



# CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

VOL. 31 NO. 1

January, 2001

Our dear Prayer Supporter,

**A**s this year began it heralded the true beginning of our new century. So, with this January letter, we pray that you may not only have a blessed new year but that we all might be filled with faith-expectancy as together we face the opportunities of the new millennium.

Whether the trumpet blows at the Rapture or whether He calls us Home before that glad event, we rejoice to know . . . *that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.* 1 JOHN 3:2b. Praise God!

*There's a light upon the mountains,  
and the day is at the spring,  
When our eyes shall see the beauty  
and the glory of the King;  
Weary was our heart of waiting,  
and the night-watch seemed so long;  
But His triumph-day is breaking,  
and we hail it with a song.*

Until that wonderful day—be it short or a protracted time-span—the Bible tells us that this old world's endemic turbulence will continue unabated. And this, in spite of the present global economy; cultural diplomacy, and, political expediency.

Unusual as it was, the heading introducing the lead article in the *Vancouver Sun* newspaper on December 23 was a question and an answer: **What do we really want for Christmas? Peace!**

According to their poll of 800 randomly selected British Columbia residents, 61.3% chose **peace on earth**; while 20.9% picked **more money** and 7.8% **more sex**. That the vast majority of the people surveyed chose "peace" is surely a significant indicator of the worldwide desire of today's generation.

But there is another ominous side of the coin. The Washington based *Institute for Science and International Security* recently disclosed the names of some 30 states which have, or may seek, nuclear weapons in the future. Reliable sources also indicate that some of these states have been branded by the US State Department as **rogue** or **terrorist supporting** states. For example:

- "The threat to explode a nuclear device (could it be one of General Lebed's 48 missing KGB terror bombs?) in an American city—thus paralyzing US decision making—is a key part of the Arab/Iranian plan to destroy Israel.
- "Terrorism using chemical and biological weapons is already a reality, and, nuclear terrorism is just around the corner.
- "Computer terrorism could do more damage to business

and investment than that of all the IRA bombs put together.

- "A special presidential commission has found that critical components of US infrastructure, such as telephone and banking systems, are vulnerable to computer terrorism."

So while at the beginning of this new century pundits spin their political and economic projections, Pope Paul somberly expressed his concern that violence should come to an end in the Middle East—specifically in Israel. Then, at the time of writing, President Clinton—still hoping for a Nobel Peace Prize before leaving office—is likewise frustrated with his so far unsuccessful peace proposals to Israel and the Palestinians. "**The international community is proving unable to broker a workable peace formula**", writes M.J.A. Standish.

**PEACE?** To this day, as peace talks persist so does bloodshed and violence. And as a recent Intelligence report concluded, this violence persists "**with no end in sight to the growing conflict between Israeli authorities and the Palestinians in Israel.**" But conflict in the Middle East is no surprise to those who have read prophecies in the Bible. And whatever the outcome of the present peace proposals, Bible students have no doubt as to how tomorrow's newspaper headlines will read—both pen-ultimate and ultimate!

**Though we eagerly anticipate the ultimate reign of the Prince of Peace, before then, there will be a pen-ultimate and short-lived peace proposal by a counterfeit Messiah.**

As the *Vancouver Sun's* recent poll fractionally intimated, the world, which is longing for universal peace, is being conditioned to welcome a counterfeit peace proposal from the one who will be *the* Antichrist. This proposal will be a Satanically inspired ploy! Even Israel will initially be deceived and herald the Antichrist as the solution to the violence and bloodshed of our day.

However, the Word of God indicates that there are many "antichrists". These "deceived" and "deceivers" will prepare the way for the Antichrist himself. As the Word of God warns: *Little children, it is the last time; and as ye have heard that Antichrist shall come, even now there are many antichrists, by which we know it is the last time.* 1 JOHN 2:18. Following the deluge of many deceptive world leaders, eventually the Antichrist will be publicly acclaimed because of his peace proposals together with an entirely new commercial system. (REVELATION 13:4,16-17)

Even today, the proposals for making the Temple Mount in

Jerusalem a multi-national, multi-religion, and, multi-racial protectorate, come perilously close to the Antichrist's possible future proposition.

