



CHURCH ARISE!

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Promoting a Christian Agenda for the End Times

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NEWS

And The Elections Were Peaceful!

To the glory of God Nigeria has now practically scaled through the much dreaded civilian-to-civilian transition, with the gubernatorial and presidential elections already concluded. Although the election tribunals are yet to begin sitting, making the results still tentative in a way, the big issue is the peaceful manner in which the elections had been conducted.

The months leading to the elections have been characterized by massive importation of fire-arms and sophisticated weapons, organization of private armies – together with fake uniforms of the Nigerian police and armed forces, etc. The stage indeed seemed set for a very bloody battle indeed. Probably hoping to ride high on the wings of the anticipated violence, the movie industry in Hollywood released in March their film *Tears of the Sun*, depicting a rescue operation in a hypothetical war-torn Nigeria. It seemed the best that the most optimistic voices could do was to keep mute and hope for the best.

And it was such a prevailing climate that made the confident voice of the Church, proclaiming peace, so resounding. First it was Pastor Enoch Adeboye, the highly respected General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, who assured the nation that his Daddy (God) had told him that the elections will be peaceful. Back in May last year, at Abuja, he had said “[the elections] will be so peaceful that, by the time it ends people would wonder whether there was an election. Anybody who wants to disrupt the peace of Nigeria, God will put in sheep. You can quote me”. We obliged by quoting him in Vol 5 No 4.

Pastor Adeboye's was not the only voice representing the Church on the Nigerian election. Dr Umai Ukpai (national vice president of Christian Association of Nigeria) early last year confidently told the nation that there is no way the elections would not be peaceful if only on account of the level of prayers Christians are sending heavenward. → contd on p 2

FG to rehabilitate Churches and Mosques destroyed during Miss World riots

“The FG has released an undisclosed amount of money for the rehabilitation of Churches and Mosques destroyed during the last violent protests in Kaduna over the Miss World beauty pageant” reported the Punch on April 7 (page 6). Kaduna State governor, Alhaji Ahmed M. Markafi was quoted as making the claim during the inauguration of a N1.5 billion appeal fund organized by the State

Chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria, for the rebuilding of the Churches destroyed during the crisis. The governor however appealed to the FG to increase the amount already given for rehabilitation “due to the magnitude of the destruction”.

Over 300 lives were lost and properties worth billions of naira destroyed in Kaduna, when Moslem militants went on a sudden orgy of destruction, directed at the Church, over an alleged blasphemous publication in a Lagos-based secular newspaper.

NASFAT youth reacts to alleged plans to sabotage Christian organizations

It is now common knowledge that a supposed confidential letter on NASFAT Youth's stationery became public in the past two months. In the letter, the Youth chapter of NASFAT, arguably the leading Islamic group in Nigeria, solicited for funds to use in disrupting the activities of some Christian groups (e.g. by causing chaotic traffic situations), win back Moslems who had been converted to Christianity, and also cast some sort of Islamic spell on foods consumed by Christians at some popular Christian gatherings such that they would be discouraged from attending such activities in future. → contd on pg 2

Malaysia bans, unbans Bible translation into local languages

Malaysia, the country with the largest moslem population in the world is baring its teeth towards its Christian minority population again. Earlier in April, the Malaysia government announced a ban on the “Bible and 11 other Christian books” written in the native languages of Iban and Bahasa ruling them ‘detrimental to public peace’. Anyone found with such literature faces a jail sentence of up to three years and a maximum fine of almost \$3,500. It is already strictly forbidden for a native Malay to convert from the state religion, Islam; and the government apparently now wants to restrict even access to the Holy Bible only to the wealthiest English-speaking locals. Thank God, with the prayers of the Saints, and due pressure particularly from the West, this ban has been reversed. → contd on p 2

Muslim Proudly Admits Killing Baptist Missionaries

The trial of Abed Abdulrazzak Kamel, the man arraigned for the murder of three Baptist Missionaries in Jibla, Yemen on Dec 30 last year began late April on a confessional note. Abdulrazzak not only admitted to killing the three American missionaries, he actually bragged about it. “I acted out of a religious duty ... and in revenge from those who converted Muslims from their religion and made them unbelievers,” he said. “I

am comfortable [with what I did]," he added. Abdulrazzak had been frequenting the hospital to receive medical treatment for his wife who had been having miscarriages, but apparently he only used the visits as opportunity to familiarize himself with his victims to be. (From Christianity Today, April 2003)

Malaysia (continued from page 1)

The excuse used to justify the earlier ban was the use of the word "Allah Tala" for God, which the Islamic Development Department (Jakim) felt was too similar to the word "Allah Taala" which the Moslems use for God in the Iban language. Christians who usually claim we are serving the same God with Moslems might want to go to Malaysia to make their point! (From April editions of Charisma and Answers in Genesis bulletin.)

