



CHURCH ARISE!

Vol 3 No 2 March - April, 2000

Promoting a Christian Agenda for the End Times

Editorial: An Unusual Appeal to our friends

It has always been tough spiritual battle coming out with each edition of Church Arise! From the first of Editorial Board meetings to the final desktop publishing, to our going to Press, and finally, nationwide (even oversea) distribution – the path is littered all the way with battle with all manner of dark forces. Yet, we actually look forward to going through these every time, knowing fully well Who has commissioned us and His promise never to leave nor forsake us. This is our 14th regular issue. Our Master is indeed faithful!

But then, the current edition is by far our toughest to prepare to date. By the 6th of March, when we traditionally should have been one week on the street, we are still moving our computer system about, having to deal with an extensive industrial strike on our University campus base (now 13th day without electricity); and in the past few days, a full-scale inter-communal feud engulfing the city of Ile-Ife!

All this is part of the nationwide chaos Satan is trying to create in Nigeria, spearheaded by the Sharia monster. At Church Arise! however, we recognize that the drowning of Pharaoh at the sea has to be preceded first by a hot chase and near perplexity for the children of Israel. We believe, by the grace of God, Pharaoh certainly shall drown even only a short while from now. Amen.

The other side of the coin has to do with our finances! Our accounts at the end of last year put our expenditure at nearly N100,000. Our total income however was only N72,000, with 9% (N6,340) of this income received as donations from our readers/supporters. [for these, we are immensely grateful!]. This leaves us with the reality of a deficit at the current time. Our budget for the newsletter production and circulation is roughly N20,000 per edition.

We actually have two on-going priority projects at the present time. Apart from the current edition of CA!, we are burdened to want to put on video/audio tape, what we consider to be urgent message for the Church concerning the impending One World Religion. Our Open Day/Video Outreach on January 8 on the subject matter was modestly successful attracting slightly over a hundred distinguished men and women (but it still left us with a deficit of almost nine thousand naira!). By the grace of God, this video containing the anointed messages by Rev Dr Greg Erhabor and Rev Sam David, guest ministers at our Open Day, to be supplemented by further exposition and clips from us, should be available by Easter. But once again, the issue of finance crops up!

We will therefore like to make this **first of its kind appeal** for urgent financial support from our readers and friends. You can help in either/both of these two significant ways. The first is by regular covenant giving, where you pledge some amount (no amount is too small!), to be given for the work on a regular basis. This will help us make meaningful plans for the growth of this ministry. The second way is for a one-time gift to help us clear up existing deficits and complete on-going projects. Every gift is highly welcome; but we will be happy to especially appreciate gifts of N2,000 and above, received before the end of April, with a copy of the video mentioned above; and the audio version for lesser gifts but up to N1,000. Of course, copies of the video/audio tapes will be available at our Library for everyone to borrow, free of charge as usual, whether or not you are able to send in any gift at this time.

Please address your cheques to Church Arise! LivingWater Ministries, Ile-Ife; or you may wish to transfer funds electronically (e.g. by Western Union) to our current account number 140201193000 at First Bank plc, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.

Thanks for your anticipated support at this critical time of need. In the meantime, be blessed as you go through this edition. And say, in the face of current developments in the world, some of which are mentioned in this edition Of our newsletter, what hope do you see for the world if the Lord Jesus does not come – and that very soon too? We see none! JESUS IS THE ONLY HOPE OF THE WORLD.

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work” Rev. 22:12

NEWS

SHARIA BOMB EXPLODES

With banks -including the Central Bank- expected to stop charging interest on loans or else close shop, (many are choosing the latter), or soldiers forbidden to consume alcohol in their barracks (they call it a joke); and even the risk of forfeiture of VAT allocations, it seemed inevitable, as President Olusegun Obasanjo predicted, that Sharia will die a natural death in the states currently clamouring for it. Even in traditionally Islamic hotbeds such as Iran, Sharia is fighting for its very life. Turkey with a vast Islamic majority would not touch Sharia with a long pole! However such an expectation and analysis is underrating the influence of the troublemakers, whose main interest, quite obviously, is the destabilization of Nigeria using Sharia merely as a handy tool.

