

# CHURCH ARISE!

Vol 2 No 4 July – August, 1999

Promoting a Christian Agenda for the End Times

## **EDITORIAL: Love Not The World**

THE message of the end-times ministry, like several other truths of the Gospel, is often not palatable to the carnal man. Not only unbelievers, but in several instances, many truly born-again children of God feel uncomfortable, whenever the issue of the imminence of the shutdown of the current world order and the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is breached.

This position is very tragic indeed. How sad the Lord must feel, seeing some of His dear children wishing He would delay the unfolding of His majesty and programme for the entire Creation, simply because such children wanted a little more time to “enjoy the fruit of their labours” on earth. How myopic a perspective! Not even those who have higher motives such as completing some ‘great tasks’ for the Lord would be justified to wish He would further delay His coming and thus continue to prolong the current groaning of all Creation (Rom 8:18-22).

We certainly must set goals for ourselves to occupy our time here on earth while expecting the Lord; but certainly our ultimate hope and joy is in His return in glory. The current world is a fallen world and whatever successes we might be recording or be aspiring to, is nothing compared to what awaits us – if we be found faithful to the end. The adverse reaction of many apparently genuine and sincere Christians to the imminence of the coming of the Lord is a clear index of the state of unpreparedness of the Church for this wonderful, glorious event, which generations of saints past wished they could participate in! This apathy/outright hostility towards the coming of the Master, we believe, is only a symptom of the dreaded terminal disease of “falling in love with the World” And this is one of the monsters, we at Church Arise! are called to do battle against, in the Lord’s name!

‘Love not the world... if anyone loves the world the love of the Father is NOT in him’ warns the Scriptures (1 Jhn 2:15) We believe the antichrist, when he is manifested, is not going to be a dictator coercing people to do acts of ungodliness. Rather, he will be a loving democrat, playing on the lusts in the heart of everyone who loves the world, and thus gradually expelling from such a heart, any love for the Father. If you find even tinges of sorrow in your heart whenever you contemplate the soon -coming of the Lord, you certainly ought to do some thorough heart-purging. We must all constantly aspire to rid ourselves of the attraction (‘lusts’) of the world, which is bent on disqualifying us from the genuine glory which is to come. Watchman Nee called this constant cleansing, “spiritual feet washing”. Remember, to be spiritually minded is life and peace, but to be carnally minded is death! (Rom 8:6)

There is only ONE way to overcome the world - absolute Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Jhn 5:5). We pray this edition of Church Arise! will further help you gain/maintain this Godly perspective.

Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’ Jer. 6:17 (NKJV)

## **This thing Called Prophecy**

During the build-up to the 1993 elections, even as two presidential candidates emerged, both hard-core moslems, a man of God prophesied boldly that according to his Daddy, (i.e. God), the next president of Nigeria will be a born-again Christian. President Olusegun Obasanjo, in whom the prophecy is now fulfilled, was at that time still unregenerated.

## **NEWS**

### **Nigeria Officially Dedicated to the LORD**

For the first time in the history of independent Nigeria, a national thanksgiving and dedication service has been held. A day after being sworn in, the very first official outing of President Olusegun Obasanjo was at the special service held at the International Conference Centre, Abuja. Nigeria thus becomes one of the few countries in the world officially dedicated to the LORD.

Officiating were about 60 seasoned Ministers of the Living God, drawn from various denominations. The list included Dr Sunday Mbang, Methodist Prelate and President of CAN; Pastor William Kumuyi, Bishop Mike Okonkwo, Bishop David Oyedepo, and a host of others. Representatives of the Pope and the Queen of England were also part of the ceremony.

At LEKKI '98, God visited Nigeria (see Vol 2 no 1). Now, for the first time, God has been invited to take over the land and dwell with us. Now the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ has come – no wonder the downtrodden masses all across the country are beginning to smile already.

