

CHURCH ARISE!

Vol 2 No 2 March – April, 1999

Promoting a Christian Agenda for the End Times

EDITORIAL: Preparing for the Coming Apostasy

As Christians living at the close of the age, one fact that should certainly make us sober is the statement in 2 Thess. 2 vs 3:

“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed....”

Thus, the Bible makes clear to us that at the end times, probably one of the very last events that will precede the coming of the Lord, will be the departure from the faith of many who today profess Christianity. This will be closely associated with the revelation/manifestation of the anti-christ. We may thus imagine the scenario: the anti-christ, demonstrating in convincingly awesome terms his technological/psychical capabilities, unfolds his programme and vision for a truly revolutionary **new age** for all mankind (see Vol 2 No 1); and very many Christians get so enraptured by these that they conscript their faith to the dustbin. The great apostasy will involve multitudes of Christians, renouncing the key elements of their faith and thus disqualifying themselves from participating in the Kingdom.

We know the antichrist will be a very religious man. So he will certainly not require that people stop going to church. Only that those who will believe in the literal interpretations of Jesus' words will be made to suffer ridicules. Of course this is not a new strategy at all. Even today, there are already so-called 'great theologians' – supposedly Christians, who give a liberal interpretation of the Scriptures. They reject the miracles of Jesus, the virgin-birth, His resurrection from the dead, or that He is the only way to the Father - not to bother mentioning His deity. The Lord's warning on those who would be ashamed of **His words** in this world (Mark 8:38) clearly suggests that it may not be particularly fashionable to quote Him in the end times – the word 'fundamentalist' is certainly acquiring more and more sting these days.

Once the pillars of the Faith have been demolished, it will then be trivial to make satanic ideas and practices including homosexuality, abortion, and various other offshoots of fleshly passion, to be generally acceptable to all. 2 Peter 2:1-3 also puts it as INEVITABLE that false teachers will arise. This, no doubts, will be to soothe the conscience of those who will take this hell-ward direction, renouncing their Lord and Saviour.

At Church Arise! we are burdened to share the seriousness and urgency of this forthcoming event. Imagine it, apparently honest and hard-toiling Christians finally failing to make the Rapture! How can we guard ourselves? We believe that ultimately, everything boils down to how much we really are attached to the world (cf. Jhn 14:30b).

Will you be sad if the Lord comes now, just when you are about completing your professional training and joining the upper echelons? Honest to yourself, wouldn't you have a pang of regret about missing all the beautiful things current technology is promising or perhaps your friend's new political office, should the trump sound today? Whatever is your own case, if anything (even considerations for 'the ministry') will make you feel sorry if the Lord should come today, you probably have to seriously re-evaluate where your love is currently being lavished. → pg 3

“But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.”

The Lord Jesus Christ in a parable in Matthew 25:5

Religious Riots in Indonesia

Serious religious riots are being witnessed in some cities in Indonesia. The fracas between Moslems and Christians left about 65 people dead at the city of Ambon, before spreading to Medan. In our last edition, we mentioned the persecution being faced by Christians in India and Ilorin, Nigeria. Christian communities involved are actually beginning to threaten to return the violence being unleashed upon them if the respective governments continue to maintain current carefree attitude. Let's pray for the peace and safety of God's people all over the globe. It could be anybody's turn tomorrow.

Obasanjo, President-elect writes book on Prayer

In a previous edition (vol 1 no 4), we were excited to report that ex-Head of State, General Obasanjo had become born-again while in prison. The reality of his Christian experience was confirmed not only by his Christian disciples made in prison, but also the hundreds of his employees at Otta who readily testified that they now have a new boss. Now this man is resolutely marching towards his destiny not only as he becomes the President-elect for Nigeria, but he has also just published a book on strategy of effective prayers. What a relief to have a President who kneels before the LORD each day!

Meanwhile, frantic efforts at privatizing key sectors of the Nigerian economy by the out-going military regime are on-going. Is this a race against the hand-over date of May 29?

