

FREE

The Worst Animal
page 2



THE VOICE

from outside the camp of organized religion



Don't Go Down
With the Ship
page 3

EARTH DAY 2008

"...That He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Hence, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach." Hebrews 13:12-13

WWW.TWELVETRIBES.ORG

THIS ISSUE



2
Detonation of the Nuclear Family
The breakdown of family is the first warning sign of the demise of a society.



3
This Fatal Poison
A true story about the irony of life on this planet in the 21st century, at the end of an age.



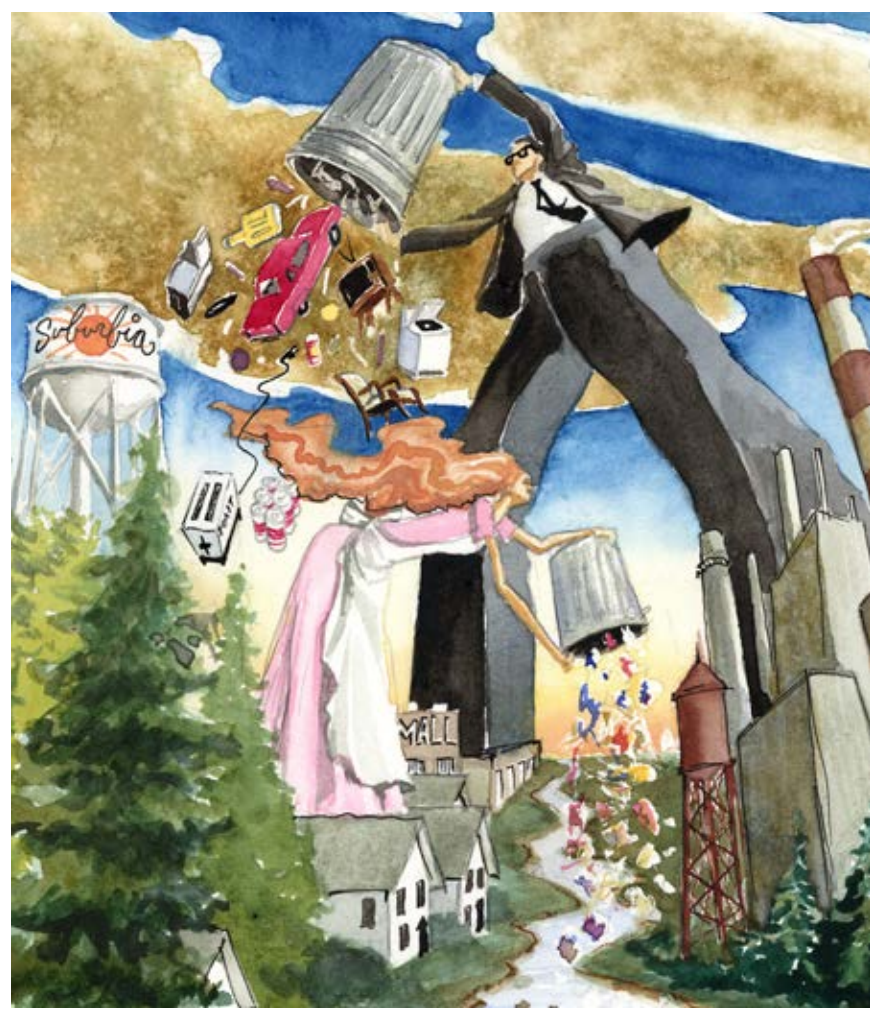
VISION QUEST

Why are we here? What is the purpose for my life? Just get old and die?" I asked as a child and then as a young man. But not only could no one answer my question, no one even wanted to talk about it!

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

The Twelve Tribes Communities
www.twelvetribe.org
1-888-TWELVE-T
(see back page)

WE NEED A PARADIGM SHIFT!



What was once a humorous bumper sticker on granddad's RV, has now become a frightening reality — we're spending our children's inheritance. Driven by our desires for wealth, security, and comfort we are carelessly consuming or polluting the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the earth on which we live. Like a runaway train headed for certain disaster, we're accelerating at break-neck speed toward the end of this world, as we know it.

We're barraged by reports of global warming, genetic engineering, polluted oceans, peak oil, mass extinction of animal species, depleted soils, population overshoot, HIV/AIDS epidemic, and on and on. (See *Glossary of Terms* on page 3) And what is even more shocking is what is happening in the soul of mankind as we become more and more alienated and independent from one another.

Mental illness is increasing at an alarming rate. Currently, 6% of the population of the United States has been diagnosed with some form of mental illness. More and more people, including children, are becoming dependent on mood-stabilizing drugs just to cope with the pressures and anxieties of modern life. How in the world can we possibly escape our inevitable destruction?

We are bombarded by voices from every corner, seeking to define the catastrophic issues we are facing. And amazingly, everyone seems to have come to the same conclusion about the remedy needed to save us from destroying ourselves. Our only hope is that there would be a radical change in consciousness among the people of the earth, especially in Western culture.

We need a paradigm shift — a fundamental change in how we relate to the earth and its resources. "Renewable energy, sustainability, reforestation, seed-saving, march in the streets, no more war!" — these are our battle cries. We have to wake up and take action before it's too late!

In this issue we take a closer look at the current paradigm — the way of life we have come to know and love (and hate). We endeavor to understand what is really at the root of the problems we're all facing. Of course, we all know what the real problem is — selfishness. You know it's true. What we really need is a change of heart. Is it possible for us to really change from being self-serving? It is so deep in our make-up as human beings. We who write these words have a real hope to share and a real life together that is working. ☞

MAN'S FINAL EXAM WHO WILL PASS THE TEST?

"We need a paradigm shift!" seems to be the latest rallying cry as we grope for real answers to the social, economic, and environmental issues that confront us. The age of individualization is taking its toll and bequeathing to us a bewildering legacy. It puts in question whether the glorious march of civilization really is the summit of human development. Progress has been so much acclaimed, but what if it is really the decline to emptiness, the descent into the abyss of the human soul? What if this movement, which promises the ultimate realization of human value, only serves to slowly but unstopably diminish our worth to... nothing?

"The climate crisis demands a radical response!" they say. Some already refer to it as *climate disaster*. A drastic and cataclysmic acceleration is taking place. It's long been recognized a global problem and is becoming a top political agenda. They warn us that mere lip service and little beauty patches won't save us from the ecological catastrophe of apocalyptic dimensions that may actually be at our doorstep. Who knows whether it will wash away the very foundations of our very convenient modern life? And what will we do then?

Our resources are shrinking in quantity and in quality, and, combined with continued population growth, this presents us with a very puzzling equation. "For a piece of bread a man will transgress," as the wisdom of the Proverbs so tellingly puts the problem. Will the nations of the earth, in the urge for self-preservation, turn on each other in the desperate run for the diminishing resources?

If very soon we begin to descend the other side of the "Oil Peak," as some predict, it will give us a good foretaste of what's yet to come. It just doesn't compute that the heedless exploitation of the earth's resources could go on endlessly without very serious consequences. It simply doesn't add up to continually take more than we put back.

Tearing down and destroying instead of building up and caring will bring an ugly end one day. That's just simple, plain, down-to-earth common sense, and yet we act as if we could defy the universal law of reaping what's been sown.

These are troublesome times as the harvest is coming in. The prophets of old, who understood the course mankind was taking, saw these perilous days long ago. Their dire warnings are coming to pass. A time of trouble is coming such as never was since there was a nation, when the soul of every man, woman and child will be tested to the core of their being. It will take nothing short of the utmost character to "pass the test" and come out standing on the other side.

And herein lies the dilemma: the diminishing of character in modern man is precisely what has brought us to the precarious place we find ourselves in.

Dilemma: a situation that requires a choice between options that are, or seem, equally unfavorable or mutually exclusive; a problem that seems to defy a satisfactory solution;

an argument that presents two alternatives, each of which has the same consequence.

How shall we pay what we owe when we have become bankrupt? How shall our fatally-flawed race bring healing to the planet we made sick?

A DIFFERENT RACE

We are stimulated towards things of eternal value, towards courage and self-sacrifice, towards loyalty and friendship. Knowing that there are eternal consequences for our actions should cause us to patiently continue in doing good, even in times of great hardship. This is the knowledge of good and evil, and those of good character respond to it. Keeping eternity in mind makes for upright behavior and establishes our character.

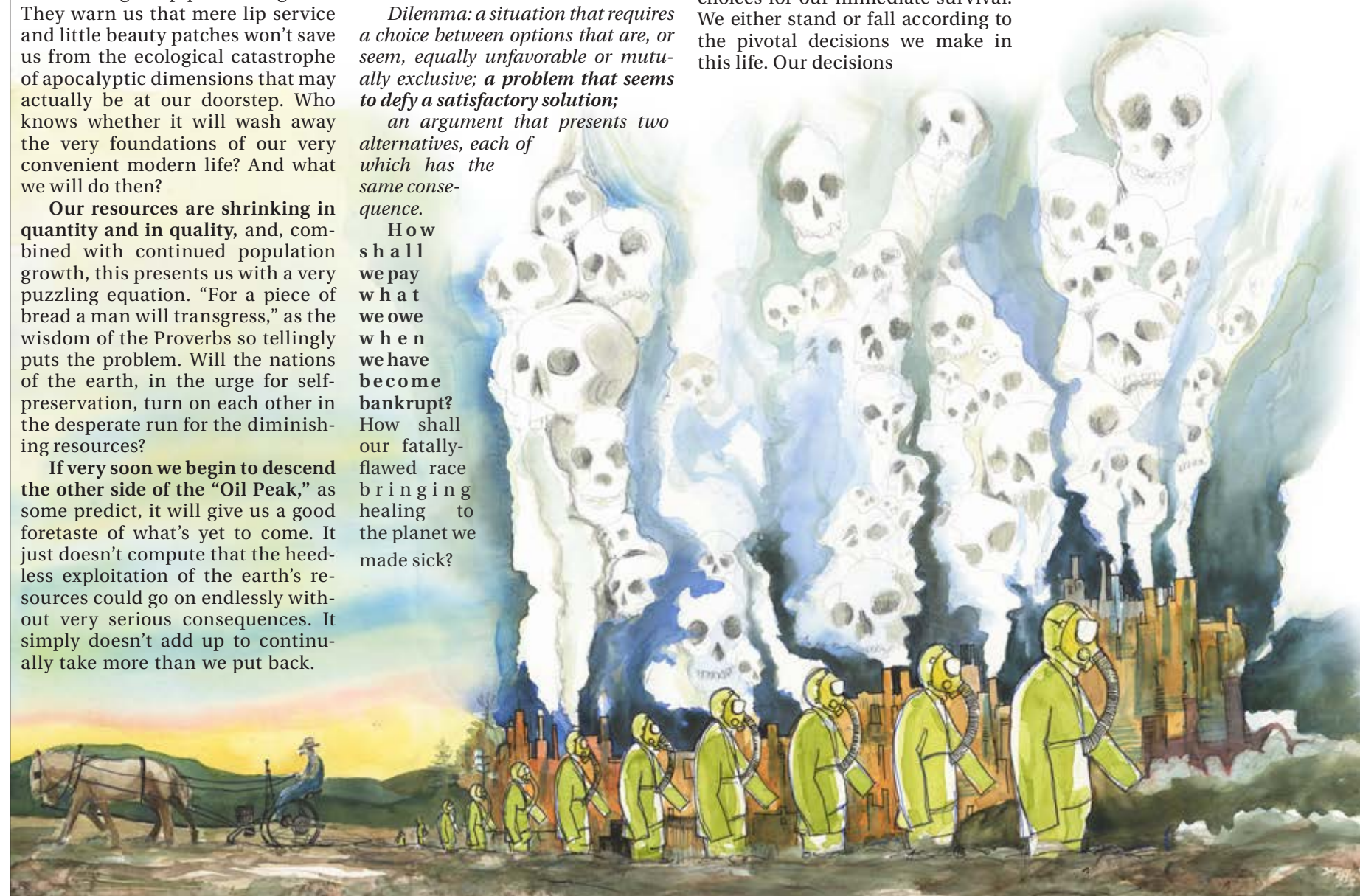
More than anything else about us, our character defines who we are as human beings. Beyond our superior mental capacity and creative ability, character is the very thing that distinguishes us from all other creatures, which function according to instinct. Character is the divine spark in us, making us image bearers of our Maker. With it we can make moral choices, not just choices for our immediate survival. We either stand or fall according to the pivotal decisions we make in this life. Our decisions

show where we stand in the great conflict of good and evil.

