



## Isolated Disasters Or A Sign of the Times?

by Mark Armstrong

Natural disasters causing tremendous destruction and enormous loss of life have dominated the headlines for weeks. The incredible death toll on the shores of the Indian Ocean, along with the agonizing plight of survivors amid all the death and ruin serves to remind us all how suddenly disaster can strike. Still in a state of shock as those scenes of desperation continue to be broadcast into our living rooms, we learn that record-breaking rains in southern California have caused numerous additional tragedies. Some have been buried alive, others swept away and drowned by raging floodwaters. And, as is always the case in violent natural calamities, small, innocent children fall victim too.

Try as we might to find some reason or logical vantage from which

*Continued on page 7*



## Earthquakes In Diverse Places

by Michael Burkert

The massive earthquake, which produced the tsunamis in southern Asia, continues to baffle and amaze

the world. The unbelievable forces of nature have now killed nearly 200,000 people. No one will ever know the exact numbers of people killed in this, one of nature's mass disasters. Yet, believe it or not, this is NOTHING like what is soon to happen in many parts of our sin filled nihilistic, satanically ruled world.

As horrible and as unimaginable as this disaster is, it is only a precursor to what is going to ultimately happen on planet earth prior to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Please recall what Jesus said in the Olivet Prophecy, specifically Matthew 24:7, "For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines

## TWO EMERGING KINGS

By Dr. James & Natalie Ricks

DANIEL 11:40-45 speaks of the KING OF THE NORTH and KING OF THE SOUTH as major players on the world scene at the RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST. The American people and media are not aware of the great danger to us that these TWO WORLD POWERS REPRESENT. They will lead to expansive and powerful empires. Prophecy warns us of the danger of two

emerging Kings. These two frankenstein monsters are emerging right before our very eyes and most of us are BLIND TO THE PROPHETIC REALITY!

### KING OF THE NORTH'S UKRAINIAN EXPANSION

The Ukraine, often called "Little Russia," has just shocked Russia by voting in a pro-European Union leader, Victor Yushchenko. Victor,

*Continued on page 4*

*Continued on page 6*

# Is NAZI Legitimacy in Germany's Future?

by Mark Armstrong

The neo-Nazi movement is alive and well in Germany, and gaining political strength and popularity. While the German government has attempted to legislate against their gatherings and the use of their symbolism, they've nevertheless found ways to circumvent attempts to suppress their organization. An attempt to ban their political party (NPD) was struck down by the German Constitutional Court, partially on the basis that there are divergences between the political party and the neo-Nazi movement, even though the NPD is seen as the political wing of the neo-Nazis. Now there is frightening evidence that the movement is forging ahead with plans to gain political legitimacy by means of winning seats in the Bundestag, Germany's Parliament. It should be noted that the movement is currently regarded as a dangerous fringe element by a large majority of the population, and viewed with fear and suspicion by politicians currently in power. The German press expressed grave concern late last September when state elections in Saxony and Brandenburg awarded the NPD with nearly ten percent of the popular vote.

But here is the latest development. Germany's two far-right political parties have formed a new al-

liance, and are expressing earnest determination to win seats in the German Parliament. The National Democratic Party (NPD, known as the neo-Nazi party) and the German People's Union (NVU) have officially joined forces to achieve the goal of a prominent (and potentially violent) presence within the government. Their plan is to appear as a single entity on voting ballots dur-

**“We will no longer be the whipping-boys of the left,” said Voigt. “Whoever attacks us, should expect to get hurt,” he said after listing various attacks on far right supporters.”**

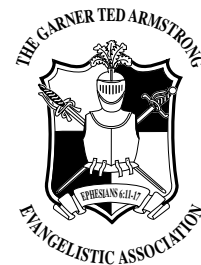
ing next year's federal election, playing on many of the themes which were so effective five decades ago.

Germany, along with the rest of United Europe is a massive welfare state, seeing its financial resources being depleted, largely by resident foreigners, at an unsustainable pace. It is a situation that threatens the economic future of the entire European Union in its present configuration, and a theme that is gaining traction with growing numbers of voters in Germany.

Ominously, the political boss of the NPD, Udo Voigt, is promising violent retaliation against any who oppose them by force. And vio-

lence is the calling card and the legacy of the nationalist movement in Germany. Consider the following recent quote carried in the German publication *DEUTSCHE WELLE*. “NPD boss Udo Voigt declared that the combined force of the two parties would shake the mainstream parties to their core and that the far-right's election campaigns would be such that the opposition would be unable to believe their eyes or ears. He gave no further details but offered a belligerent warning to those who wished to oppose them by force. ‘We will no longer be the whipping-boys of the left,’ said Voigt. ‘Whoever attacks us, should expect to get hurt,’ he said

*Continued next page*



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after listing various attacks on far right supporters.”

Voigt, and his party use “freedom of speech” as their basis to justify the propagation of Nazi slogans and philosophies. Interestingly, Voigt was denied an entry visa to Australia, where he planned to address a free speech conference known as the Sydney Forum in 2003. Australia’s foreign minister released



Udo Voigt

a statement claiming he was “directly or indirectly linked to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction” in order to ensure the denial. The ac-

cusation was deemed without merit and dubbed as “theater of the absurd” by the Australian Foreign Minister’s critics.

A recent story carried by *United Press International* begins, “The European Union will break up within 15 years as a result of its countries being dragged down by unsustainable welfare programs, a



Increasingly bold neo-Nazi movement in Germany

CIA report says.”

In a situation similar to that here in the United States, politicians are fearful that discontinuing “government benefits” and other social programs would bring a quick end to their own immediate political ambitions, whether or not crisis looms further down the road. An economic crisis in Germany, with indolent foreigners viewed as the root problem, is exactly the kind of scenario which could lead to the ascendance of a new German na-

tionalism reminiscent of the circumstances which brought Hitler to power in the 1930s. Remember, Hitler never had more than 37% of any popular vote, and he was strongly opposed by the majority. He came to power as the result of a series of behind-the-scenes agreements, and used the economic crisis fomented by the Great Depression to blame the status quo for the nation’s plight. Are dominoes aligning which could bring about a repetition of history? □

## The Very Latest on the NPD and Udo Voigt

*Submitted by Anthony Miles, Norway*

**A** couple of articles have appeared very recently in the Norwegian daily newspaper *Aftenposten* the last two Sundays (16 & 23 January), about the German NPD party, both written by Trygve Monsen.

