

the
PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

The making
and unmaking of a
**YOUTHFUL
CRIMINAL**

RECONSTRUCTING
2,000 years of HISTORY

A REMEDY FOR WAR

**UNCLE SAM
IS SICK**

...qua
... in Crime
... Kieak
... spread Drug Use
WATERGATE COVER-
Fuel Shortages WELFARE
Water D... Scandal
Dollar Slumps Pollution Trade Deficit

Personal from



Asia's millions are saying: "God willed us to be poor." TRUE or FALSE?

TOKYO:

OVER HERE in the Far East, Asia's multimillions of poor are saying hopelessly, "God has willed us to be poor." It's a heart-touching story. Why should hundreds of millions be so impoverished? Why? The true facts will astonish — and they *should* arouse you!

After the end of World War II, a massive effort was launched worldwide to develop the poor nations of the world. The United States led the rich, industrialized nations in organizing this gigantic human effort. These affluent nations made it a goal — many called it an obligation — to lift the world's impoverished majority out of its state of misery, poverty, despair, and hopelessness.

They called this new process "development."

The "Poor" Become the Developing Nations

The poorer nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America took to themselves the new name of "developing nations." This name sounded progressive, less humiliating than "impoverished nations." Chief among these were the two most populous nations on earth, China and India, and also Indonesia, fifth on earth in population. Also included in this category were the other nations of Southeast Asia.

This massive world-effort faced many problems: the population ex-

plosion, food, education, health, jobs. And each is related to the other in a complex system. The stupendous program included movements toward industrialization, compulsory education (at least through and past the elementary level), and the "Green Revolution."

Billions of aid dollars and millions of dedicated man-hours have been poured into this international uplift effort. And, after more than a quarter century, the result?

All over East and Southeast Asia today, where I've been surveying the situation personally, *Asia's poor are getting poorer!*

All over Asia today, where the biggest masses of the earth's people live, the majority still exists — they don't really live — in deepest poverty, hunger, ignorance, disease, filth and squalor — in despair and HOPELESSNESS!

Why?

Because, according to a front-page story in the *Hong Kong Post Herald*, the millions say, "God has willed us to be poor."

Some who have put their lives into this vast effort to uplift the world's poor, in a wave of frustration and pessimism at seeing their efforts failing, seem about ready to agree.

Development Not Reaching Individuals

There has been development, yes! Scattered in Southeast Asian

countries are some show-case factories and modern high-rise buildings in cities. Some of these countries are increasing in terms of gross national income, while in terms of individual humans they are stagnating. Development does not seem to be reaching the approximately 40 percent of *desperately* poor people.

Even in Japan, one of the most economically sound nations on earth, the same is true. In my most recent visit with former Prime Minister Eisaku Sato, he remarked that, although the nation has prospered economically, the standard of living of the average family has not increased.

One primary reason for this whole situation is population growth. In Asia are roughly 56 percent of the earth's people — about two billion one hundred million — and that will **DOUBLE**, it is estimated, in less than 30 years! Due to rapid population growth, there are more illiterate Asians than there were 20 years ago. Population grows faster than efforts at education.

Much of the effort to overwork the soil to feed these burgeoning millions and force bigger crops through artificial fertilizer and insecticides is upsetting nature's balance in the soil. It means bigger than normal crops now — and smaller and inferior quality crops later when the population doubles.

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Personal from



(Continued from page 1)

Many are saying that if humanity is not blasted out of existence by nuclear warfare, the population explosion will do the job.

And Now — the Truth!

This is the existing condition in the “developing countries.” And even the “rich” nations are filled with evils. It’s a very sick world.

But why? When you stop to think about it, it simply does not make sense! Humanity should not have to live this way! What are the real causes?

And what is the solution?

Is it, after all, decreed by a higher power that certain people in certain areas must be POOR while others are rich? Or that the rich nations are DECREED to be plagued with crime, immorality, corruption, broken homes, vanishing family life, and our thousand-and-one evils?

This *world* condition is of great significance and IMPORTANCE to every one of us!

Where will we go for the answers? To government? The governments of the great nations have made almost superhuman efforts to develop the “poor” nations — yet the poor continue getting poorer. We find no solutions there!

Shall we turn to science? Science has been enlisted in this vast program. But science cannot explain the real cause nor provide the cure!

Try education — try sociology — try industry. They give you no help. Try religion. The world’s religions have not solved the world’s problems nor made this a better world.

Isn’t it about time we open our minds to the ONLY EXPLANATION and face the only possible way out?