They got dangerously close to their expectation on Monday 21/2/2000 when militant Moslem youths (many allegedly imported from other states and neighbouring countries) attacked. Christian demonstrators and other targets in Kaduna State. At the end of the 72-hour mayhem, several hundreds of people have been killed – mostly in cold blood, and properties valued in excess of a billion naira destroyed. A 24-hour curfew was imposed. The President described the carnage as unprecedented in Nigeria since the Civil War.

Most Nigerians are convinced that Sharia, already the main basis for the Penal Code used in the North, is now being pushed to levels that would tantamount to declaring the states involved as Islamic States, only under the sponsorship of foreign countries. Reliable but unconfirmed sources told us that Governor Sanni Ahmed of Zamfara state actually owned up that he and several other elected politicians in the state received supports from countries such as Sudan and Niger during the election. His declaration of readiness to sponsor Sharia in the southern states also suggests a man with unlimited financial resources – which could only have come from external sources, considering the economy of Zamfara state. Sudan is the major front country for notorious Islamic terror sponsor, Osama bin Laden; and according to a report in The Sydney Morning Herald, (EVIDENCE AGAINST GLOBAL TERROR NETWORK REVEALED”, Jan 24) Bin Laden has access to blank passports of Sudan for his network of terror. Today, many of the ‘Khadhis’ (Judges) overseeing Sharia in Zamfara state carry Sudanese passports.

In the meantime, following the advice of the National Council of State, the FG has ordered the suspension of Sharia implementation in all states of the Country. Of the two states that have adopted Sharia, Niger has agreed to suspend further implementation while Zamfara is indicating it will not comply.

In related developments, a front-page report of the Post Express (March 2) has alleged that about 300 Christians of Kabe ethnic group were abducted and forced to “renounce their faith”. Those who refused were reportedly slaughtered. Also, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has gone to court challenging the constitutionality of the adoption of Sharia by some states (Punch 28/2/2000).

NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD COMING.

The Nigerian National Identity Card is now out. According to the Internal Affairs Minister, Chief Sunday Afolabi, issuance of the Card, which is already going on smoothly at the Abuja Centre would soon take off at the eight zonal offices of the Directorate for National Civic Registration. On NTA News (16th February), the Minister spoke glowingly about the computerized card which he said will not only serve as Voters Card (refer to our article in Vol 2 No 4, July-August, 1999), but will also help to stem the “problems” of “illegal immigrants”. The Ministry further hoped that Banks and financial institutions will demand the card for services!

In the United States, reports indicate that current alterations being included in the Drivers’ Licence is virtually turning it into a National ID Card. Opposition to this policy is intense. The Licence is *de facto* a must for every adult residing in the United States.

CALABAR 2000

The city of Calabar, noted as a major seat of occultic powers received a powerful and refreshing blast from the Holy Ghost as Rev Reinhard Bonkke stormed the city January 24-31. All the reports were glorious and heart-warming. However, Rev. Aniefiok Akpabio, Chairman of the Central Planning Committee of the Crusade jointly organized by CAN/PFN has warned of fake evangelists going round with claims to effect healings through Bonkke's portraits! (Vanguard Feb 8). Success surely has its own problems.

HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC HITS NIGERIA

This statistics is frightening: More than 3 out of every 7 people screened in Otukpo, Benue State of Nigeria, have AIDS! According to an NTA Newsline Report, the situation might not be too different in other states, if the whole truth is to be told. In fact, it was affirmed that of the several AIDS-related death in Otukpo, several of them lived in other cities in the country, and only came home to die. A reliable source told us of a hospital in a major city in South West Nigeria, where HIV virus was being detected, in very many cases, in blood of patients who had come in for other medical reasons! Though there are several means by which the disease is transmitted, by far the commonest is through sex. That is why it is very unfortunate to see people still placing hopes in 'safe sex' rather than 'responsible sex'.