Germany has had two nationalistic parties, The National Democratic Party (NPD) and the German Peoples Union (DVU). Up to last year neither of these parties have had representatives in either the

local or the national government. But this has been changing due to growing discontent about the high unemployment and the many immigrants that have settled in Germany in recent years.

Last autumn the NPD surprisingly won 9.2 percent of the votes in Sachsen, a German State, mainly due to the work of one man, Udo Voigt. Their representation in this state, is almost the same as the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

This has been creating a stir. Last week 12 members of this party

walked out of the assembly in Sachsen before there was a minutes silence in commemoration of victims of the Nazi rule in Germany, the bombing of Dresden and the fact that it is now 60 years since the release of the prisoners at Auschwitz. The leader of the NPD party in Sachsen, named Holger Apfel, declared that the bombing of Dresden was homicide committed by Anglo-American gangsters and compared it to the killing of six million Jews, saying

*Continued on page 13*

# KINGS

*Continued from page 1*

after being blatantly deprived of an electoral victory, has now won the presidency. Pro-Russian forces are still attempting to undermine the election results. It is clear however, that a majority of Ukrainians want to join the European Union and separate themselves from Russian influence and domination. This will increase the size of the European Union enormously. Vladimir Putin, Russian President and Viktor Yanukovich vigorously opposed the Ukrainian Western drift. There is some evidence that they went so far as to secretly poison Victor Yushchenko, but the attempt failed.

It is apparent that the vast majority of Eastern Europe, including the Baltic States, which are near Leningrad, plan on joining the European Union. Based on population, this United Europe, stretching from deep inside Eastern Europe, all the way to Portugal, will be a vast political and military empire, much larger than the United States of America. This conglomeration of diverse states will be unparalleled in European history. The political power of this entity will be similar to that of the Roman Empire in its most dominant days.

## UNPRECEDENTED EUROPIAN UNITY AUTHENTICATES THE BIBLE

The Bible, in the book of Daniel, predicts that at the end time ten kingdoms will unite behind one leader. Ten power blocks will unite Europe in a manner that historically would have been considered impossible, short of conquest. Hitler tried it, Napoleon attempted it by force and both failed. Yet, it will happen

when the correct leaders are in place. Daniel, while in Babylon, wrote of the great world empires, many centuries before they came to power. The book of Daniel also tells us of the coming King of the North (Europe) and of the King of the South (Middle East). The past and ongoing fulfillment of these prophecies proves that the Bible is infallible.

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## BACKGROUND OF UKRAINE— THE BORDERLAND

The Ukraine is the borderland between Poland and Russia and has been ruled by both powers. (Ukraine actually means borderland.) Unlike Russia and her autocracy, Poland had a constitutional monarchy that was dominated by the nobility with parliamentary institutions and extensive liberties. Russia gradually acquired the Ukraine beginning in the seventeenth century. By the mid-twentieth century only Galicia was still in Polish hands. As a result of the Stalin-Hitler accord, Russia took Galicia by force. Under Stalin's maniacal rule the region suffered terrible deprivation, including extreme socialist agricultural experi-

ments that starved between seven and nine million people. When the USSR dissolved in 1991, the Ukraine declared its independence. Ukrainians have more motivation to be in the western orbit than in the Russian spheres of influence.

## AMERICA'S EUROPEAN RIVALS

A quiet trade war has been developing with the European Union in recent years. A measure of a trade war is the comparative value of currencies. It is not difficult to note that one reason for the decline of the U.S. dollar is that the world now has an alternative currency, which is the euro. Much of the world's oil is now traded in euros instead of dollars as in the past. Some key European Union states (France and Germany) openly opposed America's war with Iraq. Their opposition went much farther than just not wanting to help an old ally. The French pressured Turkey at the last minute into not allowing American forces to invade Iraq from Turkish soil. This probably cost American lives, because it delayed American troops and allowed Saddam not to have to divide his forces to face the invasion. Is the future Beast starting to show its economic and political teeth toward America and Britain? They openly opposed America!

## KING OF THE SOUTH — BIN LADIN FACTOR

Bin Ladin entered the Afghanistan-Soviet War as a wealthy young heir. He exited the war as a Pan-Arab hero. He was admired for the contribution that his organization, Al-Qa'ida (the base) had made in the first Arab victory over a major infidel power in modern times. Bin

Ladin is a product of traditional Saudi Wahhabism, enjoying riches and a privileged position. What many believe characterizes him is his Pan-Islamic stance. His capabilities to administer a program across national lines and to form alliances make him a viable candidate for unifying leadership. He has charisma and courts TV publicity and interviews. He is considered by some to be the darling of the Muslim masses.

The retreat of the Soviet Union made him a hero to all Arabs and boosted their pride. Events would soon put him in conflict with his own country, Saudi Arabia. When Saddam Hussein started massing his army on the Saudi border, after an easy conquest of Kuwait, the King of Saudi Arabia asked America for help. Allowing U.S. troops to be stationed on the holy soil EVEN TO COUNTER THE AGGRESSIVE SADDAM enraged Bin Ladin. Later the Saudi government had an opportunity to have Bin Ladin turned over to them for arrest but they declined being afraid of his popularity.

### **PROBABLE TRUE PURPOSE OF 9/11 ATTACKS**

Many believe that the primary objective of the 9/11 attack was to impress the masses in the Middle East and to force all the nations in the area to support Bin Ladin's leadership and his holy war fundamentalism. Bin Ladin thought that blowing up the twin towers of the World Trade Center would be the spark that would ignite his revolution. He was sure that such a spectacular achievement would galvanize Muslim pride and support for his revolution. His goal was to unite the entire Middle East under his leadership via religion. He has been quoted as saying that he is working

toward an international Muslim government to rule all Muslim states. He hoped that most Middle Eastern moderate or somewhat secular states would fall or agree to the new radicalism because of the power of Middle Eastern public opinion.

Fortunately, President Bush's forceful response and the world's public condemnation of 9/11 have prevented Bin Ladin's initial rise to

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power. Thus far, the timing of the 9/11 attack has not acted as a catalyst to cause Bin Ladin to have been swept into power, nor does it yet appear that the moderate Moslem states are ripe for collapse. Whether or not Bin Ladin gains a leadership role in the Middle East, the movement and concept of unification around radical Islamists is quite alive and well in the region.

