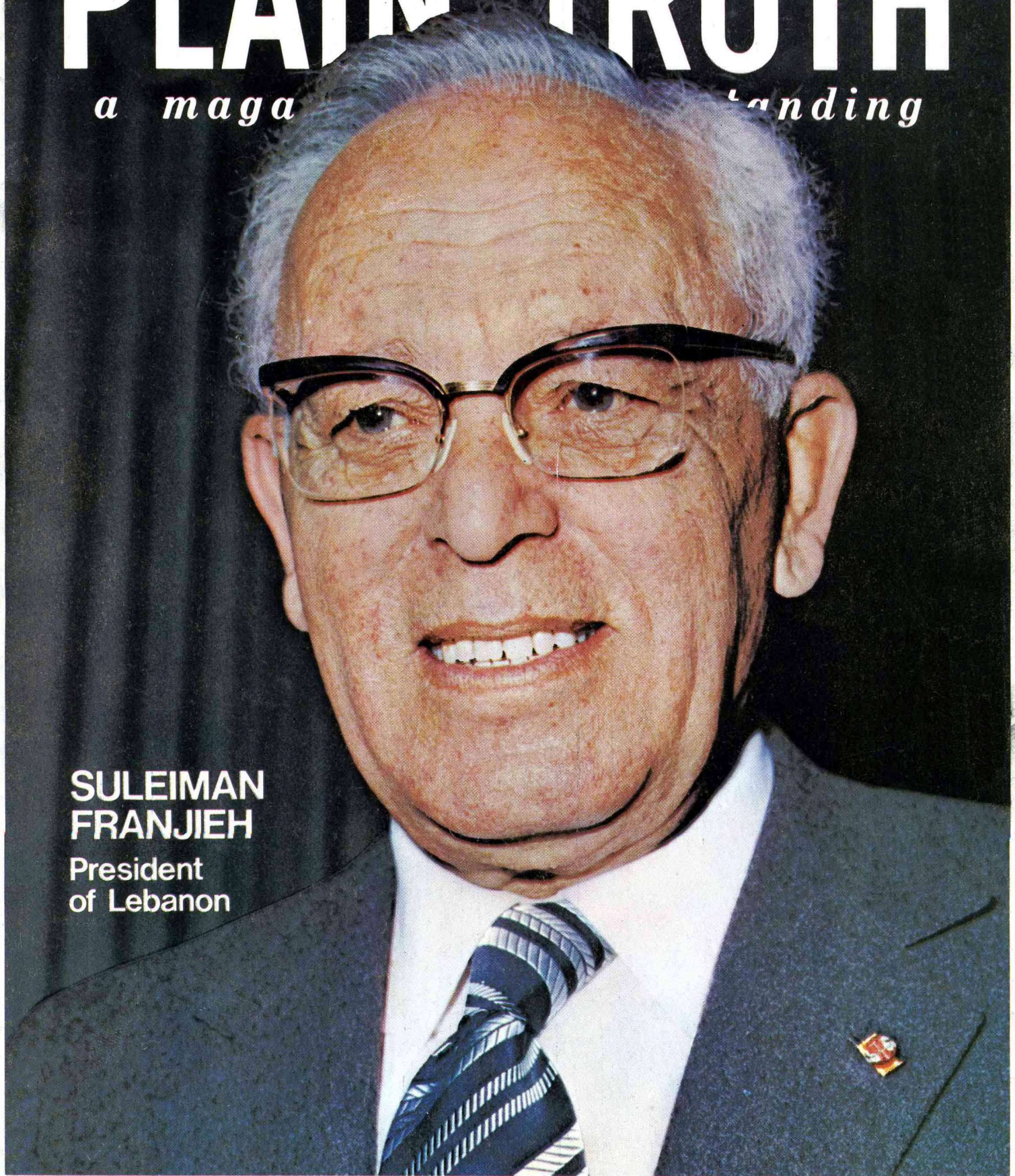


the
PLAIN TRUTH
a maga *standing*



**SULEIMAN
FRANJIEH**
President
of Lebanon

Beirut, Lebanon:

As I arrived here in Beirut, events significant of the accelerating trend in the world were fitting into an ominous pattern.

I feel it important to give our readers a quick appraisal of the state of the world, as of NOW,¹ and where we are heading.