...And a cure for Aids? Church Arise! is always wary of promoting fakes or raising false hopes. But it is interesting to note some of the several claims concerning cures for Aids. A notable one is that by one Abuja-based surgeon, Dr Abalaka who on NTA news announced he has both curative and preventive vaccines for HIV/Aids. However he has not been able to get co-operation from his colleagues in the medical profession at the nation's Teaching Hospitals as none would agree to send patients to him for verification. Could it be something is so plainly wrong with his claims (CA! for instance wonders at his claims that mosquitoes transmit the virus, contrary to definite pronouncements by WHO), or could it be part of the One World Government conspiracies which according to respected researchers such as Barry Smith, not only generated the Aids virus in the first place but is bent on making it remain an issue for as long as they wished? (See Final Notice by Barry Smith in our Library).

Another notable claim of a cure for HIV/Aids is by a Jacob Abdulahi also of Abuja, with his drug, WinnieCure.

Meanwhile, a CNN report (<http://CNN.com/2000/HEALTH/AIDS/01/31/aids.priests/index.html>) has indicated that in the United States, Roman Catholic priests are dying from AIDS-related illnesses at a rate four times higher than the general population.

YET MORE MEGA-MERGERS

If on-going merger talks between Pharmaceutical giants SmithKline Beecham and Glaxo Wellcome come through, then the world will be seeing more, the concentration of enormous controls in the hands of a few groups. The so-called 'merger of equals' would create the world's largest drug maker.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM HELD IN SWITZERLAND

Folks, whether you like it or not, whether you care to face this reality or not, your future is being seriously discussed – and you are not welcome at the Party!

According to Agence France Presse (27th Jan), the world's political and business elite - 33 heads of government (including Bill Clinton), scores of ministers and more than 1,000 top business chiefs (including the likes of Bill Gates) -gathered in the little Swiss ski resort of Davos for 6 days for "global brainstorming" about the future of the world. It is an annual event, 30 years old, and has been the precursor of several important accords, such as in the Middle East and in South Africa. The Managing Director of World Economic Forum, Claude Smadja explained the focus for this year's meeting. "New realities are radically changing almost every domain of human activity...The compounding forces of globalization, the technology and biology revolutions, and the emergence of the economy confront us with a challenge of unprecedented magnitude in modern history..."

The meeting was held amid "unprecedented security" to forestall disruptions by anti-globalization protests like those which ruined a similar meeting (of the World Trade Organization) in Seattle late last year.

UNESCO URGED TO INTRODUCE FUNDAMENTAL OCCULTIC PRACTICE INTO EDUCATION.

Recently, the UNESCO organized a world conference on Higher Education, seeking "to design a new future for education". In an address to this Conference, one Dr Beran Morris, International President of Maharashi Vedic Universities, made a bold-face call for the introduction of Transcendental Meditation, a fundamental occultic practice, into higher education worldwide. This, he claimed, will not only turn earth to heaven but also ensure that students "gain the fruit of all knowledge" Doesn't that sound like the devil at the Garden of Eden all over again? Unfortunately, Dr Morris has even more than the ears of the UN agency for education. He has its heart! Visit our Centre for the full article by Dr Morris and other details.

"DO-IT-YOURSELF"- SUICIDE VIDEO

A new, do-it-yourself **suicide** video has been produced from the best-selling book, "Final Exit" by 69-year old Derek Humphry. The video gives simple, easy-to-follow guide to committing suicide and is reportedly doing well in the market. The print version has sold more than 1 million copies and has been printed in 12 languages. Now according to Associated Press (Feb 1), a Public Television Station in Oregon, USA actually planned to air the video on its station. What on earth is happening if there is so much interest in committing suicide? Oh that the Church may proclaim the Gospel of Life and Hope to the disenfranchised millions!

Quotes

"It will no longer do for the Church to condemn and criticize. They should show the light and enlighten the Society as the Salt of the earth and Light of the world."

President Olusegun Obasanjo, at the Year 2000 Deeper Life Bible Church Leadership Strategy Congress, IBTC, Ipaja. Friday 4th February.