### **GOAL OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST MOVEMENT**

The following quotation is from a website describing the terrorist group, AlQa'ida. They state that "Al-Qa'ida is multinational, with members from numerous countries and with a worldwide presence. Senior leaders in the organization are also senior leaders in other ter-

rorist organizations, including those designated by the Department of State as foreign terrorist organizations, such as the Egyptian al-Gama'at al-Islamiyya and the Egyptian al-Jihad." Al-Qa'ida seeks a global radicalization of existing Islamic groups and the creation of radical Islamic groups where none exist.

Bin Ladin's Al-Qa'ida supports Muslim fighters in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Chechnya, Tajikistan, Somalia, Yemen, and Kosovo. It also trains members of terrorist organizations from such diverse countries as the Philippines in far away Asia to Algeria, and Eritrea in Africa.

Bin Ladin's Al-Qa'ida goal is to "unite all Muslims and to establish a government which follows the rule of the Caliphs." He is attempting to use the fame and notoriety garnered from the Afghanistan/Soviet War and the attack of 9/11 to galvanize support in the Arab world for unity and one empire. Bin Laden has stated that the only way to establish the Caliphate is by force. Therefore their goal is to overthrow nearly all moderate Muslim governments, which are viewed as corrupt and to drive Western influence from those countries, eventually abolishing state boundaries.

Bin Ladin and other extremists promulgate their version of the conspiracy theory. They believe in their deceived minds, that the U.S. and the West are responsible for most of the ills of Middle Eastern countries. Also blameworthy in this mix, are secular Middle Eastern governments which are accused of decadence. The West is even blamed for the decline and poverty of this region. This theory enables them to manipulate their followers to hate the West. Using the West as a scapegoat thrives among those Islamists who wish to motivate followers so

*Continued next page*

# Earthquakes

*Continued from page 1*

and pestilences, and EARTHQUAKES in diverse places.”

Some time ago, I wrote an article entitled “Pestilences in Diverse Places.” In that article, I warned that the Great Tribulation would soon be upon us. I stated that the final emergence of the seventh and final Roman Empire will come to pass, and much sooner than many believe possible. This is not my prediction; I am not a prophet and make no such claim. Yet I know what the Bible says, and it’s pretty clear if you believe what it says. Look in your Bible, once again to the Olivet Prophecy. Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:21, “For there shall be great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no nor shall ever be.”

We all know that earthquakes are not new. We all are aware that earthquakes have always occurred in the world, long before the time of Jesus, and during and after His lifetime on earth. Yet the frequency and the magnitude of earthquakes are most definitely on the rise. Why? Could it be the end time prophecies are actually coming to pass?

War brings about unbelievable destruction. But what of natural forces? What of supernatural

forces, such as what Satan is capable of producing? What’s more powerful? An atomic bomb or a tsunami? I think you know the answer to that one. Mankind and his puny efforts to destroy are minimal when compared to the forces of nature. Mankind, even with our atomic bombs, our “smart” weapons, bunker busters or whatever, is in no way equal to the forces that Satan the devil will soon unleash upon this world. Satan knows his time is short and he’s not too happy about it!

**Expect more  
“natural disasters”  
and large volumes  
of victims in many  
different places  
on this earth.**

**IT CAN ALL BE SWEEPED  
AWAY IN A MOMENT**

One of the interesting things about this current disaster is the amount of home video that was shot in Sumatra, Indonesia, Thailand and India. In one reel of footage, it was obvious that something was amiss, as the surf had dropped off several

hundred yards. Then, the first wave of the tsunami struck. It struck with unbelievable speed! At that point, the German tourists who shot the footage began to scream for Uncle Willi to get back into the bungalow. Uncle Willi never made it however, because again, with unbelievable speed, the second massive and killer tsunami wave struck. In literally moments, everything was swept away in the path of mind-boggling force.

This should be a reminder to all mankind. Life is very unpredictable, very fragile and very short. This message will not go unheeded by the brethren in God’s church. That’s because we as watchmen understand end time events are beginning to unfold at an ever-increasing pace. We are also acutely aware of God’s plan for mankind, and this world. Unfortunately, the majority of human beings extant have rejected God’s way, His rule of law, and His purpose for His most precious of creations, that being human life.

**JESUS WARNED OF  
TROUBLES TO COME**

Without going into a litany of recent earthquakes, pestilences and assorted other disasters, natural and manmade, I think it’s worth noting

*Continued next page*

# KINGS

*Continued from page 5*

that they can have CONTROL over them. U.S. support for the despised state of Israel further fuels a hatred common to all the Arab nations.

## CONCLUSION

Will Bin Ladin survive the man-hunt for him? Will he be the king

of the South? It is clear that whether he survives and achieves this goal or not, the concept of unity among Middle Eastern nations has taken on new life. Someone will come along to fulfill this role and the prophecy. The stage is being set for both kings while the American media is oblivious to these dangerous trends. But we Christians should watch for the fulfillment of Bible prophecies and use them as our incentive to finish

God’s Work and to overcome our sins. The geopolitics of our day is visible proof of the Bible’s authenticity. Dan 12:3-4 describes those of us living in this end time age of travail and states that we will turn many to the righteousness that comes from the blood of Jesus Christ our Savior. We must do God’s work and grow spiritually. Help us turn many to Jesus Christ before the two evil empires fully arise! ☐

# A Sign of the Times?

*Continued from page 1*

to view all these tragic deaths and terrible suffering in the aftermath, it nevertheless leaves us confused, saddened and emotionally stunned. The United States, as always, has hurried to provide relief and assistance to the injured and beleaguered survivors, along with others. Some it seems always try to turn every high profile event, no matter how heartbreaking, into an opportunity

to engage in political gamesmanship! But that's another subject.

Many wonder aloud about the apparent acceleration of the destructive forces of nature. Does it signal the beginning of the great TRIBULATION? The question has been asked again and again, not only in church circles, but we're seeing speculation seep even into mainstream media. We're warned to

"WATCH and pray always..." But for many, they've already experienced their tribulation. I don't know of greater tribulation, albeit on an isolated basis, than that depicted in a scene which I included in a recent GTA telecast, that of people running for their lives in front of the giant wall of water that crashed ashore in the recent tsunami.

It is as if we are being reminded over and over again of just how fragile and susceptible we human

*Continued next page*

## Earthquakes

*Continued from page 6*

what Jesus said to his disciples immediately after warning them of such disasters that will plague this earth in the latter days.

Jesus told us in Matthew 24:8, "ALL THESE ARE THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS."

