

Winter1999 Volume 4 Issue 1

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"It is the work of faith

to rest in God in the darkest hour.

To feel, however sorely tried and tempest tossed, that our Father is at the helm.

The eye of faith alone can look beyond the things of time

to estimate aright the worth of eternal riches. "(RH Sept. 12, 1912)



IN THE NEWS

Lower Mainland Disaster Response Route Planning a World First -

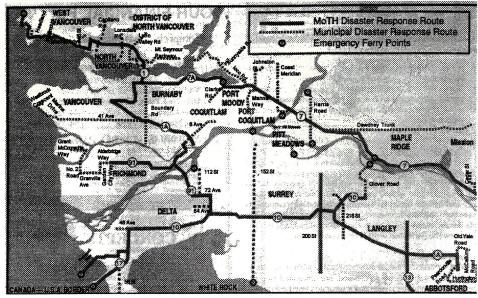
The residents of the Lower Mainland (Greater Vancouver, British Columbia) have been warned about the potential of a significant earthquake in their area for a number of years. The significant seismic risk to the area has become a question of concern to the provincial government for quite some time, and so the Vancouver area has been chosen as a pilot project for a detailed emergency response plan should a disaster strike the sprawling city. An important part of the new plan is ready access for emergency response teams during a disaster.

Because the natural instinct is to flee the area once a disaster has struck, critical travel routes become congested and difficult to navigate for emergency vehicles, thus "the Lower Mainland has taken disaster response route planning to a degree not attempted before in the world."

You may have noticed signs along the roadway bearing the name: Disaster Response Route and the symbol of a 6-sectioned yellow triangle in a circle. This sign denotes that particular roadway a Disaster Response Route. According to Allan Galambos, PEng, writing in *Innovation*, a Journal of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, "A disaster response route is a route that is predefined, identifiable and capable of withstanding natural disasters. It is used in a post-disaster situation for:

-relocation of affected people (injured and homeless) to a point of collection.

-and transport of emergency supplies and personnel to key distribution points.



The key to this definition is that it permits only emergency vehicles to access the disaster response route and excludes the general public from using the route...

The system interconnects the Lower Mainland's major population areas and provides a route to the Abbotsford airport, the likely source for outside help." The routes will only be deactivated if it is determined "that certain disaster response routes are no longer required for the response." (Editor's Note: It is interesting to note that this system could keep residents of the Lower Mainland trapped in the city, thus preventing them to escape from the city during a disaster.)

The Response Routes are "proving to be a focal point around which many other response agencies such as gas and hydro utilities, BC Transit, the Coast Guard, police, military, etc. can develop their response plans. Vancouver Island is following the Lower Mainland's lead and has begun establishing disaster response routes on the southern section of the island; Whatcom County in Washington State also requested information on the initiative."

More information on disaster response can be found at http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/bchighways/disroute/1742 5.htm or through the Provincial

Emergency Program at (250) 387-5956 or the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, South Coast Region at (604) 660-1200.

E-Comm - Emergency Communications Centralized in Lower Mainland

Communication during an emergency is perhaps the most critical requirement to an effective response. Riots, a heavy snowstorm, or earthquakes can reveal an area's susceptibility to a major disaster and its capability of coping.

Until now, communications systems in BC could not support critical emergency functions. But things have changed. Police, ambulance paramedics and firefighters can now communicate with one another during day-to-day emergencies and major disasters with the completion of "a new regional strategic command centre for all emergency communications in southwestern BC."

The \$24 million, 60,000 square foot project known as E-Comm (Emergency Communications for Southwest BC) was designed and equipped to post-disaster standards enabling it to operate in a near self-sufficient environment during an emergency. Some of its

... Continued on Page 3



We welcome your comments and opinions. If something in our newsletter or material has impacted you, we'd like to hear from you. We can be contacted by fax, mail or email. Please see the last page for this information.

