



CHURCH ARISE!

Vol 3 No 6 November - December 2000

END-OF-MILLENNIUM ISSUE

Promoting a Christian Agenda for the End Times

EDITORIAL Rapture Watch

Some people take it upon themselves to declare that man has been in existence for millions of years – based on the now thoroughly discredited so-called geological Ages in Paleontology, the main pillar for that satanic invention: The Theory of Evolution.

The Bible account makes it clear that mankind came onto the scene only some 6,000 years ago. According to our current calendar, we are some 2 months to the close of the 6,000 years. This age also agrees with the most reliable methods in sciences, such as we mention in the topical issue of this concluding issue of CA! this side of the millenium. Folks, we are in terribly exciting days. What a privilege to be around on earth at this time!

While savouring the joy of service for the Kingdom in this most significant period of earth history however, it is wisdom for us not to forget that the coming of the Lord for His Church might as well happen in our lifetime. After all, the Bible makes it very clear that the Church Age, which started on Pentecost day, some 1,970 years ago will not last forever. Indeed according to Rom 11:25, when the last non-Jew person to be saved has given his/her life to Jesus, the Church Age will come to a sharp close, and the Church will be taken out of this world. This sudden selective catching-up of Christian Saints is known as the Rapture.

Now if the Bible has made it very clear that the Church will some day be raptured, and that this will be a sudden, unpredictable event, why does anyone suppose it can't happen in their lifetime, or even today? It is more traditional to harp against 'extremists and alarmists' who see the coming of the Lord Jesus in every event, even claiming to know the exact date and hour when the Lord will eventually come. However, CA! thinks it no less an ill when people suppose they know when He, the Lord, surely CANNOT come. Once again, we ask, do you seriously think the Lord could come today? He might very well do!

As usual, this is a history-flavoured edition. We hope it does minister to your spirit and challenge you further in your walk with the Lord. Despite acute space shortage, we are trying to become more interactive and are now creating a Letters Column. So come on, make yourself heard. Write today.

NEWS

AOG dedicates National Worship Centre:

The National Worship Centre of the Assemblies of God at Abuja, was launched to the glory of God on Sept 30. Chief Host was Rev. Dr. Charles O. Osueke, the General Superintendent of AOG Nigeria.

SHARIA UPDATE

CAN, Bauchi State branch has rejected the report of the State's Sharia Implementation Committee. CAN declared that the decisions and resolutions of the committee is not binding on any Christian in the State, noting that the Nation's constitution is superior. CAN further wondered why Sharia is such a serious problem now, when it wasn't so all the years several Muslims have been ruling the country.

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) has cautioned that the implementation of Sharia in any part of Nigeria must not violate the freedom and legitimate interests of non-muslims as guaranteed by the Constitution. According to a communique signed by the coordinator of NIREC, (and Chaplain to Aso Rock Chapel), Prof. Yusuf Obaje, "NIREC appreciates the fears expressed by non-muslims on the application of Sharia, especially in the areas of apostasy, capital punishment, and other areas of discrimination (Punch, 29/09/00, pg 6).

Meanwhile the Kaduna State Governor, Ahmed Makarfi has said that the State will NOT implement supreme (i.e. all-encompassing) Sharia, but would create Sharia courts for Muslims. He said, "Government is interested in moving forward and not in anything which would draw it and development backward" (Punch, 15/9/00, front page).

And now, hear this!

Three **Islamic scholars** visiting Zamfara from Katsina State received 80 strokes of the cane each for consuming alcohol contrary to section 149 of the State's Sharia Penal Code. The three Imams were on an **evangelizing mission** to Zamfara "to propagate the benefits derivable from the adoption of the Sharia legal code by the government of Zamfara" (Punch 3/9/00, front page). . It will take more than some legislation to set man free of his many inherited wrong desires and lusts. Jesus is the real thing!

Guru Maharaji not yet off the hook: The case of the murder of Ghanaian citizen Nobert Afesi will not be dismissed so easily afterall. The self-proclaimed God on earth, Guru Maharaji of Ibadan, and some of his men had earlier been acquitted of the murder charges against them, mainly due to shoddy handling of the case by the prosecution (see Vol 3 No 5). Now, following official protests from Ghana, the Presidency has ordered the transfer of the case file to Abuja, summoning the Investigating Police Officer as well (Punch, Sept 10).