United Methodist Bishop says Muslims, Other religionists are already Saved

Bishop Melvin Talbert, ecumenical officer of the United Methodist Church, said on *Larry King Live* (March 11) that Muslims will be saved and should not be evangelized. "They are on their way just as certain as I'm on my way. And what we need to do is to be tolerant with each other and not assume that our way is the only way," said Bishop Talbert on March 11th. According to the Bishop, "That dispute belongs to God. We are here to practice what we preach. . . I believe my God is large enough to be inclusive of all human beings who were created in God's image, and that includes those religions that are not Christians." Supporting Bishop Talbert was Michael Manning, a Roman Catholic priest and host of a popular TV show.

However, other guests of Larry King on the programme, including Bob Jones, Max Lucado and John MacArthur strongly opposed this unbiblical stance. Why did Paul say, "If any man preaches any other Christ than the true Jesus Christ, let him be accursed? Let him be anathema?" asked MacArthur. "Why does the Bible say, 'Neither is there salvation in any other name than Jesus Christ'?" Why does the Scripture condemn anyone who rejects Jesus Christ and the gospel of Christ? Why is the message so exclusive?" Uncomfortable questions indeed for advocates of interfaithism.

Elections (from p 1): He then at that time announced that he was coordinating a 200-day fasting and prayer for the success of the elections. Another major effort that did not go unnoticed was that of Bishop Wale Oke of the Sword of the Spirit Ministries which close to election time organized a mass prayer action, attended by top government officials and politicians, including President Obasanjo, to break the jinx of political violence that had been overwhelming the nation consistently every ten years since 1963.

The clear fact demonstrated by all these developments? God almighty is firmly in control of affairs in Nigeria. If only the Church will arise and consolidate, greater victories remain ahead!

The Road to May 29 – On the march again...

Though the atmosphere is much less tensed, the journey to the swearing in of the newly elected government in Nigeria on May 29, is in many ways

quite similar to the situation four years ago. We hereby wish to remind children of God that "it is not over till it is over"; and they should therefore intensify their prayers for a smooth and successful transition. Remember our article then on the historical significance of May 29? The Ottoman Turks army of Mehmed II gained the victory only because the Christian overlooked the Islamic flag left by a group of the Sultan's soldiers who had already been routed up. May such never occur in our country in Jesus name! Refresh your memory by reading the article again in Vol 2 No 3 May-June 1999 edition – available in the archive section on our website (www.churcharise.org)

NASFAT (continued from page 1)

President Abdul-Rahman of NASFAT Youth has strongly dissociated his group from the letter. Maintaining that the letter emerged from "a group of faceless, mischievous and terrible individuals", he described the letter as a "deliberate attempt to blackmail the leadership of NASFAT". (Punch, March 17, page 10). Blackmail? Could this be some factional problem within Islamic youths then? In any case, Church Arise! is rather surprised at the amount of interest generated by the letter among Christians. We certainly don't need any written document (genuine or otherwise) to remind us that Christians are regularly and constantly under both physical and spiritual attacks and all sorts of spells. Ephesians 6:10ff makes this expressly clear! More than any time ever, this perilous end time period is time to Watch and Pray.

Meanwhile TIMES magazine to expose radical evangelical Christians targeting Moslems

Like its sister organization, CNN, the TIMES magazine is at the vanguard of promoting inter-faithism globally, and it seems particularly irked that 'insensitive' American Christian missionaries in their zeal to win converts are destabilizing "US interests" in Muslim countries in the Middle East. The editors of TIMES further appear surprised that this "radical crew of proselytizers" are undaunted in their task of proclaiming "the Gospel of Christ, even if that means risking deportation, imprisonment or death". The TIMES has therefore decided to embark on an investigative article on this situation. In its pre-research briefing, the TIMES asserts that: "Often, to avoid detection by authorities, this new breed employs a tactic called 'tentmaking' or 'tunneling.' Essentially, this means doing some kind of other work as a cover or pretext, when your real goal is preaching." It is quite clear that this Project is certainly not designed to further the Great Commission! Even missionaries involved in humanitarian services are coming under the sledgehammer of the "no more soul-winning advocates". For instance Samaritan Purse (2003 budget, \$194 million) which is helping provide food, drinking water, clothes and medical supplies to more than 100,000 Iraqis has been criticized because founder, Franklin Graham expressed confidence that God will use the kind