### **Nigeria impacts Sub-region**

Already the impact of the positive development in Nigeria is already being felt in the entire West African subregion. Recently Charles Taylor, the Liberian President, was in Abuja to discuss with President Obasanjo, thereby signifying for the first time, a clear decision on his part to accord Nigeria true respect. Back at home, Charles Taylor had acknowledged that God is responsible for the survival of Liberia. Sharing such acknowledgement, he even insisted, would be a fundamental requirement of anyone expecting a Cabinet post. “Anyone who does not love God cannot serve in my Cabinet” he reportedly declared. Similar to the 3 day fasting and praying declared by Obasanjo to usher in May 29, Taylor also called a 3 days fasting and prayer among his countrymen.

### **Sri Lankans seek divine intervention – the wrong way**

Businessmen are being asked to finance a temple to restore peace after decades of civil war in Sri Lanka. Government officials say the temple is needed to “neutralise malign forces” flowing to the Island from a similar Hindu temple in the Indian mainland. The campaign was led by junior defence minister, Anuruddha Ratwatte who is asking for \$1.4million to complete the temple which has gulped over \$7 million already. Sri Lankan press said Ratwatte had made it clear the battle against Tamil rebels could not be won unless the temple was completed. Once built, it would deflect the effects of the Indian statutes he posited. (Guardian, June 1 1997. Pg 14)

### **Enters Ehud Barak: Middle East Treaty yet closer**

The prospect of realizing a Middle East Treaty by next year is getting even brighter with the election of Ehud Barak as the new Israeli Prime Minister last May. The Arabs, and the other nations (particularly the United States which has committed itself to seeking a Treaty by next year (see Vol 2 No 3)), certainly expects Barak to show what Egypt called ‘statesmanship’ in overcoming all the internal problems that have since been preventing the actualization of previous peace plans in the Middle East. Apart from promises made during his five months campaign, Ehud Barak as the most decorated (military) man in Israel, is expected to be able to retain public respect even if he has to make concessions other people with less military honours might find difficult to make. The Middle East Peace Treaty, predicted thousands of years ago in the Holy Bible and scorned as unachievable until recent times is inevitably going to happen soon. The wise will learn a lesson from the “fig tree”!

### **Increasing anti-Semitism**

Immigration to Israel by Russian Jews has increased markedly this year as a result of Russia’s financial crisis and growing anti-Semitism there, the **Jewish Agency** reported on May 30. “Anti-Semitism has become one of the major reasons for immigration to Israel from Russia since the economic and political crisis began in August 1998”, the quasi-governmental immigration agency said in a statement. (Punch June 1, 1999 pg 17).

### **The Card is now launched in Nigeria**

In our last edition, we mentioned that a consortium of 26 top Nigerian banks, Smartcard plc, is planning to launch a chip-based card to facilitate electronic commerce here. We also showed that the chip technology could now make the same single card to serve in several other applications requiring fool-proof identification.

Now the card, called ValuCard, has been launched in Nigeria on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June, according to a tiny news report on page 29 of the Guardian newspaper of that day. The Consortium

sponsoring ValuCard represents over 80% of banking transaction in the country. Whether we face the fact or not, the journey to the inevitable continues worldwide. And we are part of it.

**The Intentional Christians Chamber of Commerce (ICCC)**, Nigeria, recently held a seminar titled Imminent Global Economic Collapse: Issues and Strategies for survival. The seminar, featuring well-connected and well-informed speakers from the UK and the USA held 8-11 March at Port Harcourt, Abuja and Lagos. Apparently, it is not only Church Arise! that is warning on the imminence of the inevitable collapse of the current global economic structure. He who has ear let him hear.

**Meanwhile**, guess who else is talking about possible collapse of the Nigerian economy? It is the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, who is currently placing large billboards in several Nigerian cities, warning that the Y2K millennium bug crisis could lead to the collapse of the Nigerian economy. Church Arise! is cautious in endorsing such yet unproved allegations though.

### **When God Opens a Door....**

It was particularly exciting having the fire-brand German evangelist, Reinherd Bonnke as one of the ministers at the National Thanksgiving and Dedication service. The last time he came to minister in Nigeria, the Islamic authorities in some Northern states grew so apprehensive of the incontrovertible miracles God was performing, wholesale, through his hands that they engineered a serious riot. This, unfortunately, led to the tragic loss of many lives and the Evangelist had to be virtually hustled out of the country. Ever since, he was never granted visa to enter Nigeria again. And now, to the glory of God, there he was, 30<sup>th</sup> May, featuring on the opening news item on NTA Network News!