HIV Disclosure law in Botswana

In Botswana, with more than 1 in 3 adults infected with HIV virus or having AIDS, the country has enacted a law making it an offence for an HIV positive person to have sex with a person without informing them of their HIV status. In neighbouring Malawi, AIDS is now the major cause of death in the House of Parliament. According to the Speaker, over 29 Members of Parliament have died of AIDS in the past four years. (Africa Today vol 6 no 9, pg 6-7)

Update on One-World Government/Religion Moves

The whole world watched the **Millennial Summit** organized by the UN come and go – apparently not more than the usual "jaw-jaw". However, what most did not know was that a **parallel religious version** was also going on at the same time in the same New York City. The little publicity that eventually filtered out for this meeting arose due to the insistence of China that the Dalai Lama, scheduled to give the keynote address, should not be allowed into the UN building.

In a similar event, the 15th World Youth Day (WYD) organized by Pope John Paul II has come and gone. It featured youths from all nations in the world. Listing the achievement of the event, Chairman of the Pontifical Council for Inter Religious Dialogue, Nigeria's Cardinal Francis Arinze said the WYD reinforces the youths' "consciousness and conviction of belonging to a Church which is worldwide, not a village club, (but) the biggest religious family that ever-existed since the world began". He went on to add that "because of the faith the youths have in the Pope, after the WYD rally, we have a higher number of young people wanting to become priests, religious brothers and sisters,..."

One news that is not usually given much publicity is that the very same beloved Pope John Paul II has in his statement issued to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences on October 22 1996, asked that his flock accepts that Man originated through that lie from the pit of hell, the Theory of Evolution. More recently (Aug 1999), he has declared that hell does not really exist as a place but merely a concept in the mind of (simplistic?) people. Of course he needs to do all these to gain, as he seeks, the support of every manner of religion and spiritual expression on earth today into the One-World Religion programme which he publicly launched in October 1986 at Assisi, Italy. Having (in real terms) thus decreed an omnipotent and all-wise Creator-God out of existence, the only real authority left in the emerging pantheistic one world religion being sponsored by the Pope is the Pope himself. As much as we admire the private person of Pope John Paul II, when it comes to choosing between his teachings and those of the Bible, we cannot but stand up for the Truth.

"THE LORD BRINGS THE COUNSEL OF THE NATIONS TO NOTHING; HE MAKES THE PLANS OF THE PEOPLES OF NO EFFECT. THE COUNSEL OF THE LORD STANDS FOREVER, THE PLANS OF HIS HEART TO ALL GENERATIONS. Psalm33:10-11.

Meanwhile, Evolution Theory is in serious trouble

Thank God for groups like the Institute for Creation Research (a US based group including thousands of University professors, especially in the Sciences), and others world-wide, there are now numerous painstakingly shown scientific proofs that the theory of evolution is nothing but the greatest hoax ever dreamt up; whilst virtually all data available support the fact that the earth and its inhabitants were created probably not more than some 6,000 years ago.

Confront any real evolution-believing scientist with the facts today, and the results are predictable – Deep Hatred and Violence! In fact it was this common reaction from evolutionists that compelled the beloved Christian scholar C.S. Lewis to change his mind concerning the idea of ‘theistic evolution’ just before he died. Lewis wrote to a personal friend: **“I wish I were younger. What inclines me now to think you may be right in regarding [evolution] as the central and radical lie in the whole web of falsehood that now governs our lives is not so much your arguments against it as the fanatical and twisted attitudes of its defenders.”**

Well-documented instances are too numerous to mention. For instance, a few years ago, in the United States, an evolutionist Professor went to the unimaginable extent of tearing off journal articles from journals in the Library because those articles provided compelling facts against the evolution theory. Another bluntly declared that any student who does not **believe** in evolution (not merely **know** all the details of the theory) cannot get a Ph.D in his department. Yet another earnestly advocated that scientists found not to embrace evolutionism should be frustrated out of the system. The Creation Trilogy published by the ICR lists several more unimaginable but carefully documented facts (available for free loan at our Library).

Unfortunately, what is the most powerful argument in support of evolution theory today? Paraphrased, it simply is this, “if it were not a fully established truth, the Pope would never have given it his unqualified support!” At least this is the only support we saw as we read through the special edition of the leading Evolutionists’ magazine, *Skeptical Inquirer* in their special issue on the subject matter. (Vol 23 no 4, 1999 – available at our Library).

