should be established to coordinate and pool corporate resources in coping with natural disasters, a conference on the reconstruction of tsunami-hit Asian economies was told.

The proposal was made by the United States and was immediately welcomed by the United Nations and some governments of nations recovering from the December 26 tsunami which left close to 170,000 people dead and uprooted millions of others from their homes in a dozen countries that have coastlines along the Indian Ocean.

Business contributions were a key component of the five billion dollars of international donations raised so far to help countries recover from the catastrophe triggered by a powerful undersea earthquake off Indonesia.

There is no global business network at present to pool natural disaster aid efforts and provide reconstruction feedback in afflicted economies, according to several corporate leaders at a conference organized by the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington.

The meeting, attended by officials from the UN, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, government and non-governmental groups and businesses, was aimed at exploring ways to assist in reconstruction efforts in the tsunami-afflicted economies.

"We encourage the establishment of a coordinated business disaster assistance network so that responses to future disasters are even more effective and efficient," US Chamber of Commerce President Thomas Donohue said.

The American business community is behind an unprecedented outpouring of corporate aid in response to the tsunami

disaster. US business contributions have already surpassed the 300 million dollar mark in cash and in-kind pledges, making this the largest documented US corporate aid effort in history.

Alan Parson, the undersecretary for economic, business and agricultural affairs at the US State Department, proposed what he called a "business alliance for global development" as a long term effort to help developing economies.

Aside from helping them recover from natural disasters, such an initiative could be tapped to battle poverty, he said.

The move, he added, would also enable the corporate sector to help better understand economies with potential to grow rapidly and offer new business opportunities.

David Lockwood, alternate chairman of the UN tsunami task force, said the United National Development Program (UNDP), a key UN development agency, was creating a website that would capture tsunami aid offers and needs.

"The UN role is simply to be a matchmaker to help put the right people in contact with each other and by next week, we hope the website will be up and running," Lockwood, also the deputy director of the UN Asia-Pacific bureau, explained.

"This is for the tsunami disaster in round one but if it works, then obviously it will be applicable to the whole array that's out there," he said.

Ross Connelly, executive vice-president of the US Overseas Private Investment Corp., said there had been much corporate interest wanting to help out in the tsunami tragedy and "that it really begs to have some sort of a central alliance if you will.

"It will communicate where the various needs are and more importantly to give the donors confidence that these funds are going to be used wisely," he said. *turkishpress.com*, January 19, 2005.

Bush 'Undermining UN with Aid Coalition'

United States President George Bush was tonight accused of trying to undermine the United Nations by setting up a rival coalition to

coordinate relief following the Asian tsunami disaster.

The president has announced that the US, Japan, India and Australia would coordinate the world's response.

But former International Development Secretary Clare Short said that role should be left to the UN.

"I think this initiative from America to set up four countries claiming to coordinate sounds like yet another attempt to undermine the UN when it is the best system we have got and the one that needs building up," she said.

"Only really the UN can do that job," she told BBC Radio Four's PM programme.

"It is the only body that has the moral authority. But it can only do it well if it is backed up by the authority of the great powers."

Ms Short said the coalition countries did not have good records on responding to international disasters.

She said the US was "very bad at coordinating with anyone" and India had its own problems to deal with.

"I don't know what that is about but it sounds very much, I am afraid, like the US trying to have a separate operation and not work with the rest of the world through the UN system," she added. *scotsman.com*, December 30, 2004.

"God has presented to me the dangers that are threatening those who have been given the sacred work of proclaiming the third angel's message. They are to remember that this message is of the utmost consequence to the whole world. They need to search the Scriptures diligently, that they may learn how to guard against the mystery of iniquity, which plays so large a part in the closing scenes of this earth's history.

"There will be more and still more external parade by worldly powers. Under different symbols, God presented to John the wicked character and seductive influence of those who have been distinguished for their persecution of His people. The eighteenth chapter of Revelation speaks of mystic Babylon, fallen from her high estate to become a persecuting power.

Those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus are the object of the wrath of this power.

"John writes:

'And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. Much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall

her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong [is] the Lord God who judgeth her.' Revelation 18:1-8.

"This terrible picture, drawn by John to show how completely the powers of earth will give themselves over to evil, should show those who have received the truth how dangerous it is to link up with secret societies or to join themselves in any way with those who do not keep God's commandments.

'And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men...' Revelation 13:11-13.

"Religious powers, allied to heaven by profession, and claiming to have the characteristics of a lamb, will show by their acts that they have the heart of a dragon, and that they are instigated and controlled by Satan. The time is coming when God's people will feel the hand of persecution because they keep holy the seventh day. Satan has caused the change of the Sabbath in the hope of carrying out his purpose for the defeat of God's plans. He seeks to make the commands of God of less force in the world than human laws." *Manuscript Releases*, volume 14, 152.

THE BEAST

Jews Thank Pontiff for Long Support

A delegation of prominent rabbis and other Jewish leaders from around the world met Tuesday with Pope John Paul II to thank him for what they called a lifelong commitment to the defense of Jews.