Unfortunately, the people of earth have been deceived, as it has been Satan's great pleasure to do so! Even the millions who think they're "Christians" and their pastor or preacher, or other kind of "holy man" has got it right; yet they reject the Eternal's Ten Commandments, and claim "that they were nailed to the cross."

We have now entered the beginning of sorrows, as Jesus Christ warned us so long ago. Expect more "natural disasters" and large volumes of victims in many different places on this earth. We will see an increase of warnings in the near future. Earthquakes, and the inevitable disease or pestilence that follows are going to kill millions. The Four Horsemen of Revelation have begun their ride!

"But when you hear of wars and insurrections and tumult, don't be terrified, for these things must come first and pass, but the end is still to

come." (Luke 21:9)

The next few years are most certainly going to be tumultuous. We will see "the days of vengeance" spoken of by Jesus in Luke 21:22, that which had been previously revealed to us by the prophet Daniel.

Natural disasters, manmade disasters and war are the cousins of disease or pestilence. Even with our modern "miracle medicine," man is incapable of stopping disease epidemics that break out in various parts of the world today. Many scientists who study pathogenic bacteriology and virology are fully aware of our total lack of ability to stand off a serious disease pandemic when one breaks out in our nation.

### DISASTERS WILL STRIKE THE UNITED STATES IN THE END TIMES

I am reminded that a natural disaster of mind-boggling proportions could easily strike the United States. Imagine the loss of a large portion of the West Coast, from California to Washington State, if an earthquake were to erupt along the San Andreas Fault. Do you suppose that the USA as we know it could weather such a calamity? Would the United Nations come to our rescue? How about Germany, France, Swe-

den, or any nation for that matter? Sadly, the answer is no.

Despite the disruptions and wars and calamities that we will soon have unleashed upon us, I think it's imperative to remember the TWO KEY PROPHECIES, which Garner Ted Armstrong warned us to watch for. The first prophecy is found in Luke 21:20, "And when you shall see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that the desolation thereof is imminent."

The second prophecy is found in Matthew 24:15, "When you therefore witness the abomination of desolation, standing in the holy place as spoken of by the prophet Daniel, let whoever reads this understand."

These prophecies have not yet come to pass. The end of the age will not arrive until these prophecies are fulfilled. Your Bible is clear on this matter. Although many will read these words and scoff, you either believe the Bible, or you don't.

Jesus Christ is going to return to this earth. He will serve the Eternal God as our King of kings and Lord of lords. Satan will finally be taken out of action, and confined so he can no longer pervert and deceive. There will be no tsunamis, disease or pestilence in the Kingdom of God. □

# A Sign of the Times?

*Continued from page 7*

beings are in contrast to the ferocious powers of nature God built into our environment. Without divine protection, and the hope of the resurrection, we mortals just don't stand a chance. You can't help but wonder how the intellectually self-important in our society maintain their disdainful attitude toward God. Chances are they just can't imagine themselves in the place of those trying to outrun that wall of water. Prophetically speaking, we know that a great tribulation is coming on God's timetable. But it would behoove us all to realize that tribulation, on a personal level, can strike at any time, and God expects us to remain "ready."

Recently, the (ordinarily somewhat stuffy) *Economist* magazine devoted its cover to "The end of the world, a brief history of an enduring belief." A good part of the lead article is devoted to modern belief in the "rapture." And relatively modern it is! According to the article, "John Nelson Darby, a 19<sup>th</sup> century British evangelical preacher, was perhaps the first to popularize the idea," noting that he extrapolated on the apostle Paul's letter to the Thessalonians where he wrote, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thessalonians 4:17).

How the great doctrine of the "rapture" in which millions place their confidence could have been crafted from those words is almost as mysterious as belief in the "trinity!" It is obvious from the context of the quote above that it is referencing the time of the resurrection at Christ's return! And yet, it has

become a doctrine of "escape" from the "Great Tribulation" for millions of modern Christians. Isn't it interesting that the earliest propagation of the "rapture" theory didn't come until the 19<sup>th</sup> century? In other words, *nearly eighteen hundred years passed* after the time when the apostle Paul wrote those words before anyone reached the conclusion that this was an event by which Christians could escape the prophesied tribulation!

And that begs another question. Are none of those we've seen suf-

**...the world's religions simply have no doctrine, no reasonable logic with which to deal with these events.**

fer and perish in so many tragedies over recent years worthy Christians? Were their tribulations not great? Why weren't they spared? These are questions that just don't fit the preconceived notions of today's Christian mainstream. When religious leaders recently were asked, "What happened to all those people," in reference to the recent tsunami, "did they all go to heaven, or are they in hell?" The answer came back, "I just don't know..." How simple it would be if those who promote "religion" could stand for the simple truth that the dead are "asleep," awaiting resurrection. That God, in His wisdom and mercy will decide who has had their chance and who has not, and reward them accordingly.

Back to the *Economist's* treatment of the popularity of the "end of the world" theories, they mention the incredible popularity of recent novels such as the *Left Behind* series which has sold upward of 40 million copies. A good portion of the article goes on to chronicle the foundation of an atheist cult, led by a former French race car magazine correspondent who claims he was abducted by an alien spaceship and, to circumvent most of the nonsense, his group expects aliens to transform earth with new technologies once he gathers enough donations to build them an embassy in Jerusalem.

Far fetched? It sure is. But mainstream Christianity has concocted beliefs that have caught on through the force of "religious authority" and "herd mentality" which are no more justifiable than that of the alien cult.

The Bible does talk about a time of great tribulation leading up to the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ, and of the Kingdom He will establish on this earth. As Garner Ted Armstrong wrote just a few years ago, "rapturists," like "survivalists" and "escapists," have their minds on the *preservation of this physical life!* We hope to be able to re-publish his writing on the subject of the "rapture" in the very near future.

Meanwhile, we can't help watching as one catastrophe after another overtakes fragile human beings and realize that the world's religions simply have no doctrine, no reasonable logic with which to deal with these events. They teach that the "good Christians" go right to heaven. But do they literally believe their deceased relatives are wafting around overhead? Conversely, that the un-Christian, including the little

*Continued next page*

# Is Iran Next?

by Mark Armstrong

**H**ow likely is a U.S. preemptive strike against Iran's nuclear facilities? If criteria used as logic for the war with Iraq are applied to Iran, you'd have to conclude that there is very likely an urgency among Pentagon planners, and no doubt in Israel as well! Iran has the will to wreak havoc, and will very soon have the means. But Iran presents several complicated problems that make it a completely different case from that of Iraq.