"The material losses are nothing because we know we have Jesus"

Revd Joe Olaiya, Living Faith Foundation, Kaduna. Speaking at the Redemption Camp on the Sharia Riots at Kaduna. 4th March.

FAMILY

Child Racketeering!

Dear reader, we have heard a lot about child abuse, child enslavement, and even the use of children in money-spinning *jujus* and other occultic rites, but yet another dimension was introduced recently by events reported on NTA Newsline (13th and 20th February). Can one sell a child who is only guaranteed a pauper's existence with his biological parents to a prospective buyer willing to offer the child a first-class status in life? This is no idle question as the young man in the news item gave off his only baby boy for a sum of N30,000 cash. But for the outcry of the baby's mother on NTA, Baby Bethel might never have been found again. He was however retrieved, clad in expensive clothing and obviously looking very well fed, about a week after the sale. There are innumerable similar stories that fly around in this country. In particular a particular General Hospital in Lagos State is reportedly notorious for swapping new-born babes (to give desired sex to their no-doubts confused 'clients'), or outright declaration of babies as dead without having any bodies to show the hapless mothers! A big question: why do people involved in such practices simply not go and adopt from the numerous abandoned children in various Homes in the country? A big warning: Take very good care of your children and wards!

"Marriage Penalty" Tax relief in sight

We mentioned before (Vol 2 No 5, 1999) that married couples in the US pay as much as \$1,500 excess, on the average, as taxes, than they would have paid if they were not married. The good news is that the US congress is now seriously considering redressing this outrageous situation which affects an estimated 25 million families.

FOR PASTORS ESPECIALLY:

One grieving man recently blurted out to Church Arise!: "All the Churches in Kaduna have been ravaged!" Out of the current disaster of Church-burning comes this food for thought: If your church building were razed down today (one way or the other), will that be the end of your Church? In short, is your Church anything more than a building and sophisticated equipment?

School of Christ for Ile-Ife (May 3-13,2000)

We thank God for the vast interest shown by the people of God in the School of Christ discipleship program as we advertised previously. So overwhelming has been the response that despite the financial constraints on SOC to organize the programme as previously announced, rather than an outright cancellation, we have resolved to hold a mini SOC. This will be conducted by SOC ambassador, bro John Challender from Milwaukee, USA. Date is May 3 – May 13, 2000. Probable venue will be OAU campus. There is no charge for attending, but candidates who wish to receive their personal copies of the 900 page teaching material will need to register with a sum of N700. You may register at the following centres: Faith Dunamis Bible Church, Fajuyi, Ile-Ife; Grace of God Bookshop, OAU, Ile-Ife, Christ's Fishers of Men Church, Lagere, Ile-Ife or at our Secretariat on OAU campus.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Microchip Implantation-Psychic Dimension revealed: In vol 2 No 6, warning against anybody receiving microchip implant despite the very many 'conveniences' that would be promised, we suggested that it might be possible for anybody so-microchipped to be opened to manipulations via hypnotism and similar psychical phenomena. To us, that is only an inevitable conclusion based on Bible's warning that those who take the mark might as well be irreversibly sold-out to Satan. Now the news item below confirm we were not just making wild-guesses, far-fetched as our line may sound. Please ensure you understand what the following report is saying:

Wired Magazine February issue sports a picture of the University of Reading [in the U.K.] cybernetics professor Kevin Warwick who has pioneered bio-implantable microchips in humans using himself as a test subject. In his latest experiment, he is quoted as saying, "...If the experiments are successful, we would then place implants in two people at a time. We'd like to send movement and emotion signals from one person to another, possible via the internet. My wife Irena, has bravely volunteered to go ahead with his-and-hers implants. The way she puts it is that if anyone is going to jack into my limbic system – to know when I'm feeling happy, depressed, angry, or even sexually aroused - she wants it to be her. Irene and I will investigate the whole range of emotion and sensation..." CA! has mentioned Prof. Warwick's work before in Vol 2 No 5. Report sourced from Mike Gayda news search engine.

U.N. Calls for World Government Meeting this September.