### **Nigeria and Missions**

Where do we go from here, Nigeria? For several years, we have been inundated with prophecies that Nigeria occupies a central place in God's plan; and even that She is designed by God to spearhead the global end-time revival. (e.g. vol. 1 no 2) At the climax of Nigeria's period of darkness, the prophecy had attracted considerable attention to itself. On the one hand, some saw the nation's ugly predicaments as fierce attacks by Satan to hinder Nigeria from fulfilling her sure destiny as the prophecy indicated; while at the other end, others saw the prophecy as merely some will-of-the-wisp, to comfort ourselves in our self-inflicted predicaments. One thing no one could deny however - in spite (or rather, as a result) of the terrible political and socio-economic situations, Nigerians kept flocking into various countries, many of them as 'laymen' missionaries.

Church Arise! belongs to the first group who believes God has a definite programme for Nigeria in this end time. And that informed our particular interest in current developments in one of the frontline Church denominations in Nigeria today, the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

According to the General Overseer of the RCCG, Pastor Enoch Adeboye, the Church is spearheading what he calls 'the Last Revival' on earth. Someone may want to challenge his words, but certainly none could detract from the results the Church has to present. Already the RCCG has become the first and only pentecostal denomination to be registered in Israel, home of Judaism and Orthodoxy; as well as in Northern Ireland, a Catholic domain which in times past prided itself in its self-proclaimed 100% religious homogeneity. Apart from these and several other praiseworthy results, the RCCG is reportedly planning a 'Multi-media ministries' involving the setting-up of 'Virtual Parishes' and On-line Bible Study Group on the Internet.

Other Christian denominations and groups, indeed individuals, must pick up the challenge of the times and help Nigeria fulfil her destiny.

### **Ketu-Epe: Christian Corpers on Mission**

Members of the Nigerian Christian Corpers Fellowship, Lagos State Chapter stormed the village of Ketu-Epe for a three-day outreach programme, Friday May 7 to Sunday May 9. At the end of the programme, several lives, including that of the traditional ruler and at least, three of his chiefs, were turned over to the Lord Jesus Christ. As a climax to a victory march round the village, a shrine was destroyed. (Redemption Light June 1999, pg 21)

**Christian Evening Paper makes Waves in Lagos:** A new Christian Daily, ALIVE, is currently creating big ripples in Lagos and environs. Very incisive and highly educative, it presents

news and analysis on national issues from an untainted Christian perspective. It is also quite strong on Sports. Published by Gallop Communications, ALIVE is one newspaper no serious Christian cannot but fall in love with.

**100 Years of Christianity in Ile-Ife:** A 3 day Crusade was recently organized by the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) on 21/6/99-23/6/99 to mark the century celebration of the advent of Christianity in Ile-Ife, the cradle of the Yoruba nation, and idols.

### **• Updates: Covering-up the Cannibals?**

In previous issues, we highlighted the problem of satanic street men, such as the cannibal Clifford Orji and co in Lagos (vol 2 no1), and another of his sort in Abeokuta (vol 2 no 2). By their own confessions, these people were connected with powerful people in the former governments and engaged in satanism. We had noted the laughable attempts at covering them up under various guises—such as labeling them 'insane'. The latest of such now, is the 'ground-testing rumour' of a pm newspaper in Lagos, that Orji, still locked up in a psychiatric cell, has become 'born-again'! Whatever the situation, we think it is time the public knew the truth about these people and their backers. They should be prosecuted according to the Laws of the land, without any further delay.

**Meanwhile**, Cross River State governor, Donald Duke has stopped, mid-stream, the traditional herb fair in Calabar and ordered practitioners out of the state. Though details were not given, it has been generally alleged that since the fair started in Calabar, some people have died as a result of complications, resulting from the indiscriminate application of the herbs. The over 400-stand traditional medicine fair had operators claiming ability to cure (or provide immunity against) several kinds of ailments, mainly sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. The figures in the next article below may help the reader to appreciate better what it means encouraging people to lead loose, irresponsible sexual lives; and making them think that AIDS, for example, is not a Nigeria problem.