Here is a quick synopsis:

The non-aligned nations were just concluding their fourth summit conference in Algiers. Attending were kings, presidents and prime ministers from 76 countries. Outstanding among them were Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, President Sadat of Egypt, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, King Hussein of Jordan, Fidel Castro of Cuba, President Tito of Yugoslavia.

The significant thing about the conference is not what it accomplished — which was virtually nil. What *was* significant was, as usual when heads of state from several nations get together with the purported purpose of seeking peace and mutual understanding, this conference was dominated with backstage bickering and fighting for selfish advantage.

The other significant factor is that the one thing most could agree on was criticism or condemnation of the United States, and of Israel. For those who recognize the true ancestry and identity of these targets for criticism, its occurrence carries significance.

One head of state who had planned to attend this conference was significantly absent. He made far bigger headlines than the conference. At his invitation, I had called to see him just three weeks before. This was President Salvador Allende of Chile (South America).

The day I arrived in Chile's capital, Santiago, to see the president, was a Friday, which happened to be a national holiday. The next day the president was fully occupied with overturning his own government, firing his entire cabinet and ap-

¹This appraisal was written less than three weeks before the outbreak of the October Mideast war.

Personal from



STATE OF THE WORLD NOW, AS SEEN FROM MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA, SOUTH AMERICA

pointing new cabinet members. My conference with him was tentatively scheduled for Monday. Emergency happenings involved with the crisis in his embattled government caused him to leave the city. He got word to me, asking if, under the circumstances, he could meet with me by proxy, asking the chief of protocol to represent him in a meeting with me.

President Allende was important in the present world trouble, because he was the only Marxist (communist) who had ever been elected as a head of state by a democratic election. He had, not, however, received a majority vote. There were more than two candidates. He received a mere plurality of about a third of the entire vote in the election of September, 1970.

A large and crucial strike by truck drivers was in progress while I was there. President Allende was definitely planning to attend the non-aligned summit conference in Algiers. But the crisis in his government grew more intense, and he was unable to attend.

Then, just as the conference at Algiers was ending, a military coup toppled his government and he was shot to death. Some reports said one of his own palace guards shot him. Others strongly hinted one of the

attacking military junta killed him. Take your pick. There was considerable gunfire in the palace where I had a meeting with Dr. Allende by proxy only three weeks before.

Well, that's a start of significant events occurring as we were entering Beirut. Others were:

— The conference of non-aligned countries at Algiers was marred by another event typical of the world state TODAY — the kidnapping and skyjacking episode of Saudi Arabian embassy officials in Paris, by Palestinian guerrillas.

— Bombing and killing still rife in North Ireland and Britain.

— King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was threatening to use oil as a political weapon to force the U. S. to reduce its support of Israel. This was coming in the midst of the super-serious ENERGY CRISIS. Saudi Arabia is the only country that could stave off the energy crisis. They produce some 8 million barrels of oil per day. They *can* up this to 20 million per day in the years just ahead — IF King Faisal will — and nothing short of this can save the crisis in the West. I knew King Faisal's predecessor and half-brother, King Saud, when he was Crown Prince Emir, and I knew Sheik Hafiz Wabba of Saudi Arabia well — meeting him
(Continued on page 15)

Personal from



(Continued from page 1)

first at the San Francisco Conference in 1945 — then in London in 1947, and in 1956 he and his wife came from Alexandria where they were then living to our hotel in Cairo to spend the afternoon with Mrs. Armstrong and me. But I have not met King Faisal — yet.

— Also significant of today's trend, the U. S. in some nations was accused of encouraging the coup in Chile.

— Reports said South African police killed 11 blacks in a gold mine riot.

— Fierce battle reported in South Vietnam — 90 Communist troops killed.

I am not *reporting* news. You should have read the news when it happened. My purpose is to call to your attention the real MEANING — the significance of it. Governments are being toppled. Men are unable to govern. You live in a troubled world unable to solve its problems. When heads of governments meet to try to bring about peace, each fights for his own advantage. You see here the CAUSE of the troubles in the world. It all points to a WRONG WAY OF LIFE!