As we hinted in our last edition, the UN is planning a Millenium Assembly for this September. It is to be a global government conference designed to examine "the future of the world, and to create an organizational structure whereby the peoples of the world can participate effectively in global decision-making, in the context of the United Nations system". In preparation for this unprecedented conference, a consortium of influential non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - including the Commission for Global Governance, the World Federalist Association, the One World Trust, etc – has sponsored a Charter, Charter 99, inviting "all the governments and peoples of the world they represent" to the UN conference.

Meanwhile the influence of the UN continues to reach unprecedented levels. The current ganging-up of an increasingly repressive Russia and Communist China against the US is also obviously directed at weakening the US influence in the UN and coming up with a stronger UN having such wide control over every individual in the world along lines predicted by Scriptures.

Man at the verge of being able to re-design Creation.: With the production of the world's first synthetic DNA, the blueprint for life (as reported by The Australian, 24th Jan), it is now possible for humans to re-design whole species, including themselves, probably within the next 2 years. According to the report, "The DNA was created at the University of Texas, where researchers have mapped out the exact way it will be configured to create the world's first "man-made" creature. The researchers are planning to create a series of designer bugs, with super-efficient mechanisms for infecting target tissues, such as cancer tumors, and then killing them. Some would infect the human gut to produce vitamin C. Critics, however, have warned that the scientists risk unleashing a microbe master race with increased powers to infect humans and wildlife. (see our story on HIV/Aids on page 2.) Literally speaking, Life can no longer remain the same on earth. [Original Source: Mike Gayda news search engine.]

European Kingdom waxes stronger.: The re-born Kingdom of Europe continues to establish and assert itself. Even as the EU marches on stoically with the setting up of its own military force, it is now being explained that business tax harmonization within the EU is a must for the single currency to be a success. These are yet again, significant steps to the re-creation of a one **Roman Empire**. The veto power of feet-dragging nations such as Britain, the last line of defence against unwelcome EU initiatives is also being abolished on this taxation issue (Telegraph 27th Jan). Now as at Press time, a formal European Constitution is being discussed. Bible is emphatic that the eternal Kingdom of God will be ushered in at a time when a global government, built around the ancient Roman Kingdom is in power (Dan 2:44)

Bye bye Privacy: It has now been revealed (The London Independent, Jan 29) that almost every modern form of communication, from satellites to the internet, is being intercepted by a multi-billion pound global surveillance operation dominated by the US and Britain. According to a report written for the European Parliament by researcher Duncan Campbell, more than 120 satellite-based systems are working simultaneously to collect intelligence, at an operational cost of between 15 to 20 billion euros every year..The document also argues that a previously unknown international organization called –"Ilets" has "put in place contentious plans to require manufacturers and operators of new communications systems to build in monitoring capacity for use by national-security or law-enforcement organizations

In a related event, The London Telegraph (January 24) has reported that Mobile telephones that can identify their precise location are being developed by the Swedish firm Ericsson. One of the services is called iPulse and tells users the location of all the mobile phone users listed in their address book, showing the country, city or district. Eventually the service will be able to pinpoint where people are down to 100 yards. Fredrik Fornstad, an Ericsson spokesman, said:"It will know where you were and where you are".

Further related to this is the current (increasingly popular) "voyeuristic programs" on TV in Europe where people agree to live under continuous camera scrutiny for about 100 days, with their every "move or murmur" being broadcast live on TV and worldwide on the Internet (Time, Feb 21). With prizes ranging up to \$ ½ million, many are beginning to think the 'game' is certainly worthwhile. Clearly the main purpose of it all is to prepare the masses to accept living under such 'Big Brother' conditions. Already the streets of the advanced countries are filled with various cameras under various guises such as monitoring crime or traffic. In Britain, cameras are to be found in "elevators, parking lots, phone booths, and even some public toilets"! (Newsweek Feb 28). We can expect current serious cyber-terrorism to bring in versions of this development home to every nation in the world very soon. All this will be necessary to implement a One World Government agenda.