A sizable percentage of the Iranian population is culturally pro-American, kept in check by a ruling theocracy of Mullahs. By many accounts, the Mullahs are very unpopular among the rank and file in Iran. Islamic religious rule has not delivered the utopia foreseen by Ayatolla Khomeini and his radical followers. The younger generation has had enough access to satellite television, western publications and movies to be well aware of how backward their society is. One personal account I read illustrates the unpopularity of Iranian clerics, saying they are hard pressed to catch a taxi if they're wearing their religious garb. They are avoided and treated with fear and suspicion by the population.

Iran is three times the geographical size of Iraq. The mullahs have gone to great lengths to split up and conceal components of their nuclear programs, making the prospect of knocking out their facilities by aerial bombing alone next to impossible. The sheer size of the country renders a troop invasion improbable, particularly given the fact that American forces are already spread thin in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Pentagon is vigorously denying a

**Neither Israel nor the United States can afford to stand by and wait to see what the fanatical Mullahs will do with nuclear missiles under their command.**

recent story that Special Forces reconnaissance missions are currently under way, with the intent of pinpointing strategic targets in advance of a bombing campaign. But they surely couldn't acknowledge such an operation regardless of the truth.

Iran is unapologetically pursuing

nuclear technology. They have acquired missiles capable of striking anywhere in the Middle East, and with the potential of hitting targets in Europe. Iranian diplomats attend conferences and with a straight face assure the international nuclear watchdog agencies that their intent is entirely peaceful. The explanation makes no sense at all, as Iran is already among the top energy producers in the world, another blatant indication of dishonesty in regard to their nuclear program. Iran is known to have funded terrorism for decades, and believed to have cooperated with, and even harbored Osama bin Laden at various times since he was chased from the caves of Tora Bora.

"President Bush refuses to rule out war with Iran. Iranian President Mohammed Khatami says his country is ready to defend against a U.S. attack," according to a current article by the *Associated Press*. Vice President Dick Cheney addressed current concerns in recent days by suggesting that Israel "might well decide to act first—without being asked." Some analysts wondered aloud whether the V.P. was giving a veiled "green light" to Israel. Undoubtedly, there are plenty of serious U.S.-Israeli discussions in

*Continued next page*

## A Sign

*Continued from page 8*

children of Hindu or Moslem societies are being tormented in hell fire, whether or not they have the guts to say it on national television! Personally, I'm doubting that many truly believe that, but it is the "doctrine" the mainstream churches

teach!

All "good Christians" will not escape tribulation, whether isolated, regional, or as part of the global upheaval Bible prophecy shows to be yet in the future. My Dad pointed out how God chose some of His greatest servants in history to be martyrs, and in any case we have no business second-guessing His will. I don't think I can improve on

the words my Dad wrote at the close of his booklet on the "rapture."

"Let us not trust in false hopes, but in Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and God the Father, who loves us, and who promises *eternal life with Him* in His Kingdom to those who 'endure unto the end,' whether that means the end of our own physical lives or the end of the Tribulation and the Day of the Lord!" □

## Is Iran Next?

*Continued from page 11*

progress behind the scenes, and no such “green light” could be taken from off-handed statements in a radio interview.

Israel has to be more than mildly concerned, given the fact that the country is within easy range of Iranian missiles, the destruction of Israel is a stated goal, and all observers agree that nuclear warhead capability is not far in the future. Still, lip service is given in the hope of a diplomatic solution. European Ambassadors have been conducting endless meetings with the Iranians to no avail. Europe would no doubt be apoplectic if the U.S. were to “go it alone” without their approval, again. There is talk of UN sanctions, and so forth. Moves that would predominantly make life miserable for the population rather than the ruling class, as we’ve seen occur in so many other instances. Some hope it might lead to an uprising and overthrow of the Muslim regime, though revolution certainly wouldn’t come without considerable bloodshed, and with no guarantee of success.

But it is clear to all concerned; **something has to give** in this situation. Neither Israel nor the United States can afford to stand by and wait to see what the fanatical Mullahs will do with nuclear missiles under their command.

The BBC news recently published the following quotes from publications in Israel, Pakistan, and Iran. Various approaches are addressed, from the prospect of sanctions to bombing campaigns. It is interesting to see the logic employed in that part of the world, and the likelihood of the latter scenario largely discounted by the official media in Iran.

### Israel’s *Jerusalem Post*

“Talk of military action against Iran should be taken at face value, because there may soon be no choice. But before that happens, these threats should spur Western non-military sanctions that—if they are comprehensive, swift and drastic—could still address the problem as effectively at a lower risk and cost. If military action becomes the only remaining option, Europe will have no one to blame but itself.”

### Israel’s *Haaretz*

“It is important for the Americans not to give the impression that they are eager to precede diplomatic discussions with a military strike, but also to remind the Iranians that their bluff in the nuclear poker game is liable to fall apart in the face of a card that is not part of the European deck the Israeli joker.”

### Pakistan’s *Nawa-I-Waqt*

“According to some news reports, the U.S. is close to punishing Iran. The U.S. could use Pakistan to this end because Iran has been involved in creating unrest in Balochistan. But we say Pakistan and Iran are brother Muslim countries. The U.S. and the U.K. are leveling various allegations against them to destabilize both of them. The people of Pakistan hope that their government will not give a helping hand to the U.S. for any action against Iran.”

### Pakistan’s *Pakistan*

“The Pakistani ambassador to the U.S., Jehangir Karamat, has urged the U.S. to use diplomatic means to end its differences with Iran because military action would cause instability in the entire region. We say

this suggestion is correct and realistic. If the U.S. attacks Iran, Muslim countries would be right to conclude that the U.S. campaign is not against terrorism but against the Muslim world.”

### Iran’s *Iran Daily*

“America knows that Iran is not Iraq and cannot be occupied easily. Therefore it is increasing diplomatic pressure on Iran and its partners. The current trend indicates that the U.S. will be content to exert pressure on Iran over the next four years.”

### Iran’s *Tehran Times*

“There simply aren’t any American troops available to invade Iran. What would really tip the whole area into acute crisis is a re-radicalized Iran that has concluded it will never be secure until it has expelled the United States from the region.”