Our moral choices reveal how connected or disconnected we are to the instinctive knowledge of God that all men and women are born with. And that inner connect or disconnect most certainly is reflected outwardly in how we conduct our lives. We are either in harmony or disharmony with our fellow man and with nature. Hence the choices we make result either in a sustainable or unsustainable lifestyle. Many ancient peoples lived for generations within the boundaries of nature's laws, leaving only the smallest of ecological footprints in their wake.

The Law of Nature is written on the heart of every person, as the apostle Paul said. He also called the conscience the "teaching of nature" or "what nature teaches". Paul makes it very clear that because conscience is such a *conscious* thing we can only *consciously* ignore it. Conscience cannot be erased except by our own choices.

Continued on page 4



MAN, the Worst Animal



This is what we've been hearing:

We've got to find a way to understand that we are part of the living community of the earth.

We're not better,

We're not separate,

We're not the masters,

We're not the guardians,

We're just one of the species living here.

So here we are. When Darwin published his papers on the origins of the species in 1859, it was an *outrage*. By the 1930's it was a *theory*. Now it's a *fact*: we've evolved. We're just animals, or so we've been taught to believe. But, if we all evolved, when did our ape-like ancestors become men? Or, more to the point, *how* did they? What is man, anyway? We've been told that we're just one of the species living here, and that's true, but don't think we're not different — we who can destroy the whole planet and every life form with it. No polar bears have ever amassed that kind of collective force.

If we're just animals, how is it that we have slaughtered thousands and millions of our own species and other species? Even the predatory animals don't do that. And those that do take life don't incur guilt, but Man does. As a species we've committed many acts of shame.

We've lied. No hawk ever did that. Nor have turtles or cats or the sparrows that fall from the skies.

We've stolen, yes, more than food or for a need. We've stolen and robbed because we're greedy and rapacious in a way that no leopard or badger ever was.

We've been cowards and we've cheated. The gazelle, the solitary panda, the mountain goat, and the chipmunk haven't had to face that in their species.

Wolves and wild geese and butterflies haven't had to face rebellion in their offspring, either.

The other species seem to have a greater nobility about them, something admirable, but Man has sunk to something lower. He's the worst animal and he's out of control. But, out of *whose* control? Out of his own control. We are losing our self-control.

Where is gentleness and kindness and self-control? Do animals have self-control? How much self-awareness do they have? Isn't it *self* that's been the problem with mankind? The distinction, after all?

There is a *self* in Man that needs to be controlled. If you don't control yourself, something else will. You'll be controlled by your own selfishness, the base and greedy fallen nature of Man.

Man's Great Potential

Oh, in times past we saw a better mankind than we see now. Which is not to say that *all* men were noble, but there have been many with self-control, with circumspection, with grace and wisdom, with gentleness and courage. Those men and women are on the brink of extinction.

The good that has been in humanity, and the good that can still be found in us, if we would choose it, is a goodness not found in the other species of life. Elephants can't forgive, and mules can't extend mercy. They have long memories of the wrong suffered, and rightly so. They need those memories to survive. But what does man need to survive? The answer can only begin with defining what man is. In this case, we have to acknowledge the obvious. Animals, as full of their own glory as they are, are not able to make choices the way you and I can.

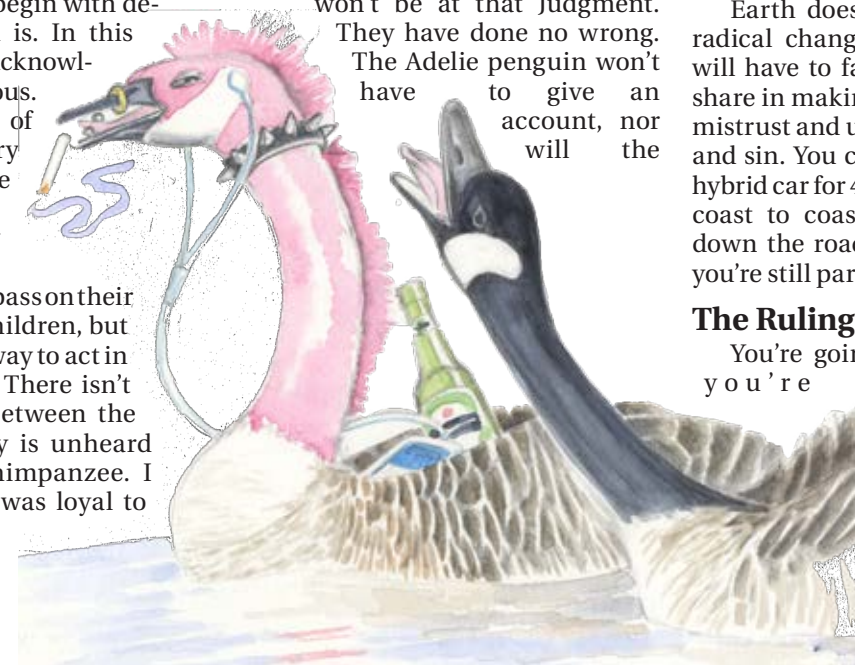
Giraffes can't pass on their history to their children, but only the present way to act in order to survive. There isn't much love lost between the lions, and loyalty is unheard of among the chimpanzee. I thought the dog was loyal to my dad until I started feeding her instead. She wagged her tail at Dad, but she

waited at the gate for me to come home. My dad was hurt, a little, by the shift in affections, but it was only for a time. Once Dad started being the one who fed her again, her eager barks were to welcome *him* home, not me. Try it sometime with your "best friend," and you'll see. Their companionship and loyalty has a limit: the need to survive. Those dogs don't have an evil motive; they just have to live. And a dog's gotta do what he's gotta do.

It's actually a dog-eat-dog world out there, even if mankind is out of the picture. Yet, we see the environment with so much glory and beauty in the myriad species, so intricately composed, so delicately balanced. They're poised in suspense, in the hope of another age, for they themselves are bound to life and death, to eating and being eaten. Their struggle is not for meaning or purpose, but for a few more breaths until they die. Is that all a man's life is, too? That's what evolution means, after all. Can we give ourselves to such a purposeless life and be any better in the end than animals? Many can't. And what of the animals? What futility, if they were able to reflect, but their souls are limited by the passing of life. Their spirits go back to their Maker, the great Spirit of Life in the universe, for eternity does not yet lie within their souls as it does for Man.

Earth Is A Testing Ground

For Man is a different species, and nowhere is that distinction greater than in his soul. The souls of men and women never perish, unlike the animals. So man has a higher purpose, too, to go along with his soul. Everyday we face struggles in the choices we make that can be as intense and as long-lasting as warfare. In fact, the earth is our testing ground, our proving ground for the ages to come. Will we pass the test? How did we treat Mother Earth? What would she say? There will come a day when all the secrets of men's hearts are revealed, but the beaver won't be at that Judgment. They have done no wrong. The Adelie penguin won't have to give an account, nor will the



orangutan. It will be Man — men and women from every place and every time, from every race, every nation, and every tongue. There won't be hyenas, for hyenas are not embarrassed, and there won't be kangaroos, for kangaroos are not ashamed. Only Man can feel the sting of shame for knowing he has done wrong and hurt others. We can go into denial, but an octopus can't. They don't know right from wrong any more than cattle do, or a shark. But Man *does* know. You know, and I know.

We know right from wrong, and we know how to choose either. We may think it's



someone else's fault that we chose what we did. We could and we do sometimes blame the corporations and the American Dream, but did they really *make* us choose to lie and cheat and steal and eat more than we need?

We can call that gnawing emptiness inside us the "collective guilt" of our society or even of the human race, but one day we will have to give an account, *personally*, not just our generation or our species. One day we will have to stand before the One who gave each of us life, and who noticed the sparrows falling from the sky, due to our shopping choices. It's the same Creator God who saw the intentions and motives of our hearts when we turned away from the needs of our neighbor (the one next door) to go to a neighborhood meeting to make this dying planet a better place for all to live.

What will it cost to have a new Planet Earth? How much are you willing to pay out of your own comfort and your own security?

Earth does need a change — a radical change. At some point we will have to face the blame for our share in making this a dark world of mistrust and using others and greed and sin. You can drive your electric hybrid car for 40 mpg, or fly VIP from coast to coast, or push your cart down the road collecting cans, but you're still part of the problem.

The Ruling Class

You're going to have to face it: you're part of the ruling class. The rulers are not just the ones with the money and the political clout. Man is a ruler, for good or for bad. That's what a guardian is — the one with the

ability *and* the accountability. The baboons are not going to take over the world, nor could the salmon. Animals don't have the power to take care of species beyond their own. Most take only brief care of their own young and have difficulty protecting their own flock or herd. They can't pool their resources and work co-operatively. Those kinds of decisions lie in the domain of rulers. Rulers are those who can work for the good of others — the planet, the poor, the oppressed, the vulnerable species. Or rulers, when they go haywire, will rule for evil, manipulating and coercing their fellow men, exploiting the resources, grabbing and using for themselves. Reindeer have never done that. They're not the problem and they're not the solution.

The Root of the Problem

We've all got an idea of what the problems are, but in our self-centeredness the root is too deep for us to see: it's selfishness. *Self* is the root of all that you see gone terribly wrong. It's the perverting factor in ruling, the factor that makes you use your rulership to use others — other people, other animals, and their lives and labor and livelihood — for yourself.

Self is in you; *self* is in me. It's not just in the oil barons and their cartels. It's going to take more than pointing the finger to look at what's inside yourself and admit, "I'm the problem."

People want to save the whales, but the whales aren't to blame. We're the problem, not the alligators, not the whales. The whales didn't build the oil platforms, and the alligators don't understand. Man is to blame and he needs saving. It will take a radical turning of the heart, and something from outside of ourselves, outside of our own initiative and beyond our corrupted heart, a plan greater than you or any of us can devise, a plan from the God of Eternity. He has such a plan, and it's not the cheap Christian "gospel" you've heard before, because it will be to the rescuing of you, your family and the Earth. For as selfish, greedy, and arrogant as we have become, our Creator still has hope for mankind, that we could be the rulers who would be wise custodians of the Earth and all that is in it.

But you have to find out who you are and why you are here. That's the essence of being a person, not an animal. Animals don't have a soul quest, but you do. You have to find out whether you're willing to give all or merely most of what you have. You have to find those with the same heart as you, or your life will be in vain. We weren't looking for a better life, but a *new* life — a new life in ourselves, and a new life for Planet Earth. We were looking for God's life on Earth, growing into a nation of love. We'd love for you to come and become one with us, that we'd be knit together heart to heart, arm in arm, for only love will save the Earth. 🙏

Detonation of the Nuclear Family



At the nucleus of society you will find the family — and the husband and wife are the nucleus of the family. From this union have come all the great civilizations of the earth, both their leaders and all their inhabitants. Societies have risen and fallen based on the strength of their families. When families were

strong, children were well behaved and grew up to become responsible and productive citizens, furthering the prosperity of their towns and countries. When families were weak and dysfunctional, moral chaos, violence, and collapse soon followed.

Vladimir Lenin is said to have boasted, "Destroy the family, and society will collapse without a shot."

This poison has been slowly injected into the world today, though ever so subtly, and the outcome has been just as he predicted — collapse on a massive scale. Through a calculated educational system, abundant social and political programs, and a barrage of marketing that has encouraged

people to live for themselves, that once seemingly unsinkable social structure called "marriage and the family" is beginning to sink, taking with it any hope for a bright future.

If you are honest with yourself, it is not difficult to see that something fundamental has gone awry in humanity's march toward the future. But what happened? Why is everyone so unhappy? Where did it all begin? And is there any hope for the future? To answer these questions we have to go back to the beginning — the very beginning.

The story of creation is a beautiful one indeed: from the spectacular array of life that filled the oceans, to

the birds that soared throughout the skies, keeping a watchful eye on the planet below; from the unimaginable variety of color and smell that burst forth when each tree and plant

would care for the animals and the plants, watching over all that had been made. But how could he do this alone? The events that ensued brought forth the most beautiful and perfectly made helper that anyone could have imagined — woman.¹ Together they would rule over all that had been made, taking care of everything as a team, each complimenting the other. The love that was between them would bring forth happy and secure children, and eventually the entire earth would be filled up with these wonderful people. So what happened?

The Garden of Testing

Though you may have heard stories of Adam and Eve, Hollywood and even religion have gone a long way in making the whole idea unreal. But in that garden paradise, a chain of events took place that would introduce a fatal flaw into the human race — division between man and woman.

Continued on page 6

¹ Genesis 2:8-25

The **Voice**
from Outside the Camp
of organized religion

Published by:
Parchment Press
323 East Broadway, Suite G
Vista, CA 92084
760-631-1833 / 760-631-1880 fax
vista@parchmentpress.net

Please call or write for free copies of our latest publications. Or download publications from our main website: www.twelvetribes.org

WARNING:

The ideas expressed in this paper may cause the reader to have deep thoughts, which could be life-changing.