“The theory of evolution is the most debasing, devaluing and dehumanising supposition on the origin of Man. It probably would not have mattered if it were true....”

Olusegun Obasanjo in his new book, *This Animal Called Man* (pg 16)

We at Church Arise! are willing to participate in debate with anybody who thinks the Theory of Evolution has any merit, scientifically or otherwise, over the Creation Model of the World as specified in God’s word, the Holy Bible. College Students, why don’t you share this challenge with any of your Professors who might want to pick it up?

Fresh Outbreak of Violence on Campuses

Satan is again raising his ugly head on several Campuses of higher learning in the country. Mainly the protagonists are students, either cultists as in Uniben, Benin (see *Punch* Sept 8, pg 9) or so-called Students Union Governments such as nearly killed their Vice Chancellor at DELSU, Abraka. At the Fed Poly, Ilaro, it was a students ‘mob’ that stabbed and stripped a lecturer naked for allegedly passing unsavoury comments on a deceased student. However at the OAU Ile-Ife, violence was initiated by one of the workers union which took industrial disputes to the level of display of charms and fetishes to press home their demands.

The devil’s modus-operandi is no longer a secret. He seeks to cause chaos first on Campuses as a prelude to carrying such to the cities and communities hosting these campuses. Children of God must counter these moves and send the demons packing through the ‘overflowing scourge’ – strategic fervent and continuous prayers. (Isa. 28:18)

Nigeria’s Economy bows to the chip: The cash redundant-rendering card, ValuCard continues to increase in popularity and patronage in the country. The operators hope to have 200,000 carriers of the card, by the end of the year, from the 13,000 who were carrying it by the first half of the year (See *Comet* Sunday, June 25, page 33 for details). The ValuCard is in essence nothing more than the computer microchip embedded in it.

Middle East Treaty: Hope alive. Despite current escalation in the military conflict in the Middle East, hope is still being kept alive for example, by events such as the emergency summit at Sharm el-sheikh. When it eventually comes, the Middle East Treaty will come very suddenly.

Environmental Hazards are not relenting, worldwide. **Buried Alive!**

- 57 slum dwellers in Bombay [India] in a landslide following torrential rain (*Comet* July 14, page 10).
- 17 people in Amakor, Nanka in Orumba, [Nigeria] following a similar landslide incident (*Punch* Sept 28, front page).
- 50 human beings among thousands of others who make their living scavenging from piles of refuse in the outskirts of Manila, [Phillipines]. They were buried in a rubbish avalanche.

Thot: Incidents, such as sampled above, do not discriminate between ‘good’ and ‘bad’ people. In the same vein, Bible warns that the only way to escape the coming world-wide disasters (physical, moral and spiritual), is not to trust in our ‘personal goodness’ but rather to ‘escape’ for dear life. As the Ark was in the flood of Noah, Jesus is the ONLY way of escape from the current/unfolding world order (1 John 5:5, John 3:16). Talk to your Christian friend for more info.

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also”. (Jhn 14:1-2)

- CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Lagos 2000 Millenium Crusade and Fire Conference being organized by Christ for all Nations. Nov 8-11 at Lagos. Ministering: **Reihnnard Bonnke**.
- National Ministers Conference on Spiritual Warfare, strategic praying and Missions by **Intercessors for Nigeria**, 6-10 November, at Redemption Camp, Lagos. Theme: Subduing Kingdoms
- **Ile-Ife City Prayer Altar:** (Facilitated by ‘The Body of Christ’). Next meeting – Sunday Nov 12. Time 3.00 pm. Venue: Local Government Studies Lecture Theatre (Opp. RECTAS/NACETEM).
- Reclaiming the **National Theatre** from the demon-spirits of Festac ’77 to which it was dedicated. Christians in the arts, from all over the nation will be gathering at the Theatre from Dec 1-Dec 4. They are keeping the agenda to their chest, but all Christian artists are invited. Helps with accommodation etc likely to be available. (See your Pastor for further details).
- FESTIVAL 2000 at the Redemption Camp. Dec 14-16. Theme: **Open Heavens**. Host Minister: Pastor E.A. Adeboye.