Recalling the pope's visit to Auschwitz during his first trip to his Polish homeland in 1979, Gary Krupp of the Pave the Way Foundation praised the pontiff for setting a "tone of reconciliation" in his papacy. "You have defended Jewish people at every opportunity, as a priest in Poland and during your 26-year-old pontificate. You have denounced anti-Semitism as sin against God and humanity," said Krupp, whose foundation works to better relations between religious groups, as he stood before the pontiff in a frescoed, marble-lined hall of the Apostolic Palace.

The pope thanked Krupp and then urged Catholics and Jews to improve relations further. Only decades ago the two groups were divided by Christian thinking that Jews were to blame for Jesus' death. *Chicago Tribune*, January 19, 2005.

Pope Televised to Record Number of Countries

The Vatican said the midnight Mass and the Christmas Day message were scheduled to be televised to a record 73 countries. *USA Today*, December 24, 2004.

Fair Front to the World

"How different from the spirit manifested by Christ is that of His professed vicar. The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that

lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High." *The Great Controversy*, 571.

The US Ambassador to the Vatican, James Nicholson, ends his term later this month. John Allen of the National Catholic Reporter sat down with Ambassador Nicholson on January 11th for a farewell interview. Some interesting snippets:

"NCR: You have been here during an exceptional period of time. You arrived shortly after 9/11, and you've been here for both the war on terrorism and the American sex abuse crisis. What are the one or two most important things you've discovered about the relationship between the United States and the Holy See?

NICHOLSON: I think there is an underlying reliance on the United States, on the part of the Holy See. Overall, they believe we will be there when we're needed...."

A little later, Nicholson says the United States is "a country that is very interested in close collaboration with the Vatican because of our commonality of values." *ncronline.com*, January 19, 2005.

THE FALSE PROPHET

Christians Have Obligation to Pray for Unity, Pope says at Audience

Prayer, dialogue and cooperation to restore Christian unity are obligations for all Christians, Pope John Paul II said.

Marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at his Jan. 19 general audience, the pope put on a red stole and led an estimated 7,000 people in praying for Christian unity.

Before embracing the cross and going to his death, Christ prayed that all his disciples would be one, Pope John Paul said, introducing the prayers for the churches of the East and West, for all those baptized in Christ and for all those who give witness to the Gospel in the world.

In his audience talk, the pope said the Jan. 18-25 week of prayer is an important occasion "for reminding Christians that the re-establishment of full unity among them,

according to the will of Jesus, involves every baptized person, pastors and faithful alike."

The Catholic Church, he said, has just celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism, "a key text which placed the Catholic Church firmly and irrevocably in the heart of the ecumenical movement."

The reconciliation of the world's Christians, he said, requires more than human efforts and talents, which is why prayer for unity is so important.

"But prayer must be accompanied by the purification of minds, feelings and memories," leaving behind bitterness over past events, he said. "In that way, it becomes an expression of that 'interior conversion' without which there is no true ecumenism."

Pope John Paul praised those engaged in ecumenical dialogue, both on a theological level and in the field of cooperation in concrete projects to help others.

"The pain of separation is felt with increasing intensity in the face of the challenges of a world that awaits a clear and unanimous Gospel witness from all believers in Christ," he said.

The pope asked those attending the audience to join him in praying "that the whole family of believers would reach as soon as possible the full communion willed by Christ."

At the end of the audience, the pope greeted 560 priests, seminarians and catechists from the Neocatechumenal Way and blessed the founders, Kiko Arguello and Carmen Hernandez.

The pope prayed that members of the faith formation program would "deepen, with a docile spirit, communion with the pastors of local churches and with the competent offices of the Holy See. In this way, you can offer an ever more effective contribution to the cause of the Gospel." *catholicnews.com*, January 19, 2005.

"What quarrel, what harshness, what unbelief in each other can subsist in the presence of a great calamity, when all the artificial vesture of our life is gone, and we are all one with each other in primitive mortal needs?" *George Eliot*

From Innocent III to Bush II

"Contrary to the present reality in the Muslim world, secular rulers in early Europe recognized the growing power of the Church and gave vast grants of land to Church leaders in order to befriend the new, powerful entity. In the US today, we have entered into something far worse than that phenomenon of medieval Europe."

From the election of Pope Innocent-III on January 8, 1198 to the inauguration of Bush-II on January 20, 2001, it took a local Dark Age 803 years to turn into a global Dark Age.

The doubtful re-election and second inauguration of Bush-II on January 20, 2005 under the shadows of growing "conspiracy theories," show how the world has entered into the darkest recesses where the partial domination of Church in Europe has been effectively replaced by a total domination of neocons: the product of a consummate church-and-state-alliance.

These days, Bush-II has assumed the role of the first in the new line of corrupt popes, Innocent III, who asserted his view of his place in the world: "No king can reign rightly unless he devoutly serves Christ's vicar [the pope]. The priesthood is the sun, and monarchy the moon. Kings rule over their respective kingdoms, but. ... the Lord gave Peter rule not only over the universal Church, but also over the whole world."

In the views of Bush II, no elected or unelected president or prime minister can reign rightly unless he devoutly serves the US president. The US government is the sun, and governments in Muslim world the moon. Presidents and prime ministers rule over the respective Muslim countries, but God gave the US president not only over the US, but also the whole world.

If we feel the reality is different than this, future historians will write that we were wrong and in total denial of the reality.