Don't Go Down With the Ship

As a man sows, so shall he reap.

If only we could sow love, the kind of love that selflessly gives all, what kind of world would we reap? People would be glad to live a life of working hard caring for the earth and one another. People would be thankful and content with simple food, clothing, and shelter. No one would be selfish and exploit other human beings and the earth for their own gain. All human relationships, along with the earth and all her creatures, would thrive and increase as a well-tended garden. Can you imagine a people living this way?

Now imagine a world where what most people are sowing is the pursuit of their own selfish desire, plundering other human beings and the earth, while giving as little as possible. What would the earth be like if people had the heartlessness to live this way?

Look around. It is this way.

The whole world runs on fear and self-seeking.

Hardly anyone knows how to be content with simple food, clothing, and shelter. Forgetting that a man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things that he possesses, the vast majority of people run after more and better stuff that they imagine will somehow make them happy.

The world is being overrun by selfish people who exploit other human beings and the earth for their own gain. As a result, people are finding themselves becoming more and more disconnected from their consciences, from one another, and from the earth. Human selfishness has become so destructive that it is even breaking down the very planet we live on. To quote a recent newspaper article from the *India Business Standard*:

The global population has grown from around 3.5 billion in 1972, to more than 7 billion today. Industrial production has gone from an index of about 180 in 1963 to more than 400. The index of world metals use has gone up more than 50%. The concentration of carbon dioxide has gone up increasing in 30 years by as much as in the previous 220. Mankind's "global ecological footprint" has gone from a sustainability level of about 90%

of the earth's capacity, to 120%. We are beyond the sustainability point. We have not realized that we have crossed the sustainability limit because we are drawing down on nature's bank balance and that cannot go on indefinitely. We have already used up half that grace period. The challenge now is the population must stop growing, and we must change our consumption, because we cannot continue to make today's claims on the environment. India wants to get their income levels up from \$600 per capita to at least \$2,000, at which level there is no absolute poverty left. If you factor in what that will mean for energy and other non-renewable resources, it seems pretty obvious that what we have already seen in the markets for oil and iron ore are a foretaste of what is to come. Oil may already have reached the level of peak production, and what that means for the global economy is frightening. Does that mean that India and China should not aspire to what the developed economies have delivered by way of standards of living? It seems an unfair question when the west is unwilling to change its consumption habits. If neither happens, and even if some technological fixes can buy us some time, the message is straightforward. Things cannot go on as before.¹

Things cannot go on as before.

But the uncomfortable truth is this... most people, the vast majority of people, will continue to go on as before. Once the Titanic hit the iceberg, it was going down regardless of who the captain was. It didn't matter how they arranged the deck chairs. It didn't matter whether you were rich or poor, traveling in first class or in steerage. Jumping into the freezing ocean was just as sure a death as clinging to the sinking ship. The only hope was to climb into another boat. This world system of selfishness is like the Titanic. It has hit the iceberg and the ship is sinking. It is going down and there is nothing that can stop it.

Continued on page 7

¹ August 14, 2005 *Business Standard* (India)

Glossary of Terms

Depleted Soils

There is growing concern about the quality of food and demand for more accountability of how food is grown. Several studies of historical food composition show an apparent decline in food nutrient content over the past 70 years. This decline has been attributed to soil degradation and the "mining" of soil fertility by industrial agriculture.

Mass Extinction

Human beings are currently causing the greatest mass extinction of species since the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. If present trends continue, one half of all species of life on earth will be extinct in less than 100 years, as a result of habitat destruction, pollution, invasive species, and climate change.

Paradigm Shift

The American philosopher of science, Thomas Kuhn, coined the term *paradigm shift* in 1962 when he published *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. *Paradigm shift* describes the change in the basic assumptions of science, dethroning the previously ruling theory. After the revolution, according to Kuhn, a scientist is not allowed to return to the prior assumptions to describe and explain reality.

Peak Oil

Peak oil is the point in time when the maximum rate of global petroleum production is reached, after which the rate of production enters its terminal decline. If global consumption is not mitigated before the peak, an energy crisis may develop because the availability of conventional oil will drop and prices will rise, perhaps dramatically. Many predict a global depression, perhaps even initiating a chain reaction in the global market which might stimulate a collapse of global industrial civilization.

Population Overshoot

Population overshoot is a term used by ecologists to describe a species whose numbers exceed

the ecological carrying capacity of the place where it lives. It is the discovery and use of vast fossil-fuel reserves that scientists say has enabled human numbers to reach the level of very severe overshoot. World population was about 6.5 billion in 2005. At first, this growth of human population was sustained by displacing other species from land areas, but in the past two hundred years humanity has expanded enormously based on a much more precarious practice of rapidly drawing down finite natural resources, many of which are becoming scarce or are already depleted.

Reforestation

Forests are disappearing at alarming rates. The burning and clearing of forests contributes more than one-fifth of total global greenhouse gas emissions – more than the emissions of all of the world's cars, trucks, trains, and planes combined. Removal of green plants also reduces the planet's ability to deal with these gases from other sources.

Reforestation is the restocking of existing forests and woodlands, which have been depleted, with native tree stock. The term *reforestation* can also refer to the process of restoring and recreating areas of woodlands or forest that once existed but were deforested or otherwise removed or destroyed at some point in the past.

Renewable Energy

The term *renewable energy* refers to the effective use of natural resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, and geothermal heat, which are naturally replenished.

Sustainability

Sustainability is a characteristic of a process or state that can be maintained at a certain level indefinitely. The term, in its environmental usage, refers to the potential longevity of vital human ecological support systems, such as the planet's climatic system, systems of agriculture, industry, forestry, and fisheries, and human communities in general, and the various systems on which they depend, in balance with the impacts of our unsustainable or sustainable design. ♻️

VISION QUEST

"How can it be? How can it be that no one knows why we exist? Why are we here? What is the purpose for my life? Just get old and die?" I asked as a child and then as a young man. But not only could no one answer my question, no one even wanted to talk about it! They just went on day by day pretending that they knew. As I grew, I learned to pretend as well as any, but was never satisfied with the charade.

As a young man it began to dawn on me what an orphan I was. Up on the mountain behind my grandfather's farm I would seek out what I called the magic spring, a little trickle of water coming from the ground, really, but it was a "wild" place that gave me solace from the intense feelings of alienation and separation that tormented my soul. I still remember the feelings of frustration and hopelessness as I angrily kicked an old beer can, tossed by some careless hunter right on my sacred spot. "Is there no escape?" I wondered. Man! It's man! He always messes every thing up. I was so alone. That alienation was like a casket trapping me, isolating me even from who I really was. I was lost and alone without direction, a young man left to make my own decisions. And decisions I made, and plenty of them, like shooting in the dark. Where was my people, my culture, my heritage, the wise ones in whom to trust the deep questions?

According to my grandparents, I had Blackfoot Indian blood coursing through my veins. Admittedly, it was watered down quite a bit. I longed for a heritage like that, with roots in the earth and nature. I longed to hear from the Great Spirit who made them and knows their frame. I wondered if there still could be a tribal people, where the older ones are wise ones, families could be bound together, a brotherhood of man. I didn't want to just sit back and fall into the complacency that was all around me.

Vision Quest

One hot summer day I escaped to a spot I knew of, called Chimney Rocks. These three chimney-like limestone abutments towered above me thirty feet on the side that I faced and then dropped off 80 feet above a precipice. I'd heard that it was a sacred Indian lookout. Two of the abutments I had climbed quite a few times, but the third? Without ropes and climbing gear? No way! Then a sudden desire filled my heart and mind. I would undergo a test of my burgeoning manhood like the legendary Indians of my ancestry. They would strike out alone to face various circumstances in nature that would show their courage and mark their transition from youth to a man. In that transition they would receive a vision from the Great Spirit, showing them the purpose for their existence. Yes, this is it! The vision quest, live or

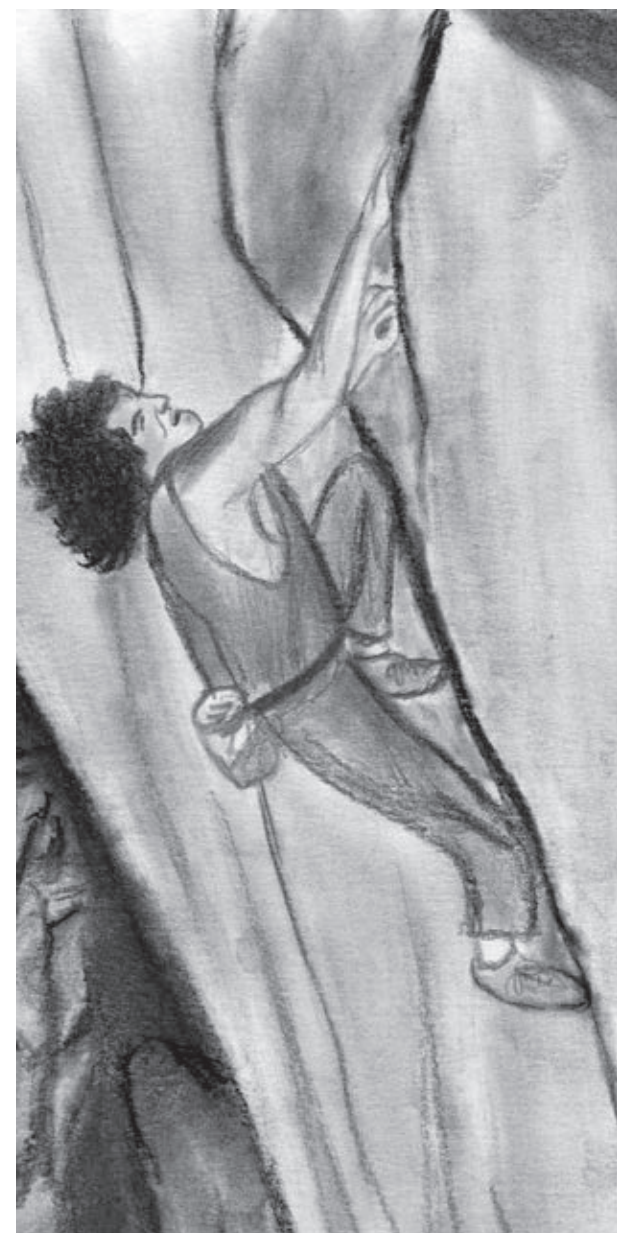
die... yes! Imagine living with understanding, knowing your purpose — a vision quest to unite me with the universe, and my ancestors of old!

I looked up at the tower in front of me, squinting in the scorching summer heat, blinking the stinging sweat from my eyes. The chimney rock stood before me, challenging me to go beyond my mortality. I envisioned myself seated high above, a hundred mile view of the valley before me, watching a glorious sunset. The only thing between here and there was this huge rock, and I would conquer it!

I tested for a foothold and found one. A surge of adrenaline began to pump through my veins as I inched my way slowly and carefully up the massive column. I listened to my heartbeat beating in time with those grandfathers who went before me. I wanted this climb to be a meditation, so I moved slowly and deliberately. I had to go around and around, reaching out with my bare foot searching for the next toehold. Here I was, just like my Indian ancestors of old, coming to grips with the elemental nature of my existence. Licking the salty drips of sweat off my dry lips and feeling the gritty dirt against my bare chest I inched my way up and up the column. Every foot higher took time and determination and encouraged me to continue on, reaching for the reward. I felt so connected to nature, part of the rock, the sun, the soaring hawk.

Finally, my hands reached the edge and I struggled to pull my body up over the summit. There my eyes met an old weathered arrow stuck in the moss between the rocks. Wow! Is this it? Is this the sign? How did it get there? Who put it there? Why? Was it a special sign for me? Yes! I felt as if the Creator of All was speaking to me. I'm not alone. Someone went before me. How long ago? I wondered. Are they looking for their people, too?

I had avoided looking down, waiting until finally I sat cross legged triumphantly smiling on the peak of the old rock. The view from the top was magnificent! As I contemplated my achievement the sun began its descent over the horizon and the shadows stretched themselves across the lush, green valley. It was as if I was looking into eternity, my heart stretching out



towards the One who made me. My thoughts encompassed the whole earth and all of time and space.

Many men and women had lived and died before me, never coming to know their purpose. They all lived by their own gods and many tried to honor that voice within that warns us of good and evil, of the consequences of our actions. Some did better than others, but still, all died. Still, all lived for themselves and their own. And at this very moment people were loving, hating, being born, dying, getting rich, and losing all. Species were becoming extinct and man was raping the earth to get everything for himself as fast as he can. The pulse of life, could it ever beat to a different rhythm?