QUOTES

This Eternal God is the only God of all humanity comprising Rosicrucians, Moslems, Christians, Buddhists, etc. (He) cannot be appropriated by any person, group, sect or religion...The time has now arrived for all human beings throughout the face of the Earth to close ranks”

Rosicrucian Amorc in a *Press Statement/recruitment drive* (*Punch* Sept 4, pg 21), claiming they are not Satanic or Secret Society and supporting this with the June 2, 2000 Supreme Court Ruling.

“The issue of whether Amorc is a Secret Society was not the bone of contention in the application brought by EPL [Ecwa Publishing Limited] before the Supreme Court in December 1999 [June 2, 2000 ruling]. That issue had already been decided by the Supreme Court on the 15th of July, 1994, when it upheld the majority decision of the Court of Appeal that Amorc is a secret society....Be that as it may, it is evident that Amorc is frantically battling to have a place of recognition within the society as a good and appropriate organization. The members of the public and all God fearing persons should not be misled by all the publications and campaigns being made by Amorc. [All] should support the proposed bill to be sponsored at the National Assembly to proscribe all secret societies in the country, including Amorc, pursuant to the Section, 38 of the Constitution.

Signed Statement by ECWA General Secretary, Rev Dr. Musa Asake, replying to Amorc’s newspaper publications. *Punch*, Oct 18, 2000 pg 10..

CALM Comment: But why does Amorc deny Satan publicly while choosing to revere him in its meetings? Anyway their denying being satanic indicates they know of the existence of satanic groups. Are we then to agree we are serving the same “God of all humanity” with these self-proclaimed satanists? [By the way, Jehovah Witnesses and the Church of Latter Days Saints (Mormons) also both believe that Jesus and Satan were brothers, and equal. Ask them the next time they visit you!]. New Age groups like Rosicrucians, claiming that all religions are the same, and therefore asserting that there is nothing called Deception, represent the Ultimate Deception!

LETTERS

I commend what God is doing via your ministry these last days and I pray for more of His grace, strength and financial/material provisions in Jesus name. It is sad that even the saints/elects are ignorant of end-time events. I heard a Sister (spirit filled, tongue-talking) saying of recent that the Antichrist is coming with two horns on the head... There is a need for proper orientation in the Christendom and one of the means is via your publication. **Bro Kehinde Oyafajo**, Project Coordinator, SCM, LAUTECH, Ogbomoso

I was opportuned to come across your bi-monthly publication, Church Arise! It was so informative and I, no doubt, gained a lot from it.

Ajayi Motunrayo O., Ikeja

Church Arise has been to me (and I believe to many other Christians) an eye opener and summons my determination to carry on in Christ – the strife will not be long – I have seen world events unfold (from news report) myself and God has made me to be sensitive to how the world is evolving to fulfil the “REVELATION” (Scripture); but they seem to mean very little to me. Church Arise amazingly gave me the awareness (like never before) that things are finally reaching ‘THE’ Conclusion.

Emmanuel Olumuyiwa Ilori, Osu

I have personally decided long ago to reduce the load of Audio cassettes with me by sharing them to people/Ministries. And I just felt that CALM Library could be the first beneficiary. By the special grace of God, when I would be reviewing my book shelf, I shall also pass some to you.

Kunle Onasanya, Warri.

Watch Out! Church Arise! in Book Form

We are glad to announce that we are currently putting finishing touches to a new book, **The Time is Fulfilled**. It is a compilation and review of materials we have published in our Newsletter over the past 3 years, systematically arranged under major headings and carefully indexed. Not only will the book take care of the several requests for back issues of Church Arise! (many of which are no longer available), we hope it will be a very useful evangelism tool. By God’s grace, the book should be ready early January, next year. Will you please pray that God will make it happen?

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Human clones arrive

Dr Jacob Staunz of Massachusetts, USA, has announced (Sept 1), that he has succeeded in producing the first human being artificially and entirely from a single individual, 30 year old financial planner, Martha Jerum. Dr Staunz claimed that the baby was cloned last year Sept 1 (counting from fertilization or ‘birth’?). Describing the well-known procedure, he stated that he took the DNA from one of Miss Jerum’s skin cells, implanted it into one of her eggs, placed it in an artificial womb and treated it for 9 months with synthetic hormones similar to those secreted by the glands of pregnant women.... and presto, a baby girl identical to Miss Jerum in every detail and particular. Explained the controversial doctor: “We had been successful at cloning frogs, reptiles, even sheep but still, the scientific community at large doubted we could clone humans and we proved them wrong”. What Dr Staunz did not talk about is what next would happen now that the Pandora box has been pried open!