Isn’t it about time we open our minds to that missing dimension in knowledge — the most vital dimension. That dimension is REVELATION. It’s the dimension our first parents rejected. And it’s the dimension that’s been missing from human society ever since. It’s missing from education, science and from all religions!

Did the Creator God WILL these millions to be poor? Is it his will that people be poor, ignorant, disease-ridden, unhappy? Has our Maker willed even “rich” areas to be filled with evils? It might be interesting to take a look into the Bible just to see what it represents God’s will to be on those questions. And maybe we’ll find there what none of this world’s religions have accepted — the real cause and the sure cure! You read a lot of fiction. Now let’s read a little eye-opening truth — a truth rejected by religion, by education, by science, by government.

Taking a quick glance into the Bible, begin at the beginning:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

The book of Genesis was written, originally, by Moses in the Hebrew language. The Hebrew words imply a *perfect* and beautiful creation! The angels shouted for JOY! (Job 38:7.) Angels populated the earth, but those angels, prior to the antediluvian world from Adam to Noah, violated the laws of the government of God — they “sinned” (II Peter 2:4). The earth had been their habitation — but they left it and darkness filled the earth (Jude 6).

Now, Genesis 1:2: “And the earth was [had become] without form, and void [chaotic and in confusion]; and darkness was upon the face of the deep [oceans].”

This was the time when God renewed “the face of the earth” (Psalm 104:30) by sending forth his Spirit. Back to Genesis 1:2: “And the Spirit of God moved upon the face

of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light” (verse 3).

Satan and the demons, by their rebellion, brought darkness, chaos, confusion. God brought light, order, beauty. Then it is stated, God created man after his own kind — in his own shape and image (verse 26) — male and female (verse 27).

The Forbidden Fruit Incident

God, it is stated, had created a beautiful garden, or park, and there he put the man and the woman he had created (Genesis 2:7-8). Here were two people, created suddenly mature, with mature minds — but as yet unfilled with knowledge and without the help of animal instinct. Their first need was instruction — knowledge. God began to instruct them in necessary basic knowledge.

A God of love could not *be* such a God unless he provided the WAY that would cause or produce peace, happiness, and abundant material needs. God had done this by setting into inexorable motion his great, invisible, spiritual law. This is the WAY, which, when followed, causes every good. But the transgression of this law is sin (I John 3:4), and the penalty for transgression is the loss of peace, happiness, material abundance — and, ultimately, death!

The obedience to that perfect way was symbolized by the tree of life in the garden — in other words, the tree symbolized peace, happiness, joy, abundance *and* what man was not created with — the gift of eternal life. The opposite way — the CAUSE of strife and violence, unhappiness, poverty, ignorance — and ultimately DEATH — was symbolized by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

It is stated that God said plainly to them that taking the fruit of this latter tree would bring the penalty of death. Since death is the penalty of breaking God’s law — the penalty of sin — God could not have pronounced that penalty for disobedi-

ence unless he taught them also about his law — the way that would cause peace, happiness, abundance — every GOOD.

But how did our first parents know that all this was true? Answer: They had God's spoken word for it! That knowledge could be known ONLY and solely by revelation — that is, by believing what God revealed! Satan implied that they could not BELIEVE God — especially when he had said that they were mortal and could DIE. Satan implied they were IMMORTAL SOULS and would NOT surely die (Genesis 3:4).

Our first parents thereupon disbelieved God's revealed knowledge and rejected revelation as the basic source of knowledge. They TOOK TO THEMSELVES the production of the knowledge of what is good and what is evil — what is right and what is wrong. And humanity ever since has rejected revelation as the foundation of knowledge. Education, science, and religion reject it today! In so doing, the most vital dimension of knowledge has been missing in human life.

Everything is a matter of CAUSE and EFFECT.

Man has thus *caused* all this world's evils to befall humanity — the illiteracy, poverty, wretchedness, filth and squalor in the poor countries — the crime, corruption, immorality, broken families, and other evils in the "have" countries.

Was it — is it — God's will for people to be poor?

Our Maker Willed Prosperity

Let's blow the dust off the Bible and open surprised eyes to *what it says*.

It says: "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in

the midst of the garden . . ." (Genesis 2:8-9).

Here was a garden of unrivaled beauty. God put the man in that garden "to dress it and keep it" (verse 15), giving him free access to the "tree of life" — symbolic of the GIFT of ETERNAL LIFE — in an environment of beauty and plenty!

But when the first man and woman rejected God's word, bringing on themselves the CURSE that would cause unhappiness, poverty, strife and evils, God "drove out the man" "lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever" (Genesis 3:24, 22), that is, lest he bring this suffering of poverty, ignorance, and evils on himself *for all eternity!* But God HAD WILLED — had commanded — that the man receive the GIFT of eternal life in prosperity, abundance, peace, and happiness! The choice was the man's!