Imagine... a people, a brotherhood of man. No greed or hunger, people sharing everything. Lyrics of the songs of the contemporary prophets filled my mind and wove themselves into my dreams and the longings of my heart.

I hoped that somehow there could be a tribal culture on the earth that would reach forward into the future. I was looking for direction, for hope, for friends, for love. But I was alone, watching Mother Nature on the run. How would we fly Mother Nature's silver seed to that new home in the sun? "Who would be the chosen ones?" I wondered, as I gazed at the intense display of color and the summer clouds casting long shadows over the hillsides. Everything just fades away. Would I just fade away, too?

Continued on page 7

This Fatal Poison

This is a true story. It is a story that is familiar to many of us, those of us who have eyes to see the irony of life on this planet in the 21st century, at the end of an age. I hope you can relate... it begins like this...

It was a warm July morning as my husband and I traveled eastward on the interstate. Weary from our trip, I suggested we get off at the next exit for a short break to stretch our legs. "Oh look! This is my hometown," I exclaimed. "This is a lake where my dad used to take me fishing as a child!"

The sun was just coming up over the treetops as we pulled into the park. What a gorgeous summer morning! Tall green maples and oaks interspersed with dark evergreens surrounded the lake. The water lay still in the breezeless morning air. Rays of light filtered through the leaves and glittered on the water's surface. The sky was a clear blue with just a few fluffy white clouds, promising a hot day ahead of us. Warm memories of childhood were the finishing touch on the picture-book scene.

I noticed a sign near the beach with photographs of fish on it. Always interested to learn more about native species, I skipped down the grassy hill to take a closer look.

A SIGN SAID:
WARNING! DO NOT EAT THIS FISH! The fish in this lake contains PCB's, mercury and other heavy metals. If you are pregnant or planning on getting pregnant within the next year do not eat this species of fish. Other species may be eaten once a month.



What a shocking contrast to the beautiful scene around me. I had grown up eating fish caught from this lake as a child. It was such an innocent activity, fishing with my father well into the twilight of a summer evening. But now the truth be known...behind this beautiful

summer morning, birds singing, sun shining, this fatal poison lay hidden beneath the surface. That lake is not the only place on earth that has been affected, but, as we all know, this poison is well distributed throughout and silently accomplishing its deadly work. I'm sure you've had a similar experience. Maybe it doesn't even seem strange or shocking to you at all.

Who's Responsible?

Who could have plotted to do such an evil? Innocent and unassuming, my dad and I had stood many times by the waters edge, but even then, years ago, that poison was working there under the surface.

Where did that poison come from? How did it get into the water? Was it in the can of Raid our moms used to kill the flies? Or was it the man who owned the garage down the street? He dumped waste oil into the stream out back. I went to school with his children and thought he was a nice, hard-working man. Was it the red dye #5 in the cupcakes on the colorful table at our birthday parties? They told us it would be okay. After all, it was only a little bit. A little bit of poison won't hurt.

Continued on page 7

Man's Final Exam

continued from page 1

So, the destroyers of the earth are held guilty. They are responsible for pushing beyond the boundaries of that inner knowledge, because it is a conscious and deliberate act to do so. No person has an excuse for the choices he makes, which determine his own character for better or worse. Something precious is lost in man's character when he uses his intellect to rationalize his choices against the voice of his conscience. He grows darker in his understanding of good and evil. And this is the diminishing of character.

We hold it in our own hands to determine our fate. That's not just in the here and now, but we are actually the masters of our eternal destiny. Because to ignore or to heed conscience is how each person crystallizes or sets his character. Ultimately, the character we develop in this life is the character we will have for eternity.

Meanwhile, because we are mostly diminishing in character, we are destroying our home. How did we get to this sorry state? What brought us up to these days where a curse devours the earth?

The Trail of Footprints Behind Us

It's undeniable: our race has been stomping on the Earth for a long time. The pollution has been more than in the air, the water, and the ground. There is something destructive at work within mankind, something that causes death. We have a driving tendency towards destroying ourselves and the lives we touch. It's our story, a sad and painful realization that we are a fatally flawed race.

So far we've been spared from extinction. There has always been enough character in mankind to restrain that fatal flaw from its full impact upon both the environment and man's societies, even upon himself. We have been able to rule over it, so that unrecoverable ruin was held back. We hurt, but did not destroy the earth. No one doubts today that possibility of destruction however. With good cause do people fear.

But, the ground has shifted. The foundations are being destroyed. In not even quite half the span of a human life, our society has gone through a tremendous upheaval. What was once recognized as good is now said to be oppressive, and our society applauds and endorses what was previously known to be evil. What used to be good character is frowned upon as the residue of a bygone outdated era, the relics of an upright unenlightened past.

We weren't paying attention and the paradigm shift happened. The conscience was overturned as the standard by which to restrain the selfishness at work in man. It was nothing short of a revolution. So these days, conscience is of little value, belittled as old-fashioned morals, to the great detriment of those who chose to go down that path, and their offspring. As a result, the generation yet to come has been robbed of their eternal compass bearings. How then will they steer us through the future?

In our race to the future, the past is overtaking us. But the germ of this development was laid a lot further back than in our generation. We are just experiencing the last and accelerated phase of a progression.

Casting Off Restraint

The last bastion against the characterless society was the rod. When this time-honored child-rearing device was declared crude and outdated by the "experts" of higher education, they hid a net for the unsuspecting and "unhigher-educated" common man. But their own foot is caught now. In removing the rod, the nations are sinking down in the pit that they have made.

No amount of education, incentive, or negotiation can deal with evil. A society that despises discipline and restraint has rejected the only means to deal with the fatal flaw of all humanity, which is that wrong and destructive inner lean-

ing towards selfishness. That fateful move will birth a dreadful generation, without any trace of inner self-restraint, completely lost to their humanity.

Paradigm Shift from the Farm to the Factory

With the ending of the agricultural society and the coming of the industrial revolution, we took a definite turn in our history. It marked the end of the way of life that was ordained by our loving Creator long ago for our common and personal good. Wrestling food out of the ground brought men and women into close connection with creation, and the struggle was good. It would build tremendous character in all those who embraced this life with its hardships. It also would preoccupy man to such a degree that it would leave very little room for that fatal flaw of self-life to exert itself and take one beyond the boundaries of decency and hence humanity.

On the far side of decency lies depravity, which is almost everywhere applauded today. Social acceptance masks the soul-de-

stroying effects of greed and immorality, for instance, to name just two of mankind's deadly enemies. Many more rob his soul of all value when indulged in at the expense of the dignity and rights of other human beings.

The Psalms state that hard labor keeps the heart humble. This is the reality of what a good man is in the eyes of his Creator. It saves him from the pride of life, the heights self can climb to by going beyond the boundaries of our well-meaning Maker set for us. This wonderful environment of an agricultural lifestyle totally fostered family life. Farm life is the most natural way for a family to function as a unit.

With the advent of the industrial revolution things changed, although it took a while before the effect of this tremendous paradigm shift began to play out.

That's why even now chances are that you will have to go back only three or four generations and most of us will find out that farm life was the way of life for our ancestors back then.

The move from the farm to the city came at a great cost. Although the aspect of the hard labor remained, this change deeply affected man's fundamental connection with creation. And it also broke up the integrity of the family as a working unit. The end result was fathers went off to work and children went out to play. These outer changes had the profound inner effect of diminishing character. The decline of character through the subsequent generations gained much momentum with the vanishing of hard, sweat-causing labor.

er allowed Himself to be touched by it, although He had to face every aspect of it.

His name is Yahshua, which means Salvation. His glory was observed by all those who had eyes to see. It shone brightest at the end of His life when He demonstrated more than ever that there was not one trace of self-seeking in Him. After Pilate had Him scourged in his futile attempt to satisfy the blood-thirsty envy of His foes, he brought Him before the crowd, remarking, "Behold the man!" He gave the honor that was due to His outstanding, shining character.

Although Yahshua received a most cruel treatment, He was a man full of dignity. There was no fear of death in Him, no begging for His life, no cowardice, no threats. In short, there was nothing that could cause any offense. And although Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him and couldn't get it through his head why anybody (especially those who claimed to be the true religion) would conceive of such a horrendous thing as to murder a person of impeccable integrity, he let himself be pressured into having Yahshua executed.

Death has no claim to a man who attained shining, perfect character. Because of His character, Yahshua was considered worthy to enter eternity. Thus He became the source of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him. This is good news to those who know their character would not stand in the judgment. For the trials of this life are to set our course for the eternity that follows. While we are rightly concerned for the earth and its disappearing species, this is only the testing ground. Eternity awaits every human being, and our character will still be the way we set it in our choices now.

There is something frightening about a fool when he is satisfied with food. The Earth cannot bear up under it or under a slave when he becomes a ruler. A fool is someone who trades his conscience in and gets a depraved mind in return. By

ing towards selfishness. That fateful move will birth a dreadful generation, without any trace of inner self-restraint, completely lost to their humanity.

The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made; in the net which they hid, their own foot is caught. (Psalm 9:15)

what a man is overcome, by that he is brought into bondage. By suppressing the truth he instinctively knows, in unrighteousness, he rejects that inner restraint on his self-life. In so doing, he makes himself a slave to his unbridled selfish desires and cravings. Who are these slaves who run for office and aspire to rule? Who are these fools that are satisfied with bread, who cause the earth to quake? Are these the days of abundant food when many rulers destroy the land? Who then is in charge of the chaotic mess we find ourselves in?

The wheel of history can't be turned back. A loss of character can hardly be recovered, and to make up for what is gone takes utmost effort. It's like going through the fire.

It is said that the whole world will become like Sodom and Gomorrah and Lot is a type or example of the very few righteous who will be left in the days to come (see box: Men of Character). Breaking the covenant of conscience is going to bring a curse upon the earth, just as the prophet Isaiah predicted. Due to the disastrous choices made by great lack of character, the Earth is reeling.

Ahead of us are earthquakes, famine, and the burning up of the ozone layer. Distress will come upon the Earth and its inhabitants, such as has never been seen be-

Men of Character

One righteous man was saved out of Sodom and Gomorrah. He had maintained the natural righteousness of his conscience against much pressure to compromise and give in. He was told to leave those cities of destruction and head for the hills. Only he and his two daughters made it out. This man, Lot, must have been a man of great character.

At the time of the Flood, only Noah and his sons were found to have a good conscience – which would be unattainable for most of us today. But although Noah and Lot had the character to make it through the trials of their times, they eventually had to pay tribute to the fatal flaw within and go to death. They will not be in death forever and ever like those who are self-seeking and who obey unrighteousness. Their character was to seek for the eternal things, and therefore in the final judgment for mankind they'll be counted worthy of eternal life in the nations of people that will fill the universe for eternity.

So there must be further good news than going to Heaven. There must be the salvation of our souls, the restoring of our character. And this is the good news:

Yahshua, the Son of God, is on the earth today.

His spirit is embodied in those who obey Him, for this is true faith. Their life, the expression of that embodiment, is the light that is beginning to shine in these perilous days when deep darkness covers all the earth. There will be deliverance in these last days.

Only obeying Yahshua builds the character necessary to face the troubles ahead. To be able to grow into the full stature of the Redeemer takes obeying His Spirit of love inside a person's own heart and outside in his surrounding brothers and sisters, obeying His voice in them. It takes a community; it takes living in the community of the redeemed. Only those who are included and endure in that fellowship and training will attain the proven character necessary to be delivered through the greatest trouble mankind will ever experience.

Continued on page 5

See Name Above All Names, page 6

Sodom and Gomorrah

The people in Sodom and Gomorrah enjoyed abundant food and careless ease. They foolishly and narrow-mindedly opted for a lifestyle that removed them from the character-building struggle of life. As a result, they didn't maintain enough character to preserve themselves. Instead, they became unjust and filthy, slaves to their own lusts and selfishness.

Lust is a perverted desire. Unbridled selfishness degenerates any natural desire into lust. This is precisely what corrupts the whole world, which we have been warned would become like Sodom and Gomorrah. It was a destructive and unsustainable lifestyle. Their tremendous wickedness reached heaven and brought swift destruction. This stark object lesson of long ago is more pertinent in our day than ever.

What Shall we Do?

Ahead of us lies despair or tremendous hope. We need a greater hope than the hope Lot or even Noah had. Those men had character, while our society who robbed and ravaged the Earth has been robbed and ravaged of character. Where then is our hope? How could

and Lot had the character to make it through the trials of their times, they eventually had to pay tribute to the fatal flaw within and go to death. For it is appointed for all men to die once and then comes the judgment. The greater hope lies in a Man who not only was not born under the fatal flaw, but who also nev-

Man's Final Exam

continued from page 4

It's not just a matter of surviving that hour of trial that will come upon the whole world to test those who dwell in the earth. It's a matter of overcoming the flood of evil that is coming, which will only be done by those with good character. Only then can we come out standing on the other side.