### Iran’s *Resalat*

“American rulers have not been able to achieve their ideal security situation in Iraq or Afghanistan yet. So it doesn’t seem rational for the U.S. to open a new front by attacking Iran, which would be more difficult than ousting the small regime of the Taliban or the unpopular Baath regime.”

### Iran’s *Iran Daily*

“The Islamic Republic of Iran cannot remain immune from mounting U.S. pressure. In the face of a new round of war-mongering policies and propaganda warfare, Iran needs to adopt a comprehensive approach based on boosting transparency and international trust without compromising its national interests.” □

# WHEN GOD DECIDES IT'S TIME

by Michael Burkert

**T**oday, as I drove to work from my home in Leimen-Baden, Germany, I couldn't help but notice how peaceful the morning was. Germany has all the trappings of a modern prosperous nation. I see the modern miracle that's Germany because I live and work here. However, appearances can be deceiving. Excessive debt incurred by the German government as a result of having embraced the European Union with little help from the French and other EU nations has taken a toll on the German economy. Only Great Britain has spent more of their taxpayer money than have the Germans. It's beginning to show.

The modern German nation is based on the concept of Liberal Socialism. The German system was founded on the principle that the needy would always have the government to provide for their housing, food and medical care. From cradle to grave, Germans have enjoyed the benefits of the "Nanny State." But wait! The current system in Germany was actually envisioned by Adolf Hitler and his National Socialists. How is it possible for such a system to be in existence in our modern 21<sup>st</sup> century world?

Following the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945, the victorious allies were tasked with administering a shattered nation. No nation in history (save possibly Japan) had ever suffered the destruction that was extant in Germany. Millions of German men, women and children were homeless. They had no food, no shelter, and no fuel for heat. Germany was a destitute nation. Over one-third of the German landmass was ceded to Poland, Czechoslova-

kia and France. Twenty million ethnic Germans from the former German territories were on the road walking toward the west, carrying what they could push, pull or drag.

Had it not have been for the Marshal Plan and the endless BILLIONS of American dollars devoted to rebuilding Germany, MILLIONS WOULD HAVE SIMPLY STARVED. Believe it or not, there were many people in our country, and many

**The German nation  
will once again  
suffer extreme  
hardship, poverty,  
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more in Europe that actually WANTED that to happen. But it didn't.

The day after Germany surrendered, the WOMEN of Germany, called the *Trümm erfrauen* along with children, old men and crippled war veterans, allowed out of the Allied prisoner of war camps, began to clean the place up. There was simply nothing else to do.

Along with beginning to put things back into order, the allies took a hard look at the existing laws and rules that had governed Germany under Hitler. Other than to write a new constitution, as General MacArthur did for the Japanese, the Allies took a look at the old Weimar Republic constitution and declared it denazified. After all, Nazi Germany never had a unique or distinct constitution. Hitler merely supplemented the Weimar constitution

with a series of National Socialist Laws, or "Führer Decrees." The allies negated most of the National Socialist laws, and reinstated the Weimar constitution as the basic law of West Germany. They picked and chose the best of National Socialist law, as on the surface, some of them looked pretty good.

National Socialist Germany after all, was a SOCIALIST state. Laws that encouraged German families to have more children, as an example, were deemed more than necessary in light of the fact that the German nation had lost more than 24 million killed in the war. *Kindergeld* or special payments to German mothers for bearing a certain number of children, was kept. It exists today in modern Socialist Germany.

All of the more liberal aspects of National Socialism remain today as they were in 1945. Only the "National" part of National Socialism was actually dismantled. Even in 1945, there was a very liberal American influence on the future path the German nation would follow. The effects of those old Nazi policies, allowed to continue in postwar German society are being felt today.

The postwar *Wirtschaftswunder* or economic miracle can be attributed to two things. The first contributor was the BILLIONS of U.S. dollars, spent to rebuild Germany under the Marshal Plan, and the second, the ghost of NATIONAL SOCIALISM.

**A NEW NATIONAL  
SOCIALIST STATE WILL  
SOON RISE IN EUROPE**

For most of my lifetime, I heard  
*Continued next page*

## WHEN GOD DECIDES IT'S TIME

*Continued from page 11*

Garner Ted Armstrong talk about the coming Beast power in Europe, and the seventh and final restoration of the Roman Empire. People scoffed at the very idea that Germany could ever again be a strong country, let alone a WORLD POWER.

Even my own Dad, a World War II veteran who KNEW how badly Germany was defeated in 1945 scoffed at Mr. Armstrong's preaching. My Dad was a good man, and I respect him for being the wonderful provider and friend that he was, but my Dad was wrong. I still remember him remarking after an old "World Tomorrow" broadcast back in 1965, "Well, that Garner Ted is a fine preacher. Best I ever heard, but he doesn't know much about Germany!" He went on to tell me how badly the German nation was destroyed in World War II, and how he didn't think that the Germans would ever amount to anything again.

Garner Ted Armstrong was right. He knew that Germany would rebuild. He knew that Germany's destiny was to once again become a WORLD SUPERPOWER, even stronger than she had been in 1939. He knew because he read and understood the Bible.

Modern German prosperity is a façade. The German economy is a fragile and very unstable economy. When it crashes, and crash it will, the German nation will once again suffer extreme hardship, poverty, a wiped out middle class, and overnight, TRILLIONS OF EUROS will simply disappear. Few realize that the strong euro and weak dollar is killing the economies of Europe. The liberal reporters and pundits in the United States moan and groan endlessly about the "weak dollar," and fail miserably to mention the

VAST AMOUNTS of manufactured goods flowing OUT of the United States at record levels!

I hear what the German reporters are saying, and it's this, European factories cannot compete, the cost of manufacturing goods in Germany is too high. Productivity is low, due to socialist labor policies and practices. Germany simply cannot compete with the United States, when the dollar is so weak. Note that the original intention of combining the economies of Europe was to accomplish two major goals. First, to economically overwhelm the United States with a combined, powerful economy of a European SUPERSTATE (with Germany and France at the center of influence).

Secondly, the European Union has as an objective to see to it that the euro replaces the dollar, as the "world currency." The EU framers failed to recognize their flawed, Liberal Socialist system that continues to punish achievers and reward the nonproductive and others who refuse to work. There is a growing underclass in Europe, who expects the "system" to support them at the level THEY CHOOSE. Indications are that this state of affairs will soon overwhelm the various European Union member nations, as more and more decide not to seek employment, but to enroll in the many "social programs" available.