gestures of his group to open the eyes of the Iraqis to His love; and that where the opportunity exists, they will not hesitate to share the Gospel. Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, warned that evangelical groups are merely using humanitarian concerns as a cover for their true motive – to convert Muslims to Christianity. "They go after them when they're most vulnerable and hope they can get them to leave their faith," he told Beliefnet. "It's a very despicable practice." As the times get tougher, and the days become more evil, Christians must nevertheless refuse to allow the Master's work to suffer loss. Christian witnessing and soul winning are the very lifelines of Christianity and we refuse to fall for all these satanic machinations. Church, arise! More details at http://www.newsmax.com/archives/art_21/151852.shtml

In England, Evangelical Anglicans continue to protest new Archbishop-designate

In our last edition, we reported that the announcement of Dr Rowan Williams as the new Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the 70 million Anglican Church Communion is generating some furores, since Dr Rowan is known to be a "humanist to the core". An Anglican Church website monitored by *Answers in Genesis* (AiG) in April is reported to have listed two main issues, with respect to Dr Rowan, causing "deep concern amongst Evangelicals within the Church". First is concerning the perverse acts of homosexuality: 'On the fundamental issue of the truth and authority of the Bible [Dr Rowan] showed that his understanding is one which evangelical Christians cannot accept. The Archbishop designate was clear that homosexual activity is not always wrong, based on a perverse interpretation of chapter 1 of [the] letter to the Romans.'

The second issue has to do with the evolution theory, which the new Archbishop's group claim could be "refined, confirmed and even radically altered by attention to evidence." Evolution theory is a vital force to keep pantheism and other new age ideas alive. We thank God for Anglicans standing for the integrity of the Word of God. Happily for us in this part of the world, the Anglican Communion in Nigeria is mainly in the Evangelical group that affirms the sanctity and truth of the Gospel. We need to keep these people in our prayer. From AiG News. April 29

Cheerful News on Malaria treatment

The BBC on April 22 reports that: Researchers at Edinburgh University's Institute of Cell and Molecular Biology said they have isolated part of a protein which allows the disease to become resistant to new treatments. The team's findings, which have been published in the journal *Nature Structural Biology*, could lead to a new generation of drugs being designed to fight the condition. Malaria kills over a million people a year and is second only to tuberculosis in its impact on world health. Another significant development in the world's medical scene is the announced completion (99.99%) of the human genome mapping (see Punch April 19, page A19).

But Bad News as SARS stages strong appearance

Meanwhile, One of the scientists who discovered the AIDS virus has warned of a "looming catastrophe" if the SARS virus spreads among the large population of people in China who are HIV positive. This he said would be a "deadly combination" indeed. His comments come as the World Health Organisation braces for a major new outbreak of SARS in mainland China where major world competitions are already being cancelled on account of SARS virus. More from: <http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/s837822.htm>

Pastor arrested for bank robbery spree

Christianity Today (April 24) has the following sad story from the Bible Belt of the United States:

Last week the FBI arrested Warren Brown, pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Norman, Oklahoma, as he tried to rob a bank in the area. The agents say he's admitted robbing six banks and credit unions this year. So far, Brown's family and church, an independent Baptist congregation with between 30 and 50 members, aren't talking, though one congregation member told television station KFOR that the church was in financial trouble and hadn't been able to pay Brown's salary. Other pastors expressed dismay, and were surprised by their colleague's actions.

Professor demands students believe in Evolution to get recommendation

Michael Dini, professor of Biology at Texas Tech has told his students he wouldn't write recommendations for them to medical school if they did not believe in the evolution theory. Justifying this position, Professor Dini said: "It is easy to imagine how physicians who ignore or neglect the Darwinian aspects of medicine or the evolutionary origin of humans can make poor clinical choices," (www2.tlct.ttu.edu/dini/Personal/letters.htm). Following a complaint from the Liberty Legal Institute on the matter the US Justice Department commenced an investigation of the matter – since the Professor was not merely requiring his students to understand the theory of Evolution, but rather to believe it! Apparently to have the investigation discontinued and avoid further negative publicity for the already discredited cause of Darwinism, the Professor is reported to have denied requiring his students to hold a personal belief in evolutionism. However, his university are far from being repentant. According to Cindy Rugeley, Vice Chancellor for News and Information at Texas Tech, even if Dini had made such a requirement, it is within his right so to do. "A professor can use whatever criteria they want to make a recommendation," See *ICRs Trilogy* (Vol 3, Society and Scriptures, Chapter 5) for instances of Professors suggesting that even former students who later change their opinions against the evolution theory should have their degrees and certificates confiscated. How otherwise intelligent people become suddenly unreasonable and incoherent once the topic of evolutionism comes in!