IMF assesses Brazilian Economy

A mission from the IMF met behind closed doors at the end of January with Brazil's top economic decision-makers to assess the crisis STILL battering the world's eighth-largest economy. Discussions are centering on future economic progress. Recall that according to David Wilkerson's prophetic analysis, (**before** the Brazilian crisis began), one of the major events that will trigger serious economic depression in the United States will be an economic crisis in Brazil after which that country will default on her debt payments (see Vol. 1 No 5).

Meanwhile, the IMF 'bail-out' packages remain under fire from different nations currently tasting the IMF pill.

Q & A

Q What have the various ideas listed below, a motley group often contradicting one another, in common?:

Induced abortion; Artificial Insemination by Donor (AID); Cloning; Baby farms (where young women bear children intended for sale for adoption – common in Eastern Europe; Breeders (in satanism, where women bear children for use in rituals); bestiality (sexual intercourse with animals – often demanded of people who visit 'spiritualists', and consistent with the doctrine of re-incarnation); euthanasia; eugenics; communism; humanism; women lib. etc, etc

A: They are all working towards cheapening the value of human life and knock it off its Biblical pedestal. The ultimate goal is to resist the Kingdom of God and lead men to hell!

Hussein Departure, end of an era in the Middle East

The end of an era came Feb 7 with the death of Jordanian King Hussein. He had ruled his nation for 46 years and has become one of the most stabilizing influences in the Middle East. Jordan, under him, is the only Arab nation at peace with Israel. His son, Abdallah now reigns in his place.

PLO may stay action on declaration of statehood

Efforts are on-going by the USA, backed by the EU, to persuade the PLO to refrain from declaring Statehood on May 4 as it has vowed to do. Terms of the 5-point proposal include that the Western world would declare more clearly their support for Palestinian self-determination, and Israel's full implementation of the Wye River Interim peace agreement now suspended by Netanyahu. If the PLO declares independence, tension will escalate and the hands of hardliners will be strengthened in Israel's national elections billed for May 17.

PFN holds Biennial Conference: The 5th Biennial Conference of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria which held on the grounds of TREM, Lagos in February was a huge success indeed. With a theme of **End-Time Revival**, and parading several spiritual heavyweights including Bishop Mike Okonkwo, Pastor E.A. Adeboye, Rev G.O. Faronbi, Bishop Margaret Idahosa, Dr Iloh, Pastor (Mrs) Iloputaife, Bishop David Oyedepo, and a host of others, the conference can truly be described as explosive and impacting. Politician Bola Ige who attended the meeting on the 4th day wrote a refreshing account in his column in the Tribune on Sunday (14/02)

OAU organized re-dedication service

The Christian community at the Obafemi Awolowo University displayed an unprecedented sense of unity and purpose on Saturday Feb 6 when they called a Solemn Assembly (attended by the Vice-Chancellor) to re-dedicate their campus to Jesus. In 1981, a similar meeting had been organized by the forces of darkness when the Orisha Festival held on the campus, organized by a hard-core spiritualist who later became the University's Vice chancellor a year later. Since then, hardly a year has passed without some serious crisis on the campus. Thank God for a new beginning at the OAU. Those interested in the follow-up to this prayer campaign should contact the FGBMFI on the campus (c/o Mr Jide Onabanjo, Dept of Architecture).

CALM OUTREACH: The Church Arise! LivingWater Ministries (CALM) will be having an outreach (film and teaching) on end times events at the Christ Chapel of the Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo on Apr 17-18. Arrangements are yet to be concluded about the possibilities of having a film outreach at Ile-Ife around Easter time. Readers who are in the vicinities of these cities are cordially welcome to attend. Our partners should please include these events in their prayer diary.

God our Mother?

According to a recent report in TheNews (8/3/99), a new Methodist worship book recently launched in England is moving "with the times" by addressing the Creator God as Mother instead of the traditional "Our Father". We wonder with TheNews whether this is feminism or a new spiritual discovery.

Family

\$100 million verdict against on-line anti-abortion activists...

A Federal jury in Portland, Oregon (USA) decided that a controversial web site and "wanted" posters amounted to death threats against doctors who perform abortions. More than a dozen defendants involved were therefore ordered to pay damages – of greater than 100 million dollars! The defendants have indicated they will appeal.