[Editor's note: The following strange coincidences are significant of the trend in the world condition today. Three weeks after Mr. Armstrong was in the financial and industrial capital of the Arab world, the October war broke out between Arabs and Israelis. Three weeks after Mr. Armstrong was in Bangkok, a massive student riot caused the overthrow of Prime Minister Kitikachorn's government, and a man who was a guest at the dinner in Mr. Armstrong's honor was appointed by the king as acting prime minister. In March 1973, Mr. Armstrong was invited by the ambassador from Afghanistan to India to visit Afghani-

tan for a meeting with the king. A few weeks later, Afghanistan's government was overthrown, and the king fled the country, going into exile. Three governments were overthrown and a war occurred, all inside six months. This is the end time, and time marches ever faster and faster to the crucial climax at the close of the age.]

I have said again and again, there are two broad and general WAYS OF LIFE. This world is living the "GET" way — the way of competition, striving to GET, to TAKE from others, the way of strife, seeking SELF-gain, without concern for the welfare of others, the way of vanity, lust and greed, jealousy, envy, resentment, hatred.

The other way which I teach is the way of "GIVE" — of outgoing concern for the welfare and good of others equal to self-concern — the way of cooperation, helping, serving, sharing. That's the way of LOVE, for the true definition of "love" is outgoing concern for the good of others equal to self-concern.

But back to the moment.

I arrived here in Beirut from our Ambassador College campus in England. I had flown there from Pasadena for the opening of the new school year. The invitation to visit Lebanon had come from the President of the country, Suleiman Franjieh. We have spent a most rewarding eight days here.

This visit to Lebanon came about in a manner that I think might be interesting to our readers. It all began in 1967. There had been some negotiation toward buying a very important program time on Radio Jerusalem from the Jordanian government. The old city of Jerusalem was then Jordanian. King Hussein wanted to increase the power of Jerusalem Radio to one million watts. I was anxious to have *The World Tomorrow* program go from Jerusalem on such giant power. We had negotiated on a four-year contract at a price that would pay the cost of the equipment to put out this maximum superpower. It would cost the Jordan government nothing.

Actually it was the next morning after the funeral and burial of my wife, after exactly 50 years less 3½ months of marriage, that I boarded a Pan Am polar flight for London and Paris. This was April 18th. It helped a great deal to be able to travel to other scenes after suffering the loss. Since then, I have helped a few others to a similar experience after the loss of a life-partner and mate. From Paris I transferred to a flight to Beirut, from there another flight to Amman, Jordan.

I was met there by Messrs. Raymond F. McNair and Charles F. Hunting, from our campus in England. We then had a conference with Mr. Adli Muhtadi, officer in charge of communications for the government of Jordan.

We drove over to Jerusalem and visited the station, then back to Amman, where I signed a contract which may well have been the largest contract, in dollars, ever signed for the purchase of radio time.

On a Sunday morning in June, 1967, I was en route by car from the campus in England to London Airport, for a flight to Amman and Jerusalem to personally broadcast our first program from Jerusalem. On the car radio we heard the news of the beginning of the war between Israel and the Arab states of Egypt and Jordan. The plane did not go through. I did not leave London. After six days, Jerusalem Radio was in the hands of the Israelis.

Shortly thereafter Mr. Muhtadi came to the campus in England to ask me to put the program on Radio Amman at half the cost we had contracted for on a station that was to have been boosted to a million watts. The money paid was to go to the Arab refugees. I signed it, and this continued for some four years.

Meanwhile Mr. Muhtadi became acquainted with Ambassador College and with its extension program of education worldwide. He came to believe wholeheartedly in what we are doing, and about a year ago joined our organization. Meanwhile he brought other men ranking high

in the Arab world to the British campus, and one of them visited the campuses at Pasadena and Texas with him. Among these Arab leaders to visit the college were the Egyptian Ambassador to London, and Dr. Lucien Dahdah, Chairman of Willis Faber (Middle East) S.A.L., a major company of Insurance Brokers and Underwriters; also Chairman, Intra Investment Corporation, and a top leader in Lebanon.

These men want other leaders of the Arab world to know about our message and program of worldwide education. They communicated with their friends who are leaders in Lebanon and told them about the unique work being accomplished by Ambassador College. As a result, President Franjeh of Lebanon extended the invitation.

I have given you the details as just another example of how meetings with world leaders and heads of state continue to come about. The unique educational work carried on worldwide is attracting more and more attention and finding great favor with world leaders.