MOON TURNS RED :January 21, 2000, The BBC reported : "Skywatchers got a stunning view of a total lunar eclipse on Friday. The Moon went a deep shade of red as it turned out of the light of the Sun and into the Earth's shadow. It all began at 0301 GMT, with totality reached a little over an hour later. Reports from around the globe - the eclipse was visible from the Americas, Africa and Europe - suggest the event lived up to expectations. The exact colour the Moon turns during a lunar eclipse is not easily predicted and depends on the amount of dust in the Earth's upper atmosphere. Duke Johnson, planetarium director at SciWorks science museum in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, U.S., said it was the most impressive lunar eclipse he had seen for 15 years. 'It's a much brighter eclipse than we've had in recent years. It's a nice red color,' he said..". Don't be carried away by the smooth scientific language. Compare with Scriptures -Joel 2:31, Lk 21:25.

Topical Issue Concluded (from back page)

The final inevitable step will be the replacement of all cards with a single chip, which being so valuable, will have to (more sooner than later) be most securely kept. Your guess is as good as ours – sub-cutaneous implantation in the right hand or forehead of the individual, just as the Bible predicts (Rev. 13:16-17).

“For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect...” (Matthew 24:24)

Exhortation: An Apostolic Advice for last days living

You should never forget that in the last days mockers will undoubtedly come – men whose only guide in life is what they want for themselves – and they will say, “What has happened to His promised Coming? Since the first Christians fell asleep, everything remains exactly as it was since the beginning of creation!” They are deliberately shutting their eyes to a fact that they know very well, that there were, by God’s command, heavens in the old days and an earth formed out of the water and surrounded by water. It was by water that the world of those days was deluged and destroyed, but the present heavens and earth are, also by God’s command, being carefully kept and maintained for the fire of the Day of Judgment and the destruction of wicked men.

But you should never lose sight of this fact, dear friends, that time is not the same with the Lord as it is with us – to Him a day may be a thousand years, and a thousand years only a day. **It is not that He is dilatory about keeping His Promise as some men seem to think; the fact is that He is very patient towards you. He has no wish that any man should be destroyed: He wishes that all men should come to repent.** Yet it remains true that the Day of the Lord will come as suddenly and unexpectedly as a thief. In that Day the heavens will disappear in a terrific tearing blast, the very elements will disintegrate in heat and the earth and all that is in it will be burnt up to nothing.

In view of the fact that all these things are to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be? Surely men of good and holy character, who live expecting and earnestly longing for the coming of the Day of God. True, this Day will mean that the heavens will disappear in fire and the elements disintegrate in fearful heat, but our hopes are set not on these but on the new heavens and the new Earth which He has promised us, and in which nothing but good shall live.

Because, my dear friends, you have a hope like this before you, I urge you to make certain that such a Day would find you at peace with God and man, clean and blameless in His sight. Meanwhile, consider that God’s patience is meant to be man’s salvation, as our dear brother Paul pointed out in his letter to you, written out of the wisdom God gave him. In that letter, as indeed in all his letters, he referred to these matters. There are, of course, some things in his letters which are difficult to understand, and which, unhappily, ill-informed and unbalanced people distort (as they do the other scriptures), and bring disaster on their own heads.

But you, my friends whom I love, are forewarned, and should therefore be very careful not to be carried away by the errors of wicked men and so lose your proper foothold. On the contrary, you should grow in grace and in your knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ – to Him be glory now and until the dawning of the Day of Eternity!

Peter Jonas (Foremost Apostle of our Lord Jesus Christ. In a letter written ~66AD – 2 Peter Chapter 3:2-18, JB Phillips version).

Topical Issue Continued: When we mentioned it upon its introduction many of us “ah-ed” and sighed... and that was it. Of course, we haven’t quite forgotten it, but then it’s no longer any news. Meanwhile, there is hardly anything to protest against, or even boycott. And so it will continue until the climax comes!

As we have suggested in another Topical Issue (vol 2 No 4), a very likely scenario will be the introduction of compulsory National ID cards in all nations (see news on page 1), which will soon carry the biochip (as the current ValuCard in Nigeria is).