These are the days when there will be a famine for the word of God. Surely it's not talking about a famine for the empty sermons of a religion that doesn't enable its believers to deal with the fatal flaw within. Those preachers cannot even live a different life than those who destroy the earth. They are not being prepared for the days ahead and they are in for a rude awakening. Unless they come

out from that place of futility, it will be a day of utter darkness for them, without any light.

That famine for the word of God will be felt by those searching for the real answer and solution to

the fatal flaw within every human being. They see its terrible effects and somehow still hope and yearn for the power of the good news to deal with it in their lives. *It is that good news that will present the radical solution and demand a radical response.* In great perplexity at what's going on, they will wander from sea to sea, from north to east, running to and fro, doing everything to find this word. They will only be satisfied with going to the root of the matter, the radical solution that requires a radical change of life. Old and dear habits have to be forsaken in order to realize the potential of life, but life is what they want.

Most, though, simply do not and will not want to give the radical response to the radical solution. They are not willing to do all they can do — for Him. It's like the person that's

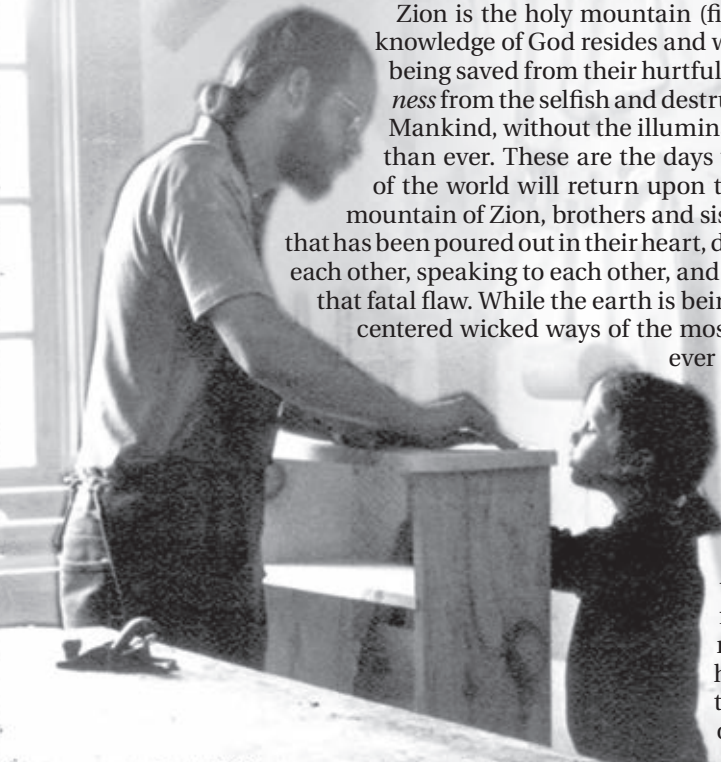
been diagnosed with a fatal disease. The conventional medical approach cannot offer any cure, but only a slowing down of the death-working process. This at least affords him an existence, with as little discomfort as possible, before he passes from life in the dazed, but complacent state of advanced painkillers. In this state he may not even entertain the notion of being sick. It's a mere existence, an illusion of life, for it could hardly be called life, as it is a far cry from the vibrancy and vitality that life actually entails. They settle for the convenient solution and continue to wallow in vice and evil. To a narrow mind this constitutes life, happily enjoying every ounce of pleasure they still can wrest from their doomed existence.

So where are you? If you are looking for the real thing, if you sense that hunger in you, it is time to get out of the city of destruction and head for the "mountains of Zion." Find the embodiment of the Redeemer, the community of the Redeemed. And then through them find the Redeemer.

When days of the most dramatic occurrences in the heavens and on the earth are upon us, blood, fire and pillars of smoke, when the sun turns into darkness and the moon into blood, the most wonderful promise stands: "Whoever calls upon the name of Yahshua shall be saved." There is deliverance in Mount Zion. 🌿

Coming to Mount Zion

Zion is the holy mountain (figuratively speaking) where the knowledge of God resides and where those who dwell there are being saved from their hurtful ways. *Holiness* means *set apartness* from the selfish and destructive ways of the world around. Mankind, without the illumination of conscience, is more lost than ever. These are the days when the doings of the nations of the world will return upon their own head. But in the holy mountain of Zion, brothers and sisters, because of the love of God that has been poured out in their heart, dwell together in unity, caring for each other, speaking to each other, and helping each other to overcome that fatal flaw. While the earth is being devoured because of the self-centered wicked ways of the most disconnected generation that ever dwelt in it, the Creator is raising up the most connected generation the world has ever seen, the generation that will bring healing to the Earth. The turning is at the most critical of all points, the determining factor for the future of any people: the turning of the hearts of the fathers to their children. This results in them turning their hearts to their fathers, which is the beginning of the restoration of all things.



Yahshua The Sacrifice

"Behold, the Man!" The Roman ruler of the Jewish people cried these words out to the Jews assembled before him. Pilate saw a value in this man that His own people did not see. Here was a man worthy of respect. It was obvious that His own priests had delivered Him up out of envy. What was it that was so compelling about Him? There, beaten and bloody as He was, stood a man, *the man*, as Pilate intuitively knew.

If only His people could have understood what those stripes on His back meant. The prophet Isaiah could have told them. He could have given meaning to the appalling sight of Yahshua's beardless and bloody face, if words could have come from his grief-stricken heart. But for the generation that crucified the Son of God, Isaiah's words were safely entombed along with his body. They saw Him as a beaten man, but not as the Lamb of God.

No one would ever forget what He looked like that day, least of all those who were closest to Him. His death agony burned itself into their memory, and all the more keenly as they remembered the admirable life He had led, the acts of compassion and love that had filled His days. He was innocent, yet there He hung — where the guilty should have been. They touched the pain that was written on every aspect of His being — the tortured breathing, the blood dripping from his wounds. One of His friends, Yohanan, stood there next to Miriam, the crucified man's mother. There were only a few like them, unafraid of the consequences. Being there with Him was more important to them than life.

They endured the agony of watching the life being torn from Him. How they longed to satisfy His thirst when He asked, but they could not go to Him. When He finally bowed His head after speaking His last words, they knew it was finished. The life of the man who had meant so much to them had ended. What thoughts Miriam must have had! Her child, who had come from her womb and nursed at her breasts, for whom she had sewn and cooked and cared, was limp and lifeless. Down that lonely hill she walked with Yohanan to whatever life awaited them after such a death.

What pain they felt! What misery they knew! Where was the resurrection He had spoken of? Where was He now?

It seemed as though the power of evil had triumphed over the most noble and kind life that had ever existed. Was death then the victor?

O Death, where is your sting?

What thanksgiving welled out of them when their grief was ended and they beheld the risen Christ, radiant with life! Uncontrollable joy burst forth from them, and worship filled their souls. He was alive! They could touch Him. He even ate with them. He was altogether real. In Him the power of death had been broken. There was hope for all men

now. Surely one day all grief would come to an end. God's people would at last be set free from all their enemies and all the sins that had led them astray.

They devoted their lives to sharing the hope they had. They possessed something precious in their hearts which no one could take away, and oh, how they longed to share it with others. They wanted everyone to experience the same deliverance from the finality of death that they had, to know of the resurrection and all that it meant



They slaughtered a lamb as the sin offering in order to be restored to the right relationship with God that their sin had destroyed. The sincere knew they deserved to die for their sins, not the innocent lamb.

for them. It was such good news!

In His blood, shed so freely that day, was the most marvelous and complete forgiveness. At Calvary the innocent had taken the place of the guilty. The pure and spotless Lamb God required for sin had been offered and accepted. But never had it happened before that the lamb slain for the sins of the people had come back to life! God had made the sacrifice, just as Abraham had prophesied of Christ when he went to offer up his son, Isaac, "God will Himself provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."

Something of Greater Value

The disciples knew about sacrifice. Blood sacrifices had dominated their lives from childhood. A sacrifice was the destruction or surrender of something valuable to gain something of even greater value. They slaughtered a lamb as the sin offering in order to be restored to the right relationship with God that their sin had destroyed. The sincere knew they deserved to die for their sins, not the innocent lamb. They cried out to God to accept the substitute of the lamb's life instead of theirs. Unless the sacrifice was costly — a pure, unblemished lamb — its blood meant nothing to the God of Israel.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" — the true meaning of these words filled the disciples with inexpressible joy. God gave His only Son for what He wanted more — us. Our Master willingly sacrificed His own life (something a lamb could never do) to redeem our lives from death, for that was of greater value to Him than His own life. Because of His Son's sacrifice, God could make the great summons, *"Gather my godly ones to me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."*

A Life for a Life

The purpose of His sacrifice was to set us free so that we could make a willing sacrifice like He did. Nothing else is worthy of Him; nothing else reaches the blood of the Master's atoning sacrifice. This is the faith that saves and compels you to wholly consecrate and devote your life to the merciful God who saved you.

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should live no longer

for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. (2 Corinthians 5:14,15)

This is what the New Testament records about those who received the message of truth, the gospel of their salvation. The disciples wanted nothing more than to be just like their Master. Possessions, family, jobs, and a respected place in society were all cast aside for His sake and the sake of His gospel. This was the reality of their baptism and of the sacrifice of their lives, without which they could not have received His life. They had to give up what was lesser (their life) for what was greater (His life). It was His life or their life — they couldn't have both. Just as He had given up everything for them, they sacrificed everything they had for Him. It was the only response a grateful heart could give, the only one that saving faith called forth. Because of this obedient response, He came to dwell in their hearts, granting them His Holy Spirit. Anything less would have belittled His sacrifice on the cross. They loved Him too much to not give Him everything.

The spiritual sacrifice of our lives must be as real and true as was His physical sacrifice on the cross to Miriam, Yohanan, and the other disciples. If we don't die to sin and the world, we can never have the witness in our hearts that we are forgiven. He dispenses no cheap grace. It is life for life, a sacrifice. 🌿

If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. (Matt 16:24,25)

I Lay Down At Night

I lay down at night, the room always dark, but with a shadowy light from the street sneaking past the shades.

I lay down at night, the room always quiet, empty of the daylight sounds of busyness, punctuated only occasionally by a siren, a squeal of brakes, or yelling from neighbors. The room was mostly quiet except for the ticking of the alarm clock, set to wake me in the morning to another vain day of running to and fro.

I lay down at night craving a sleep called forgetfulness, hoping it would come quickly, wishing that the time between now and oblivion could be bypassed by my deciding it wouldn't happen. If only I could avoid having to face the day's events drifting back to mind, the painful situations, the ones where I had failed to love. Sometimes, older, similar times would come back to mind.

Why had I said that stupid thing?

Why did I still feel so bad?

Getting wound up about the other person's guilt didn't help mine.

Friday nights I could drink enough to slip into sleep.

Saturday nights had other distractions.

Sometimes just thinking hard about my plans and ideas could bring me into sleep, but it was fitful and I woke up with my teeth clenched.

I lay down at night, sometimes not sleeping but staring into the shadows for

hours, turning over in my mind questions...

Who am I?

When will this life of useless striving end?

What is death?

I didn't want my life to end, I don't think. But I was so weary by the end of the day that I half desired my life to be finished, to not have to go through the same day again, tomorrow and tomorrow...

In the morning, though, I awoke relieved. I hadn't died in the night.

The days held no promise or hope of change, but I was still alive. Maybe somewhere there would be hope. I couldn't imagine what that would look like. If I tried, it made me feel so down.

Every day was so dreary to me. Even pleasure was touched by sadness and decay. The only thing that kept me going was that the sun came up. In the morning's dim light, when birds sing, there is a peace worth getting up early for. Its time span is about 15 minutes, and then the sun brightens the sky and Western Civilization begins rolling, churning and grinding me into its purposes.

Dragging my way home through peak-hour traffic snarls, soiled by smog and the things I had done and thought, sometimes I felt like I knew what death by suffocation would be like.

Gasping, eating whatever I could find to stop being empty inside, filling myself with TV, music, books, noise, talking, shopping, filthy things...

Getting into bed late, trying to calm down, I lay down at night.

How do you get out?

Why am I alive?

Why are answers so hard to find?

Trying all the ways I knew:

New friends,

New job

New country

New things to do

New clothes to wear

New look to have

New direction for my life

New resolutions

New ways to think...

Everything new, but me —

It was the same me.