CALM NEWS

God's Unfailing Plan for the Ages

Dr Joshua Ojo was one of the guest speakers at the 10th Anniversary of the Osun Conference of the Baptist Students Fellowship held this year at Ejigbo (Mar 7 - 9). The theme of the anniversary was *The Unfailing God*. Dr Ojo spoke on the topic *God's Unfailing Plan for the Ages* where he emphasized that God has a perfect and perfected plan for the world for all times, and that this plan has been revealed to mankind. Knowing that he cannot touch the plan, Satan nevertheless is working overtime to confuse issues, re-define terms, and make the Plan generally incomprehensible to man. Dr Ojo then went ahead to highlight how the Gentile nations, Israel, and the Church all fit into God's unfailing plan for the ages. He described the present time as the period of grace and a 'Gap Period' of indeterminate duration after which the seventieth week of Daniel will be played out. He closed by challenging his audience to arise and play the part reserved for them in this great Plan. Dr Ojo said he considered it a privilege to be invited to speak at the august bi-annual event, usually reserved for distinguished speakers within the Baptist convention.

Microchip Lecture successfully held

Our advertised lecture on the microchip, titled: Microchip – mark of progress or mark of the beast held as advertised on March 19. In the well-illustrated lecture, Dr Joshua Ojo showed that computer micro-chips despite their infinitesimal sizes, are nevertheless the heart of computers; and having a chip implanted is practically the same as having a computer within. He highlighted various developments in the microchip industry, and the increasing popularity of microchip implantation in man for various reasons ranging from secure personal identification and access control, surveillance and monitoring (especially for aged, kids, high-profile politicians, etc), medical, and economical. Dr Ojo pointed out that the real danger in having a microchip implanted inside people is that the microchips (being essentially computers), can be re-programmed, and remotely too. Citing the works of Dr Carl Sanders and Prof Kevin Warwick, he also pointed out that the fact that for at least two independent but vital reasons, the technology and applications will only allow the chip to be implanted only either on the head or hand of humans is too much in accord with Biblical predictions for the mark of the beast to be explained as mere coincidence. With the well-known advances in cybernetics promising not only to make the contents of chipped people's mind accessible for monitoring, but also for potential manipulation, Dr Ojo believes the microchip implanted not only fits all the Biblical specification for the mark of the beast, it also shows why those who take it might be totally beyond redemption. He closed by citing current developments in the microchip culture within Nigeria. Unfortunately the lecture was hampered by a number of factors including poor attendance, heavy downpour, power outage, clashes in hall usage, etc. However, a video recording was repeated the next day, and is available at our Library for borrowing.

Bootcamp: OLIVET 2003

Three years after our highly successful 1st bootcamp (GETHSEMANE 2000), all is now set for the 2nd bootcamp organized by the Church Arise! LivingWater Ministries. The purpose of the present bootcamp, tagged Olivet 2003, is to present a comprehensive overview of end time matters particularly to young Christians who have a call of God on their lives for various specialized ministries. The Christ Ministers' Institute has kindly released its lecture auditorium for the Bootcamp.

FROM THE MAIL BOX

Calvary greetings. I will so much like to subscribe for the Church Arise magazine when I read a copy of it, I was deeply touched and developed great interest in it. Borokini Temitope Israel, Ibadan

"The new organization – the missionary society – turned prophetic conviction into action. A wide spectrum of churches and denominations was involved. The tiny Moravian community was the acknowledged leader, not only in time, but in numbers of missionaries in proportion to its membership, and the lengths to which they were prepared to go. Moravian missionaries in the West Indies even sold themselves into slavery."

The History of Christianity (A Lion Handbook), 1990, p 558

FAMILY AND SOCIETY

Cults in Private Christian Universities?

Apart from the guarantee of stable academic calendar, another reason why most parents are willing to cough out the substantial amounts of fees required for University education in private universities, is the hope for a cult-free environment (especially in Christian institutions). It would seem the cults are trying to establish a foothold in these universities however, for according to a news report in the Punch (March 17, page 6), Babcock University, an SDA institution, recently had to expel 13 students "over anti-social activities" – a term generally regarded as a euphemism for cultism! The authorities at Babcock are certainly not pulling their punches. 12 other students "whose conducts were found questionable" have been issued stern warnings and an official statement by the University further warned that "any student or non-student member of the University community seen or genuinely believed to associate or interact with [the 13 expelled students] was liable to be considered a *participis criminis* and treated as such".