Dear Amazing Discoveries:

I learn so much and am blessed by your newsletter & by tapes of Dr. Veith on health. Can't wait to hear him in person... Please keep me informed of when that will take place...

> P. W. Bryn Mawr, CA

Dear Brother Veith:

Because I'm now in USA for a while and my sister paid an Internet subscription and has her own email address, I tried your website just now and wish to greet you and appreciate anew your powerful message on creationism and nutrition. God bless you and all your family.

Professor F.L. SDA Seminary, Cernica

Dear Amazing Discoveries:

May God bless your timely messages for this critical hour of earth's final events. Sound the "Loud Cry" even to wake up our own people to leave the world and prepare to meet our Lord.

Your Brother in Christ,

G.R.K. Kelowna

P.S. My wife & I attended your wonderful series in Kelowna.

Email:

I do enjoy your website and the information presented. I was hoping to find info relating to nutrition, however. ... May the Lord bless your actions.

B.M.

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the Faith on the Line magazine through the past years. I find the articles very interesting and would like to continue to receive this magazine through 1999. Find enclosed a cheque for \$12 to cover the yearly subscription. Thank you.

M.H. Lethbridge, AB

Editor's Note: To ensure that you continue receiving "Faith on the Line" throughout the next year, remember to send a cheque for \$12 to Amazing Discoveries. Thank you. Your generous donation can continue to make this newsletter possible.

IN THE NEWS

...Continued from Page 2

contents: the "central controller for a new area-wide radio system as well as a consolidated regional call-taking and dispatch centre for 911 emergency services", backup power, back up heating capabilities, "sensors located around the building to detect the presence of corrosive or toxic gases at which point the building envelope will automatically be sealed off, an air supply unit equipped with a toxic gas scrubbing filter to supply an adequate amount of clean fresh air for the survival of the building occupants and pressurizing the building against toxic gas infiltration", back up water, and many other design details that ensure that the building will sufferminimal damage during an earthquake. It is "one of only a handful of comparable facilities in North America in existence or under development", and is located on the corner of Hastings and Highway #1 across from the PNE grounds.

For a major urban centre such as Greater Vancouver, such an emergency project seems to be a critical part of an effective plan for post-disaster organization.

Bill HR2431: Freedom from Religious Persecution Act of 1997 -

In October 1998, while the world was engrossed in the impeachment of President of the United States, Bill Clinton signed a law into existence that gives expansive power to the President of the United States. Under this bill, the Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring (ORPM) has been established. Its stated purpose is to help identify persecuting nations/individuals. The Director of the ORPM, although approved by the Senate, does not answer to Congress and "serves at the pleasure of the President", enjoying the

...Continued on Page 4



Is a Little Wine Good? Part 2

By Dr. Rick Westermeyer, M.D.

In Part 1 (See Summer 98 issue of *Faith on the Line*), we reviewed in detail the medical research surrounding the medicinal value of alcohol consumption in preventing heart disease. We explored numerous recently published findings on the harmful effects of alcohol on many other body systems and compared them to the cardiac protective effects.

Now some would argue that alcohol's adverse effects come from excessive amounts and that moderate use is relatively harmless. So let's discuss the consequences of moderate or recreational drinking. First, the carcinogenic and osteoporotic effects as well as the increased incidence of traumatic death are seen even in light drinkers. While it is true that liver cirrhosis and severe brain damage such as outright dementia are primarily associated with heavy drinking, personally, I have enough concern about the damage that the aging process is doing to my brain without adding the effects of a known neurotoxin!

This is a listing of the general effects on the individual based on blood alcohol levels:

0.05%	Euphoria and minor motor disturbance Impaired driving ability	
0.08%		
0.1% Gross motor uncoordination		or uncoordination
0.2%	Amnesia of the experience	
0.3%	Coma	
0.5%	Death	(Medical Pharmacology: Lange, p. 246)

Fortunately, most people pass out before they can drink a lethal dose, but the fact remains that it is a drug that can lead to death and has significant physiological impairment at even the lowest measurable blood levels.

