

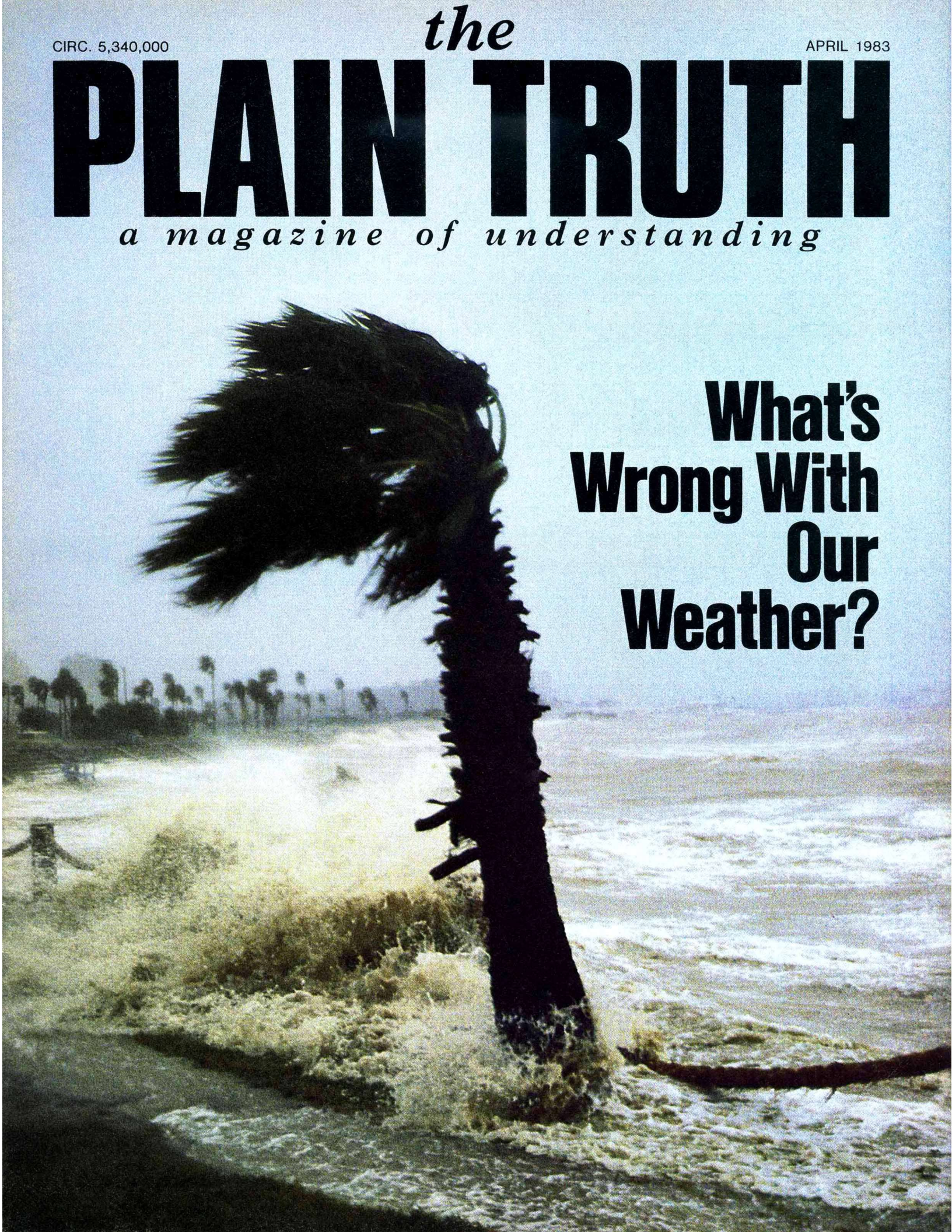
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PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



**What's
Wrong With
Our
Weather?**



Personal from...

They Didn't Believe What He Said

The more I travel around the earth, the more I see the sickening conditions in the world today, and the more I glean from history, the more convinced I become that the real root *cause* of all of humanity's troubles and evils may be summed up in six words: "They didn't believe what he said." And they still don't believe what he says today!

Suppose you had suddenly come into consciousness—just now having been suddenly created the first human being. Your Maker is sitting beside you, revealing to you *vital knowledge* so direly necessary for you to know.

He tells you that he has made you and the wife he has created beside you so that you can reproduce your kind. In due time you will populate the earth with millions of your offspring.

He reveals to you that he has provided for you a *WAY OF LIFE* that will *CAUSE* and produce *PEACE* between individuals, groups and nations that shall arise. This way of life is an inexorable spiritual law as automatic and relentless in continual action as the law of gravity, which he demonstrates to you. It is the basic law of his government by which he rules the vast universe he has created. It is the law of love. It will produce peace, happiness, joy, abundance, universal prosperity, and if you and your children choose it as your way of life, he will give you also the gift of eternal life, which he has not yet given you.