Just like Innocent III, Bush II, the Altar boy and Born-Again, claims that he talks to God and God told him to go to wars and kill more than 100,000 people to liberate them and impose democracy.

In 1294 Boniface VIII issued the Unam Sanctum, a papal decree, outlining the pope's

power. Many people might not have taken it serious at that time, but later historians declared this decretal as the "strongest statement of papal power ever made."

Look for the words that we hear from Bush-II in the 13th century Unam Sanctum, which stated: "Now, therefore, we declare, say, determine and pronounce that for every human creature it is necessary for salvation to be subject to the authority of the Roman pontiff." Compare this with the US government engaging in the worst ever tortures, human rights abuse, massacres and genocides for subjecting others to what it considers necessary for their salvation and liberation.

The secular monarchy was not standing as tall behind Innocent III as the Church is standing firmly behind Bush-II's adventures in the occupied countries. Julian Coman and Bruce Johnston of British Daily Telegraph report from Rome on October 10, 2004: "Vatican buries the hatchet with Blair and Bush over Iraq," which means that the Vatican now officially approves and supports the ongoing genocide in Iraq in the name of democracy.

Just like Vatican's reawakening to Jihad and approving Bush-II's waging the war for eliminating evil, Innocent III also granted the Catholic kings the right (and furthermore, he encouraged them wholeheartedly) to exterminate the Albigensians, a race in Northern Europe which the Church had failed to convert and which it now perceived as a possible threat to the Church's security, even though they were hardly a danger. Innocent was therefore encouraging the murder of a group that would not assimilate into Catholicism, an act of violence and with no relationship to the interests of Catholicism.

Instead of condemning moral, legal and military excesses of the US government and the puppets it has put in place around the Muslim world, Islamophobes suggest Reformation of Islam to tame the perceived enemy. They are proposing all those measures which broke the back bone of Church's power. They are, however, doomed to failure because the phenomenon of medieval Church does not apply to the Islam.

Instead of thinking for some new form of reformation to break the Church and State

Alliance that is pushing the world deeper into darkness and chaos, the message from struggling Muslim and non-Muslim Islamophobes is to "reform Islam" on the pattern of Christianity. This is absolutely impossible for many reasons.

To begin with, Islam is nowhere in power and it has not carried out systematic genocides and crimes against humanity as the world witnessed during the European Dark Age or as we are witnessing at the hands of the US and its allies with full motivation and full backing of the Church, both Catholic and Protestant.

Secondly, Christian Reformation was not about reforming religion or religious beliefs, which Islamophobes want Muslims to do. According to Professor Gerhard Rempel at Western New England College: "The rapidity with which the doctrines of Luther and the other reformers spread throughout Europe is evidence of a general concern over the question of salvation and also of a strong dissatisfaction with the secularized church for not adequately serving the religious needs of the people."

According to Professor Gerhard Rempel at Western New England College, it was the "evil of secularization of the Church" which "were most dramatically reflected in the history of the papacy." In the modern, global dark age, the forces of darkness are pushing for Reformation the other way round, towards secularization of Islam.

Nothing of what was happening within the Church and Europe is happening in the Muslims world. We must remember that after the fall of the western half of the Roman Empire in 476, the Europeans turned to the strong guidance of the papacy and the Catholic Church to be the authoritative voice in their lives. So the Church assumed the role, which the people expected of it.

In comparison, these days there is no authoritative Islamic institution in place, and as we will see in this write up, there is no place for such a theocracy in Islam.

Contrary to the present reality, secular rulers in early Europe recognized the growing power of the Church and gave vast grants of land to Church leaders in order to befriend the new, powerful entity. This land was taxed, and

the surfs who worked it paid tithes to the Church. With more and more grants of land coming in, the Church grew greatly in size and wealth to become the mightiest of powers in the Middle Ages.

As the wealth and political influence started to lead to corruption, the Church became interested in management of this new power. In time, unrest among the common people, together with new emphasis on relating faith and reason, brought forth new ideas that challenged the Church's undisputed authority. Therefore, the growing secular power of the Church and the new spirit of questioning between the early 1100s and the late 1500s that instigated unrest among European Catholics were the leading factors in the Protestant Reformation of the 1600s.

These days, there is no monastery in the world of Islam these days that owns thousands of villas and serfs. The Mosque is not "bound by feudalism" the way archbishops, bishops and abbots in Germany "gave their loyalty to the king and became no different than great nobles, managing agriculture and owing military service." That's why it seems nonsense to hear about Reformation of Islam.

At the time for Christian Reformation, Church leaders were stronger than secular rulers with the newly-founded power inherent in the institution. In the 1100s-1200s, an intricate network of leadership arose to command the dioceses, and the papacy became, for a time, the unrivaled and unchallenged power of medieval Europe.

An exact opposite process is under way in the Muslim world today. At that time, the focus in the monasteries as well as in the Church hierarchy turned from imitating Christ as the savior of the poor and weak, to the gaining of affluence and power.

Today puppet regimes are embracing a religion proposed only to them by Bush-II and his devoted-to-Christianity-partners. The religion is secularization and the puppets are doing all they can from revising school curriculum to banning and diluting religious education in different ways and taking Muslims away from Islam. It is not the mosque controlling Muslim states, but Muslim states forcing mosques to toe a secular line.