Meanwhile, a new document on cultism is now available in our Library. Titled, *Reaching, Counseling and Rehabilitating cultists in Institutions of Higher Learning in Nigeria*, it is a thesis recently submitted by the editor of Church Arise!, Dr J.O. Ojo, for a Post Graduate Diploma in theology to the Redeemed Christian Bible College, Lagos.

African Governments protest ban on use of American money for abortion

More than 100 African government officials, jurists and academics have reportedly slammed President George W. Bush of the United States for what they term his "Global Gag Rule" on abortion. (Punch March 28, pg A2)

In actual fact what the so-called rule demands is that, as is the policy within the United States, foreign organizations also should not use American tax payers' money to provide abortion or lobby their governments to legalize abortions. It is this basic condition that these apparently noble African champions from health ministries in 8 African countries including Nigeria are protesting at a Conference held in Addis Ababa in March. This is really shameful! Their perspective is that by not legalizing abortion, people are pushed to incompetent abortion clinics. The moral issues and damages involved in promoting legal, on-demand abortion seem a minor point to these 'free choice' advocates. How beneficial it would truly be, if the vast money, efforts and time used to seek legalization of killing of unborn human babies could be channeled towards promoting responsible sex in Society! Recall the UN (Vol 5 No 2) and Britain (Vol 5 No 1) annually give multi-million dollar aids of condoms to Nigeria. Not only is it well known that condoms are unreliable for preventing STDs and unwanted pregnancies, they certainly promote more irresponsible sex, leading to more reasons to seek abortion. What a vicious satanic cycle!

Abortion versus Fetal Homicide

Meanwhile, in San Francisco, Scott Peterson has been charged with murdering his wife, Laci, and her unborn baby. According to the police, "Scott killed Laci, attached cement blocks and fishing weights to her body, wrapped it in a tarp, and then dumped her into the San Francisco Bay". However the unexpected happened as a large storm stirred up the Bay a few weeks ago, and in the process, the body of the unborn baby and what was left of Laci's body washed up on shore. The interesting twist to this tragic story related by Bill Keller is that Mr Peterson is being charged for double murder – that of his wife, AND that of the unborn baby. The question then is whether someone could be justifiably charged for killing an unborn baby. The clear answer, according to many states in the United States which have passed "fetal homicide" statutes is a big YES. However in passing these "fetal homicide" laws which makes a criminal of a person who killed an unborn child due to act of violence, the state legislators have had to make a HUGE exemption – and that is abortion! The laws do not apply to medical doctors who carry out abortion, but really, what is the difference?

Child Right's Bill and Nigeria

Advocates of the UN crafted Child Right's Bill (CRB) continue to do overtime, trying to convince not only the National Assembly but also the Nigerian public on the desirability of the bill. Church Arise! has had a lot to say about the Bill even long before it was drafted or

ever brought to Nigeria. Like we made clear, it is based on concepts directly received from demonic entities: the chief document being the World Core Curriculum given to Robert Muller by the demon Dwahl Khul (see article on page 7 or on page 131 of The Time is Fulfilled).

As is the usual practice with New Agers, the CRB consists of several desirable points, mixed with one or two deadly poisons. And since only little poison is needed anyway to destroy lives, the entire medicine (the CRB) must be rejected. For instance, Ronke Odusanya in her column in the Punch, (Feb 22, Page A9) in trying to sell the CRB, proudly reels out several benefits of the CRB to include "prohibition of corporal punishment", access to acquisition of citizenship and nationality, and strengthening of "inter-country adoption". All these clearly point to the general UN agenda of "internationalizing/globalizing" our children and raising them up the UN pantheistic way rather than according to the parents' religious persuasion and personal convictions. Interestingly the reason the Bill failed at the Nigeria National Assembly was that Moslem northern lawmakers frowned at the attempt to prohibit "early non-consensual marriages". Christians have far more serious reasons to either reject the Bill or at least demand its being re-written. In case somebody out there is finding all these rather tedious, remember, we are talking about **your children**!

We value your faithfulness

Your support is vital in assisting Church Arise! to provide ongoing ministry. If, in addition to your prayer and moral supports, you are willing and able to give to Church Arise! as the Lord leads, please simply mail in a cheque to CALM, P.O. Box 1674, Lagere, Ile-Ife; or drop call at our Secretariat, 7, OAU Conference Centre, OAU, Ile-Ife. Thank you.