Miss Jerum was selected from 72 applicants. Why did she do it? “I’m too busy with my career to consider marriage much less to cope with the stress of pregnancy and yet I always wanted to produce an offspring. {Cloning frees me from} the responsibility of carrying, nursing and caring for a baby”. This development should convince any doubting Thomas that cloning is not being developed to help ‘infertile couples’.

[This news item is based on article submitted by Mr YemiAkanni, a Part 3 medical student at OAU and sourced from a VOA report. In his original title, Mr Akanni equated cloning of a human with the creation of one and was particularly excited to discuss whether the cloned offspring does possess a soul or not. Readers’ comments are welcome and will be published. See also our previous article on cloning in Vol 1 no 2 for some of the various implications of human cloning.]

Yet Another Marian Apparition:

Every true child of God loves the Biblical Mary, mother of our Lord Jesus. However Marian apparitions are something else. Sites of these apparitions, where people claim to see (and sometimes interact) with “Mary the mother of Jesus”, are the most popular religious sites on earth. There are 937 Marian shrines in France alone, with just one of them (Lourdes) drawing about 5.5 million pilgrims, every year. The shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe near Mexico city, attracts some 20 million visitors each year! In Nigeria, the various ‘Oke

Marias’ have remained consistent crowd-pullers. Many of these apparitions are *apparently* harmless while others are obviously not so harmless - like Credonia Mwerinde’s visions that led to the largest mass murder on record in Uganda in April (See Vol 3 No 3).

The town of Assiut, in Southern Egypt is the site of the latest reported apparition of Mary (Comet, Sept 10, pg 5). According to the Secretary of the Council of Churches in Assiut, “People had been sleeping in the streets around the Church of St Mark, where the apparition happens, and standing on rooftops to catch a glimpse.”.

We find it very interesting to note the comment from Comet reporter that “Assiut has been best known until now as a stronghold of Islamic militancy during the 1990s” ..Roy Livesey had predicted in his 1989 book, *Understanding the New World Order* (page 220), that Marian apparitions will be a major factor that will bring in fundamental Islam into the One-World religion movement. Mary is perhaps the most beloved figure in Catholicism while Fatima (Mohammed’s favourite daughter whom he lost) is about the most beloved figure in Islam. One of the major apparitions of Mary occurred at the Portuguese town of Fatima in 1917 (see Vol 3 No 5) thus giving rise to the apparition known as Our Lady of Fatima, tickling at the same time, both Catholic and Islamic sentimentalities.

According to Dave Hunt’s book based on Rev 17 (*A Woman Rides the Beast*), a feminine figure will be the chief deity in the days of the antichrist (the beast of Rev 13). This is similar to the situation in the first Babylon where Semiramis was the chief deity.

We present in abridge form, some dogmas of the Catholic Church concerning Mary. We thank God there are still several Bible-believing Catholics who don’t buy these scripturally indefensible statements:

- **Born without sin like Jesus and Adam:** “In the first instant of her conception, [Mary was] preserved free from all stain of original sin” – *Pope Pius IX, 1854.* (cf Rom 3:23, 5:12-18)
- **Ever a virgin, Assumed into heaven, like Jesus:** “the immaculate Mother of God and ever Virgin Mary was at the end of her life assumed into heaven body and soul” – *Pope Pius XII 1950* (cf. Mat 1:25, 12:46)
- **Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent:** “Mary is so perfectly united with the Holy Spirit that He acts only through [her] His spouse... all our life, every thought, word, and deed is in Her hands...at every moment, She Herself must instruct, guide, and transform each one of us into Herself, so that not we but She lives in us...” *Soul Magazine, official publication of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima in the US and Canada church. (1984)* (cf Jhn 2:5)
- **She is the “Mother of the Church, Queen of the Apostles [and] dwelling place of the Trinity”** *Pope John Paul II, 1993* (cf Mat 12:50)

Human-part rituals not abating

As usual when a new bank note is about being introduced, the news media in Nigeria are virtually clustered with news items concerning the use of human parts in rituals. From stories such as 30 year old Bitmus Gokir gouging the eyes of an 8 year old in Pankshin Plateau state (Punch Sept 12, page 1) to the case of boys being turned into dogs for easy transportation to site of use (see facts and photo in the Yoruba-language newspaper, Alaroye (October 24), the stories are all quite pathetic, to put it mildly. However, probably the most gruesome and sickening was the detailed confession to the rape and murder of Maria Adeniji, casual labourer at construction sites, by 6 trusted men, who took her head to Shaki for money-spinning rituals. You need strong stomach to see the pictures in Sunday Punch of Sept 3.