From the ashes of economic calamity, will rise a very special leader. A very special man. The Bible describes this man as having great powers to "flatter" his people. He will be the most charismatic new leader of this century. People will marvel at his ability to speak, and to motivate people to pick themselves up, repair their shattered national economy, go back to work (in

many cases learn how to work), and once again join their "natural" place as a leader, in the family of nations.

### ECONOMIC COLLAPSE WILL CREATE HAVOC

Today, the United States, the European Union, and Japan are locked into a desperate economic struggle. Many people fail to realize that other nations, the EU, Japan and CHINA have intentions that are not favorable to ours in the United States. Accordingly, the current Administration in Washington is attempting to combat efforts to destroy us both militarily (Al-Qaeda terrorism) and economically. The majority of European nations led by France and Germany oppose the United States, not only in the war against terrorism, but on the economic stage as well.

What is the most rapid means of bringing down a government, creating a vacuum that can be filled by a new voice, a new force, and a "new order"? The answer is ECONOMIC COLLAPSE. Economic collapse has destroyed monarchies, democracies and dictatorships. Economic collapse, brought on by the ultimate fall of the euro as a "world currency," WILL BRING ABOUT TUMULTUOUS EVENTS WORLDWIDE.

The fall of the euro will create economic havoc on a worldwide scale never seen before. Even nations that are not under the euro currency will be damaged severely. Debts will be paid in worthless euros causing otherwise stable, strong businesses and industries to fail. The coming collapse of the euro will most certainly be felt severely in the United States. The world economies are more intertwined than most people are aware, and even many

*Continued next page*

politicians realize.

### **THERE IS A WAY TO AVOID PUNISHMENT AND TRIBULATION**

Believe it or not, there is some very positive information readily available in your Bible that if followed, would lead to a way out of all these coming troubles. It's called repentance. God warns us, through biblical prophecy, that people and nations can repent, and thus avoid punishment. There is a coming punishment, a Great Tribulation for the United States and Great Britain, that is actually avoidable! God will protect those who listen to His prophetic warnings and change their lives. There is actually an example of a sinful, rebellious nation that the Eternal was prepared to destroy. That nation was Nineveh and you can read in Jonah 3:10 that the people were warned to repent, and **THEY DID REPENT**. The Eternal blessed the people and nation of Nineveh as a result of their national repentance, and efforts to live the way they were intended to do so.

Sadly, this is not going to hap-

pen in Europe. It's unlikely that anything resembling a national repentance in the United States will ever occur. Can you imagine the outcry in our partisan news media, if a President of the United States went on national television and implored our populace to get down on our knees and ask the Eternal God for forgiveness? A President asking the American people to do such a thing would no doubt bring immediate impeachment proceedings. It wouldn't matter what the definition of "is" is.

As end time events continue to unfold at an ever-increasing pace, continue to keep your eyes on both Europe and the Middle East. The world situation is not getting any better. More and more two-bit nations, such as North Korea, Iran and others will soon have **NUCLEAR WEAPONS**. Eventually, somebody is going to use a weapon of mass destruction against Israel, Europe or the United States. What will be the response?

Mankind continues to prove his absolute inability to live in peace and harmony with his fellow man. Oh, we can create a peaceful envi-

ronment for a short time, but seem absolutely incapable of sustaining peace and harmony among various nations on this planet. The feeble and pathetic so-called United Nations is a prime example of man's inability to create an environment of peace and harmony. I know of only one way to get a majority of UN members to agree on a single issue, propose some kind of condemnation of the state of Israel! Only the Eternal God, through Jesus Christ can bring about lasting peace and prosperity.

At some point in the near future, God is going to finally have His fill of our rebellious attitudes, our sinful ways, our willing advancement of the abominable "homosexual" agenda, our wars, and our utterly deceived satanic ways. When God decides it's time, things will move very rapidly. Only He knows when that time is to be, and it's likely that our Eternal Father continues to hope for our repentance and change, in the manner that the people of Nineveh repented and changed so long ago. Change is coming to the world, **WHEN GOD DECIDES IT'S TIME**. □

## **Udo Voigt**

*Continued from page 3*

they had not been accurate when counting the dead at Dresden.

There is an election coming up in Schleswig-Holstein in February, and another in Nord-Rhein-Westfalen in May. It will be interesting to see if the NPD will also win seats here. Recently the NPD has begun to work together with the DVU and Udo Voigt hopes to get a seat in the Bundestag (National Assembly) in the general election next year. He has been getting many supporters in what used to be East Germany.

We can take a look at Udo Voigt's background, because it explains a bit about why he is where he is today. Born in 1952, he joined the NPD as a teenager in 1968. His father was a Nazi who returned from imprisonment in Russia in 1949 and was therefore not allowed to wear a uniform. Voigt joined the German armed forces, as he wanted to become a fighter pilot. He made it to the grade of captain, but he was told that he would have to change his political views if he wished to remain in the forces. He left the armed forces in 1984. He has been working full time for the NPD since 1996.

His views are radical, calling

Hitler "a great German statesman" and saying that Chamberlain started the Second World War. He openly states that he has been called to save Germany from immigrants. His aim is to annul the German Federal Republic and to reinstate a National German State.

He is a person who knows how to use people and has a reputation for discarding them when they are no longer useful. He has been removing neo-Nazis who have been causing problems, from his party. He is certainly someone to keep an eye on in the political season ahead. □

## Letters:

Dear Mark,

Hello to all in the Work at Flint. Congratulations on *21st Century WATCH*. Each of the articles were superb. I didn't think you could do it so well.

You didn't pull any punches and that's what makes your publications so interesting. Papa would be proud of all of you.

The article on Spain should be required reading for every one above the 7th grade, in the western world. It was one of the best history lessons I ever had.

If the incident that took place today in a grandstand display of separating an American's head from his body in front of the world doesn't wake up our White House . . . .

Thanks for the article on, "see that you be not troubled." I needed to be reminded about that. The other night while watching the news channels I went "ballistic," into overload. My wife thought I had lost it. However I couldn't change anything. I didn't watch any news for the next few days. Now I limit myself as the article suggested. That article really hit home.

Again I want to say that I enjoyed all the articles in this issue. I pray for you and your family always, as do others. You appear to have the organization under control and will perpetuate what your grandfather started.

May the Lord bless you all,  
*J.R., Dufur, OR*

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

We would like to thank you for sharing the knowledge of

God's word with us. We pray God's blessings on you and yours.