.....whereas, On-Line Porn gets more leverage

A Federal judge issued a preliminary injunction, on Feb 1, to continue blocking federal law aimed at shielding children from on-line pornography. Judge Lowell A Reed said the Child Online Protection Act could have the effect of hindering constitutionally protected speech! New age advocates (the real sponsors) could then proceed with their "catch –them-young" policy.

Abortion In Nigeria.

A recent study by an NGO has indicated that 610,000 abortions are carried out in Nigeria annually. That is some 1,671 human sacrifice per day on the average. According to the report, these are carried out mainly in privately-owned facilities. Almost 2/3 of those seeking abortion at any time have had at least one previous abortion. Over one third of all these abortions in Nigeria are carried out on married people. (See Guardian Jan 31)

Fuel Economics tasks Christianity in Nigeria

The crises of petrol has indeed almost successfully paralysed the economy of the Nation through incessant lackof essential goods and services. The greater danger, however, seems not to be in the massive destruction of important national infrastructure, or the growing corruption and various acts of lawlessness, but the spiritual impacts and the pressure on families. Many have had to cut down on their joining fellow believers for fellowship, while many follow-up teams are groaning under the pressure of petrol inavailability.

Beloved, do not get embittered because of fuel availability or inavailability. Why not relax and let go and let God? He is still very much in control. Many are no more today due to "petrol pressure", but you are alive. Cheer up and appreciate God. "It will come to pass"

Most of the materials cited in our newsletter are available in our Library for interested readers. Pending the time when we will secure suitable space for the Library, you may contact us at the following centres at Ile-Ife to make your bookings:

1. Grace of God bookshop, OAU Campus.
2. Bro. Emmanuel, Rm 101 Physics Department, OAU.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Genetic Engineering and the New Age:

One of the most promising tools capable of turning the world around is Genetic Engineering. Advances already made in the field are on their own sufficient to permanently change life on earth beyond anything we can recognize today – and certainly, as the moral climate of the world goes further deeper into the abyss, we can expect these WILL be put to use.

We can not at this time present a detailed discussion on Genetic Engineering as we promised in the last edition due to space constraints. Issues to be discussed include applications in agriculture where, for decades now, genetically improved stocks have been widely put to use. However, "super-sweet" oranges without the inconveniencing seeds (no need to spew anything out) may be wonderful to eat; but their very seedless nature is the ultimate disaster! A direct assault on God's order that plants bear their seeds in themselves (Gen 1:11-12), these emasculated plant species guarantees that at the chosen time, the entire population will depend on the One World government for food. Officially, the plants are being emasculated as a sort of copyright protection, and is technically known as the Plant Breeders' Right. Some Nigerians may sniff at this idea which might seem remote for now. But we ask, how many will dare plant their maize field from their last year's harvest? Most of us now run to one agency or the other to obtain the new improved, disease-resistant high-yield species – which cannot be re-planted! When exotic genetically-engineered species are made available, most "reasonable" will have no option to rally round it and hope the technology doesn't backfire on mankind.

The same issue occurs in animal science; but the major implication here has since moved to the unregulatable efforts to transfer results on animal species to man. The eugenics dream of designing the perfect man has been at the back of many a social problem in the history of mankind, including the nazi holocaust. Lately, AID, cloning etc, have brought these issues home, and we now are grappling with the problem of defining what man is! With genetic engineering it is now becoming possible to design the baby of your choice – delivered to your specification. The issue was clearly spelt out by Bruce Anderson in his book **Let us Make Man**. He said, "In the end, the discussion comes down to a clash of beliefs, a confrontation facing each individual and couple. Nearly all of us want children, and everyone desires them to be healthy. The crucial decision for this generation is how far we are willing to go in order to reach these goals" (pg 112)

The ultimate issue is, who is to decide the best factors? Even for fairly "straightforward" cases, we cannot be too sure. For instance who can say for sure that a world of Einsteins will be a better one than the present? Remember, the robbers, rapists, etc will also be geniuses!