As Christians, our decision to drink alcoholic beverages should not be based solely on scientific data, but also on the moral and spiritual implications. With my world view as a Christian, I do not consider my life to be merely a series of chemical reactions which can be tested in lab experiments and reported in the medical literature. Aside from the physiology of my body, I believe my existence has spiritual and mental dimensions which are intricately linked together. Medical science increasingly recognizes that the patient should be treated as a complex being with a intricately connected body, mind, and spirit. Recently, I attended a Harvard Medical School conference entitled "Spirituality and Healing", which dramatically documented this wholistic view of man. It becomes clear that decisions I make about my body have a major influence on my mental and spiritual dimensions. In Part 2, we will discuss the moral and spiritual implications of alcohol consumption.

Well, what about the effects of alcohol on human relationships and behaviour? Do you want to talk about domestic violence, spousal and child abuse? Do you want to talk about rape, murder, suicide, or other areas of violence? You talk to any policeman, any social worker, any counsellor, and they can tell you story after story of violent and abusive acts committed while intoxicated.

I'm going to write plainly. There is hardly a man on this planet who does not

IN THE NEWS

... Continued from Page 3

authority to define "religion, monitoring, and persecution" as he sees fit. Among the powers conferred to the ORPM are:

- approve or disapprove licenses for pastors, priests, teachers, evangelists & other church employees throughout America
- -establish national standards of acceptable religious practices
- -bring sanctions and penalties against individuals, churches, and religious organizations that do not comply with these federal guidelines
- -punish individuals and groups who commit hate crimes by asserting that their religion, their Scriptures, their deity is exclusive or superior to others
- -forbid persons from tithing or otherwise making financial contributions to churches or religious groups not on the government's approved list
- -seize bank accounts and properties of individuals or organizations that engage in unauthorized religious activity
- -monitor newspaper, TV, radio, mail, internet, and all other means of communication across America and the world.
- -target spiritually defective individuals who refuse religious ecumenical unity
- -offenders will be referred to criminal prosecution under the hate creed act

Continued on Page 11

know that when trying to seduce a woman, his chances will vastly improve if he can get her to drink first. Why? Because her reasoning will be clouded and her willpower reduced. A gynae-cologist recently told that he frequently has women come in with a similar story. "Well, I went out and had a few drinks and wasn't thinking too clearly and ended up in bed with a stranger. Now I'm scared about AIDS and I want to be tested for HIV."

Once I heard a prominent Christian leader publicly state that "...alcohol is not a moral issue. It is not an issue of weak character.... It is not a moral right or wrong. It is not a 'yes' or 'no' issue. It is not a moral negative to drink." Now you may say that alcohol use is not a moral issue, but when a substance reduces my inhibitions, impairs my judgment, and facilitates my decision to engage in immoral behaviour, then that is getting dangerously close to being a moral issue. Is that a fair statement to make? Even a female secular political science professor writing on the growing phenomenon of "date rape" on college campuses stated, "We can talk all we like of consent, but as long as we are applying that concept to situations in which human beings have reduced themselves to states of drunkenness in which they can barely form words, I don't know how consent can have any meaning." (Diana J. Schaub, Loyola College - Department of Political Science)

There are those who would say these illustrations are extreme examples of abuse of alcohol and do not fairly represent the responsible social drinker. What about a glass of wine to celebrate my anniversary? My best friend in medical school tried to persuade me that a glass of wine would enhance my dining experience. I told him the story of my grandfather's tragic death after a "social" drink, and he never mentioned it again. Too many times, a "harmless" social or recreational drink has led to a disaster. The United States alone has an estimated 6 to 10 million alcoholics or problem drinkers, and not one of them ever started thinking they were walking down a path to destruction. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death." *Proverbs* 14:12 We can't take that kind of chance with our lives.