Could it be that the Antichrist's solution to the present Temple Mount crisis will be to recognize the coexistence of Jews and Arabs on the Temple Mount? This could be done by giving permission for Israel to construct a Temple just north of the "Dome of the Rock" and also to preserve that Islamic structure. In the Jerusalem Post on March 20, 1980, the Israeli archeologist, Dr. Kauffman, presented 50 pieces of evidence to show that Solomon's Temple was, in fact, located north of the "Dome of the Rock". So, according to man's rationale, topographically these structures could coexist as an acceptable peace solution for both sides of the present conflict.

But it will turn out to be a false peace. The Bible also prophecies that after the first 3½ years of the 7 year Tribulation period, the Antichrist's true agenda of personal deification and its consequent worldwide destruction will unfold (2 THESSALONIANS 2:4). Then the cosmic conflagration, about which we read so graphically in the book of Revelation, will reach its climax.

*There's a hush of expectation,  
and a quiet in the air;  
And the breath of God is moving  
in the fervent breath of prayer:  
For the suffering, dying Jesus  
is the Christ upon the throne,  
And the travail of our spirit  
is the travail of His own.*

**THE RAPTURE** But, praise God, true born-again believers will not be around to witness the advent of the Antichrist nor the consequent apocalypse that will follow (1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-53 and 1 THESSALONIANS 4:15-18). So before we know who the Antichrist is, we will meet the Lord in the air. But how could this be?

We read that the coming Tribulation (MATTHEW 24:15,21) is a time of God's judgment upon a Christ rejecting world. And so it begins with an astonishing transition from the dispensation of God's grace to that of His judgment. At that time, in fearful recognition of the imminent judgments of God *the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man* ask to be hidden by the rocks of the mountains *For they cried, the great day of His wrath is come . . .* REVELATION 6:15,17.

Though today we seldom hear mention of the "wrath" of God, significantly, even in Paul's Epistle to the Romans—in which he expounds the love of God; the grace of God; and the provision of a holy and righteous God to *be just, and the justifier of him who believeth in Jesus* ROMANS 3:26—the "wrath" of God is mentioned no less than 9 times.

All that to explain that God's wrath for sin can never again fall upon the repentant and believing sinner who is sheltered in Christ! The holy wrath of a loving God fell upon His own beloved Son on our behalf when He died for us at Calvary.

And every person who has received Him by faith will never be exposed to the *wrath of the Lamb* (REVELATION 6:16) upon a Christ rejecting—or Christ neglecting—world during that terrible Tribulation period. Thank You Lord!

**UNTIL THEN** Though today there is worldwide turbulence, there is also worldwide opportunity. Our commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ compels us to make Him, and His way of salvation, known through the message of the Gospel to as many people as possible the world around.

*He is breaking down the barriers,  
He is casting up the way;  
He is calling for His angels  
to build up the gates of day:  
But His angels here are human,  
not the shining hosts above;  
For the drum-beats of His army  
are the heart-beats of our love.*

In the first century, Pax Romana enabled early Christians to travel throughout the Mediterranean world to spread the Gospel message. So today, world travel availability; globalization and Internet communications present unparalleled opportunities for our generation to spread the Good News.

Our Lord is presently reaping what could well be His final and abundant harvest to complete His Church. So much of this is happening through suffering believers in most unlikely countries. And God is graciously opening further doors for CCIM to provide literature to the suffering Church. What a privilege! Please join with us in prayer that He will release His abundant resources for CCIM to increase its commitment to serve the Church in such countries as Cuba, Burma, China and Vietnam. We hope to share more about these exciting possibilities in our next letter.

Therefore dear friend, as He completes His Church, you will understand why Dorothy and I are excited to move into this year with a commitment to make our every day count for His purposes of blessing.

*Hark! we hear a distant music,  
and it comes with fuller swell;  
'Tis the triumph-song of Jesus,  
of our King, Immanuel:  
Zion, go ye forth to meet Him;  
and my soul, be swift to bring  
All thy sweetest and thy dearest  
for the triumph of our King!*

All verses by Henry Burton 1840-1930

As we write this letter only a few minutes remain to the midnight hour that concludes the year 2000. Thank you for the blessing we have had in sharing this New Year's Eve with you! With our loving thanks for your gifts which make this outreach possible.

Happy New Year in Him!