Amnesty International plays 419 with Sharia

The Spanish branch of Amnesty International (AI) is currently collecting signatures from gullible people all over the world, for a petition purportedly to save Amina Lawal from being stoned to death. Amina, from Katsina state, was convicted by a Sharia Court on August 19 last year on the grounds of adultery. The petition which claimed that Amina is set to be executed come June 3, has already amassed an incredible 2,600,000 signatures, according to the AI. However, it appears this is in reality the mother of all "419" being perpetrated by highly respected AI, as the facts on ground are completely different.

Dr Ndubizi Obiorah, a Nigerian professor of Law at Harvard University (nobiorah@law.harvard.edu) investigated the matter and reported to a Nigerian internet chat group *Naijanet* which understandably, was highly interested in the case. He explained that Amina's case is actually still pending at the Sharia Court of Appeal in Katsina, and that Amina is

"NOWHERE near execution". Should the Sharia Court of Appeal uphold the 'stone-her-to-death' judgment, Amina still has the options of going to the Federal Court of Appeal and ultimately the Supreme Court. Even then, in the very unlikely event that the execution is upheld by these higher courts, the President of Nigeria still has the right to grant a state pardon – which OBJ has already informally declared he would. Who then is the petition supposed to persuade? Dr Obiorah, believes all this is yet another example of "Western 'human rights' organizations" deliberately spreading "sensational and misleading reports" about Nigeria "in order to generate funding for their activities".

The petition by the AI which is supposed "to make the Nigerian government rescind the death sentence on Amina" can be found at <http://www.amnistiaporsafiya.org/>. This really exposes the various reports (probably including also those on human rights, election monitoring, etc) by International groups as usually being biased and tailored to promoting vested economic and political interests as desired by such groups and their sponsors. Isn't this really shameful?

PS. As we were going to Press, we came into contact with an official statement by the group BAOBAB, which is the local NGO actually representing Amina contrary to the AI's claim to that title. The statement confirmed the findings of Dr Obiorah, and further affirmed that ill-informed petition and letter-writing campaigns actually do more harm to the cause of the victim than good. More information available from Ayesha Imam at ayeshaimam@earthlink.net

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Britain gets closer to universal cashless society – and mark of the beast?

Millions of pensioners and unemployed people in Britain (the only set of people who may not currently have a bank account) will now have to open one under a new scheme launched on April 1. This will allow government to now pay social security benefits electronically rather than by giro cheque. According to government, "it will also help the financially excluded to gain a foothold in Society". Government wants to convert all 14 million benefit recipients to the new system by 2005. (Punch April 3, page 44). e-banking is of course microchip driven; and this development draws the world closer to a situation where no one may "buy or sell" unless they have the right number. It is an open secret that the number and other details are currently being embedded on microchips which for now are mainly on plastic cards. However the ultimate end will be to put the chips under human skin, thus perfectly fitting the descriptions of the Bible for a universal mark of the beast (Rev 13:16-17). Subcutaneous chip implantation is already happening for diverse applications, and the move is fast gaining momentum every day.

BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY – The Lord Jesus Christ in Rev. 22:12

Hacker accesses 2.2 million credit cards of Visa and Mastercard accounts.

Meanwhile, the fact that chip-bearing credit cards are not altogether fool proof was demonstrated by the above headline. (Punch Feb 22, 2003, page A22).

What else to do but device more rugged encryptions, perhaps based on biometry, and which will thus provide seamless integration – if the chip were already implanted within the body? Voila, another compelling reason for jumping at the 'opportunity' for chip implantation. Or would you rather risk a visit from the hacker, with virtually your entire life on that chip?

EU plans to create office of Executive President...Tony Blair interested

The dizzying transformation of the revived Roman Empire continues as the European Union currently makes new proposals for the future. With already a common currency, parliament, and framework for a common military force and official language, about the only thing left to meld the various communities in the Union into one country is for it to have an executive president. And that is exactly what is now being proposed. The idea first publicly mooted by President Chirac of France has been receiving wide enthusiastic supports from all over.

Equally interesting is that the proposal for the position came with a favoured candidate already attached – Tony Blair of England. Not only has Blair himself expressed interest in the job once he steps down from office in August of next year, he has the support of his ally George W. Bush, and several other leaders in Europe. Chairman of the convention on the future of Europe, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France believes the EU needs a president if it is to punch its weight on the international stage. It is generally believed that the creation of such a post would help to settle the decades-old question posed by Henry Kissinger of whom to call in Europe for any emergency. The current system has the EU presidency changing hands every six months. According to the early drafts of the EU constitution, the president would be elected by heads of government of member states and would hold office for five years.