At that time corruption became embedded within the Church's most powerful leadership positions, and the concerns of the Church turned away from spirituality to the defense of corrupt members and the retention of wealth enjoyed by the papacy.

The same is happening in the Muslim world today, but not in the religious circles. It is happening in the secular, ruling circles, filled with benighted opportunists, taking people away from spiritualism towards the much vaunted fruits of material development.

Poverty alleviation and economic developments are the rallying cries without have the oppressed and exploited public ever see the benefits of the billions of dollars which the US showers on secular puppets.

The Christian Reformation was not carried out by secularists and so-called humanists of that age. It was the true Christians who were able to step up and reform the Church's leadership when it could not have been needed more. The initial reforms, intended to return the Church to the early and saintly days of spirituality, had instead created a centralized papal power vulnerable to far worse abuses. And thus the process went on.

Whatever corruption and power usurpation was taking place at the time of Christian Reformation, it was not meant for spiritual uplift of the society or calling people towards religion. The Church was engaged in exactly what the corrupt dictators in the Muslim world are engaged in today: material gains and power.

In part because of the corruption in the Church, a series of philosophers arose. Each pondered methods of thought that bordered or crossed the boundary of what the Church at the time considered heresy. These philosophers influenced each other and also the general public of Europe.

In the case of Reformation of Church, philosophy was promoted and scientific studies were presented to undermine some religious theories. In the case of Islam, each scientific discovery leads to further consolidating the message of the Qur'an and the kind of philosophy the Islamophobes promote to undermine Islam, is totally irrelevant. So besides the futility of using all other measures to Reform Islam, using philosophy as a weapon is also not going to do any wonders.

The focus on misplaced Reformation has to shift to the Western world, mostly led by the United States and the US is the place where all the achievements of Reformation have not only reversed by touched the other end of the extreme.

The victory of the secularized territorial state was accompanied by the gradual secularization of European society and culture as a whole. Religious standards, by which economic, social, and political behavior had previously been measured, were to a large degree replaced by secular standards, ascertained primarily by the observation of social behavior. The relegation of religious authorities and faith to the background in European life marks the end of the Reformation Era and the beginning of the Era of so-called Enlightenment.

This trend was gradually reversing in the US for the last many years. In the last quarter of the 20th century the momentum toward de-secularizing the US increased considerably. The ultimate objective being establishing the Kingdom of God, the short term objectives was set to put political leaders and public officials with strong ties to Church in the position of power.

That dream was partially fulfilled with the inauguration of Bush-II in 2001 and will be completely fulfilled with the second inauguration in 2005 that has been made possible with the full backing of religious institutions, personalities and ordinary followers of faith.

This time around the scope of the darkness is global. The Church is behind the apparently secular state and the visible target is the Muslim world. The victims, however, are innocents both in the East and West.

Irrespective of the Church-and-state-alliance's success or failure in establishing the Kingdom of God, the world would witness an unprecedented scale of death and destruction if both Muslims and non-Muslims failed to understand and counter totalitarian designs of this alliance.

At the moment, we see no way out of this darkness, particularly when this alliance of darkness is fully supported by the gang of dogmatic media that keeps people blind and their minds shut. *Media Monitors Network*, January 19, 2005.

The Long and Short of Liberty

“As they think about it, people choose liberty, but politicians, bureaucrats, and the thousands of others who make money off of big government spend a lot of time, money and effort trying to deceive people into giving them more power and more money. Whether it is ‘prescription drug coverage’ or ‘minimum wage protections’ or ‘education’ or any one of a thousand other reasons for big government, those who make money off the system will try to popularize some mantra that will convince people to sacrifice their liberty. Once liberty is lost, it is rarely returned (without a revolution), so every short term public relations program instituted by the ruling class to expand government becomes a long term intrusion on liberty, even after people have become wise to the deception.” *California Assembly member Ray Haynes’ Monday Morning Memorandum*, December 13, 2004.

State-run Faith-based Offices Set Up

In 2003, federal agencies gave more than \$1 billion in grant money to faith-based groups, but this amounted to less than ten percent of the money available to such organizations for social programs. So, the administration’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is looking toward the \$40 billion in federal money given out by state governments. Many states don’t realize that they can use this money to fund faith-based groups, and James Towey, the White House director of the faith-based initiative, plans to educate them thusly.

One program the states can offer is Access to Recovery, which provides drug users with vouchers to obtain treatment, even through religious conversion (heaven forbid!), to break their addiction. Now showing a greater interest, 21 governors—including some Democrats—are setting up their own faith-based offices. *thefederalist.com*, January 14, 2005.

DISASTERS BY SEA AND BY LAND

“The time is at hand when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn. Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with

great loss of life and property! Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature, wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God’s purpose may be read. They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger.” *Prophets and Kings*, 277.

Tsunami Death Toll

Indonesia’s Health Ministry raised the country’s death toll from the Dec. 26 tsunami to 166,320 on Wednesday, pushing the total number of people killed in the disaster above 225,000.

A Health Ministry statement said the new figure was based on latest reports from the provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra, which were directly in the path of the killer tsunami spawned by a magnitude-9 earthquake the day after Christmas.