My lies were getting longer, more in depth. I was lying to myself. During the day I pretended, but at night when I lay down, I wondered about truth and if I would know the truth when I found it, if I found it...

Is anything true?

Is this all there is to being alive?

Why was I born?

I had to know. 🌿

From the Kitchen:

**Sesame Sunflower
CRACKERS**
an unleavened seed-water

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups sesame seeds
- 1 cup sunflower seeds
- 4 cups blended oats
- 6 cups pastry flour
- 1 cup soy sauce
- 2 1/4 cups oil
- 4 cups water
- 1/2 medium onion

Blend the onion with the soy sauce, water, and oil in a blender until creamy. Pour this into dry ingredients and mix well. Press thinly onto baking sheets and bake for 25-30 minutes at 350° until golden and crispy.

Nuclear Family

continued from page 2

God had provided a luscious garden, full of animals to care for and plants with fruits of every imaginable kind for the man and woman to eat. Yet there was a specific command that He gave them: "...of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die"² This command was given to the man Adam, and afterward, he fell into a deep sleep, and the woman, his special helper, was brought forth from his side.³ Now he was no longer incomplete. Together they were called Man. He was to be the protector of her, caring for her, and she was to be his helper and support in all the work that was ahead of them in this new land. They had become one flesh.

But much like today, something crept into their loving and trusting relationship. Perhaps not completely trusting her husband and what he had told her about the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Eve ventured there, possibly many times. A desire was growing inside of her. Something began pulling her toward the tree in spite of the direction she had been given by her husband.

Then one day it happened. While Eve was pondering the tree, a change took place inside of her, and then she heard a voice, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" Suddenly there was something pulling, tugging at the innermost part of her soul. She was exposed to the voice of reason, and since her husband had been the one who told her which tree not to eat from, that question was an innuendo leveled direction against him. Stunned, she began to converse with the voice, and slowly but surely, the tree that had been off limits took on a new appeal. She now craved it, and moved toward the tree with eager anticipation, her heart racing inside of her. These were feelings she had never known. As her fingers gently wrapped themselves around the fruit, she tugged, and the tree released it without struggle. As if time stood still, she bit down, sinking her teeth into the delicious fruit — and then it happened. A strange and horrible feeling began to flood her entire being. It was chilling and frightening. She panicked.⁴ By the time her husband found his wayward wife, it was too late.

Where had he been? Why hadn't he been aware of her while she was alone in the garden having dialog with that reasoning voice. He was supposed to protect and watch over her, making sure that she had everything she needed, and that no harm would ever come to her. Why was it that these things took place without him knowing?

It seemed that when the realization of what had happened hit Adam, the sting of guilt followed with relentless strength. "What if," he wondered. "What if he had been more mindful of her? Would this have happened?" His beloved wife, the one whom God had formed from his side, was now separated

from him by sin. As he looked into her eyes, the future flashed before him in a moment's time. Could he live without her? Could he rule over and care for all that God had given to him without the woman by his side? Fully aware that it would bring upon him the sentence of death, he took the fruit from his wife, put it to his lips, and ate.

History has blamed Eve for plunging the human race into the plight it has come to know as normal, but the Bible records that Man (both male and female together) was to blame.⁵ Adam could not fathom living life without her and seeing her face the rest of her life alone. In our day, with the marriage rate plummeting and the divorce rate sky-rocketing, it is hard to image this kind of self-sacrificing love.⁶

Earth the Crucible

Though many have called what came next a curse on Man, a closer look reveals a merciful provision for the entire human race. God said to them:

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:16-19)

Nowhere does it say that either man or woman was cursed. But rather pain was increased for the woman in child bearing, causing her to depend upon and trust in the loving care of her husband. Seeing the struggle that she went through to bring forth his children would certainly cause his love and respect for her to surge. On his part, he would no longer be able to enjoy the bountiful fruit of the Garden, but now, with great struggle, he would have to till the ground to bring forth food to feed his family. It was going to be a struggle. Indeed, they were no longer in paradise, but if they would give themselves to these provisions then it would cause the bond between them to grow stronger than ever before. It was a provision for them to learn how to depend upon each other — the very aspect where they had

² Romans 5:12 and 17 — man in both of these verses is #444 in the Strong's Concordance which includes both genders. In verse 12, sin entered the world through Eve (this was the first time sin was experienced by a human being), but in verse 19, by Adam's disobedience, many were made sinners (i.e. the entire human race). The blood comes from the male.

⁶ The number of divorced people in the [U.S.] population more than quadrupled from 4.3 million in 1970 to 18.3 million in 1996: Arlene F. Saluter and Terry A. Lugaila, *Marital Status and Living Arrangements*: March 1996 (Census Bureau, P20-496 Issued March 1998).

failed in the Garden. Now they were in the crucible,⁷ designed to test and refine them during their lifetime. If they would embrace the hardships of life, not despising the difficulties that would come, their character would grow and their children would prosper, in turn passing on the same care and respect to their children. If they would not, then the entire human race was in jeopardy.

The Nuclear Family Explodes

Through the centuries we trod on, until we finally arrive at the 20th century. The Industrial Revolution brought with it massive changes to the way Man lived and worked, in many ways removing him from the struggle he had engaged in during the previous 6,000 years. With the advent of greater technology came a more convenient life. Mass transportation emerged and quickly mapped out a global circulatory system for moving goods, including food, over large distances. To meet the growing demand for food, modern farm implements were introduced, along with pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides that

the public school system. The latch-key generation was born. The evolution of the Western world was taking a dramatic turn in a strange, new direction. The toll this would take on the husband-wife relationship, and in turn on the family, could not have been fully realized, but by the time the alarms started sounding, it would be too late to turn back.

A Bastard Nation

In 1946, Dr. Benjamin Spock, a pediatrician and psychiatrist, wrote *The Common Sense Book on Baby and Child Care*, a work that would revolutionize forever the way parents raised their children. He taught that the key to healthy child rearing was to relinquish the traditional authoritarian approach to parenthood, which he said tended to oppress children. Rather, he insisted, parents should become sensitive mentors of their children's evolving psyches. For Spock and his disciples the "good" parent was no longer the parent who got his children to be obedient and behave through traditional corporal discipline, but rather the parent who understood why his children might not behave.⁸

Like a serpent slithering through the garden of the 20th century, the fangs of permissive parenting sunk deep, injecting its venom first into minds of the intellectually elite. By the 1960s these so-called child experts expanded the mantra and infiltrated the universities. The students there would later become the leaders, and their higher notions about "good parenting" would thoroughly permeate all aspects of education, social work, and especially the mass media.⁹ Like Lenin, Spock and his successors were not only out to revolutionize the relationship between parents and their children, but society itself, through the agency of the family.

During the sixties and seventies the results became evident. Physical discipline in schools was beginning to vanish. Those who had been raised under these new-and-improved methods of parenting began to bud and blossom into something quite different than well-behaved, peaceful young people. Rather, a full-scale culture of rebellion against any kind of authority was emerging. The destructive behavior that followed became a major social concern. Many college campuses erupted into violence, becoming havens for a growing drug culture. Young people everywhere threw off traditional moral restraint and immersed themselves into what would become known as the sexual revolution, adding another lethal blow to the relationship between men and women, and producing children they neither wanted nor knew how to care for.

The promiscuous lifestyle of the sixties and seventies brought about millions of children who did not have the luxury of growing up in a stable home. Not only did divorce rates rise, but many did not even know who their fathers were. Single-family homes became commonplace. As if the lack of discipline and moral standards were not enough, now many children had to face growing up fatherless. Over

⁸ Dana Mack, *The Assault on Parenthood: How Our Culture Undermines the Family* (Simon & Schuster, 1997) p. 33

⁹ Ibid, p. 34

the next few decades, things would go from bad to worse. What little instinct parents had left for raising their children vanished, and with it all control. Into society was released the most self-centered, amoral generation the world has ever known.

Welcome to the 21st Century

Without the age-old moral absolutes of family structure, discipline, and authority, the children and youth of today have no fear of consequences. Void of parental control, they terrorize any who would dare cross their will. Teachers live in fear of each new day.¹⁰ Parents cower in helplessness. The Pandora's Box of permissive parenting has unleashed a ruthless, heartless, and severely depressed generational Frankenstein upon the earth.

With the absence of discipline, and no instinct to fall back on, parents have once again turned to the experts for help. And the experts have answered. Only this time it hasn't come in the form of a best-selling paperback. Today's solution to the growing epidemic of haywire children is not to take them to the woodshed, but to the doctor. There they are diagnosed, not with rebellion, but with a myriad of disorders such as ODD (oppositional defiance disorder), and then heavily medicated.

The rod and paddle have been replaced by wonder drugs such as Prozac, Ritalin, and Zoloft — mind-altering drugs that calm and pacify the user. Parents are so desperate for a solution for their out-of-control and miserable children that they have readily embraced this medical miracle. With the authority that was once vested in the father, doctors and psychiatrists hand out prescription drugs like psychotropic candy, much to the pleasure of the pharmaceutical industry, which bankrolls billions of dollars each year from the sale of such drugs.

The struggle of life, designed by God to build character and produce an unshakable bond between husband and wife, parents and children, has been turned into a fleeting pursuit of self-gratification. The gap between man and woman has widened into a vast canyon of division. Children's relationship with their parents has been uprooted at a fundamental level, putting children in a position of control that was never meant to be. Insecure youth plow past their screaming consciences only to have them numbed by an ever-increasing array of legal, mind-altering drugs. Humanity is being reduced to a brute-beast mentality. An epidemic of sadness is blanketing the earth.

If the future looks bleak, it is because it is bleak. When the foundations of marriage and the family are destroyed, human civilization soon follows. There are no social, political, or even pharmaceutical solutions to be had. Like a freight train heading for broken tracks, the modern world is rushing full speed ahead toward catastrophe. At this point, nothing can stop it. The only hope a person has is to jump off the train before it's too late. ☹

¹⁰ From 1997-2001, teachers were victims of approximately 1.3 million nonfatal crimes at school, including 817,000 thefts and 473,000 violent crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault). (*Indicators of School Crime and Safety*: 2003, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice, 2003) <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004004>



The Pandora's Box of permissive parenting has unleashed a ruthless, heartless, and severely depressed generational Frankenstein upon the earth.

could significantly increase yields. Farmers were able to grow much more with less effort and fewer people. They were also able to ship their goods to places that had previously depended on local farms for resources — a dependency that for millennia had helped strengthen social ties and create strong local economies and communities.

With technology and mass transit came a higher standard of living and a growing social pressure to obtain and maintain that standard. In order to keep up with the Joneses, women left the home and joined the ranks of the workforce. Although the Americans who took part in the war effort during World War II have been dubbed the greatest generation, taking mothers and women from the home and placing them into the workforce would set something into motion that would later have titanic consequences. Children now had to be raised by day-care facilities and

⁷ *Crucible* — a ceramic or metal container in which metals or other substances may be melted or subjected to very high temperatures; a place or occasion of severe test or trial.

The Name Above All Names

In the days of John the Baptist and the Son of God, the preserved language of the devout Jews was Hebrew. So, when the angel Gabriel brought the good news to the Hebrew virgin, Miriam (or *Mary* in English), that she would give birth to the Savior of the world, and told her what His name would be, what language do you suppose he spoke? Hebrew, of course! And certainly Miriam and Yoceph (or *Joseph* in English) named the child just as the angel had commanded them — *Yahshua*.

In Matthew 1:21, your Bible probably reads, "...and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." But the name *Jesus* is a modern English adaptation of the Greek name, *Iesous*, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name *Yahshua*. The name *Jesus* or *Iesous* has no meaning of its own, but the Hebrew name *Yahshua* literally means *Yahweh's Salvation*,¹ which makes sense out of the angel's message in Matthew

1:21, "...you shall call His name Yahshua [*Yahweh's Salvation*], for He shall save His people from their sins."

If you look in an old King James Bible, you will find the name *Jesus* in these two passages:

Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David... (Acts 7:45, KJV)

For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. (Hebrews 4:8, KJV)

However, if you look in any modern translation of the Bible, including the New King James Version, you will find that in place of the name *Jesus*, the translators use the name *Joshua*, for in the context it is clear that it is speaking of Moses' successor and not the Son of God. But in the underlying Greek manuscript, the name in both of these verses is — *Iesous*.

You see, *Joshua* is the common English transliteration² of the Hebrew name *Yahshua*. Joshua of the Old Testament had the same name as the One called *Jesus* in the New Testament, for Joshua was the prophetic forerunner of the Son of God, bringing Israel into the Promised Land and leading them to victory over their enemies. But since the translators obvi-



A page from the 1611 Authorized Version (King James Bible). Note the lack of a J in the Savior's name.