Apparently this is not just a Nigeria problem alone. Punch of July 11 (page 15) reported the story in Ghana of the string of 25 unsolved murders of women, since last year, in situations similar to the story above.

TOPICAL ISSUE (Continued from back page) and the target is ultimately to not only undermine Christian influence and teachings from Society, but outright wiping away of Christians (see Vol 2:6 or 3:4). By the time-table given by the principal agents of the one world government/religion, they are desperate to actualize their dreams at their perceived beginning of their Aquarius Age- year 2001 or thereabout. This, of course, is what the New World Order is really all about. This New Order cannot be realized as long as we have dissenters (mainly Christians) in any large number. → back page, under Exhortation.

EXHORTATION: We are about to go home

The rapture of the true Church will take place in a moment; suddenly; without a moment warning; in a twinkling of an eye, Jesus will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God. The graves will burst open, and dead saints will fly out of them, and we which are alive physically and spiritually will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. The Church here described is the true Church, the small invisible Church within the large visible general churches.

The visible, nominal, sinful backslidden, apostate church is the majority church. It is thronged by godless, world-seeking people without the barest appetite for anything righteous and holy. They will not share in Christ's promised glorious rapture of the saints. Their part is in the Great Tribulation. They shall suffer God's judgment.

But, if you are a Christian already, and you are expecting the coming of Christ, then on you lies a great responsibility: a responsibility greater than can be possibly imagined: a responsibility greater, consequentially, than can be done by anyone else, no matter their calling. It is the responsibility of rescuing the perishing; of preaching the gospel; of saving the lost. This is your responsibility. Thus you cannot be like other pastors or preachers of the many visible churches and denominations who do not even know that the last days are here. **They do not know that the Rapture is about to take place. They care less that we are at the very brink of time. They must not be your standard for judging the programme of God.**

Given that your heart's cry to God is for His mercy and shield from the universal calamity to come, what should you do?

1. **Be sure you have a definite experience of salvation, not publicity salvation which many profess with "a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" (II Tim. 3:5).**
2. **"Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh" (Gal 5:16)**
3. **Obtain and maintain a pure heart. "And every man that hath this hope in him (the hope of the rapture) purifieth himself, even as he (Christ) is pure" (1 Jhn 3:3)**
4. **Resist every insinuation, pressure or tendency to compromise your knowledge of the righteous standard of God's word (Jude 3).**
5. **"Endure hardness (trials, persecution), as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 2:3).**
6. **"Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Always "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and of our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Col. 3:2, Tit 2.13)**

Your constant expectation holds your gaze steady on the skies; for who knows, it might be tonight when the blackness of the night shall blaze forth with the light of His coming; who knows, the trump of God might sound in the day, when the world, numbed by the din of its damnable preoccupations the trump of God shall not hear. No careless moment should dim your eyes from seeing His appearing or deafen your ears from hearing the trumpet sound. Watch for the skybound movement. Rid yourself of every sin. We are about to go home.

Pastor W.F. Kumuyi (cullled from his book, The Believer in the Last Days, 1995.)

Topical Issue (concluded, from page 3)

The options are that Christians are around and have committed apostasy, joining themselves to these obviously humanistic New World Order, or they are no longer around having been wiped out by agents of the New World Order (e.g. the demon Djwhal Khul vol 2 No 6), or lastly they have been taken away by their Lord in the Rapture (as He promised Jhn 14, 1 Thess.4:17). **At least** one of these has to happen sooner or later. See Rev 17:17, Acts 2:23, 4:28 to understand how God's time-table/agenda and Satan's own will coincide in the last days.

The convergence of all these data gives us the conviction at Church Arise! that the end of all things is in sight. (1 Pet 4:7). Dear friend, how really prepared are you for these things?

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

Phone: 036-230904, c/o 036-233636

E-mail: jojo@oauife.edu.ng Website: <http://www.ozcoveb.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 most welcome. We thank you for your continued interests.