The new death toll—a jump of more than 50,000 on the ministry’s last figure—includes many people who were previously listed as missing, a senior ministry official told Reuters.

Meanwhile, a UN official said emergency aid deliveries to remote areas of Aceh province will have to increase sharply to avoid serious hunger and other problems. Daniel Augstburger, head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the coastal city of Meulaboh, said not enough help was reaching people outside of major urban areas.

“The French are starting to move food, of course the Americans... are moving food out, but this has to increase ten-fold, I would say,” Augstburger told Reuters, adding that tsunami victims also needed items such as clothes and cooking utensils.

Meulaboh, about 150 miles south of the provincial capital of Banda Aceh, was cut off for several days following the Dec. 26 tsunami, which killed some 115,000 in the province and demolished large areas of coastline.

Augstburger said that despite a huge international relief operation involving military forces from a number of countries, there were still not enough helicopters and boats available to deliver the needed aid. He said if that didn’t happen, things could become “very serious” in

outlying areas. "The food is here. We have to deliver the food. Stocks are being piled here (in Meulaboh)," he said.

Officials say one problem is the need for repeated air drops in the same area. With many villages completely wiped out, and others coping with an influx of refugees, a constant schedule of aid deliveries needs to be established to keep people supplied.

"The magnitude of the needs are such that we might be here for a pretty long time," Augstburger said.

Aid deliveries in much of coastal Aceh are hampered by the lack of roads, many of which were destroyed by the tsunami. The coast is also virtually without working harbors or ports, making sea deliveries difficult.

Also, officials remain concerned about security in Aceh. U.N. officials on Tuesday lifted a travel ban they had imposed earlier in parts of the region because of fears of possible attacks on aid convoys, but they also urged continued vigilance.

Augstburger said despite the challenges, some aspects of life were returning to normal in and around Meulaboh, where hospitals are now functioning and school is due to reopen on Monday.

"What is striking is that there are smiles here...I'm 20 years in this business and what I see is a very positive reaction," he said. *msnbc.msn.com*, January 19, 2005.

Utah Avalanche Search Ends With 1 Victim

After four days of searching a 16-acre debris field, rescue crews ended their large-scale probe for victims of last week's powerful avalanche.

Summit County Sheriff Dave Edmunds said chances were good that the avalanche near Park City, about 20 miles east of Salt Lake City, trapped only one person.

Monday was the last day searchers would gather in large numbers. A limited search will continue, but bigger groups won't scale the mountain again unless authorities receive a credible tip that someone is missing.

"Right now, we believe that we have taken the one sole victim out of there," Edmunds said. "There's been four solid days and there's

just no reason to believe that there's more victims out there."

Eyewitness accounts of Friday's slide initially led authorities to believe that as many as five people may have been caught in a debris field up to 30 feet deep in spots.

Police have cleared all but three names from a list of potential victims, "but it's very probable they are not involved," Edmunds said. "Some of these individuals have not contacted family for months."

The body of one man, Shane Maixner, 27, of Sandpoint, Idaho, was recovered Sunday with the help of trained dogs, and rescuers sensed that the discovery of other clothing items meant more victims were nearby.

But Edmunds pulled back from that Monday, saying it's common during rescue efforts to find incidental items unrelated to a search.

The snow slide occurred in an out-of-bounds area near The Canyons resort that had been marked with skull and crossbones warning signs because of the avalanche danger.

Including Maixner, seven people have been killed in Utah avalanches so far this winter more than any other winter since the state started keeping records in 1951.

In northern Idaho, two snowboarders from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., were killed in an avalanche Sunday while snowboarding south of Mullan, the Shoshone County sheriff's office said. A third snowboarder survived and walked to a nearby house to call for help, deputies said. *Wired News*, January 18, 2005.

Flooding Chases People From Homes in Washington

Flooding caused by heavy rain chased residents from their homes in one Pacific Northwest community and killed livestock, and three people were missing Wednesday after a mudslide on the Canadian side of the border.

Flood warnings remained in effect Wednesday for several rivers in northwestern Washington, the National Weather Service said.

Most highways remained open but numerous local roads were closed by high water in King, Snohomish and Skagit counties.

An emergency shelter for evacuees was opened in Hamilton, along the Skagit River, said Don McKeehen, a Skagit County emergency operations spokesman. A Red Cross official estimated more than 75 people checked in Tuesday. Another shelter was opened in Concrete, where the Skagit River was expected to crest about 3 feet above flood stage.

A mudslide swept two houses down a hillside early Wednesday in North Vancouver, British Columbia. At least three people were missing, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Capt. Tom Seaman said.

Northeast of Seattle, an unknown number of dairy cattle were lost Tuesday in when a flood control structure failed near Snohomish.

"The cattle were floating by here like wood debris," former dairy farmer John Misich said. "There was a steady stream of them floating by."

Twenty-four-hour rainfall amounts as of Tuesday afternoon included 2.63 inches at Shelton, 2.13 inches at Olympia and 2.53 inches at Forks. The rain also melted much of the snow in the Cascade Range, closing several ski areas. *Associated Press*, January 19, 2005.