On this occasion, Dr. Dahdah flew to our British campus at Bricket Wood, near St. Albans, to accompany me on the visit to Lebanon. We flew in our plane, and besides the crew of five, our party included Mr. and Mrs. Muhtadi, Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Hunting, our Vice President for Financial Affairs for Britain, Europe and the Middle East; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley R. Rader, our general counsel; my daughter Mrs. Beverly Gott, and Dr. Dahdah. We were met at Beirut airport by a welcoming delegation and taken through customs and immigration in VIP manner.

Our meeting with the President and First Lady was on Friday at the presidential summer palace, high in the mountains and a two hour drive by automobile from Beirut. Our entire party was invited. The mountain palace has a magnificent view of valleys far below, and peaks still higher. We arrived at about 12:30, had about an hour's conversation in

a very large living room, with many photographs being taken. During our talk, a telephone was brought to the President. He looked very serious.

"An Ethiopian aircraft with Emperor Haile Selassie aboard has just been hijacked over Germany," he told us, and in Arabic he expressed great alarm lest they would demand being landed at Beirut airport. With so famous a personage aboard, it could have had extremely serious implications.

About five minutes later the telephone was brought to him again. His face broke out in smiles.

"False alarm," he said with great relief. "The captain on the Emperor's plane accidentally touched the hijack alarm button by mistake," he said.

I explained to him how I had been the guest of the Ethiopian Emperor just a few weeks ago, and my daughter showed him and others the ornate gold bracelet the Emperor had given her.

During luncheon, which we learned the First Lady herself had planned with exceptional interest, a son and grandsons came in, and a daughter and son-in-law (who is a brother of Dr. Dahdah) were there when we arrived.

The President took many minutes carefully turning through a special edition of *The Envoy*, our college annual, and showed great interest.

I had mentioned to the President that we have five exceptionally well-shaped cedars of Lebanon on our campus in England. I had heard these magnificent trees were all gone from Lebanon. It was lumber from some of these trees that the ancient King Hiram of Tyre had sent to King Solomon to be used in the building of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem.

"There are just 300 of these cedars still growing," said the President. "Some are 4,000 years old. They are all in one group. I would suggest you see them on your return to Beirut — it will take you about one hour longer."

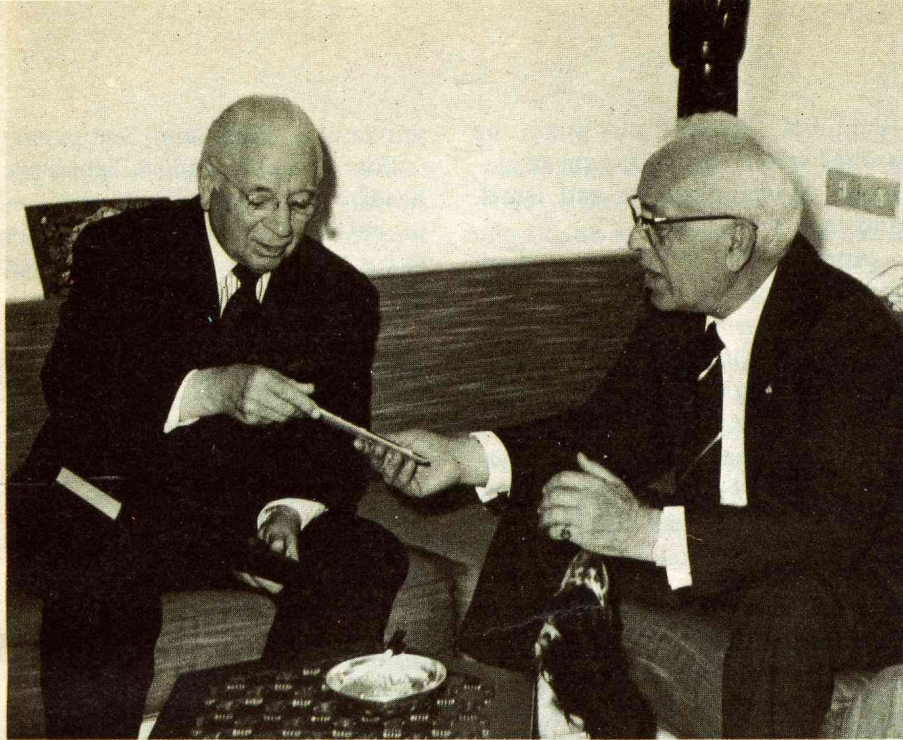
We did take advantage of this opportunity — and drove through some of the most magnificent mountain scenery in the world on the way.