### **AIDS in Nigeria**

In 1998, one Nigerian got infected with HIV every minute, resulting in 1500 new infections daily. In the same period, 140,000 people died of AIDS in the country. The figure for this year is expected to be more! In fact the prediction is that 1.4 million Nigerians will die of AIDS in the next 4 years. (Source: First Bank Medical Services) A medical practitioner told Church Arise! of somebody sampling two undergraduates at random in Ile-Ife – and both testing positive to HIV!

### **Still on the ValuCard**

After an initial quiet introduction of the ValuCard to Nigeria on 17<sup>th</sup> June, the campaign to promote its use is finally heating up. More of the type of extensive and persuasive write-up on the Card as that in the **Punch of 21<sup>st</sup> June** can be expected with time. Pilots schemes of the use of ValuCard have commenced in 4 areas in Lagos, and it is expected that within a few months, "ValuCards Accepted Here" signs would have littered virtually the whole nation. Remember, the main issue is the bio-chip, which is positioned at the top left corner of the card. It has every reasonable promise of fulfilling the prophecy in Rev 13:16-18.

Church Arise! will however like to clarify that our position on the use of current and unfolding (we should say 'de-classified') technologies has already been stated in our article on the Internet (vol 1 no 4). There we wrote "***Of course, Christians should feel free to use the Internet (just as we do other products of current technology –tv, cars medicine, etc); but we must do so with discernment***". We still maintain this position - with the clear understanding, of course, that in the current case, no one should allow the chip to be transferred to his/her body, should developments reach that stage before the coming of the Lord for us. The real issue, as we wrote in our current editorial, is our not yielding our hearts to such products of Soulless Development. Our hope for salvation is a return, via the path of Spiritual Development through Jesus Christ, to the Tree of Life in Eden. Mankind had shunned this Tree in choosing rather to eat of the tree of "knowledge...". **That is why the first step to salvation for anybody, always, is Repentance.**

**Osama bin Ladin**, the man reportedly planning armed muslim groups for Nigeria (vol 2 no 3) is now feared to be planning another series of terrorism against United States of America, after the ones he recently concluded against some embassies of the US in East Africa. US security are reported to be frustrated at the fact that though they know the attacks are imminent, they have no idea where the strike may be.



There was a time when children were taught kindness, purity, loyalty, obedience to authority, and reverence for God. At that time, the media reflected that we are moral beings who should exercise self restraints and seek the good of others. Not so anymore! Today the 'in-things' are computer games, musicals, and movies from somewhere in Hollywood entrenching anti-Christian values in young fragile minds. (For instance, a computer game we recently came across, was aptly named 'Gods', and it unabashedly sells the new age idea that man can become 'God' as he moves up the 'evolutionary ladder'). Of course any talk of right or wrong moral has been declared obsolete already! Parent! Is that activity which you are currently pursuing to the detriment of time spent with your child really worth it? In the words of NTA's Frank Olize, 'Do you know where your children are' – physically, mentally and spiritually?

**Dangerous Statistics:** In Britain, Divorce now ends one in every two new marriages, with two out of every three marriages failing. Forecasts indicate that one in every four children will now see their parents divorce. Every Christian must determine not to be part of this grim reality. (Source **Guardian Newspaper**, 23/05/99)

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

### Tremor in Central Mexico

Over 200 people were injured in an earth tremor that occurred in Central Mexico at 20:41 GMT on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June. In Puebla, the most affected state, about 20 people were reported to have died. We commiserate with those affected in this earthquake, both Christians and non-Christians. We however will like to seize the opportunity to point out that the coming of the Lord is indeed going to be just as sudden and unexpected. The current rumblings should be loud enough for he who has ears to hear.

### Designers Babies Now Available

In a recent edition (Vol 2 No 2), we highlighted some of the developments in Genetic Engineering and their implications. Now these developments are coming out of research labs to become routinely available realities. The **BBC** reported (19/5/99) that it is now possible to choose not only the sex of your baby but certain features as the height, shape of the nose, etc.