Come now to the case of Abraham.

God told Abraham to leave his own country and go to a land that ultimately is to be as beautiful and productive as the garden in Eden. There was no balking — no resistance — no arguing. It is recorded, simply, "So Abram departed" (Genesis 12:4). Here, at last, was a man who believed and obeyed God! "And Abram took . . . all their substance that they had gathered" with him (verse 5). Abraham was a wealthy man, "and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels" (verse 16). And God blessed Abraham (verse 2). And, referring to all the vast promised land, from Babylon to Egypt, God said, "To thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever" (Genesis 13:15).

Abraham believed God. He obeyed God. He lived according to God's law (Genesis 26:5) — the way that causes wealth, peace, happiness. And Abraham was a WEALTHY man (Genesis 24:35).

Abraham's son, Isaac, became rich in his own right — because he lived the way God set in motion to cause prosperity (Genesis 26:12-14).

Isaac's son Jacob also became wealthy (Genesis 31:18) because he lived God's way which CAUSED blessing and prosperity.

Joseph, Jacob's son, "was a prosperous man . . ." because "the Lord was with Joseph" (Genesis 39:2).

The Wealth of Job

Take the case of the patriarch Job. His substance was so much that he "was the greatest of all the men of the east" (Job 1:3). God allowed Satan to take from him all his great wealth — but when Job had learned his lesson and repented of his sin of self-righteousness, God restored to him DOUBLE all the vast wealth he previously had (Job 42:12).

God Willed Israel to Be Rich

God took the descendants of Abraham after 430 years and made them one of the earth's nations. What was his will for them? He said: "If ye walk in my statutes [God's government, which is the way that will cause prosperity and every good] . . . then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase . . ." and they would have had PEACE and become the wealthiest nation on earth (Leviticus 26:3-4). God WILLS that all be rich — not poor. But God reveals to us the WAY that will cause that happy result.

Jesus Christ came teaching the ways of God's government and the spiritual laws (ways) of that government. He said: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things [material needs] shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). When I had had financial reverses and been reduced to poverty 46 years ago, I read that verse. I decided to take God at his word. He tested my sincerity. But I

made that a life-long goal, and the promise of Christ was kept in due time.

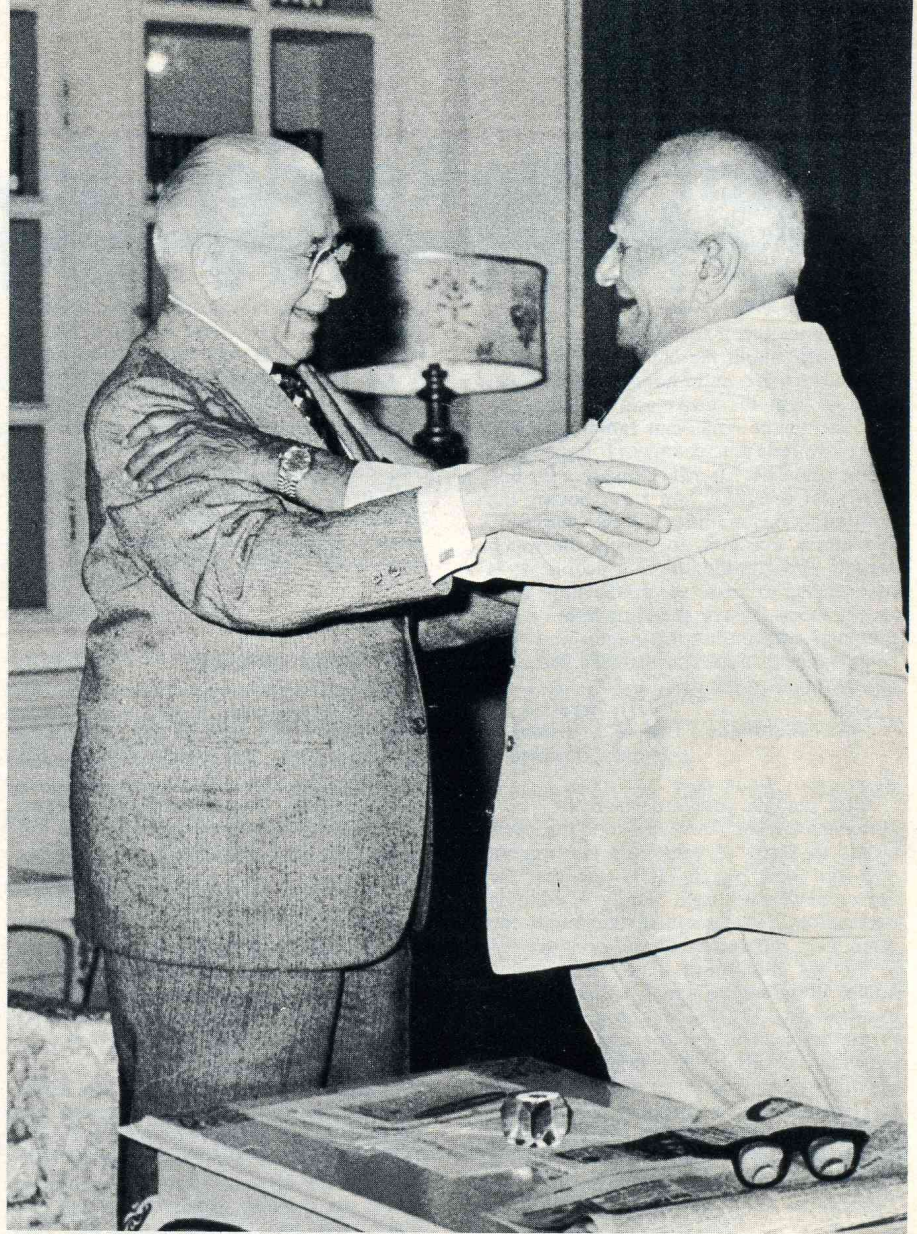
Jesus Christ said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it MORE ABUNDANTLY" (John 10:10). In fact, the Bible revelation shows that more abundant life *for all eternity* is the very purpose for which humanity was put on earth.