This way of life is symbolized by a tree in the midst of the beautiful garden where he has placed you, called the "tree of life." But also, in case you decide to reason out your own way of life—taking to yourself the decision and knowledge of what is good and what is evil, then

there is a second very special symbolic tree that also produces fruit. The tree is the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil." But your Maker *FORBIDS* you to take of this tree, which means disobedience to his law, and if you choose to disobey and take of that tree, you shall die, since the penalty of *SIN* (the transgression of his *LAW*) is *DEATH*.

Would you *BELIEVE* what your Maker said? Would you?

Adam and Eve didn't.

God their Creator had given them his way of life. If they rejected it, turning to their own way, it would bring sorrow, curses, unhappiness, suffering—and death!

But Satan, in the symbolic form of a serpent, came along and said God lied. They would not surely die. They were immortal souls. He reminded them of the superior human minds they had. They could work out their own way of life—and after all, could they believe God? They only had his word for it.

They must have said, "Yes, that's right! After all, how can we be sure? All we have is God's word for it. We'd better *make an experiment*, and be sure! Let's put it to the test. Let's *take to ourselves* the decision—the knowledge of what is good and what is evil."

They made the first scientific experiment. Even today, the scientific method rejects revelation as a source of knowledge and understanding.

Adam and Eve rejected divine revelation, as does modern science today. They didn't believe what their Creator said! And it was "when the woman saw [observation] that the tree [of the forbidden fruit] was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise [human reason], she took of the fruit thereof [she made the experiment], and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Gen. 3:6).

Some 4,000 years later, God sent Jesus Christ, his Son, into the world (*Continued on page 40*)

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problems—not entirely of their own making. The years under colonial masters were a mixed blessing. Many nations seized—or were granted—independence before they were maturely ready. They were often saddled with frontiers that were long ago decided by committee in Europe rather than by those who really understood Africa. The people of Africa generally suffer from diseases that have been eradicated everywhere else on earth. In spite of a high rate of infant mortality, populations are rising faster than the supply of developed resources. One can only look at the tragic conditions with a sense of deep compassion. But they must realize that they have brought much of this on themselves by borrowing heavily and then spending it unwisely. They embark on expensive prestige projects that fall apart before they are finished. And then waste precious resources and brainpower seeking influence on the international stage, instead of working on problems at home.

That is what sets the Cameroon Republic apart. While there is still a long way to go, solid progress has been made. The country's leaders haven't made a name for themselves internationally—as I said at the beginning, most people know practically nothing about them. But as Solomon wrote in the book of Proverbs, "... before honour is *humility*" (Prov. 15:33). The Cameroonians have been humble. They faced their situation realistically, and have not tried to become something they are not. Their example should not go unnoticed or unrecorded.

No nation is going to escape completely the problems of the next few years. Events on the European continent are soon to change the shape of all the world. The Black African nations may not be in a position to have much say in what happens. Nevertheless the Cameroon Republic at the moment is in a better position than most to weather the storm. May the new president continue to lead his country along the same commonsense path to national success. □

(Continued from page 1)

with a message from heaven. This message was essentially the same as he had instructed the first two humans. It had to do with God's government and rule over them, of his way of life that would cause every good and with the gift of eternal life.

But again, humans (with few exceptions—120 in all) did *not believe* what he said! They called him a liar!

Let me quote: "As he [Jesus] spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word [his MESSAGE], then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:30-32).

They answered him sarcastically and hostilely. They were Abraham's descendants and were already free.

"I know that ye are Abraham's seed," responded Jesus, "*but ye seek to kill me*, because my word [his gospel message] hath no place in you."

They believed on the messenger—but they *rejected his message*—they didn't believe what he said!

Jesus continued, "But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth [his gospel message], which I have heard of God."

Later, Jesus said, "And because I tell you the truth, *ye believe me not. . . why do ye not believe me?*" (Verses 45-46.)

Before the end of the first century that message was suppressed and another false "gospel" substituted. Christ's message was not proclaimed to the world again until now—in the latter half of the 20th century!

But God saw to it that his word—his message to mankind—was inspired and put into his *written Word*. But even today, the religions that have appropriated Christ's name preach about the PERSON of Christ—about the MESSENGER—but they do not proclaim his MESSAGE—his *true gospel*.

And in many basic doctrines they teach the very opposite of what Jesus and the first apostles taught. They condemn the customs Jesus observed, and observe customs Jesus and the Bible condemn.

Today, a professing adherent of "Christianity" will say, in surprise, "Why, you surely don't take the Bible *literally*, do you?"

Humans have written books by the millions. People read and take *them* literally. They take them to mean what they say—and say what they mean. But the Bible? They can't seem to *believe* it can mean what it plainly says.

For example, the Bible says, "The wages of sin is DEATH" (Rom. 6:23). But professing Christians will say, "But death doesn't *mean* death—it means everlasting life in hell fire!" God SAYS "death"—but they don't believe what God *says*—and since this is his word, they don't believe his message!

This same verse says, also, "But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Do they believe eternal life is a gift of God? No, they believe we are "immortal souls" who already *have* eternal life. But God says in his Word, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:4). God says that—but professing Christians don't believe what he says! He says the same words again in Ezekiel 18:20.