In all this discussion, has anyone really explained why the born again Christian believer needs to introduce a mind altering drug to experience pleasure?

Does the Christian need chemically induced amnesia to forget our past or do "all things become new in Christ Jesus"?

Does the Christian need the transient euphoria from a bottle of "spirits" to experience peace, joy, and love, or are these lasting gifts from the Spirit of God?

The evidence in medicine and sociology alone would be enough to convince me personally that alcohol may damage both my body and my relationships with others. It would be a reasonably intelligent decision to avoid alcohol even on this basis alone, but as a Christian, I base my life on the Word of God, and when I read the Bible, the overwhelming evidence points to abstinence as the best way of life.

Let me be quick to point out that the majority of Christians and Christian scholars believe total abstinence to be an extreme position. But we should not base our positions on what the majority says, because the history of mankind has taught us that much of the time, the majority is wrong. Jesus

Does the born again Christian believer need to introduce a mind altering drug to experience pleasure? Does the Christian need chemically induced amnesia to forget our past or do "all things become new in Christ Jesus"? Does the Christian need the transient euphoria from a bottle of "spirits" to experience peace. joy, and love or are these lasting gifts from the spirit of

taught that His followers would often be in the minority. You know, I don't mind being called "narrow minded", because Jesus said that His followers would be on the narrow way and the broad, popular road would lead to destruction. Matthew 7:13,14

Look at the Bible record. In Genesis, Noah is publicly humiliated by exposing his nakedness in public. Lot enters an incestuous relationship with his daughters while drunk. Babylon falls while soldiers revel in a drunken orgy. Isaiah describes a scene in which "...Priests and prophets stagger from beer, and are befuddled with wine; they reel from beer, they stagger when seeing visions, they stumble when rendering decisions. All the tables are covered with vomit

and there is not a spot without filth." Isaiah 28:7,8

God?

What did Jesus say? In one of his last public sermons recorded in *Luke 21:34*, He said, "Be careful or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the cares of this life, and that day will come on you unexpectedly." Perhaps the most compelling statements are from the apostles of Christ who worked and spoke to those living in anticipation of the Second Advent. Paul says in *Ephesians 5:17-18*, "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand the will of God. Do not be filled with wine, but be filled with the Spirit." Peter wrote in *1 Peter 4:7*, "The end of all things is at hand, therefore keep sane and sober for your prayers." And then that well

known warning: "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the evil prowls about like a raging lion seeking whom he may devour."

If you believe as I do that we are privileged to live in the closing scenes of earth's history, then we know that we are being subjected to the last desperate and most beguiling deceptions of the Devil "who know his time is short". Never has there been a time when clear thinking, sound judgment and unimpaired perception were more crucial to God's people. Friends, we cannot remain vigilant when allowing a substance into the body that clouds our minds and impairs our judgments.

How does God communicate with us? Through the mind. How do we communicate with God? Through the mind.

Never has there been a time when clear thinking, sound judgment and unimpaired perception were more crucial to

God's people.

The question is do we want to keep the channel through which God speaks to us clearly open at all times?

What about Paul's advice to Timothy to "use a little wine because of your stomach and frequent illnesses"? Here some theologians will tell you that the Greek is definitely referring to alcohol. The scholars will tell you this reflected the Palestinian conditions of

no refrigeration and that all grape beverages very quickly became alcoholic to some extent. Now you would have a hard time finding many medical doctors to support the idea of alcohol being beneficial to the stomach. The heart? Yes. The stomach? No.