During this eventful past eight days, I was driven up into the mountains in another direction, about one hour's drive, to the mountain summer residence of Prime Minister Taki el Dine Solh. I had a most interesting talk of an hour or more with him. He had just returned the night before from the Algiers Conference. He has a philosophical mind, and we discussed world conditions, and their causes, virtually in complete agreement.

I went into the "forbidden fruit" incident when our first parents rejected divine revelation from our Creator as the only source of basic knowledge — and how mankind has continued to reject that source, attempting to determine by human reason what is good and what is evil — and how that is the basic CAUSE of all the world's evils. I explained about my researches into the causes of the difference between animal brain and human mind — and why man is *as* he is — with powers of intellect to learn to fly to the moon, yet unable to solve his own problems on earth — problems within his family, social problems, problems between nations.

Also while in Lebanon this past week, I had personal meetings with the Foreign Minister, Fouad Nafah, and the Minister of Education, Edmond Rezek. He was especially pleased when I told him we were planning to introduce a course, beginning the second semester at the English campus, in the Arabic language.

On our last Saturday night a special reception and dinner was held in my honor at a very large building on the outskirts of Beirut, facing the sea. It contains a large casino — I believe the largest in the world — a large theater, and dining rooms and terraces. It is owned by one of the companies of which Dr. Dahdah is Chairman. On arrival I looked into



PRESIDENT FRANJIEH of Lebanon being introduced to the goals and purposes of Ambassador College by Herbert W. Armstrong.

two very large casino rooms which were filled with customers, but we did not enter.

The reception and dinner was held on a large second-story veranda overlooking the sea, and the lights of the city. It was open-air on a delightful evening. Present were many important people, including Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Malik, a former President of the General Assembly of United Nations and members of the cabinet and legislative body.

I took one day of our stay for a drive to the site of the ancient financial capital of the world — the ruins of Tyre. It was gratifying to find former statements I made about Tyre on television in 1955, and later written in a booklet, vindicated and proved true. I had quoted a dual-fulfillment prophecy from Ezekiel to the effect that Tyre could never again be rebuilt. I had explained how, long after its fall at the hands of Alexander the Great, 300-plus years B.C., the Romans had tried to rebuild it — had actually erected a number of buildings over a one- or two-hundred-year span, but had been forced to abandon the project.

Detractors had pointed out triumphantly that the ancient city is actually being rebuilt with many high-rise buildings erected there

since my visit to the site in 1956. This week I found much archaeological work had been done, uncovering much of the ruins of what had been called “New Tyre,” originally on an island that now is a peninsula on the mainland, as well as the Roman ruins. And, indeed, there were quite a number of new high-rise buildings. BUT, no more are to be built — and by government order, the new structures are to be dismantled and carted off — for the government wants to have additional archaeological digging on the site of these newer buildings.

Even though the prophecies were of a dual-fulfillment nature, pointing more to the permanent destruction of a more modern *successor* “Tyre” yet future, it was rewarding to find that my statements and findings of 1955 and 1956 were *not* in error. I felt it was a day well spent.

Sunday morning we took another and shorter trip up the mountains. A most astonishing surprise awaited me there. I would rate it one of the twin number one wonders of the natural world! The other twin number one wonder is the world-famous Carlsbad Caverns of New Mexico, a comparatively short automobile drive northeast from El Paso, Texas.

I did not know that anything like

the Carlsbad Caverns existed elsewhere on earth. There are other caves highly worth seeing. But they do not compare. But here, only eleven miles northeast of Beirut I was taken through not one, but *two* caverns as spectacular, as beautiful, as magnificent, as awe-inspiring, as Carlsbad. Carlsbad is, as I remember from visits now probably 20 years and more ago, larger than either one of these Lebanon caverns. But the two — one higher up the mountain side than the other, and criss-crossing *over* the lower one, must be as large or close to it, as the Carlsbad Caverns.

We entered the lower cavern first, and a short distance from the entrance we came to a rushing underground river. Sightseers were entering boats carrying about 12 people each. We were rowed through four or five successive large cavern “rooms” with a breath-taking succession of giant and infinitely small stalactites and stalagmites, with forms and shapes like cathedral spires, giant forms and delicate lace-like tiny forms, with ceilings in giant rooms up to 200 or 300 feet — the height of 20-or-30-story buildings. The general color was various shades of cream or very light beige, very artistically illuminated. It was a splendor humans could never design or equal. As Dr. Dahdah exclaimed, “This is the majestic, stupendous designing and handiwork of the hand of God.”