God said the same thing to Adam and Eve, "... in the day that thou eatest thereof [of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil] *thou shalt surely die*" (Gen. 2:17). And in verse seven God says he "formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man [made of the dust of the ground] became a living soul." To this "soul" God said he would "surely die" if he disobeyed, taking the forbidden fruit.

It was Satan who said, "Ye shall NOT surely die." Today those who profess Christ believe what Satan said. But they do not believe what God said!

And what about modern science and higher education? Like our first parents, they reject revelation

What Our Readers Say

Personal

Thank you so much for your personal in *The Plain Truth*. It turned my whole day around. The whole day I was sluggish until I read your column while waiting for the train to go home. My attitude changed from downbeat to exultation. You write so profoundly and yet so plainly.

Mark Gannon
Maspeth, New York

Terrorism

Terrorism is justified by some historical wrong. It operates by inflicting pain and death on innocent bystanders. It shelters itself among more innocent bystanders. It flees for sanctuary to still more bystanders, more or less innocent. And it depends on the humanitarian restraints of its victims, although it proudly denies having any such restraints itself.

Alfred B. Mason
Hydesville, Calif.

Evolution

Your article on evolution about the "eye" could be the dead-end road for evolutionists-atheists.

Frank P. Barrot
The Thinkers Club
San Diego, Calif.

A Prisoner Speaks

As a subscriber, I am treasuring all the copies sent free by *The Plain Truth*. The spiri-

tual, educational and informative ideas help and console me much inside the dungeon where I am staying throughout my whole life.

Gerson J. Vilorio
Muntinlupa,
Metro Manila

Nuclear War

In your *Plain Truth* article "Humanity Won't End in a Nuclear Holocaust," there were some gross errors regarding the effects of a one-megaton nuclear explosion.

Mr. Snyder says that the nuclear fireball would consume everything within 280 square miles. That's about 8½ miles in every direction. According to the [U.S.] Federal Emergency Management Agency, the maximum fireball radius of a one-megaton blast is only .7 of a mile, and the crater diameter is .24 miles.

Mr. Snyder goes on to say "after the terminal effects the blast wave would flatten remaining structures within 4.5 miles." The Federal Emergency Management Agency says that up to three miles severe damage [would occur] to commercial-type buildings.

The point is—our [U.S.] cities are not like what Hiroshima [Japan] was like, a city mainly composed of wood, paper screens and bamboo.

I wish you would give your sources for the data you gave in this article about the effects of

a one-megaton nuclear blast. I will say I enjoyed the remainder of the article.

Jimmy Clay
Rogers, Arkansas

• *We'd be glad to.* Plain Truth senior writer Michael A. Snyder interviewed Dr. Helen M. Caldicott in January, 1982, at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Convention in Washington, D.C.

Senior writer Snyder also interviewed government and military analysts for background information at the same convention and attended the seminar "Biological and Health Effects of Nuclear Industry and Weapons: a Current Evaluation." It was presented by Dr. Stuart C. Finch of the Rutgers Medical School; Dr. Robert J. Lifton of Yale University; Dr. Herbert L. Abrams of the Harvard Medical School; Dr. Bernard T. Feld of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Dr. Caldicott.

Also consulted was John A. Jewell, a witness to the British nuclear device explosions in the South Pacific.

In addition, dozens of related books and articles were reviewed, including *The Fate of the Earth* by Jonathan Schell, *Soviet Strategy for Nuclear War* by Joseph D. Douglass Jr. and *Amoretta M. Hoeber*, *Nuclear War: the Facts on Our*

Survival by Peter Goodwin, *London After the Bomb* published by the Oxford University Press, *The Islamic Bomb* by Steve Weissman and Herbert Krosney, several other references that included the Federal Emergency Management Agency's material and *The Effects of Nuclear War* by the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment.

The point of the article, as stated, was not "to list for our readers all of the horrors of nuclear war." The description presented was a composite of the material reviewed. Through research, *The Plain Truth* found that the material presented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency was criticized as being misleading. Some government personnel interviewed said the material you quoted did not accurately reflect the real effects of nuclear war.

But, as stated, that's not the point. As the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment said in its report: "Throughout all the variations, possibilities and uncertainties... one theme is constant: that nuclear war would be a catastrophe." (A chart summarizing nuclear blast effects determined by the Office's report appears on page 31 of *Nuclear War: the Facts on Our Survival*.)

This document confirms the accuracy of the material presented in *The Plain Truth*.

(what God says) as a basic source of knowledge. Do they believe there was a flood in the days of Noah?

God says there was, but they do not believe what he says! What about higher education? God says the waters of the Red Sea parted, and the Israelites walked across on

the dry floor of the sea. In his Word, God says the walls of the water returned, covering and drowning Pharaoh and his army. But can you find that in the ancient history texts? They don't believe what God said!

God shows us the way to world peace—peace between individuals,

between groups, between nations. But men do not believe what God says, and so we have no peace.

God shows us the way to peace, happiness, prosperity in abundance and eternal life as his gift. But men, except for the very few, don't believe what God says! Instead, humanity suffers on! □