Alcohol has been clearly linked to gastritis, peptic ulcers and stomach cancer. Some have suggested that alcohol's bactericidal properties may have been useful in preventing dysentery from contaminated water. But even if you could convince me that Paul was suggesting to Timothy that alcohol had medicinal value for Timothy's stomach ailment - you still cannot use this text to support the routine recreational use of alcohol in the Christian lifestyle. It is beyond my understanding why men would advance scholarly, linguistic and intellectual argument to interpret a questionable Bible text in a way that is out of harmony with other unmistakably clear passages in the Word of God. The simple, plain spoken Word of God in *Proverbs 8:1* says: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

We do not need an advanced degree to understand this text. My 9-year old daughter, Allanna, could stand up and explain it. Notice that the words "mock" and "deceived" appear again in the Bible in Paul's warning to the Galatians. "Don't be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man

sows that will he also reap, for he that sows to the flesh shall of the flesh reap destruction, but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life."

Pastor Dwight Nelson has said it as well as anyone could, "I do not care what hermeneutics, I don't care what linguistic arguments you may bring to the Scripture. In the twilight of the 20th century, it seems imperative to me that the Adventist Christian continue to stand for total abstinence of alcohol consumption in all its forms."

Friends, if we are who we say we are - a community of faith that has been called by God to bring a special message to the world and if the Devil is engaged in his last desperate efforts to deceive the world, then here has never been a time when it is more imperative that the Christian remain alert, vigilant, and every channel to communication with God remain open. We have no choice but to stand up like Daniel and his friends, even when the majority of other Christian believers say this is an extreme position. Let us "Dare to be a Daniel" and God will reward us like Daniel with wisdom and power from on high.



Dr. Rick Westermeyer, M.D. is a practicing doctor at the Portland Adventist Medical Center.

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AMAZING DISCOVERIES UPDATE



Brian Neumann Returns to Vancouver, BC - back by popular demand - Brian S. Neumann, the ex-rock musician and freelance evangelist who spoke in October 1998 in Vancouver returned in

January/February 1999 for another series. On January 29-31, he gave an open, honest study on The Spirit of Prophecy and its Relevance to our Modern Times. Over 80 people attended nightly, but if you weren't there, you missed a powerful message. Brian answered many questions on the authority of Ellen G. White and the relevance of her writings to a generation 150 years after she lived. An excerpt of the material can be found on page 12. Audio tapes are also available (Set of 5 messages at \$20, see page 7) for those who would like to review this important message Brian shared. In future newsletters, we will be sharing some of his information with our readers, but you really need to hear this for yourself!! And next time - don't miss out!!! Once it's over, it's over!!

On February 5,6,7, 1999, Brian presented his music series From Rock 'n' Roll to Rock of Ages to the secular public at the Burnaby South Secondary School. The almost 100% non-SDA audience that attended were interested to hear the background of rock music exposed.

Brian spoke on The Language of Music showing that music is recognized by musicologists, musicians, scientists, doctors, philosophers and many more as being the most powerful form of communication on earth and that this "language" transcends all cultural or language differences. In The History of Modern Music, Brian presented the origins of Rock 'n' Roll and its gradual increase in popularity and intensity throughout history to the present day. In The Music Industry Today, Brian gave the audience a look at how the music industry uses the attraction of music to set the temperature of our world today. In The Christian Music Industry, Brian discussed the origins of the Christian music industry and its characteristics. And finally, in The Bible and Music and The True Christian and Music, Brian answered

the questions: "What does the Bible have to say about good music?" and "Can the Christian find universal principles for music?" and outlined principles any Christian may apply to their own choice of music in and out of the church, using 1 Corinthians 8 as a basic principle.

Videos of the series are available and are an excellent study for parents of teens, youth and young adults, music leaders, choristers, musicians, and anyone in general who is interested in recognizing Satan's entrapments. Call 604-572-9457 to order a set for yourself and even your church library!!

Y2K - a balanced Adventist perspective - is it real or imagined? On February 9, 1999, Brian Neumann gave an interested group at the Vancouver Central SDA Church an in-depth look at some serious current events that clearly show how the world is preparing for a national Sunday law in a new world order and how the Spirit of Prophecy counsels us to prepare. The audience was stunned and sobered by much of what they heard and received an immense blessing. We urge you to get the audio tapes of the night's talk (\$8 for the set) and hear some of the monumental events that are taking place today!!