TOPICAL ISSUE: HOW CLOSE TO THE END?

A Church in Osun State, Nigeria has for over a year now been shouting itself hoarse on the State TV that Jesus will certainly come in the year 2001, i.e. next year. Predicting the date of the coming of the Lord has always been a popular activity in Christianity, particularly among cults who having nothing to lose, use such attention-grabbing issues to get themselves badly-needed shot into prominence. As the story of the Jehovah Witnesses (who predicted the end of the world for 1914) shows, life is always possible after such datelines. (Not so for the Ugandan Programmer however, vol 3 No 3).

But it is not only 'cults' who play with possible dates of His return. (Many 'mainlines' prudently keep their reflections to themselves). Why does this activity has all the appeal it has, despite the Lord's having categorically stated that no one except the Father knows the date (obviously kept from the Son as a surprise gift is kept hidden from the would-be recipient)?

We have a simple explanation. Despite all the deceptions or mistaken convictions about the date of the Lord's coming, He is indeed going to come some day. This being true, speculations about the possible dates of this most spectacular event cannot but be rife, both among humans and spirit beings. Only the spiritually dead will not think about these things. For instance, who, even with only a rudimentary understanding of Jewish Feasts, will not expect the Rapture to fall on the traditional Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)? Especially so if you have read the incredible details of how not only ancient events, but even contemporary ones have continuously fallen on the appropriate Feast days in the book by Grant R. Jeffrey: Armageddon - Appointment with Destiny? But then logical speculation has its limit in a situation as unique as this!

At Church Arise!, we obviously believe that the return of the Lord (not necessarily the end of the world) is imminent. But then quite frankly, based on Scriptures alone, while the end might truly be at hand, it might also as well be some 10,000 years away. Our convictions at Church Arise! on the soon-coming of the Lord Jesus are based on 3 separate bodies of reasons which we here examine in this our last publication this passing 6th millenium.

1. From the Scriptures. From the Genesis account, the earth is now about 6,000 years old. (This young age for the earth is supported by indisputable scientific data based on the decay in the earth magnetic field; C-14 dating, once we remove the well-demonstrated false assumption of constancy in the atmospheric inventory of C-14 over the past 50,000 years or so; gradual disintegration of the comets of the Solar System; calculations based on build-up of salts and trace elements in the oceans; or even radiometry methods - including their wild and obviously unreasonable assumptions- once we do not limit ourselves only to the favourite billion-year half-life ones, guaranteed to yield ages of millions of years (with error margins of same magnitudes!). etc. Other methods such as intrapolation of current population backwards, are also consistent with the above) Now we think, whenever the 7th millenium does eventually clocks (making room for uncertainties in our calendar system) it is not unreasonable to expect something spectacular. Afterall the Lord not only chose the 7th day to rest but commanded its continuous observance, together with other groups of sevens, - as a SIGN (Exo. 31:13).

This is further buttressed by the consistent appearance of major events every 2,000 years. e.g Adam - Abraham, Abraham - Jesus, and Jesus - us here at this time, all have intervals of 2,000 years.

Finally from the Scriptures, Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Dan 2: lists the Kingdoms that are to come on earth, before God would establish His eternal Kingdom. (Dan 2:44) It is undisputed history that all these kingdoms have come and gone, except the last one, which is to be related to the penultimate one, the Roman Empire. Now daily news reports tell us clearly that a new -World-wide Kingdom based around the European Union (revived Roman Empire) is in the offing. You can put any date you like but the fulfilment of these plans can be safely measured in years (maybe even months) rather than decades. And certainly not centuries!

2. From the General News Media and the Scientific Reports. With the increasing reports of environmental problems (earthquakes, floods, global warming, ozone depletion, etc), combined with world-wide immorality (and associated un-heard of plagues such as AIDS), science and technology getting out of hands (nuclear and associated deployment technology, human cloning, capability to monitor (and possibly control) every human being anywhere on earth etc), it is clear to us that the world is headed for a climax, and things are far from any semblance of steady-state or equilibrium. Things simply cannot go on this way any much longer. By this reasoning, we are already in "injury time".

3. Well-documented plans of the Enemy: The World's response to the situation summarized in the last paragraph is the determination to merge global politics, economies and ethics in a one-world government/one world religion. But this is a script directed straight from the pit of hell; ➔ page 3