Highly respected end-time Prophecy analyst, Todd of Rapture Ready comments on this development: "The proposal to create an EU presidency has 'Antichrist' written all over it. I would go as far as to say the plan will eventually lead to Mr. 666 stepping onto the world stage. We have no way of knowing whether Tony Blair is the Antichrist. The original Book of Revelation didn't come with pictures....If the first president of the revived Roman Empire happens to be the Beast, Tony Blair might indeed be Satan's man. In Revelation 17:12-14, we are told that 10 kings will rule with the Antichrist and they will elect him to power. The passage seems to imply that Europe will not have a series of leaders before the Antichrist comes to power.

PS: As we were about going to the Press, we got the news that Tony Blair is now openly talking about his

religious beliefs, a matter which reportedly is causing tremendous "unease" in England (The Observer, May 4). However what we find rather interesting is the kind of 'faith' that is being ascribed to Blair. The picture is that of a deeply religious Christian who "regularly reads the Bible on holiday... [but] is also known to take an intense interest in other faiths, particularly Islam". Despite being a member of the Church of England, Mr Blair also takes Catholic communion. Indeed, his catholic wife Cherie, recently arranged a private audience between the family and the Pope shortly before the [Iraq] war. Of course Mr Blair may not at all be the antichrist; but one must agree that all the above facts perfectly fits the bill of the spiritual profile expected of the eventual character who would become the antichrist. We keep our fingers crossed.

Middle East Peace Plan back on the table

With the ouster of Saddam already accomplished, the US is again facing the larger goal of securing peace in the Middle East, promising to put the "wheel to shoulder" until its 'Road Map' plan for peace is eventually realized. Already, Yasser Arafat, generally recognized as the main cog in the wheel has been forced to literally step aside and appoint a Prime Minister, Abu Mazen, a candidate welcomed by all, including Israel. Are we finally on the final lap to seeing the Middle East Peace treaty realized? These are truly momentous times.

Meanwhile, an analysis by Kroenig News is pointing out that over the years, destructive tornadoes occurring in the United have been accompanying significant progress at the Middle East Peace plan table! See cnn.com/2003/WEATHER/05/05/tornadoes/index.html for report of the latest tornadoes killing at least 38 people in Kansas. "When Israel's land and property is at risk, the same is true for the land and property of the United States" the commentary concludes!

Now the true colour of Humanistic Peace Advocates

The New Age group continues to use its deceptive 'peace campaigns' to recruit the innocent naives into her worldview which is ultimately a direct frontal attack on the Sovereign Lord God of the Bible. The acclaimed leader in this group is Robert Muller, so-called prophet of Hope in the United Nations, and President-emeritus of the UN founded University of Peace at Costa Rica. With the openly acknowledged assistance of a named spirit being, Muller is the man behind the World Core Curriculum – the new educational guidelines for the new age, already adopted by the UN and under implementation by UNESCO. The self-deluding position of this group is that mankind can solve all its own problems without any appeal to any God external to it. According to these "new agers", if there were any God anywhere, it is us humans. Of course, Robert Muller, for several years undersecretary general (real power behind the scene) at the UN sees the United Nations as the only solution to all of humanity's problem.

Recently however [April 21], in his daily 'ideas to transform the world' postings, (Mail@GoodMorningWorld.org) he posted to subscribers his idea no 59 (conceived on 7th Sept. 1994) which proposed that:

When an international conflict has remained unresolved for 30 years because the parties concerned do not want to come to agreement, the UN should close the door, refuse to continue to deal with the problem and interpose UN peace-keeping troops, and proclaim, "Enough is enough."

In making this proposal, Robert Muller was only, at least for a brief moment, facing the realities of protracted problems that had refused to follow the simplistic proposals of the so-called "Peace Movement". In fact, apparently in preparation for the inevitable all-out attack on the monotheist religions (see for example Vol 2 No 6), Mr Muller is already putting the blame squarely on these religions:

"Conflicts, especially protracted ones, have often as their main reason to preserve and reinforce an identity. ...Religious fundamentalism is a determining factor."

Not surprisingly, all this sudden about-turn surprised many fans of Robert Muller and generated their comments. One wrote from the United States,

"I have been reading your daily thoughts for some time and 99% of them I completely agree with. Idea 59 is one I have trouble with. It seems to me in a genuine quest for world peace that we cannot simply give up if peace is not achieved in some specified period of time. There is always hope and this idea seems to contradict many I have read previously."

But others are agreeing with Robert Muller nevertheless. One concurred that though the idea "may sound harsh in some people's ears, especially pacifists", nevertheless it is true that some people/nations cannot be helped in any way until when they have identified with the whole community". And since many will initially refuse this melting into the common global identity, "sometimes ... a lot of suffering [is] needed before people/countries are ready..."