Revelation tells those who will give heed that God willed humanity to be economically prosperous. God willed humans to be in good health. He willed that we might learn the way to peace, happiness, joy.

God willed that we should, with God's revealed knowledge, exercise our five senses to discern what is the right and good use and avoid the evil. That is, to discern what sounds are pleasurable uplifting, wholesome and good; and what sounds are degrading, harmful, or excessively nerve-jarring (see Hebrews 5:14). God willed that we should learn with revealed knowledge what leads to pleasurable, comfortable, continuously interesting, rewardingly productive, stimulating, inspiring, always upbuilding — never destructive or harmful — living, having it more abundantly and richly; and that we receive the GIFT of eternal life and have it *forever!*

Let me illustrate. This "Personal" was begun in Tokyo and was finished in England on our Ambassador College campus. It had to be written considerably in advance of publication, so that it could appear on schedule in all five language editions of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. Before writing the above, I had just returned to my typewriter from a stroll through the indescribably beautiful Japanese garden on this campus.

The garden reaches its *most* beautiful state in mid-May. Here is breath-taking beauty to be enjoyed — to give delightful pleasure through the sense of sight. Whether



PRESIDENT V. V. GIRI of India extends a warm welcome to Herbert W. Armstrong on Mr. Armstrong's recent trip to Asia.

or not color is supposed to belong in a Japanese garden, this garden was blooming profusely with various beautiful shades of azaleas and other beautiful flowers, with a backdrop of rhododendrons just beginning to pop out in lush profusion. This was all blended with various shades of green and framed with a background of beautiful, tall trees that had taken 60 to 100 years to grow. All through this garden are various shapes and sizes of rare conicals, dwarf Japanese plants and rock plants, with a gentle stream winding its way through the middle of the garden.

Here is something very rare, to

give intense pleasure through the sense of sight — provided one has learned to exercise with full appreciation that sense. Combined with the fragrance to delight the sense of smell is the gentle rippling of the brook over rocks and minute falls to add enjoyment through the sense of sound.

Here was a delight to three of the five senses that is not only enjoyable to the point of ecstasy, but also is uplifting and inspiring as well.

There was an example of God's matchless power as the Great Designer. The magnificence of the very forms and shapes — the designs of the plants, shrubs, flowers, and trees

What Our Readers Say

Forgotten American

I commend you for your fine work on your article about the Navajo people. It is very informative, and I hope this article will bring to light the many and varied problems facing the American Indian communities around this country. I hope your article will assist Mr. MacDonald in his fine efforts for the tribe, and I am hoping the non-Indian communities will join with him, and others like him, to pursue the much needed opportunities for his people. It is encouraging to me to see publications such as *The PLAIN TRUTH* shedding light on the problems confronting this nation and particularly the first Americans. May you continue your fine efforts.