California Mudslide Happened So Fast, People Had No Time to Flee

Brie Brazelton was dawdling at the neighborhood store near her home Monday when she heard the noise. It was a rumbling, "kind of like an earthquake," she said later.

She ran up the street toward the house she shared with her fiancé's family and several friends, only to realize she had to change direction—a wall of earth was descending upon it.

"I had to run for my life," she said.

On Tuesday, Brazelton returned, one of the few residents of La Conchita with a strong and specific sense of the devastation wrought by a mudslide that consumed as many as 20 homes here. After days of rain, flooding and mudslides have wreaked havoc in Southern California, washing away cars and houses and people. The region is sodden from record rainfall.

Nowhere is the devastation from that rainfall worse than here in La Conchita, a tiny hamlet 70 miles north of Los Angeles. Six bodies have

been found thus far, but officials say it is hard to determine how many more people or bodies they are looking for in a place where the destruction is so complete and the survivors are so scattered. Ten people have been pulled from the rubble alive, but around a dozen, including three children, remain unaccounted for, said Bob Roper, chief of the Ventura County Fire Department.

Roper said Tuesday he remains optimistic that more survivors will be found. Rescue workers were dropping cameras and listening devices into the rubble in hopes of detecting signs of life. Faint sounds were heard Tuesday morning but the sounds were drowned out by the roar of power tools trying to cut through debris, he said.

"Those faint sounds do keep the adrenaline going in rescue workers," he said. "There is a glimmer of hope on us and the community behind us that we still have a chance at saving somebody. They will continue working around the clock until we concede the rescue efforts will not be of benefit."

Eric Nishimoto, public information officer for the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, said: "All the information is coming from someone running from the flow who said 'I saw 10 people buried over there,' or neighbors saying, 'There's a family of four living there and they're usually home.' Well, we don't know."

But Brazelton, 24, knew who did not make it out of her house that afternoon. There was her fiancé's father, Charlie, whose body was the first to be pulled from the rubble Monday night. And her friend Vanessa. And her friend Michelle Wallet, and Wallet's three daughters, Paloma, 2, Raven, 6, and Hannah, 10.

"There's nothing I can (expletive) do," Brazelton said, weeping on the highway next to her ruined community. "They're under all that dirt."

The word mudslide does not seem to fully convey what happened to La Conchita, a community of 300 that hugs U.S. Route 101 where the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains meet the Pacific Ocean. Instead, from the site of the densely packed mound of dirt in the middle of town and the sharp orange gouge in the green hills above it, it looks as though a

slice of mountain simply fell directly on top of it.

Residents here had long been aware of the potential for mudslides; a decade ago, a similar slide engulfed nine homes and depressed property values for several years.

By Monday, two weeks of torrential rain had left coast highlands heavy and fragile.

Still, few could imagine what lay ahead for La Conchita. The last mudslide "just crept down" the hill, said George Smith, whose girlfriend lives in the village. "People came down and watched," he recalled, and no one was injured.

Monday's mudslide, though, "was like a dump truck," he said. It roared into town at a ferocious speed, an avalanche of dirt, rocks, and brush pushing forward everything in its path. Officials said the 30-foot-tall mound of dirt concealed the wreckage of as many as three or four houses jumbled on top of one another.

Geological devices placed in the hillside following the 1995 mudslide gave no indication of imminent danger, Roper said.

A firefighter who was among the first crews on the scene Monday described a chaotic mess as workers labored to extract a badly injured woman from the rubble. With gas leaking from a ruptured line, they could not use power tools for fear of sparking a fire and instead dug her out by hand. It took three hours, he said.

"It looked like a collapsed house," said the firefighter who declined to give his name. "But apparently there were two houses below us we couldn't see."

Rescue operations were interrupted for a little more than an hour Monday night when a new round of rain showers prompted fears of more mudslides. Geologists remained stationed on the ridge Tuesday to detect any warning signs that might prompt another evacuation of the area. Conrad Quintana, a captain with the Ventura County Fire Department, acknowledged it probably will take a week or two before they can sift through all of the debris.

"We're still in rescue mode," he said. "We got a lot of residents out here waiting on loved ones. We can't give up."

A few residents and friends of the missing were being allowed to help in the recovery efforts. Among them was Jimmie Wallet, husband of the missing Michelle and father of the three missing girls from Brazelton's house.

"He was at the gas station buying Popsicles for his kids. He saw it come down and ran up the street as fast as he could. He couldn't get there fast enough," said Larry Gallardo, a friend of Wallet's. During the early hours of the search, Gallardo said, "they heard heartbeats, which gave them hope."

Brazelton wandered away from the site clutching a carved wooden spoon of hers that she found when rescue workers escorted her to what remained of her town Tuesday.

"I'm finding the most random stuff," she said in tears. "Why did this make it and the Wallets didn't?" *The Washington Post*, January 12, 2005.

Powerful Storms

Powerful storms raked Arkansas, spawning a tornado with winds over 158 mph that killed two people and was a factor in a fatal small plane crash, authorities said Thursday.

The tornado hit late Wednesday south of El Dorado in south-central Arkansas, about 12 miles north of the Louisiana state line. Union County Emergency Management Coordinator Jackie Wiley said the tornado cut a quarter-mile wide, 20-mile-long swath of destruction starting at Junction City and moving south of El Dorado to Lawson.