¹ *Yah* is the personal name of God, and *shua* is from a Hebrew root word that means "to save." God identified Himself to Moses as *YAH* (meaning "I AM") in Exodus 3:14, as in Psalm 68:4, *KJV* ("...by his name *Yah*"), and as most familiar in the word *Hallelujah* ("Praise Yah"). And in John 5:43 and 17:11, *Yahshua* says that He came in His Father's name, "the name which You have given Me" (*NASB*), so it is not surprising that the Father's name would be incorporated into the Son's name, *Yahshua*. ² *transliteration* — expressing words of a language by using the characters of another alphabet ³ *Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary* (Oxford University Press, 1971), pp. 1496,1507 ⁴ *Philippians 2:9*; *Acts 4:12*

ously know this fact, why do they only translate *Iesous* as *Joshua* in these two verses, and as *Jesus* everywhere else?

The NIV New Testament even has a footnote supporting this fact under Matthew 1:21: "*Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua.*"

The fact is, the name of God's Son could not even be pronounced as "Jesus" in English until late in the 16th century, simply

because there was no "J" sound or letter in English until then.³ The modern letter "J" developed from the letter "I" which began to be written with a "tail" when it appeared as the first letter in a capitalized word. So in old English the name now written as *Jesus* was actually written and pronounced much like the original Greek *Iesous*. Eventually the hard "J" sound crept into the English language to accompany the different way of writing the initial "I" in the name.

You may also find it interesting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that the apostle Paul heard the name of the Son of God pronounced "in the Hebrew language" by the Son of God Himself, so he certainly didn't hear the Greek name *Iesous* or the English name *Jesus*, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, *Yahshua*.⁴ ☹

VISION QUEST

continued from page 3

Soon the sun disappeared over the distant hills. The creeping realization that I was all alone on top of a huge column of rock, miles from any human ear, began to sink icily into my veins. How on earth was I going to get down in the rapidly approaching blackness of night?

Initial panic soon gave way to an urgent desire for survival and I lay on my belly and searched desperately for a toehold. Slowly, slowly, I inched my way down, the sweat now a cold one and every rock that slipped, bumping its way down, sending a shower of gravel with it, caused my heart to beat loudly in my ears. Who would ever find my battered body way out here, crumpled in the brush down in the canyon?

Miraculously, my foot finally touched the solid earth and deep gratefulness flooded my whole being. I was thankful to be alive, exhausted. Was it in the ascent that I came to know my humanity, the vision at the top, or in the descent? Little did I know when I began that I was saying, "I'm willing to put my life on the line to find my created purpose." But the One who made me heard my heart and knew.

Finding My Purpose

When I was ready He chose me to be a living stone in His habitation, His community, no longer living for myself but for a greater purpose than I ever could have imagined at that time. Tribal life is possible when we are bound by something greater than ourselves. I have met the council of elders that I longed for, those who receive from the Ancient One. They do this through the channel of the ancient prophets. That gives us a purpose and direction to live by. That vision compels us to go forward.

We are empowered to love beyond our human capacity through the sacrifice of Yahshua. He undid the complexities of death at work in my soul. That fear of death caused me to always grasp for more and always put myself first. Now, I no longer have to or even want to live for myself anymore. (Maybe the complexities of death are at work in your soul, too.) No longer am I bound to that death-producing prison of having to live for myself first, limited by my self-realization. His love creates a life of forgiveness, togetherness and care. I have been grafted into that life and it stretches beyond this age, beyond my highest imagination, into eternity. Little did I know when I had that experience on Chimney Rocks that the Creator of All heard my plea and was not going to abandon me to a life of futility.

Remember the children's story of Noah and the Ark. Mankind was saved when Noah and his sons built it. It's a true story, and it's happening again. Only this time it's not a huge wooden boat. It's something much greater. It's households of people living in unity making up clans. The clans make up tribes; the tribes make up a nation. And that nation is the Holy City, the Bride, the Wife of the Lamb." ❧



Author: Craig Delozier and family

This Fatal Poison

continued from page 3

Or did someone lie? Was there an evil plot? A conspiracy? Was someone out to get us? Maybe a madman wanting to take over the world? Or beings from outer space? Who was it then?

Now it may be obvious, but the answer is: it was we ourselves, living for our selfish pursuits, our pursuit of happiness, fun, comfort and long life. What made us so blind to the consequences of our actions? It all seemed so innocent, so right, way back then. But the sad reality is that it was our own selfishness and our uncaring attitude and lack of love for others that brought about this sad state of affairs. This fatal poison is in the very blood that pumps through our human veins. This poisoning began long ago, before pesticides and plastics were even thought of. Self, cut off from Creator, brought the death sentence upon the earth and all of her inhabitants.

As much as we need to be at peace with and in love with creation it is obvious that man is in a position of responsibility on this planet. He can't get out of that responsibility by saying he is just like a tree or a bacteria. He was created to rule, which is to care for and protect. To rule is not to lord it over but to come under and support. Responsibility is the ability to respond. Mankind's very own irresponsibility is wreaking destruction and havoc. As a man sows, so shall he reap.

Separation

Last night, when a small group of friends got together, a close friend shared with us a touching message he had received from his daughter, whose two year old had died of leukemia the day before. Thinking about these things I had a hard time getting to sleep. I was not plagued by fear, but I was feeling the pain and anguish of a dying planet, our beautiful jewel of a home, which, as this example so graphically points out, is rapidly becoming hostile to life. As a matter of fact, it felt like the prognosis was in: terminal. Death...I HATE DEATH!!!! I know you can find thousands of books that will try to gloss over, explain away, poeticize and comfort you that death ain't all that bad, but I don't buy it. Death is SEPARATION. And it hurts.

Separation... We are separated from our Creator, lost on the very planet that is our home. We are alienated. We are disconnected. We are not doing what we were created to do, which is to lovingly care for our planet home, being a channel of the Creator's love to one another, the animals, the plants, and the earth itself.

All creation groans...longing...anxiously awaiting...at this point, desperately needing, that the sons of God would be revealed. Could it be too late? I think that question is hard for us to face. Maybe our reaction is denial, avoidance, or depression. We search for the way to fill the gaping hole in our souls in the very things that are poisoning us and our planet and its inhabitants. Insanity? So it would seem. As the locomotive steams on full speed ahead, what can stop it? If you made your way up to the engine room to see whose hand is on the throttle, what would

plunk a madman down in the middle of it all and let him loose on it? Why on earth would a loving Creator have let man go on for thousands of years in his own introverted understanding and then reach a point where he would finally wake up and see he is about to go over the waterfall?

Let's get real. Who can love? Who can make a true commitment and then have the courage to stand? It will take trust and it will take courage. A coward is someone who is not willing to do what he knows in his heart is right. But when we are willing to take the blame to ourselves and stop blaming everyone else and face the hurt we've caused, then we can surrender to the One who made us and He will reveal His plan to us. Then He can use us to create a different society, a new way — His way. Way. We enter another dimension where accusations, divisions, blame games, and selfish desires are being overcome. Then we are free to learn how to love. Then we can truly wake up to who we are and why we were created and what we are supposed to be doing on this marvelous planet, our home. That is a miracle! That is mercy.

A Purifying Fire

Our Creator is pouring out His mercy on the earth right now! His mercy is a purifying fire that will burn up everything that is not of Him. We have found a place to trust and receive that mercy, that purifying fire. That purifying fire will reach down to the place from which the poison emanates — the human heart. As human creatures, we need each other. We need human relationships built on trust. But we need divine assistance to trust, to even be together, to stay together and endure the purification. We need forgiveness. Forgiveness is the ultimate antidote for the blood poison of selfishness.

That purification has begun. Starting in the early 70's, being gathered out of middle class America, a handful of hippies and Jesus freaks began to come together. There was a stirring beginning and it is growing steadily ever since. Then people from many walks of life added — men and women of different races and languages, young and old. Thirty-five years later there are many communities around the world where people of all kinds are staying together, enduring the purification together. We are willing to go through it together, committed in a blood covenant. We have not found anyone anywhere that is doing the same thing, but all those who believe, who are willing, will be together. (Acts 2 & 4) The story is not over yet! But the earth will respond to love, even if it takes cataclysmic cleansing to set things right. But will we humans respond? It all depends on whether we are willing. ❧



you find?

Are we on this train barreling along full-speed ahead to destruction and while no one is in the driver's seat?

We Need A Miracle

The word *miracle* means divine intervention in human affairs. Our Creator had a plan all along. He is waiting... on the edge of His seat actually, along with all of groaning creation. Waiting... for His creation to turn.

Turning... Who do we turn to in our utterly desperate need? The picture of a world gone mad couldn't be much clearer. The earth is reeling on the edge, imminent disaster at every turn, and potentially... complete destruction. This poison is fatal. A little does hurt. A little adds up to a lot.

Selfishness is not sustainable. Why would such a complexly intertwined, intricately woven, beautifully balanced, absolutely awe-inspiring creation exist, only to

content with simple food, clothing, and shelter. Most people are selfish and exploit other human beings and the earth because of their lust for selfish gain.

The Titanic hit the iceberg and is going down... and the iceberg is the fear, greed, lust, and selfishness of the human heart. We have met the enemy... and the

earth has met the enemy... and the enemy is us.

Love Has A Name

What is the answer? Is there anything that can change us from being our own and the earth's worst enemy?

There is an answer. We who write this paper have tried every supposed answer under the sun and

have found the only one that works. The answer is love.

And love has a name. His name is Yahshua, the one most English Bibles refer to as "Jesus". His life was and is the very definition of love, real love that persuades us to deny ourselves for the good of others and the earth we are responsible for. We know love by this: that He laid down

His life for His friends. There is no greater love than this. This is the love the sincere of heart seek for.

His life for His friends. There is no greater love than this. This is the love the sincere of heart seek for. His life for His friends. There is no greater love than this. This is the love the sincere of heart seek for. His life for His friends. There is no greater love than this. This is the love the sincere of heart seek for.

Just more religious talk? Who needs it? Good question.

Do you long for a world where people devote all their heart, soul, mind, and strength to caring for one another, and caring for the earth, giving to one another and giving to the earth, and take no thought for getting. What would the earth be like if people *actually* lived this way?

You don't have to imagine it. You can come and see. This life is beginning to sprout as a foretaste of the age to come, in real homes and communities, clans and tribes around the world. This life of love and unity and true friendship exists as the verifiable evidence that the goods news I am sharing with you is real and true and you can come and see it. And once the reality of it persuades you and you have faith to leave everything else behind... you can be part of it.

The world is perishing. Your world is perishing. Leave it all behind and come and see where real love lives. May it be that His love would win your heart, that His life that we live together would win your heart. You can be in love all of your days, and never leave. Together, we can be healed by His love, and heal one another and the earth also.

What else is worth doing? The Titanic is sinking and you're going down with the ship. Come and find out more about the real solution we've found. ❧



On the Web...



Cult Scare

Autobiography of Kirsten Neilsen

Read the gripping story of a young girl in a cross-country search for real life, and her encounters with the infamous deprogrammers who tried to take her away from the life she had found.

What can happen in modern America when a person's conviction and level of commitment is outside the status quo?

What is "brainwashing" and who are the real culprits?

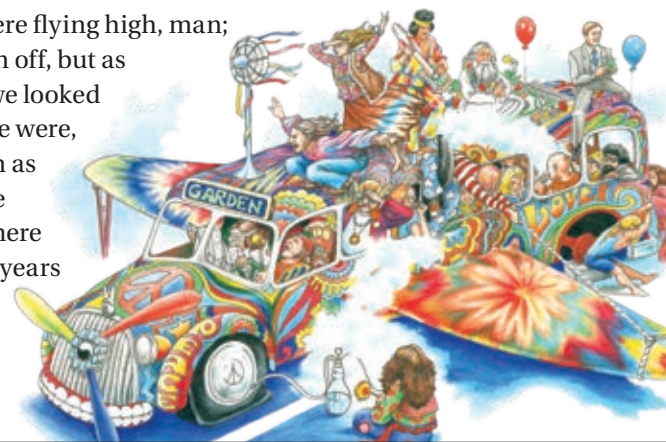
www.cultscare.com

My Elusive Dream

www.hippiecrit.org

It was as if we were all in an airplane sitting on the runway and everyone on board was getting high waiting for the airplane to take off. We were high on the Summer of Love, the end of the war, the hope of a better world. The revolution and the birth of our consciences filled our hearts with vision. But when we looked out the window, all we could see was the smoke that billowed forth from our water pipes. We thought we were flying high, man;

we thought we had taken off, but as the smoke cleared and we looked out the window, there we were, still on the ground. Then as we filed off the plane, we found ourselves right where we had started all those years ago; a little grayer, a lot sadder, and airsick on top of it all.