South California Series with Dr. Walter J. Veith Cancelled - Many were disappointed as the South California series featuring Dr. Walter J. Veith scheduled to take

place January 8 - 24, 1999 was tentatively postponed by Dr. Veith at the very last minute. To all those who made plans to be there, we offer our deep regrets. Talks are underway with the Azure Hills SDA Church to reschedule the series some time in the year 2000, and we will be announcing the details as soon as we know them, so please be patient. We know there are many enthusiastic about hearing Dr. Veith give his full series in southern California, and we will be doing our best to make it a reality for you. Those who have already generously donated to support this series will have their monies held for that purpose until plans for the next series have been confirmed.



How does she put up with Me? Let me count the ways...

Being a do-it-yourselfer, I was having a blast and also saving a ton of money. I went to Revy, bought some rebar and a metal cutting blade and proceeded cutting the rebar into 12-15 inch pieces. These metal spikes would hold together a retaining wall allowing us to level our backyard for my daughter's trampoline, a new small shop, and a lush garden. Great!

Now picture this: My beautiful psychologist wife, who could second as a decorator/designer, had tastefully redone our utility room. My workbench was temporarily situated in this room. With my head partially connected, my brain almost in gear, and the thrill of the moment, I commenced cutting rebar.

Blade against metal produced an impressive miniature fireworks display. The rebar-cutting job was progressing nicely. A job well done was in sight. Then reality set in. My eyes lowered to view the horrifying sight of glowing embers burning shiny, black craters in our gray loop carpet. The embers faded from bright orange to black, leaving a carpet landscape of freckled pits. My heart sank. A feeling of disgust and failure replaced excited anticipation. What do I tell my wife?!!

I felt like a whipped puppy dog as I called up the stairs. I dreaded her possible response to my stupid accident. She came down and after picking her jaw up off the floor, said, "Well, what can we do to fix it?"

A ray of hope shone in my heart as I realized the absence of blame in her voice. I sensed commitment and love. Instead of degrading me to an idiot, she connected herself to my reckless accident and sought a solution. The burning embers of my wife's love replaced the charred reality of a stupid mistake!

So, what does your love do when those closest to you make stupid mistakes, dumb moves, and brainless decisions? Do you become a Mount St. Helen's blowing your top? Or maybe your apathetic passiveness produces a freezing chill, immobilizing those longing for your esteem?

Try doing a "Piaget" at the start of the new year and observe humanity for a bit. What quality of love do you see? Some men exchange a "40" for two "20"s. (I call this serial polygamy). Some women go for the biggest buck, largest muscle, or a popularity contest. "Love" fades as the "for richer", or "in health" dwindles and sags. Human love is consistently proven to be ever changing, always conditional, and extremely egocentric.

We anglophones have only one word for love. Love covers the spectrum from Hollywood's barnyard immorality to the ultimate love of God in Jesus Christ and His willingness to experience the second death on the cross. (He connected Himself to humanity for the express purpose of destroying sin in all its forms.) So would the real "love" please stand up?!

The Greek world had four words for love: storge (family love), philos (brotherly love), eros (sexual love or "heavenly eros" from Plato), and agape (obscure Greek word for pure, unselfish, untainted love). Agape is also worlds beyond the Augustinian invention of *eros* plus agape = charity.

In complete contrast to human love, John pronounced: "God is Love (agape)". Not only does God possess love, but His essence is love. God's nature of love is unchanging, unconditional, and unselfish. His love in Christ depends nothing on your RRSP account size, waist line, type of friends, number of medals won, behaviour, or skin colour! Wow! Yes, choices have consequences, yet even the consequences of choices shout the unstoppable love of God. For you and me right now, God has united Himself with our mistakes and stupidity, giving us a new beginning in Christ Jesus. Stop and listen, the silence of God's love is deafening.