(→ continue on page 3)

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

(Office: Shop 7, Conference Centre, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife)

Phone: 036-230904, c/o 036-230809 Fax: c/o 036-230705

E-mail: jojo@oauife.edu.ng Website: <http://www.ozcoweb.com/churcharise/>

Editor –in-Chief: Joshua O. Ojo

Editorial Board: Adesina Ademola Emmanuel Ariyibi Joanna Olufemi
Dupe Oluwaleke Funmi Samuel Taiwo Oriola

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

TOPICAL ISSUE: WEARING OUT THE SAINTS

“And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the Saints of the most High...” Dan 7:25a KJV

One of the ultimate weapons of Satan, which he is now beginning to brandish menacingly these end times is attrition. This is the process of hyping issues one moment and making them non-issues the next moment; heightening expectations only to keep them drawn out; and eventually plummeting them down to an anti-climax - all for the sole purpose of wearying down the soul and spirit of Christians. With the sensitivity of many deadened via several “false alarms” in this way, Satan hopes that these (like the foolish virgins, see Mat 25:5) will be caught flat footed when the final assault eventually breaks in like a flood. A respected Christian commentator, speaking on the Y2K hype especially in America, recently made this same point in the following way: “It is a certainty that now, after Y2K and the first impact date were total busts -- nobody is going to prepare again for these or any other announced events.” This is a real strategy employed by the arch adversary; and its efficacy is alluded to in the Scriptures. “Hope deferred makes the heart sick Pro. 13:12a).

The issue of the Middle-East peace process is one area we will like to emphasize in this regard. No one should be deluded that this will be an easy feat to accomplish - it is a problem that has been existing for thousands of years. Yet the Bible is emphatic that the antichrist will be able to pull through an accord that will last at least a few years - 7 years to be precise – Dan 9:27. [The permanent resolution of the issue of course awaits the true Prince of Peace]. Hence the on-going peace talks in the Middle East and determined moves by many power brokers to realize it by this September, continues to generate keen interests among children of God. But then, we can never afford to be speculative. Some five years ago, it appeared as if the peace agreement would definitely be realized by the year 2000; but the assassination of the then Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin (4/1/96), and the emergence of Bible believing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have set the time-table back till the coming of the current Prime Minister, Ehud Barak, who is a disciple of Begin. And even now at the time of writing, despite all the efforts of weighty truce-makers (including the incumbent US President and the EEC), it seems the Peace Agreement is about to be stalemated yet again.

Our counsel here however, is that no matter what game of attrition Satan plays, children of God cannot afford to lose interest in this event which might actually be one of the determinants of when the Rapture will occur.

Yet another area the devil is out to wear out the interest of Christians is with regards to microchip implantation in humans. A few weeks ago, the devil made a major move when one Bill Cross went on the Internet to announce that the purported \$5 billion business Global Monetary, was a fake set up by himself - just as a joke! He had claimed that the said company would pay \$250 to anybody who will agree to have a microchip implanted in their right hand for the purpose of promoting secure internet commerce. CA! had actually mentioned the story cautiously, with the remark that it must mean that advocates of microchipping must have considered current rapid progress along that line not quite rapid enough (Vol. 2 No 6, 1999).

Obviously, Mr Cross (or whatever his real name is) and the agencies he represent, are only merely trying to wage a war of attrition on those who believe in the imminence of a ‘global, mark-of-the-beast’ kind of implant (and, on another hand, to judge public preparedness for such a technology – several people applied for the implant). And for us, this bold attempt to “unprepare” the masses, is only a confirmation that the advocates of Lucifer-rule are bent on introducing just such a system – which is actually direly needed and technologically feasible right now. For maximum impact, the populace is to be kept unawares/desensitized till all the system is fully and firmly in place. To understand the reality of this “creeping upon people unawares” (Gal. 2:4); consider that most of us have calmly “forgotten” that the bio-chip is now with us, right here in Nigeria, making rounds in top finance houses and fast gaining grounds. **(Please continue under Exhortation on this page)**

[All Scriptures from NKJV unless otherwise stated]