יהודה Judah - praise Northeastern United States

רעובן Reuben - a son who sees France

גד Gad - fortune has come Canada



WE USED TO BE DESPERATELY LONELY, even though most of us had a lot of friends. Some of us were successful in what we did, and some of us were failures beyond hope. We came from everywhere and we have done everything trying to make sense out of our lives. But no matter what we did, we were left feeling dirty inside. We were scarred deeply from the effects of mistrust and hurtful relationships. We strove for acceptance, money, and whatever else could give us comfort. Some of us had dreams of a better life, but most of us had given up the struggle, settling instead for compromise and consent to the way things are. We were lost, scattered, without direction, doing our own thing.

Then we heard a voice that spoke to us right where we were, exposing the emptiness of our lives. This voice matched up fully to the longing of our hearts. Somehow a lifetime of being unable to trust was overpowered by this voice of hope. It came from a people who had their dirty conscience washed clean. They had a clean slate and an absolutely new life. This new life they eagerly offered to all who wanted it.

So now we have a life together. We no longer have to be separated by race, education, appearance, position, status, or where we came from. Instead, our days are filled with seeking first the needs of our brothers and sisters. In so doing, we find our own needs are met. This new life has given us the power to care.

We hate the death, war, strife, hatred, starvation, murder, injustice, greed, and selfishness that is leading the whole world to destruction. We want to see all of this come to an end. We want many, many more people to hear the voice of hope we have heard, to come and see the life. We are thrilled to be able to invite you to come and see that it is a reality.

We are a messianic community, and by community we do not mean a town or locality. Nor do we mean a loose association of individuals living near one another. And we surely do not mean a religious organization centered around meeting in a building, otherwise called a church. Community, as we use the term, means those who love one another so greatly that they are of one heart and mind, holding all things as common property, living together, taking their meals together, devoted to one another because they're devoted to the One who saved them from death and misery. ♦

UNITED STATES (1-888-893-5838)

VIRGINIA
Community in Hillsboro (Washington, DC area)
15255 Ashbury Church Rd, Hillsboro, VA 20132
☎ (540) 668-7123

TENNESSEE
Community in Chattanooga, 316 N. Seminole,
Chattanooga, TN 37411 ☎ (423) 698-6591

The Yellow Deli, 737 McCallie Avenue,
Chattanooga, TN 37403 ☎ (423) 386-5210

Community in Pulaski, 219 S. Third St.
Pulaski, TN 38478 ☎ (931) 363-8586

Common Ground Bakery at the Heritage House, 219 S. Third St. Pulaski, TN 38478
☎ (931) 363-8586

NORTH CAROLINA
Community in Asheville, 9 Lora Lane,
Asheville, NC 28803 ☎ (828) 274-8747

Community Conference Center
[between Statesville and Taylorsville, NC],
471 Sulphur Springs Road, Hiddenite,
NC 28636 ☎ (828) 352-9200

GEORGIA
Community in Brunswick, 927 Union Street,
Brunswick, GA 31520 ☎ (912) 267-4700

Common Ground Bakery 801 Egmont St.
Brunswick, GA 31520 ☎ (912) 264-5116

Community in Savannah, 223 E. Gwinnett St,
Savannah, GA 31401 ☎ (912) 232-1165

FLORIDA
Community in Arcadia, 601 W. Oak Street,
Arcadia, FL 34266 ☎ (863) 494-3305

VERMONT
Community in Island Pond, P. O. Box 449,
Island Pond, VT 05846 ☎ (802) 723-9708

Simon the Tanner - Family Outfitters
Cross & Main Streets, Island Pond,
VT 05846 ☎ (802) 723-4426

Basin Farm, P. O. Box 108,
Bellows Falls, VT 05101 ☎ (802) 463-9264

Community in Rutland, 134 Church Street,
Rutland, VT 05701 ☎ (802) 773-3764

Back Home Again Café & Hostel, 23 Center St,
Rutland, VT 05701 ☎ (802) 775-9800

MASSACHUSETTS
Community in Boston, 92 Melville Ave,
Dorchester, MA 02124 ☎ (617) 282-9876

Common Ground Café, Dorchester Ave,
Dorchester, MA 02124 ☎ (617) 298-1020

Community in Hyannis, 14 Main Street,
Hyannis, MA 02601 ☎ (508) 790-0555

Common Ground Café 420 Main St.
Hyannis, MA 02601 ☎ (508) 778-8390

Community in Plymouth, 35 Warren Ave,
Plymouth, MA 02360 ☎ (508) 747-5338

Common Sense Wholesome Food Market
53 Main St Plymouth, MA 02360
☎ (508) 732-0427

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Community in Lancaster, 12 High Street,
Lancaster, NH 03584 ☎ (603) 788-4376

NEW YORK
Community in Coxsackie, 5 Mansion St.,
Coxsackie, NY 12051 ☎ (518) 731-7711

Simon the Tanner - Family Outfitters
7 Mansion St, Coxsackie, NY 12051
☎ (518) 731-2519

Oak Hill Plantation, 7871 State Route 81,
Oak Hill, NY 12460 ☎ (518) 239-8148

Oak Hill Kitchen, 7771 State Route 81,
Oak Hill, NY 12460 ☎ (518) 239-4240

Common Sense Farm, 41 N. Union Street,
Cambridge, NY 12816 ☎ (518) 677-5880

Common Ground Café & Bakery 10 E. Main St.
Cambridge, NY 12816 ☎ (518) 677-2360

Community in Oneonta, 81 Chestnut Street,
Oneonta, NY 13820 ☎ (607) 267-4062

Community in Ithaca, 119 Third Street,
Ithaca, NY 14850 ☎ (607) 272-6915

Maté Factor Café 143 East State St,
Ithaca, NY 14850 ☎ (607) 256-2056

Community in Hamburg, 2051 North Creek Rd,
Lakeview, NY 14085 ☎ (716) 627-2532

Common Ground Café 327 Buffalo St,
Hamburg, NY 14075 ☎ (716) 649-4967

MISSOURI
Community on the Lake of the Ozarks,
1130 Lay Ave, Warsaw, MO 65355
☎ (660) 438-4481

Stepping Stone Farm, Rt. 2, Box 55,
Weaubleau, MO 65774 ☎ (417) 428-3251

Common Ground Café, 100 W. Hwy 54,
Weaubleau, MO 65774 ☎ (417) 428-0248

COLORADO
Community in Manitou Springs, 41 Lincoln Ave,
Manitou Springs, CO 80829 ☎ (719) 573-1907

Maté Factor Café 966 Manitou Ave, Manitou
Springs, CO 80829 ☎ (719) 685-3235

CALIFORNIA
Community in Vista, 2683 Foothill Drive, Vista,
CA 92084 ☎ (760) 295-3852

Morning Star Ranch, 12458 Keys Creek Rd,
Valley Center, CA 92082 ☎ (760) 742-8953

CANADA (1-888-893-5838)
Community in Winnipeg, 89 East Gate, Winnipeg,
Manitoba R3C2C2, Canada ☎ (204) 786-8787

Common Ground Café 79 Sherbrook St
Winnipeg, MB R3C2B2, Canada ☎ (204) 453-5156

Community in Courtenay, 596 Fifth St,
Courtenay, BC V9N1K3, Canada ☎ (250) 897-1111

Mount Sentinel Farm, 2915 Highway 3a,
South Slokan, (Nelson), British Columbia V1L4E2,
Canada ☎ (250) 354-2786

Preserved Seed Café, 202 Vernon St, Nelson,
BC V1L4E2, Canada (250) 352-0325

GERMANY
Gemeinschaft in Klosterzimmern,
Klosterzimmern 1, 86738 Deinzingen,
Germany ☎ (49) 9081-290-1062

Prinz & Bettler Café Reimlinger Straße 9
Nördlingen, Germany ☎ (49) 9081-275-0440

ENGLAND (0800-0743267)
Stentwood Farm, Dunkeswell, Honiton,
Devon EX14 4RW, England ☎ (44) 1823-681155

SPAIN
Comunidad de San Sebastián, Paseo de Ullia 375,
20013 San Sebastián, Spain ☎ (34) 943-32-79-83

Sentido Común, General Echagüe 6
20013 San Sebastian, Spain ☎ (34) 943-433-103

Comunidad de Nerja, Balcón de Europa 5 B,
Nerja, Malaga Spain, ☎ (34) 952-52-70-54

Little Flock Café Balcón de Europa 5 B, Nerja,
Malaga, Spain ☎ (34) 952-527054

FRANCE
Communauté de Sus, 11, route du Haut Béarn,
64190 Sus/Navarrenx, France ☎ (33) 559-66-1428

Communauté de Heimsbrunn, 71 rue de Galfingue,
68990 Heimsbrunn, France ☎ (33) 389-819-300

ARGENTINA
Comunidad de Buenos Aires,
Batallón Norte y Mansilla 120, 1748 General Rodriguez,
Buenos Aires, Argentina ☎ (54) 237- 484-3409

BRAZIL
Comunidade de Londrina, Rua Jayme
Americano 420, Jardim California, 86040-030
Londrina, Paraná, Brazil ☎ (55) 43-3326-9664

Comunidade de Campo Largo, Caixa Postal
1056, 83601-980 Campo Largo,
Paraná, Brazil ☎ (55) 41-3555-2393

Café Chão Comum, Rodovia do Café BR 376
KM 297, 86828-000 Mauá da Serra,
Paraná, Brazil ☎ (55) 43-8812-2280

AUSTRALIA
Community in Sydney, 3 Calderwood Road,
Galston, NSW 2159, Australia ☎ (61) 02 9653 3953

Common Ground Café 586 Darling St, Rozelle,
NSW 2039, Australia ☎ (61) 02-9555-6369

Peppercorn Creek Farm, 1375 Remembrance Dr.,
Picton, NSW 2571, Australia ☎ (61) 02-4677-2668

Common Ground Café in Katoomba
45 Waratah St, Katoomba, NSW 2780, Australia
☎ (61) 02-4782-9744

Visit Us at our Cafés



And Stores



Also find us on the Internet at
www.twelvetribes.org
Or call us toll-free, 24 hours a day:
1-888-TWELVE-T
(1-888-893-5838)

שמעון Simeon - a son who hears Spain and Portugal

לוי Levi - attached Germany

יששכר Issachar - recompense Argentina

Post Apocalypse Highway

What kind of feelings does this image invoke in you?

Does it cause excruciating feelings of terror? Frightening thoughts of the catastrophic events that led up to this? A horrifying feeling of being alone, without hope? What would you find if you were to venture down that highway? Would kindness and care await you? Or would you encounter bands of roaming marauders who care nothing for you and or your life? Would you be ready to face that enemy that may be lying in wait? Or do you think of the horror of radiation poisoning overtaking your body and the slow torturous death that that would be as your hair fell out and your skin fell off and you knew that the time was running out. How would you find food without any supermarkets? How would you deal with any other survivors, desperate for one more moment of life, ready to grab what little you have so they can survive?

Or are you more of the optimist? Maybe you feel an uneasy anticipa-

tion. Maybe you have a deep longing for change, a strong desire for a new beginning. Maybe the adventure of the unknown excites you and gives you hope that something better lies around the next corner, maybe you long for this age to come to an end and to see mankind wake up from the insanity of living selfishly. Perhaps you long for a spiritual renewal, or a transformative cleansing of the collective consciousness.

Many speak of the coming changes, of the apocalyptic destruction that will be brought about by man's destructive and selfish pursuit of happiness, comfort, and wealth. Greed and fear are consuming man as man consumes the planet's resources at an astonishing rate never before heard of in human history. Economic collapse, climate change, natural disasters, and world war are all on the horizon at once. A lack of self-control causes human beings to continue to grab for what they can before the ship goes down. There is a lack of clear thinking and a lack of love. At the same

time most people deeply long for spiritual growth, and to hear something that would set them free from the vicious cycle of self life that leads to death.

We hope that you would stop and think for awhile. Hopefully you will read something in this paper that will give you hope. Believe me, you don't want to find yourself on the post-apocalypse highway without hope. Can you bear with us long enough to consider...

There is a hope that does not disappoint! We are building a lifeboat! Come and get in!

*Come and get in the ark!
We must be saved from this dying world.*

Don't wait until it's too late or the door will be closed.

*Come and be a part of His people
We must be saved from this dying world.*

*Noah made it as one man,
But God wants a people!*



Zebulun - to honor British Isles Joseph - increase Western United States Benjamin - son of the right hand Southeastern United States Asher - happy Australia Naphtali - my wrestlings Brazil Manasseh - cause to forget Central United States