That may sound wonderful indeed. But think again: the bottom-line is that in the warped thinking of Man, more and more issues are being taken out of the "hands" of nature/God and being placed in the hands of Man. That's another sure step towards the enthronement of the idea called humanism – that Mankind is God. The embodiment of that idea will be the anti-christ.

### Commercialisation of Life Through Patents

The European Parliament in July 1997 voted to allow industry to hold patents – exclusive monopoly ownership rights – on the genes of living organisms such as human parts, animals and plants. This decision prompted spontaneous outcry and severe criticisms from non-governmental organisations. According to the NGOs, the decision was no more than "patents on life" (**South** October 1997)

This policy is bound to have far-reaching implications for socio-cultural and economic well-being of the people. For example, a farmer who used wheat seed that had been genetically modified in some way might have to pay royalties to the company holding the patent, otherwise planting the seed would be illegal → [back page](#)

### School Violence still continues

School violence such as we reported in the last edition still continues to be witnessed all over the world. Apart from the USA where fresh school shooting has again been reported, **Alamadina** newspaper in Saudi Arabia reported in May that a drunken youth entered a school in that country armed with a gun – a second occurrence in two weeks. The previous week, a 14 year old school boy had opened fire on his classmates with an automatic pistol at a school near the Saudi capital. No lives were lost in these incidents. (**Sketch** 25/5/99) Meanwhile, at Nyeri High School, Kenya, a group of students, suspected to be under the influence of drugs, locked the door on four sleeping prefects, and poured petrol through the window setting the dormitory on fire. The prefects were rescued and sent for intensive-care treatment. (**East African Standard**, 25/5/99)

### Girl 6, robs bank

Australia's (perhaps the world's) youngest bank bandits, two girls aged 6 and 11, were caught red-handed after smashing their way into a Commonwealth Bank branch in Armadale, Australia. The

girls were found by the Police hiding under a desk in the bank when officers arrived to check a broken window and a silent alarm that had been activated. (**Sketch**, 26 May, 1999)

### Dead baby beheaded – in hospital

The human body-parts hunters are still ever in business. Think again, who asked them to procure those parts? And why? At the end of the line, barely out of sight, is Satan, pulling the strings and continuing to lead men to hell. The story below, from Jos, calls for deep reflections:

A baby girl, 9 months old Chibugo Mmeje, was confirmed dead on the evening of June 11. The distraught father however could not settle the bills on that evening as the Hospital accountant was reportedly not around. When the man came to the Hospital mortuary the next morning, however, it was to find the headless body of her deceased baby. The head had been neatly sliced off. Hospital management were reported to have unofficially said that the head might have been chopped off by rats. The Police have been invited into the case (**Guardian** 17/6/99, pg 17).

## Quotes

Like a master chess player, God can use even the enemy's strategies to further His own purposes.

**Andrew P. Nunn.** Grace and Truth Magazine. Vol 65 no 9. Pg 6.

When the Church is sick, the country automatically will be sick. Islam is not the problem in Nigeria. Neither is it the military nor the corrupt politicians. The fundamental problem is the Church. The mandate for us as a Church is to change situations and circumstances" **Pade Tokun.** Occupy Vol 18 No 1, pg 18.

**Q:** As a Spiritualist, would you say there is a lot of spiritualism in traditional medicine?

**A:** Well, I have said it on many occasions that traditional medicine is in many parts. We have the physical aspect, the metaphysical aspect, the occult aspect, the purely spiritual aspect, and other esoteric aspects. If you wish to be an efficient traditional doctor, you must be able to know at least two or three of these aspects.

Late **Chief J.O. Lambo**, National President of the Nigerian Congress of Traditional Medicine Practitioners in an interview with **Bisi Lawrence.** *Vanguard*, June 6, 1999. Pg 5.