Ernest S.,
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
Elton, Louisiana

After reading your article on the "Forgotten American," I would like to say a few words in favor of what our government does for these people. It is true that the government gives each family a monthly check. But... the man of the house too often takes the check out and goes directly to the bar and drinks it up before going home; therefore he and his family suffer unnecessarily. There is one thing I do blame the government for, and that is for allowing saloons on the reservations. On the other hand, I do know that our government builds schools and hospitals and also staffs them for the Indians. So I certainly believe the Indian is more to blame for his plight than anyone else.

Fanny E.,
Alpine, Texas

We both are Navajos from the Window Rock area... It's hard to be a Navajo Indian or part of any Indian tribe in the U.S.A. We are glad *The PLAIN TRUTH* realizes that and opens many eyes of the many people who read about us. It's hard to live in the white man's ways, especially when you don't know how to spend or budget your money. So I will appreciate very much getting your two booklets about financing money. Oh, we have four wonderful children from 7 years to 8 months old.

Mrs. Willie W.,
Gardena, California

The Great Gamble

Just finished reading your article on "The Great Gamble: Next Year's Food Versus Next Year's Harvest." It truly concerned me inasmuch as this problem could cause famine in the United States through greed and selfishness. Let's hope that we will use our common sense very, very soon and condemn this kind of thinking.

Rebekah K.,
Hollywood, California

I agree that the U.S. government could learn from Russia's mistakes. But your researchers will find, upon closer examination over a period of 100 years, that Dr. Irving Krick does not have a record over the years that is impressive.

Starting with the drought of the 1870's, you will find from U.S. Army records that the next major drought occurred in the late 1880's and also that it reoccurs on the average of every 15 to 17 years in these Great Plains. As a living witness to the last two Plains' dry spells, I can testify that they

were between 1952 and 1957 and from 1967 to 1971. By this projection, the next drought is not due until the early 1980's, no matter what Krick thinks. As for your statement that "The United States has had bumper wheat crops for several years running" you seem to have forgotten the Southern Plains crop failure of 1971, though you did mention it midway down the center column of the same page.

Evan C. K.,
Brewster, Kansas

• In 1946 Dr. Krick predicted the drought of the early fifties. In 1969 he predicted the 1971 drought. No one is perfect, of course, but Dr. Krick has done well in predicting drought cycles. You are right about the cycles occurring every 15 to 20 years, but 1969 was not a dry year. Check the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration records. There was indeed a U.S. Southern Plains wheat failure in 1971, but bumper wheat crops in other areas of the nation made up the difference.

Modern "Christianity"

For years, I have been an avid reader of your fine publications. Your article appearing in a recent edition, "Modern 'Christianity' Versus Christ" was hard hitting. Many "confess Jesus Christ," but he is the least known of all personages. Most people know more about King Tut. What is the answer? We are a literate people. We are snowed under by books of all kinds — and there is a public library on almost every corner. Why all this ignorance? If faith in

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in matchless perfection — gives one the glorious opportunity to give God thanks and praise and to thrill to a sense of deep appreciation, recognition of his glorious Majesty, and a sense of quiet worship toward the Great Creator and Life-giver!

Yet I have seen visitors walk uninterestedly through that glorious garden, heedless, as if it were a waste of time to stop, look in every direction, then take two or three steps and stop, turning in every direction as an entirely new vista of beauty unfolds before them. They had not exercised their senses to the point of capability of drinking in the glorious beauty. They had cheated themselves out of some of the rich, abundant pleasure and joy that the

Creator *willed* us to experience, if only we are willing.

Too many get their "enjoyment" out of corrupt and harmful rock music — which is not really music but a destructive *noise* with an evil beat; or the *smell* of cancer-producing tobacco smoke (you *can't* taste smoke, regardless of false advertising claims) — or sensations produced by drugs that lead to addiction — or sights (pornography for example), smells, sounds and other nerve-sensations used in a temporarily pleasing way, but with a harmful kickback. In the end, these evil uses of the five senses destroy the capacity for real enjoyment and joy, invigorating living, happiness and the abundant life!

The Eternal God has placed it in my power to spread a little of the truly good news that is turning thousands and thousands of lives RIGHT SIDE UP!

Let me add, before closing: People, as a whole, have shown they WILL NOT listen to, heed nor follow the WAY that would make them happy, prosperous; and radiant. But soon the great God is going to reveal himself to a defiant humanity — and if it must be IN SPITE of human rebellion and defiance, he will RULE EVERY NATION, and by supernatural POWER, FORCE this stubborn humanity to learn what true happiness is and bring us world peace and prosperity, in spite of ourselves. □