In Christ, *The D's, Valrico, FL*

Please send me the tape "Christmas, The Untold Story." We love your program. You speak biblical truth, and thank you for that.

*Ms.J.M.Y., Anchorage, Alaska*

Dear Sir,

I would very much appreciate and be grateful to receive the literature offer: "The Long Tradition..." and the "Gospel Message for the next Millennium." I thank you and I thank God that the work continues.

*J.L., Monia, MI*

Mr. Armstrong,

I received your booklet on prophecies, and I really enjoyed it. It was explained to me better than I had been taught, and it made me more knowledgeable. May God continue to bless you and the ministry.

*J.B., Durham, NC*

Dear Mark,

I didn't have the privilege of ever meeting your dad but I would have loved to have been able to shake his hand and tell him personally how much I appreciated his dedication to the truth and work of our Great God. I am 65 years old and have never known of anyone that could speak with such knowledge of so many subjects interwoven with his sermons on the truth of God. He was truly different from all the mainstream religious leaders.

I can remember in some of his tapes how he would say don't take my word for it, read it for yourselves in your Bible and that is what I would do. I knew that if I found it in the Bible that it was the truth. I can truly say that I believe that Garner Ted Armstrong was called and ordained of God. He was multi-talented, one of the best speakers that I ever listened to. I can understand why God would call such a man for His Work. I am thankful that you, his son, have continued this Work. I pray that God will continue to bless you and everyone that has a hand in His Work. I thank God for the Truth.

Sincerely Yours in Christ Jesus,  
*B.H., Mt. Airy, NC*

Dear Sir,

I watched your program on "The Answer to Unanswered Prayer." I wish to receive two copies, one for myself and the other for my daughter. Enclosed is an offering—I'm not trying to buy the books, I know anything from your ministry is free.

Thank you,

*W.A., Watertown, SD*

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I really have grown since I have been studying the literature you have provided in the past, it has meant so much to me. Thank you and God bless you all.

*S. M., Alabama*

Dear Mark Armstrong,

You and all of your co-workers and staff are doing a wonderful job of carrying on GTA's inspiring work. Thank you so very much. *R. R., Colorado* □

# Television Log of GTAEA

- Super-Station WGN, 6:00 a.m., Mon., Eastern
- Rhode Island (statewide) Cox Comm., Ch. 14, 9:00 a.m., Sat., Eastern
- Sacramento, CA—RCC-TV cable, ch. 19, 10:30 p.m., Sun., Pacific
- Tampa, FL—WTTA, 6:00 a.m., Mon., Eastern
- Paducah/Cape Girardeau, KY—Fox 23/KBSI, ch. 9, 7:00 a.m., Sun., ch. 49, 8:30 a.m., Wed., Eastern
- New Orleans, LA—WVUE, 6:30 a.m., Sun., Central
- Hattiesburg, MS—WHLT, 6:30 a.m., Sun., Eastern
- Dallas/Ft. Worth/Denton, TX, KFWO ch. 52 or Dish Network 8409 or Direct TV 901, 6:30 AM, Wed., Central
- Springfield, MO—UPN, 9:00 a.m., Sun., Central
- Raleigh/Durham, NC—WRAZ-Fox, 6:30 a.m., Sat., Eastern
- Knoxville, TN—WBXX WB20, ch. 20, 6:30 a.m., Sun., Eastern
- Nashville, TN—WNAB-TV, 8:00 a.m., Mon., Eastern
- Huntsville, AL—WZDX, 6:30 a.m., Mon., Eastern
- Norfolk, VA—WTVZ, 7:00 a.m., Fri., Eastern



## Cable Access:

- Inter-Mt.-Cable—WPRG TV-5, 10:30 a.m., Sun., Mountain
- Ft. Wayne, IN—Cable Access, ch. 10, 2:00 p.m., Sun., Eastern
- Lexington, KY—Public Access, 9:00 a.m. Tues., Central
- Jackson, MO—Galaxy cable, ch. 5, 8:30 a.m., Wed., Eastern
- St. Louis, MO—KDNL, 6:30 a.m., Sat., Eastern
- Durham, NC—Public Access, ch. 8, 10:00 a.m. Wed., Eastern
- Cincinnati, OH—INSIGHT TV, 9:00 a.m., Sat. and 4:00 p.m., Sun., Eastern
- Bentlyville, PA—INFORMATION ch. 4, 7:00 a.m. Sun. and 9:00 a.m. Mon., Eastern
- St. Paul, MN—SPNN, 11:00 p.m. Sun., Central
- Austin, TX—Cable Access-Austin, 4:00 p.m., Mon., Central
- Kansas City—Time Warner, 5:30 p.m., Fri., Central
- Norfolk, VA—WTVZ, 6:30 a.m., Mon., Eastern
- Olympia, WA—TCTV cable, ch. 22, 8:00 a.m., Wed. & Fri., Pacific
- Seattle, WA—Public Access Channels 29 & 77, 9:00 a.m., Mon., Pacific
- Macon, GA—Public Broadcasting, 7:00 a.m., Fri. and 12:00 noon, Sun., Eastern

## Radio:

- Daleville, AL—WTKN, 10:00 a.m. Sun., Central
- Fordyce, AR—KBJT AM 1570, 10:30 a.m., Sun., Central
- Brandon, MS—AM 970, 8:00 a.m., Sun., Central
- Temple / Waco, TX—KTEM, 10:00 a.m., Sun., Central
- Wheeling, WV—WWVA AM, 8:00 a.m., Sun., Eastern

The message of witness and warning is going out to the masses via the GTA television program, books, articles, video and audio tapes and of course our web site, because people like you make it possible. Our sincere thanks to each and every one of you for the personal contributions you make toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Also the INTERNET! Visit our Website:  
<http://www.garnertedarmstrong.ws>



# *TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY WATCH*



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## IN THIS ISSUE:

**Isolated Disasters or A Sign of the Times?** By Mark Armstrong ... See page 1.

**Earthquakes in Diverse Places** By Michael Burkert ... See page 1.

**Two Emerging Kings** By Dr. James & Natalie Ricks ... See page 1.

**Is NAZI Legitimacy in Germany's Future?** By Mark Armstrong ... See page 2.

**Is Iran Next?** By Mark Armstrong ... See page 9.

**When God Decides It's Time** By Michael Burkert ... See page 11.

**Letters** ... See page 14.

**Television Log of GTAEA** ... See page 15.

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