Because of the relatively ease by which experiments in genetic engineering can be designed and carried out (relative to those in nuclear engineering, for instance), it is clear that Genetic Engineering aided by the Internet, more than anything else, is going to determine the face of the world in

the very very near future. Today, there are restraints put in place by religious and moralist groups. But it is clear this is not going to last much longer! It would soon become "manifestly unreasonable" to make religious arguments against a technology that promises to wipe away all human problems and launch

"Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching .. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12: 37a,38

mankind into a new age. (Pls refer again to our Editorial).

The naked truth facing us (if we want to see it), is that Man has reached the zenith of his modern day Tower of Babylon. The present world-order cannot support the present knowledge-level much longer. We have reached the end-point of the path to soulish-development which Adam chose for us in the Garden. What is next, the Aquarian age being promised by the New Age movement, or the Kingdom of God long prophesied by the Prophets? We do not have much longer to wait - one way or the other, a new world order is inevitable. A final word, please - don't ever buy the deception that both are the same. They are diametrically opposite one to another!

"By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked up to the reward"

Hebrews 11:24-26

No relenting on World-wide personal numbering idea

The idea of tagging every human being with a personal identification number - which the Bible says is inevitable in the end-times - has just refused to stay out of the news in the past few decades (see vol 1, nos 1 and 2). Last year (Aug 8), Clinton administration unveiled its plan for all individual Americans to have an e-mail address to go along with their street address. The project to be coordinated by the US Postal service is to connect physical and electronic addresses using the nation's internet "country code".

Now, computer chips giant, Intel is also making proposals of ideas capable of paving way for the "Big Brother is watching you" idea. Late January, it announced that it would include a processor serial number (PSN) in every one of its new Pentium III chips for on-line merchants to use in identifying and authorizing users for secure Internet commerce. Privacy groups, predictably, are kicking against the idea. Not even Intel's proposal to switch the PSN in the "off" position is making the groups relent in its plan to boycott any PC manufacturer that uses any such ID-tagged number.

Cyberterrorism Danger looms

CNN Feb 3 reported a warning contained in a new report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The gloomy report indicated that cyberterrorists (terrorists on the Internet) are plotting all manner of heinous attacks capable of "destabilizing and eventually destroying targeted states and societies. Another sad reality of our times. How could anyone pretend there could be enduring peace outside of Christ Jesus?

Bestiality in Niger State

A middle-aged man, Adamu Sanni was sentenced to 10 years in prison with hard labour in Niger State of Nigeria for 'raping' a donkey, and a 4-year old girl. He had previously being convicted twice for raping minors. (Nigeria News Network- 20/1/99).

Celebrating the new Millenium

China will not be celebrating the end of the millenium come Dec 31 this year. The Chinese government is sticking to the technically-correct point that the 21st millenium does not start till Jan 1 2001. Western critics insinuate the Chinese decision to treat the year 2000 as a non-event is to save the Chinese government the embarrassment of admitting their failure

to provide the services it has promised to provide to the citizenry "before the next millenium".

Exhortation Continued

There is no better illustration of this principle that I know of than the body of Christ in the Western world. All of us are vulnerable. The church has to a very serious extent been deceived by the Enemy into believing that the material things of this world have real importance. In the final analysis, they are, of course, not truly important at all. But we are so easily lulled, and so often captured by materialism's siren song. Satan is so clever in the way he plays on our vulnerabilities. He makes those little material temptations look so attractive and so innocent. But in the end they can cost us in the freshness and power of our first love for Christ.

Bill Bright - culled from the book Judgment in the Gate, edited by **Richie Martin** (1986).

Topical Issue Continued

It is time Christians took the invasion of the herbal home more seriously. They have since discarded their traditional attire and don suits compatible with the new age movement of which they are an integral part. We should be aware and protest, appropriately, the wide support they are receiving even from public institutions. But more than exposing them and protesting, we should counter this menace through concerted prayer efforts. We can, and should, make the environment uncondusive for them and their practices.