"We've probably got 25-30 homes severely damaged or destroyed, numerous vehicles upside down, just everything," Wiley said. "It was one of those type things where I think most of them had no warning."

The tornado killed a man and a woman, both 83, who lived a mile apart; the mobile home of one of the victims had not been found Thursday evening. In Eureka Springs, a banking executive was killed while trying to land a twin-engine plane at a private air strip near his home.

Gov. Mike Huckabee planned to fly to Union County on Friday to inspect the damage.

The National Weather Service in Shreveport, La., said the tornado was preliminarily evaluated as an F3 on the Fujita scale, with winds ranging from 158 mph to 206 mph. The

scale runs from F0, the weakest, to F5, the strongest.

Frances Thurlkill said a camper parked near her family's home landed in the bedroom where she and her husband sleep. She said her husband, Sherwood, got her out of bed minutes before the storm hit.

"It sounded like about 10 freight trains, but first there was a squealing sound," she told the El Dorado News-Times. "The noise was like big jets, a lot more than one."

In Missouri, a moderate-strength tornado associated with a powerful storm touched down in south-central Missouri late Wednesday, leaving a quarter-mile-wide swath of damage about 18 miles long, the weather service said. No injuries were reported.

The weather service said the tornado was an F1, with winds of 73 mph to 112 mph. *ABC News*, January 14, 2005.

Catholic Bishop Prays for Marietta Flood Victims

Area business owners, residents, children and Marietta's mayor joined the Stuebenville Diocese bishop Tuesday to pray for those affected by two recent Marietta floods.

Bishop Daniel Conlon led a Mass in honor of flood victims at St. Mary's Church, with about 100 people attending, including St. Mary's School students.

"The people of Marietta have faced some heartbreak, seen a lot of loss, had to do some back-breaking labor and have had worry about the future," Conlon said. "We're praying for the town's leaders, for those who lost property and, even worse, for those who lost hope."

On Jan. 8, the Ohio River at Marietta reached a level of 43.3 feet, more than eight feet above flood stage and less than a week later, the town again flooded when the river reached 36 feet. It all took place less than four months after the worst Ohio River flood in 40 years damaged hundreds of businesses and homes in the city and throughout Washington County.

Conlon said it's more important to have faith and hope in times of trial than any other time but that it's a relationship that has to be constantly maintained.

He compared the relationship between a person and his or her faith to that of a parent and child.

"It's ongoing. You don't say 'I changed the diaper once. That's it.' 'And you don't say 'I corrected the child once. That's it,'" Conlon said. "We have to have faith on the easy days and the difficult days, when the sun is shining and the rain is pouring."

The Mass, open to the entire community, drew several people who were not church members.

"I thought it was just a nice idea, regardless of what your faith is," said Mary Ann Groves, 58, of Marietta. "We all need healing. The last few months have been so full of frustration and pain for a lot of us."

Brad Stewart, 43, of Front Street has had high waters to contend with twice in recent months and said he hopes those in Marietta can relax without the threat of a flood for a while.

"I've been praying that we have fewer tests, and we stay strong," he said.

"It helps to have everyone together like this. There's a nice feeling of community because we're all praying for Marietta."

The service included hymns, communion and a lot of prayer, but there was one story the bishop chose not to tell.

"Right before the Mass, someone suggested that we use the story of Noah," Conlon said. "It has a certain appropriateness but we decided not to make this about water." *newsandsentinel.com*, January 19, 2005.

"Jesus says, 'My Father which is in heaven,' as reminding His disciples that while by His humanity He is linked with them, a sharer in their trials, and sympathizing with them in their sufferings, by His divinity He is connected with the throne of the Infinite. Wonderful assurance! The heavenly intelligences unite with men in sympathy and labor for the saving of that which was lost. And all the power of heaven is brought to combine with human ability in drawing souls to Christ." *The Desire of Ages*, 442.

REVELATION'S 7 WORSHIP SCENES

By Robert Lee

The central issue in the great controversy between Christ and Satan is worship. Satan usurped the power and worship that belongs to God alone. As a result, he sinned, and was cast out into this earth with one third of the angels. In the Garden of Eden, Satan tempted our first parents to sin, and thereby wrested the dominion of this earth from them, and separated them from the worship of the Creator God. Christ immediately put into effect the plan of salvation, which brought the blessed hope to mankind. In the wilderness of temptation, Satan offered this world to Christ if Christ would fall down and worship him. Matthew 4:8-11 states thus: "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."

Revelation, the last book of the Bible, contains seven worship scenes, each of which suggests to me one reason why God alone is worthy of our worship.

Revelation 4 contains Revelation's 1st worship scene. Here, John the Revelator saw a door that was opened in heaven. Read Revelation 4, and notice a throne that was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne (v.1-3, 5-6). And round about the throne were 24 seats, and seated thereon were 24 elders (v.4). In the midst of the throne, and round about the throne were 4 beasts (v.6).