The river was flowing down from back in the far depths of the caves as yet unexplored, and the river course was directly under the caverns — sometimes narrowing into a passageway only wide enough for boats to meet and pass each other, sometimes widening into giant rooms with ceilings higher than in any man-built cathedral — and ceilings infinitely more decorative.

It was a delightful experience, viewing these superb forms and shapes while sitting down.

Emerging from the breath-taking boat trip through the lower cavern, we were driven in Dr. Dahdah’s car

up the side of the mountain to the entrance of the higher caverns.

Here there seemed to be even larger and grander rooms opening here and there as we wound our way back into the heart of the earth in these stupendous caves of indescribable magnificence and beauty.

These exceedingly spectacular caverns are called Grotto de Jeitta. They are open to the public for a small admission charge from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Mondays.

Bangkok, Thailand:

Am continuing this month's *Personal* from Bangkok. We flew here on Monday after our visit to Grotto de Jeitta in Lebanon. There was one stop a short distance from Beirut at Damascus, where we were required to pay a landing tax in order to obtain permission to fly over Syria, and then a refueling stop at Bombay, India.

A banquet had been scheduled here in my honor, held last night, hosted by Mme. Sunirat Tehlan, owner of the Rama Hotel and other hotels in Thailand, and the lady who has accompanied me on each of my three meetings with the King of Thailand.

I am en route to Tokyo, where Prince Mikasa (brother of Emperor Hirohito) had asked me to go into a "Bible study" with him. Since the date was set for this meeting, it has expanded to include some forty to sixty others, including members of the Cabinet and the Diet (the Congress of Japan), as well as educators from universities. I understand it is to be a very distinguished group, and instead of a private "study" apparently it now will be more in the nature of a lecture.

Here we met the Ethiopian ambassador to India, and his wife, who flew here to join us in the flight on to Tokyo.

At the special banquet last night a very distinguished group of guests were present, including a princess whose husband had been Prince Regent, supervising the Thai government prior to the reign of King

Bhumibol. Present also were the ambassadors from Japan, Cambodia, Korea, Ethiopia and Israel, and their wives.

After a delightful dinner, there were introductory speeches by Mme. Tehlan and the Korean ambassador, following which I was asked to speak — which I did for twelve minutes.

I feel our readers should be interested in what I said, as those present were, and as I feel everyone on earth should be. Following is a brief synopsis:

Today the minds of most people are kept primarily on their own comforts, daily routine and pleasures. But when one travels as I have over the world, he is forced to see the pitiful condition in which a majority of earth's humanity lives — in utter ignorance, deep poverty, wracked with disease, living in at least semi-starvation, filth and squalor.

And I have to ask, WHY? WHY should it be? *Why* can't all humanity live in a utopian condition?

We have the mind-power — the intellect — to produce intricate and complex computers and mechanisms of all sorts — to fly to the moon and back, yet we are unable to live at peace within our own families, with neighbors, or nations with neighbor nations. We can't solve our own problems here on earth. *Why?*

Why is man as he *is* — so helpless before his own problems?

Then I look into the affluent world, where living standards are high. All my life I have had contact with the great and the near-great — with the "successful" — heads of large corporations, great banks, leading educators. They have education. They have above-average intellect. They have money and live in luxury. BUT THEY ARE SELDOM HAPPY. The more they have, the more they want — and it is never enough. WHY?

For every such EFFECT there had to be a CAUSE. What's the CAUSE of all this pitiful state of affairs in the world? What is the WAY that would CAUSE

universal plenty and happiness?

For centuries and millenniums, heads of state have sought the WAY to PEACE. They have worked for PEACE, struggled for peace — and yet there IS NO PEACE! Why?

I found the answer — in a book almost NOBODY knows! It's the book supposed to be the very source of the world's largest religion — Christianity. When I was challenged to look into it 47 years ago, I was shocked — dumbfounded — to learn that the religion of our Western world, called Christianity, did NOT receive its teachings and beliefs and customs from this book called the Holy Bible! It was the greatest astonishment of my life. I found that it teaches, in plain language, the diametric *opposite*, in many if not most essential and basic areas.

But to my surprise, in it I found the ANSWERS!