What all these show is that the humanistic peace movements have no clue about how to bring true peace on earth (apart from creating situations like Rwanda and lately Iraq). Isn't it much more reasonable to put one's hope in the Prince of Peace, the One who claimed and has proved to be the creator of all things – Jesus Christ?

Meanwhile, it has been disclosed that several of the peace activists who offered themselves as "human shields" in Iraq were actually CIA moles, and these helped to facilitate the quick prosecution of the war by encouraging top Iraqi military commanders to defect and providing intelligence information to Washington. (see report by Phil Brennan, NewsMax.com, April 21, 2003).

PS. Robert Muller also is coming out more blatantly on the spiritual aspect of his works. In his idea 750 of July 9 1996, (e-mailed out on May 5 this year), he 'confessed' that "there were many mysterious coincidences in my daily life, and I had the impression that many unemployed saints were floating around this planet, ready to help. When they saw someone opened to them like me they flooded down to help in the most extraordinary ways". Christians know that Mr Muller "unemployed saints" are no more than fallen spirit beings, also called demons.

EXHORTATION: The Testimony of Life

The question concerning every instrument raised up by God in relation to His purpose is, "What justifies God maintaining that vessel?" It is evidenced there are things which do not justify His preserving that instrument.... You understand we are speaking about the instrument and not about salvation.

Listen to it. We have not been apprehended just to be saved. Our salvation is a basic introduction to something much more. The Lord gathers His own together to form them into a corporate vessel of divine purpose. The one constant essential thing in the divine thought in raising up such a vessel should not be lost while any other things continue. It is the Lord's standard of judgment we look at. The one inclusive thing we learn from the survey of the churches [Rev 2 and 3], is that the Lord deals with every life or vessel in the light of His specific purpose and not its general usage. These chapters would never have been written if the Lord had simply taken the view, "while this vessel is not wholly bad; there is much value here; therefore, I will save it, support it, and preserve it." Why are we saying this? Because many say when you speak like this you are an extremist. Why not be satisfied with what is commendable in the church today? Because the Word of God will not allow it. God's judgment is always concerning what the vessel was raised up to be in the first place. When you see God's purpose, when you see what He has designed for His church, you can never be satisfied with nominalism or with general goodness. This Word tell us quite plainly that whether there be a great past, or a great history of divine blessing and use, none of these things is an adequate justification for the Lord keeping that vessel. He must let it go unless the real purpose for which it was raised up is being fulfilled.

Pastor B. H. Clendennen, culled from the above titled lecture from *The School of Christ Lectures Vol 1, Voice of Victory*, P.O. Box 26001, Beaumont, Texas 77720

"On January 12, 1723, I made a solemn dedication of myself to God, and wrote it down; giving up myself, and all that I had to God; to be for the future, in no respect, my own; to act as one that had no right to be himself, in any respect. And solemnly vowed to take God for my whole portion and felicity; looking on nothing else, as any part of my happiness."

Jonathan Edwards, *Personal Narrative*

TOPICAL ISSUE: Baghdad after Saddam

The first part of the battle for Baghdad has been concluded with the United States now firmly in control. As we predicted in our last edition, the next phase of the battle is for the long-term control of Iraq; and that one is currently on-going, intensely. Our position remains that the United States will not find it easy implementing her plan of virtually indefinite occupation of Iraq. Already, it has conceded that the UN will be needed to play 'critical' roles in the post-Saddam Iraq. But the UN wants more than a 'critical' role. It wants a 'central' role. Our prediction is that pressure will continue to mount on the United States as it is already, by Iraqi citizens themselves, and also by the Arab nations in the Middle East who are not exactly looking forward to having a US type western democracy in their neighbourhood, with the destabilisation that is certain to bring! We had thought there would be some more terrorist acts within the US to 'blackmail' the US in changing its avowed policy in Iraq, but even without that, (thankfully too), it is still sure that the US cannot have its way all the way. Pressure from European President aspirant, Tony Blair, might be equally effective in changing Washington's views.

At the end of the day, we expect a new UN-US structure, that weakens both the United States sovereignty and the United Nations current form of democracy to produce the eventual vehicle that will usher in the antichrist into the world's political arena. Furthermore, despite current halting and pulling down of the city of Babylon, Saddam Huseini's pet project, we expect that the new UN will eventually rebuild the city and make it its capital.

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Questions, comments and substantiated information of relevance to this newsletter are most welcome. We thank you for your continued interests and supports.