

GLOBAL MISSIONS

Summer 2008

Taking God's Word to God's People

What In The World Is Going On ?



Barry Coffey

What in the world is going on?

Certainly something is going on! We are in the grip of profound change. All over the world and in every sector of life, we are facing change. When we search for a meaningful answer to this complex question, we reach back to Jesus' answer to the disciple's question in Matthew 24:3: "...the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

He responded with statements that have come to pass as precisely as all the other prophecies anywhere in the Bible: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass,

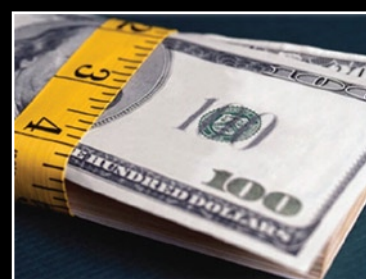
but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." (Matt. 24:6-8)

And all of these conditions have come and gone through the ages. But toward the end of His answer, which would also be the end of the Gentile Age, He includes Israel reborn, "the Fig Tree," in the definitive events that stand out as a marker in time for the people who inhabit the end times. Again, in Matthew 24:32-34, "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled..." And as well, He addresses the coming of the Son of man, in verse thirty-seven: "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

So we find ourselves living in this unique time because of God's choosing: witnesses of the restoration of the nation of Israel, as well as the culmination of Gentile grace, all of us inevitably facing the translation or tribulation. Specifically, we are the generation that has witnessed the ending of the Church Ages, the coming of a Prophet, and the spread of the Message into virtually every corner of the globe and into almost every major language spoken on

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earth. From printing presses in remote regions of the globe, to mass distribution of sermons via the web and related technologies, we are soon coming to a conclusion of the purpose of the Message in the first place: to gather a Bride for Christ.

The world, or cosmos, in Biblical language, also has turned corners in manifesting the rejection of the Word of the Lord. We are facing the reality of food shortages, increasing demands placed on limited global supply from developing nations such as China and India, skyrocketing energy costs, global warming and an ambiguous election looming in the United States. The World Bank has recently pledged more than a billion dollars to alleviate food shortages among two thirds of the earth's population. With more farmland being utilized (through subsidies) to grow food used in the production of fuels, changes in weather patterns and rising fuel and fertilizer costs, the earth's growing population is struggling to sustain itself at our present rate of production.

Today in China a hybrid variety of rice is being developed to help bolster production, especially for supplies in impoverished countries. China has approximately one fourth of the world's population but uses only 10% of its land for food production. Therefore, importing food, fuel for manufacturing, raw materials is very big business for the Chinese as well as for India. This increased demand on world supply drives prices in other nations higher than normal, creating increased hardships within Third World nations. In England, wheat supplies are being diverted in an experimental process to be converted to a fuel additive, able to be mixed with gasoline and reduce fuel costs.

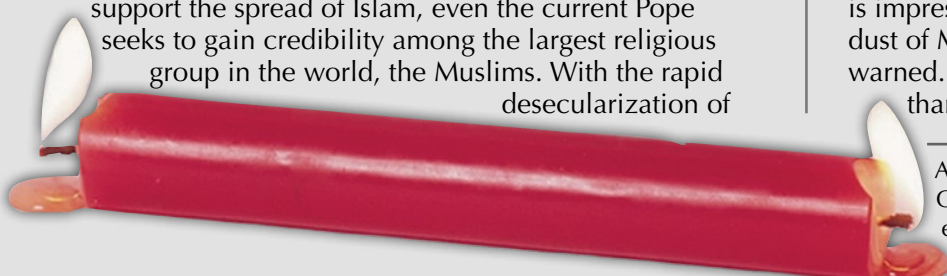
While vast petroleum profits flow toward nations that support the spread of Islam, even the current Pope seeks to gain credibility among the largest religious group in the world, the Muslims. With the rapid desecularization of

the industrialized world, as well as in America, the world leaders grope desperately toward "secular" answers to prophesied problems. Our circumstances are not due to farming or political miscalculation, but rather the promise of a "great and terrible day..." (Malachi 4:5-6). Even the proponents of global warming, despite their motives, have documented the onset of tribulation as described in the Book of Revelation. They attach different names to the problem, but it is clearly a case of man "destroying himself" as Bro. Branham described in 1965. Our situation will change again after the US election this year as we watch "very different candidates" vie for control of the once mightiest nation on earth.