Who were the 24 elders? Who were the 4 beasts? First, notice what was disclosed about

the 24 elders. The 24 elders were "clothed in white raiment: and they had on their heads crowns of gold" (v.4). The white raiment's suggests that the 24 elders are saints, or redeemed human beings in heaven (Revelation 7:9-17; 19:6-8). This is confirmed by the content of their new song, which they sung in the 2nd worship scene (Revelation 5:6-10). Who then were the 24 elders? We know that before Revelation was written the followings saints were already in heaven: Enoch (translated; Genesis 5:24; Matthew 17:3-4), Moses (resurrected; Jude 9), Elijah (translated; 2 Kings 2:11), and the saints whose "graves were opened", and who "arose" and "came out of the graves after" Christ's resurrection, and ascended to heaven (Matthew 27:52-53; Ephesians 4:8). All the redeemed or saints in heaven are kings and priests (Revelation 1:6; 5:10). So the 24 elders are kings and priests. Why 24? Because they reflect the 24 orders of the typical earthly priesthood (1 Chronicles 24), or rather, the earthly priesthood followed the antitypical heavenly pattern. Jesus Christ is King of kings, and Lord of lords (Revelation 17:14; 19:16), and the High Priest of the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 8:1-2).

The 4 beasts were "in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne", and they were "full of eyes before and behind" (Revelation 4:6). Revelation 4:7-8 states thus about the 4 beasts: "And the first beast was like a lion, and second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and which is, and is to come." Based on Isaiah's description of another temple scene in his vision recorded in Isaiah 6:1-8, and Ezekiel's

description of the 4 living creatures or cherubims in Ezekiel 1 and 10, it is clear that the 4 beasts are 4 angels, whether cherubims, or seraphims, or otherwise. Like Revelation's 4 beasts, the seraphims that Isaiah saw also "each had six wings", and cried "Holy, holy, holy". Like Revelation's 4 beasts, Ezekiel's 4 living creatures, or cherubims, were associated with a "throne" (Ezekiel 10:1, 3-5), and "the first was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar." (Ezekiel 10:14-15).

Revelation 4:9-11 describes the 1st worship scene thus: "And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou has created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." From the word "worthy" is derived the old English word "worth-ship", which is now spelt as "worship". Hence, Revelation's 1st worship scene suggests that God alone is worthy of our worship because God alone is our Creator!

Revelation's 2nd worship scene is set forth in Revelation 5:6-14. Here, the song of the 24 elders (Revelation 5:9-10), and the innumerable angels' praise to God (Revelation 5:12), and every creature's response (Revelation 5:13) all relate to redemption, or the Lamb that was slain. Hence, Revelation's 2nd worship scene suggests that God alone is worthy of our worship because God alone is our Redeemer!

Revelation's 3rd worship scene is set forth in Revelation 7:9-12. Here, the "great

multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palms in their hands" (Revelation 7:9). The "palms in their hands" are a symbol of deliverance and victory. Hence, Revelation's 3rd worship scene suggests that God alone is worthy of our worship because God alone is our Deliverer and victory!

Revelation's 4th worship scene is set forth in Revelation 11:15-17. Here, the 24 elders "fell upon their faces, and worshipped God" because God "hast reigned" (Revelation 11:16-17). Hence, God alone is worthy of our worship because God alone is the King over all "the kingdoms of this world", and God alone "shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15)!

Revelation's 5th worship scene is set forth in Revelation 15:2-4. Here, the redeemed sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Such a sacred song, as is sung here by the redeemed, is certainly worship, if not a part of the worship, of God. Hence, God alone is worthy of our worship because God "alone art holy" (Revelation 15:4)!

Revelation's 6th worship scene is set forth in Revelation 19:1-4. Here, the redeemed praise God for "true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornications, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand" (Revelation 19:2). Hence, God alone is worthy of our worship because God alone is the Judge of all the earth, and the universe!

Revelation's 7th worship scene is set forth in Revelation 19:5-9. Here, God alone is worthy of our worship because God alone is Omnipotent!

Indeed, God alone is worthy of our worship, and none else! We are not to worship

even a holy angel! Twice, John fell down to worship the holy angel who accompanied him, and twice, his angel warned him not to, but to worship God alone (Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9). We are to worship no human being, or any creature, not even an apostle or representative of Christ! When Cornelius first met the apostle Peter, he “fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. And Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.” (Acts 10:25-26).

In fact, it is fatal for any man to accept worship from his fellow men, as King Herod found out at the cost of his immediate miserable death (Acts 12:21-23).

To summarize, God alone is worthy of our worship because God alone is:

OUR CREATOR!

OUR REDEEMER!

OUR DELIVERER AND VICTORY!

OUR EVERLASTING KING!

HOLY!

THE JUDGE OF ALL THE EARTH, AND THE UNIVERSE!

OMNIPOTENT!

By God’s grace, may we be enabled to worship God alone in spirit and in truth, now and always!

Upcoming Events

Speaker: Jeff Pippenger

**February 12th thru the 14th at Citrus State Park in
Riverside, California.**

(Bring a sack lunch.)

**February 14th thru the 17th at California Baptist
State College in Riverside, California.**

(Evenings only.)

**February 18th thru the 20th at Forest Falls Church
in Riverside, California.**

(Fellowship lunch will be served.)

**If you have any questions about the above
meetings please call Jackie at:**

(951)688-3373.