I found what I have come to call the MISSING DIMENSION IN KNOWLEDGE. That *missing dimension* is the knowledge of:

- What we are,
- WHY we are — the purpose for humanity being put on earth,
- How do we fulfill that purpose?
- WHAT are the true values — what is, and what is not important?
- WHAT is THE WAY to peace, abundance, happiness?

Those are the basic things we need to know. Those are things the human mind — with all its scientific and technical instruments to aid it — is utterly unable to discern. Yet we *could* have known.

The answer to the whole riddle of the state of the world today goes back to the account of the incident of the forbidden fruit. Whether or not you *believe* this is a true story — whether or not you believe in the God of all creation — the God of the Thai people who created them and all other peoples — whether or not you believe in this book, the Holy Bible, makes no difference. Here is the one explanation of the miserable state of the world today — here is the ONE ANSWER TO THE WAY TO

peace, and THE SOLUTION of all our problems — and there is NO OTHER! Mankind has sought other answers and solutions for thousands of years — and has found NONE!

This is the incident of the “forbidden fruit.”

The Eternal God had created a man and woman. Here were two humans with *adult human minds* — perfect human minds — capable of adult thinking and reasoning — *but as yet unfulfilled with knowledge*. Had they been animals, they would have needed no instruction. Animals come equipped with instinct. But human action must be directed by the thinking and volition of the human mind. Our first parents, without knowledge, were helpless. So the divine Creator sat down with them and began to instruct them — to impart to them the basic necessary knowledge.

He instructed them in THE WAY that would CAUSE peace, prosperity, happiness, and in the end ETERNAL LIFE. That WAY constitutes a SPIRITUAL LAW. It is THE WAY of “give,” and the violation of that LAW is the way of “get.” More explicitly, that LAW is the way of LOVE — and “love” is an outgoing concern for the welfare and good of others, equal to self-concern. It is the principle and attitude of giving, sharing, cooperating, of consideration and kindness. Its violation is the way of SELF-concern — of vanity, lust and greed, of jealousy, envy, hatred — of competition, violence, WAR.

There were two very special trees in the midst of the garden where our first parents had been placed. The one, obedience to this law of LOVE, was the “tree of LIFE” — the other was the tree of “the knowledge of

good and evil.” To take of that tree was to take to themselves the knowledge — the ascertaining or producing of the knowledge — of what is good and what is evil — what is right and what is wrong.

Then after this instruction by the Creator, along came Satan, symbolized by the serpent. “How can you believe God?” he asked. “You will not surely die if you disobey God — you’re an immortal soul.”

“After all,” Mother Eve reasoned,

wrong. Man does what seems right in his own eyes. Mankind has rejected revelation.

But ONLY REVELATION can impart to us the knowledge of WHAT we *are*, WHY we are, WHERE we are going, HOW to get there, WHAT are the true values, and WHAT is the WAY that would CAUSE PEACE!

Man has chosen the SELF-CENTERED WAY! That is the CAUSE of all these ills and evils that fill our unhappy world.

You may believe this, or disbelieve. There is no other explanation — no other solution.

Now what of the comparatively immediate FUTURE?

Man has DEMONSTRATED that he cannot rule himself. UNLESS there exists this divine Creator of ALL POWER — the God of LOVE — who will now soon step in and intervene, and take the governing OUT OF THE HANDS OF MANKIND, and govern ALL NATIONS with his almighty divine POWER, humanity would SOON DESTROY ITSELF — erase all human life from earth! But the Creator whom I serve WILL SOON intervene and do just that. Mankind will resist. Mankind will FIGHT against it, but God will save us from ourselves — and enforce the LAWS of

THE KINGDOM OF GOD, ruling all nations — FORCING all mankind to enjoy PEACE, UNIVERSAL prosperity, happiness, and with the offer of *eternal life* available to all!

That was my message to that small but distinguished gathering. And *that* was the gospel of Jesus Christ — the gospel of the Kingdom of God! Whether it is believed or not, my job is to ANNOUNCE (or proclaim) it. But there *was* an enthusiastic applause and verbal response. □

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“we only have God’s word for it. Maybe we’d better make an experiment and learn the truth for ourselves.”

So she reached out and TOOK to herself the knowledge of what is good and what is evil. In that first “scientific experiment” she rejected REVELATION from her Creator as the source of basic knowledge. Result of that experiment — they both died!

But all humanity has followed their example ever since! What one thinks is right, another thinks is