Is it all negative? It depends on which side of the end time prophecies you are standing. To the Elect of the Age, these are the signs of a conclusion long waited for, prophetically. The only thing hindering the Gospel returning to the Jews is the rapture of the Bride of Christ. These, therefore, become glorious times for us. To the unbeliever, the times are marked by uncertainty, or, in the words of Jesus, "perplexity" (Luke 21). And in the time of Adoption, the "... whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together..." (Romans 8:22)

It is an amazing time to live, literally watching the world give way to a Kingdom which cannot be moved! Our focus ought not to be centered on hopes for a better President, or reduced energy costs. Our hearts must be tuned in to His perfect will in our lives, to be in the place He chooses for us, to prepare our lives for the translation. The Message is reaching the far corners of the earth. Missionaries have never been better equipped due to the rapid advances in technology. Their progress into the Middle Eastern nations is impressive with several new Assemblies rising out of the dust of Moslem extremism and resistance. Be prepared. Be warned. We may be further up the road toward the climax than we realized.

A sermon series called, "What in the World is Going On?" is available and may be requested by sending an e-mail to barrcof@gmail.com.



Dubai & Waqas Javed

Barry Coffey

I recently returned from a trip to Dubai, UAE, where I met Bro Anwar from Pakistan, along with his wife, Sis Sheba and their son, Waqas. The work of the Lord is growing in Sharjah, a suburb of Dubai, and we actually now have two small groups there among the non-Arab population.

Bro Anwar had been experiencing several different health issues, and we wanted to have him thoroughly treated at the American hospital in Dubai. He also brought his wife, Sheeba and their four year old son with him to Dubai. The son, Waqas, was born with a heart defect (a hole between the two major chambers of his heart) which is normally corrected in the first year after birth. In Pakistan, the high risk of post operative infection is extremely high, making the success rate for such operations extremely low. When Waqas was born, his parents chose to delay the operation, not having any idea how serious the defect could become. While travelling to Dubai on May 5th, Waqas experienced a "seizure" and was taken to a local hospital in Lahore, Pakistan. The attending physician attributed the "seizure" to his heart condition (in medical terms, VSD), which they described as becoming rapidly worse over time. The family travelled onto Dubai, where we had Waqas examined by a specialist, who performed an immediate EKG and sonogram on the heart. His recommendation was for an immediate operation by a pediatric cardiologist, a specialist in this type of procedure. There are no such specialists anywhere in the Middle East.

The specialists recommended going to the United States to seek a specialist in this type of procedure. Our search in the United States led us to the University of Michigan University Hospital, and Dr. E. Bove, who is considered the foremost specialist in the world for this type of procedure. We made contact with him, and the hospital and Dr. Bove asked to see the medical records I had brought back from Dubai. His prognosis verified the diagnosis made by the two other doctors who had recently examined Waqas, and immediately he offered his services. Based on our communications with him, he agreed to perform the procedure without any fee of any kind. He contacted the hospital and began the arrangements to proceed with the many team members required to perform such a critical and complex procedure.

The hospital agreed to waive most of their cost of such a procedure, so we will have only the remainder of the hospital bill, the family's transportation costs to the US and living expenses to fund. We have already been assured of most of this amount, and are now able to apply for a special Medical Transit Visa from Pakistan to the United States for emergency medical care. It is estimated by the doctors, that Waqas would perhaps not live more than another ten to twelve months if he does not have the operation. All three of the doctors agreed that he needs this operation immediately.

We would appreciate your prayers for both Waqas and his family, as well as any assistance in offsetting the cost of this operation. I have established a fund for any fully tax deductible contributions to this worthy cause at the following address:

Hickory Bible Tabernacle
P.O. Box 715, Hickory, North Carolina 28603
Attn: Waqas Javed Fund



Bro. Anwar, Bro. Barry & Waqas



Sis. Sheeba, Bro. Anwar & Waqas



Church service in Dubai



Above & below: Brothers who attended the meetings in Dubai



Ministers' Meeting in Donetsk, Ukraine

For several years, Donetsk has been the site of the annual ministers' meeting for the Russian-speaking countries. In early March of this year, more than one hundred ministers gathered for meetings with Brother Barry, Bro Eugene Braun (Edmonton, AB, Canada) and Bro Michael Ulteig (Beech Island, SC, USA). The ministers in these former Soviet states are growing up both in the Message and in the Lord. They are becoming stabilized and are now able to participate in and contribute to these meetings with several of them having preached during the week. It is a great testimony to the initial work that was started there.

As a result of meetings like this, the Message is spreading into the far corners of the Russian-speaking countries.



Left: Brothers in attendance at the ministers' meetings in Donetsk visit the church library to pick up DVDs and CDs of the meetings, as well as other resources, to take home with them.

Right: While in Donetsk Bro. Barry (pictured here with Bro. Valentin of Alushta, Ukraine) handed out nearly a dozen laptops donated for ministers in these nations. The laptops are a great asset for these ministers and much appreciated.



Above: Bro. Eugene Braun, listening to a service with Russian-speaking ministers, also spoke at the meetings.



Above: Bro. Aleksey Khudakov, pastor of the church in Ventspils, Latvia, addressed the brothers.



Above: Listening attentively to the Word during the ministers' meetings.

Below: Both brothers and sisters enjoying a service that was open to everyone.



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