Church Arise! loves and respects all human beings, irrespective of religion. But no concord whatsoever is possible between Christianity and the new Age falsehood. (2 Cor 6:14-15). Only Jesus died to save Man.from Satan Only Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

## ANNOUNCEMENT: CALM CENTRE

We are pleased to announce that Church Arise! LivingWater Ministries (CALM), now has an operational base – the CALM CENTRE. This is located at Shop 7, Conference Centre Shopping Annexe, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. All are welcome to visit.

The following services/activities are available as scheduled below, for now:

**Library Services:** (Please check details of schedules, including registration procedures and forms at the Centre)

**Video Outreach:** Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. The showing of the Video of the Month may further be arranged for any group of 10 or more people on request

**Secretariat/Newsletter:** A large notice board is available to help you pass your comments and ideas across to others

For schedules about prayer for the Ministry, the Nation and the Body of Christ in general, check at the Centre.

**Video Outreach (Starting 5.00 pm prompt)**

**Video of the Month for July (Premiere: July 14):**

*The False Anointing. Where will it end?*

**Video for the Month of August (Premiere: August 11):**  
*Countdown to Eternity*

*All our services are free of any charge*

### Thanks for Writing/Sharing

Between the previous and the current editions, resource materials were received from **Drs Banjo Aluko and Perp Obiajunwa** Our gratitude goes to them.. To these and others, we say please keep writing/sharing!

**THE NIGHT IS FAR SPENT, THE DAY IS AT HAND.  
THEREFORE LET US CAST OFF THE WORKS OF**

## **DARKNESS, AND LET US PUT ON THE ARMOUR OF LIGHT.**

Romans 13:12 (NKJV)

### **EXHORTATION: Lukewarmness About Christ's Return**

Mere acquaintance with correct doctrine is a poor substitute for Christ, and familiarity with New Testament eschatology will never take the place of a love-inflamed desire to look on His face.

If the tender yearning is gone from the advent hope today there must be a reason for it; and I think I know what it is, or what they are, for there are a number of them. One is simply that popular fundamentalist theology has emphasized the utility of the cross rather than the beauty of the One who died on it. The saved man's relation to Christ has been made contractual instead of personal. The "work" of Christ has been stressed until it has eclipsed the person of Christ. Redemption is seen as an across-the-counter transaction which we "accept," and the whole thing lacks emotional content. We must love someone very much to stay awake and long for his coming, and that may explain the absence of power in the advent hope even among those who still believe in it.

Another reason for the absence of real yearning for Christ's return is that Christians are so comfortable in this world that they have little desire to leave it. For those leaders who set the pace of religion and determine its content and quality, Christianity has become of late remarkably lucrative. The streets of gold do not have too great an appeal for those who find it so easy to pile up gold and silver in the service of the Lord here on earth. We all want to reserve the hope of heaven as a kind of insurance against the day of death, but as long as we are healthy and comfortable, why change a familiar good for something about which we actually know very little? So reasons the carnal mind, and so subtly that we are scarcely aware of it.

Again, in these times religion has become jolly good fun right here in this present world, and what's the hurry about heaven anyway? Christianity, contrary to what some had thought, is another and higher form of entertainment. Christ has done all the suffering. He has shed all the tears and carried all the crosses; we have but to enjoy the benefits of His heartbreak in the form of religious pleasures modeled after the world but carried on in the name of Jesus. So say the same people who claim to believe in Christ's second coming.

History reveals that times of suffering for the Church have also been times of looking upward. Tribulation has always sobered God's people and encouraged them to look for and yearn after the return of their Lord. Our present preoccupation with this world may be a warning of bitter days to come. God will wean us from the earth some way – the easy way if possible, the hard way if necessary. It is up to us.

**A.W. Tozer.** From an article in his book, **Born After Midnight**

#### **Patents continued**

However, beyond socio-cultural and economic issues, is the reality that once the masses have come to depend on these exotic genetically engineered varieties, the very food security of all now lies in the hands of the patent holders. Furthermore, since only multinational corporations/institutions are rich enough to sponsor most of these researches, the situation is gradually leading to a weakening of the sovereignty of National Governments. As we keep saying, the multinational corporations are destined to keep on merging till a One World government, headed by the anti-christ, arises. **To find how close home to Nigeria these issues are, check the Guardian of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June for a discussion on Genetic Engineering in plant varieties, and the activities of the International Institute to Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan.**

PS. Even Surgical procedures are now being patented. Those who depend exclusively on modern medicine for staying alive may therefore, in the near future, find themselves on the spot; as they may be denied the products of new medical findings, if deemed uncooperative enough by the 'Patent Holders'.