Editorial Continued

the world the love of the Father is not in him (1 Jhn 2:15). We at Church Arise! believe that love for Christ will be the only factor that will eventually count. It will be the only antidote to the coming (and rapidly unfolding) deception. Satan's main (perhaps only) weapon is deception. The level of the forthcoming deception might then be inconceivable to us, considering the fact that this will be Satan's last opportunity to stop the Church! All the current and forthcoming promises of Satan to turn earth to heaven while violating the righteous principles of Christ as stated in the Bible is mere deception. It can't work! Bah, Humbug!

The great apostasy will come when Christians, on individual level, but at the same period of time (due to unfolding world-events) will be suddenly compelled to make some clear-cut drastic decision, one way or the other. Then the true intents of every heart, like Demas' will be shown. (1 Jhn 2:19). While living in the world, true Christians will mock at its pain and laugh at its pleasure - unmoved by either. We will continue to salt the earth and light it up till it pleases our Master to come take us away. Friend, do you dare treat this issue with levity? You have been warned!

TRANSITION QUOTES

The transition programme is not going to end in crisis. We may not get what we want, but this present transition will be a stop-gap between the ugly past of the military and the beautiful future we are going into.

Rev. (Dr.) Francis Wale Oke Quoted by The News, 1-3-99

".....As for me, God's will has been done"

Chief Bola Ige on his failure to secure his party's presidential ticket as widely expected.

"The Church had prayed that the best candidate should win and for the Church, whosoever has won, is the best candidate"

Dr Sunday Mbang, President Christian Association of Nigeria and Methodist prelate. *Commenting on the results of the Nigerian Presidential Election held on Feb 27.*

EXHORTATION: Nothing As Important As Our Love for Him A few years ago an article in *The Wall Street Journal* jolted me. The Gallup Poll had projected, on the basis of new surveys, that there were probably more than fifty million American adults who were born-again Christians. That announcement, however, was not what rocked me.

In a front-page feature that followed up the announcement of the survey results themselves, which were generally considered rather startling, the *Journal* delved into the issue of the impact on society that the born-again believers were having. The theme of the resulting story was, in effect, a question: "Where are all of these born-again Christians?" And then, more to the point, "Where is their influence in American Life?" I found those questions extremely sobering, and ... I hung my head in sorrow as I read that article and thought of how relatively little evangelical Christians were doing, relative to their numbers, to be "salt" and "light" in our society (Matt. 5:13,14).

But there is good news, too, for increasingly those who love Christ and do their best to live by Biblical values are in the field doing battle for [Christian] values- and making a difference! From the White House to the grass roots, from the issues of abortion and pornography to more basic concerns like the strengthening of Christian family life, those who call themselves "born again" are making a difference. I do not believe that *The Wall Street Journal*, or anyone else, would think of asking today, "Where are they? What difference are they making?"

And yet, despite all of the increased passion for righteousness and all of the activity, which I welcome, I have a concern. My concern is that in the rush of our activism and issue-consciousness, we will grow cold in what should be our first priority: our "first love" for Jesus Himself. Why is that so very important after all? It is so vital because the Scriptures tell us that without that "first love," we have nothing to offer God or man. Without it, everything else is rubbish or, as the Bible calls it, "wood, hay, and stubble."

In my capacity as president of Campus Crusade for Christ, it is necessary for me to travel each year to numerous countries on every continent. As I travel, I frequently speak to members of our staff of different nationalities, as well as to other groups of Christians, and quite often I use those opportunities to call to their attention this very subject, the danger of losing our first love for the Lord. I do that because it seems to me that there is literally no message that is more relevant to the church at this moment in history.

The consequences of losing our first love for Him are tragic to consider. Paul feared that he would be guilty of that. I can understand his fear, and share it. Frankly, maintaining my first love is my number one priority. It overshadows everything else in my prayers and in my thinking, for if we lose our first love, everything goes downhill. Immorality, lying, stealing, cheating, and other unethical behavior – all of these things can be expected to follow. I see that happen wherever I go. I have even seen it among some of our former staff members, and I have seen it in the lives of many Christian leaders. That is the reason I run this race of life with reverential fear. We are, at best, unworthy servants. But the sin of losing our first love is at the heart of every other problem. Are you moving in that direction?