Church Arise! is published bi-monthly by the Church Arise! LivingWater Ministries (CALM), P.O. Box 1674, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.

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

### **TOPICAL ISSUE National Identity Cards and new world order**

It was announced recently that the Nigerian National ID project, after several millions of naira, and several years of hiccups, ups and downs, may now finally have been completed. Though the details are still not clear, recent reports from South Africa are indicating clearly, roles national ID cards may soon be playing in the currently unfolding New World order. The news is that possession of the national IDC was determined compulsory for any one who would take part in the recently concluded South African election. According to **Africa Today** (April 1999), the efforts of one of the political parties to challenge this "No ID card, No Voters Card" policy at the Cape High Court was unsuccessful.

Of interest to us, is this bare-faced coercion of the citizenry to take the ID card. A detailed write-up by **Privacy International** (in 1996) affirmed that, "around a hundred countries have official **compulsory** national IDs that are used for a variety of purposes". These, however, are under-developed countries or mainly those under some kind of totalitarian governments. In several of the developed countries, attempts to introduce some sorts of national ID card schemes have been the cause of long bitter battles with governments. Well known for instance, are the situations in France (1979), Australia (1986) and New Zealand (1991). In Australia, the proposal for the Australia card led to tens of thousands of people taking to the streets till the card was abandoned a year later. The Kiwi Card of New Zealand was to link major Government departments and **was to have the capacity to track all financial dealings and even geographical movements.** Resistance by privacy-minded (mainly secular) organizations finally led to the abandonment of the card.

However, in all these developed countries where the idea of a national ID card remains unsavoury, there is nevertheless, generally one kind of identification number or the other for sectoral use. Varying from country to country it could be the Social Security Number, Medicare Number, etc. In Sweden, there is actually a universal number for each citizen. In essence therefore, what was being resisted in these countries is the linking up of various databases involving the individual.

Now with the advent of Chip Technology, it has become possible to achieve this database link-up in a less obtrusive manner. With two cards, one focussing on financial details and geographical movements of the card-carrier; and the other bearing personal details –e.g. family records, blood groups, possession of facial marks or not (a la Nigeria's National Driver's License) etc. In short, what people would not tolerate on the National ID card will be accepted on the e-commerce card and vice-versa.

It is then becoming clear that the two Cards, one for national identification and the other for electronic commerce are merely two sides of the same single coin, and eventually will be merged. The chip technology has guaranteed the sufficiency of not just a single card, but a single chip to carry all information on an individual. Why carry multiple cards, when only one is sufficient? It is in the light of the above that the on-going coercion of the citizenry to take the South African Card (though for now, not chip-based) is informative. It would appear that citizens all over the world are to be coerced (using either carrots or/and sticks) into taking either of the two cards –using techniques to be dictated by local factors. In South Africa with its apartheid background, voting in an election could be a particularly emotional issue indeed. In any country, the manner of promoting the national ID card and the e-commerce card will be different. But at the end of the day, hardly will anyone be able to resist taking at least one of the cards. And the goals of the One World Government advocates would still remain on course!

As we have said before, after the card “has gained acceptance” to use the words of MONDEX (refer to our last edition), it is inevitable that the chip, already human implantable, will be implanted directly on human beings. We mentioned before the case of INFOPET which is leading the way in inserting bio-chips into pets for identification and tracking. Another situation fast unfolding is the implantation of chips for the identification of ‘thoroughbreds’ – racing horses, worth millions. It is a question of time before this trend is applied to human beings, and only a little time further when all technology and procedures will be designed only for people with skin-implanted chips. The current world order has only one direction.

CLOSING THOT: *Have you ever wondered what will happen to a hard-minded man who would insist on storing all his data on 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> computer diskettes?*

**“THE TIME IS FULFILLED. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND. REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL” Mark 1:15**