Malcolm Muggeridge illustrates how this sort of process can occur by describing the response of frogs placed in a pan of water. If you put the frogs in boiling water, they will jump out instantly, Muggeridge said. But put them in a pan of warm water, and they will relax. If the heat is then turned up slowly, they will continue to be lulled by it, and, by the time they realize that the water has been brought to a boil, it will be too late for them to leap out!

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Questions, comments, or substantiated information of relevance to this newsletter are welcome. We thank you for your interests.

TOPICAL ISSUE: [Cannibalism and the Herbal Cure Invasion](#)

Nigerians were aghast with the discovery on Feb 3 of a shack in Oshodi, Lagos where human limbs and other parts were found being roasted on fire. A hapless, gaunt and exhausted woman, apparently waiting to be eaten by the cannibals was also rescued. A man, Clifford Orji was subsequently arrested and has been in police custody since. The identity and whereabouts of a second man (Tahiru Aliyu?) often mentioned in the case are not as well known.

The circumstances of the saga, including stories about lines of expensive cars always to be found near the shack at night, the confidence reportedly exhibited by the arrested man that he could not be tried, and the laughable attempt by some people in authority to sell the man to the public as a simple psychiatric case, clearly indicated to us at Church Arise! that high level satanism was involved. Apparently, the man was Satan's street-man to provide human parts (probably for 'minor rituals') to the unending streams of people turning to Satan in these end-times for their unending rituals. For 'major rituals', satanists procure the required parts by outright abductions and killings. Several stories from Ikotun, Ogba, Ikeja and Accra in recent months all consistently involved female victims only. In this case at Oshodi, eating the remaining portions of the bodies is probably only a convenient way of disposing them – although it is known that satanists often eat human parts "to acquire more power". This opinion that the man Orji was Satan's street-man is not peculiar to us. The character Hodge in the novel *Millenium's Eve* by Ed Stewart played a similar part.

The police are apparently also thinking along the same line with us. According to Prime Sunset newspaper (Feb 18), "a source close to the Police" stated that "it would be wrong for anyone to believe that somebody like Orji can single-handedly kill and eat human beings as the world is currently made to believe there must be more accomplices". And the police had a pretty good idea of where to look: shrines, herbal homes and cult chambers.

We believe the menace of the Herbal homes is now turning to an epidemic; and Christians ought to take not only note, but action as well. In buses, on the newspapers and on the electronic media (notably Radio Oshun and Lagos TV in recent times), there is an unending assault on the masses from people who claim to be nature healers. Whereas their methods are clearly spiritual! For instance a list of "diseases" provided with a directory of "natural healthcare practitioners" in the prestigious Guardian on 15/10/98 included "spiritual husband". The cure is peculiar to each practitioner, whether it is a tea, or a soap, etc, it is the same one cure for all ailments. The undeniable clear evidence is that all who patronize these people are merely establishing doorways for Satan to enter their lives and begin his mission of stealing, killing and destroying – temporary physical relief notwithstanding. Tell (Feb 1) tells the story of a Chinese witchdoctor Hu Wanling, currently being charged for the murder of at least 190 patients within a year. This followed his release in 1997 from a 14-year imprisonment on similar charges. Yet he goes about with bogus claims similar to those of his Nigerian counterparts and even have a book *"Quigoing Master"* written on him. Other practitioners in Nigeria claim they could confer immunity to their clients from HIV/AIDS thus clearly trying to encourage life-damaging sexual habits. Unlike in China, no one seems to see what damage these occultic people are doing here.

The destruction that awaits every case that is referred to the Nature Healers is clearly shown by the example of Mr Clifford Orji. According to an exhaustive investigative work by the Guardian (Feb 20), Orji's problem actually started around 1995 when he had been talking about a certain oracle in his home town which must be appeased by certain rites by indigenes at a certain age. After initial reluctance, he went to do so and "came back with hair shaven and as well started wearing white clothes only". He later, upon his arrest, claimed to be a herbalist. He certainly must have seen himself as one!

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