Satan's rebellion in Heaven against God was actually hate towards God's love. God's love cramped Satan's style. He found unselfishness too restrictive. Most of our world has bought into Satan's principles with "me, myself, and I" being the top priority of time, energy, and money. And when sis and junior see mom and dad consumed with selfishness, purpose and meaning in life fall miserably flat in their idealistic

I am awed at God and my wife, who love this rebar cutter and (former) carpet burner!



Don Anderson enjoys his God, his wife, and his little daughter and son while serving in the Maple Ridge and Mission SDA Churches.

THE NEW WORLD ORDER

And the ushering in of the long-expected millenium By Brian 5, Neumann

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IN THE NEWS

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-work closely with FBI, BATF, IRS, CIA, Department of Justice, Treasury Department, and other government law enforcement agencies to ensure that religious unity laws are enforced, and that all churches and religious organizations are registered with ORPM...

-guarantee every American the freedom from dangerous radical religious sects and cults.

In essence, Bill HR 2431 violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution that expressly forbids Congress from passing any laws affecting the free exercise of religion and grants war-making powers reserved by the Constitution exclusively for the Congress to an agency answerable only to the President. And the implications of this bill could even be greater than this.

Definition of a Cultist -

On June 26, 1994, around the time of Waco, Janet Reno. US Attorney General, during an interview on 60 Minutes, gave the following definition of a cultist:

"A cultist is one who

- -has a strong belief in the Bible and the Second Coming of Christ:
- -who frequently attends Bible studies;
- -who has a high level of financial giving to a Christian cause:
- -who home schools for their children;
- -who has accumulated survival foods and has a strong belief in the Second Amendment; and
- -who distrusts big government.

Any of these may qualify (a person as a cultist), but certainly more than one (of these) would cause us to look at this person as a threat, and his family as being in a risk situation that qualified for government interference."

Poisoning in Bangladesh -

According to The Globe and Mail, Saturday, November 14, 1998, an estimated 18 million people are being poisoned by contaminated water supplies. Hundreds of thousands are now experiencing advanced signs of arsenic poisoning and cancer from

a 20-year long exposure to the dangerous chemical. Apparently, about 20-25 years ago, UNICEF and other aid groups, along with the government of Bangladesh and the neighbouring Indian state of West Bengal undertook a colossally successful safe-water program which involved weaning villagers from disease-carrying pond water and helping them to sink pipes into underground aquifers that were tainted with naturally occurring arsenic. "Arsenic in drinking water poses the highest cancer risk ever found," says Dr. Allan H. Smith, an epidemiologist at the University of California at Berkeley. "The cumulative dose is what kills. Every day that people continue to drink the contaminated water could result in more arsenic-related deaths." The legal limit for groundwater arsenic content in Bangladesh is 0.05 mg (the WHO's safety standard for arsenic in water is a max 0.01mg per litre), but more than half of the country's 64 districts report wells with levels exceeding that amount!

White House Backs a Stand-by UN. Army-

According to The Washington Times, April 23, 1998, the Clinton administration gave the United Nations a quiet contribution in September 1997 of \$200,000 - the first voluntary donation to establish a \$2.3 million UN trust fund to finance the new UN military operation called the Rapidly Deployable Mission headquarters (RDMHQ). "The administration gave backdoor support' last September because of the political sensitivity over creating an army under UN command and political authority, said a UN secretariat official close to the process who asked not to be named." The UN official said field commanders of rapidly deployed forces would report to an eight-member command unit at UN headquarters, with political authority in the hands of the UN Security Council. Canada and the Netherlands are primary backers of the stand-by army idea, the UN official said. According to UN and administration officials, the world body does not need a permanent standing army, but the most practical would be to have each country maintain the troops and equipment within their own armed forces - in effect standby forces that could be called up immediately to permit UN headquarters (located in New York) to tailor foreign military units to suit the countries or regions to which they are assigned. The United Nations already has signed "standby agreements" with 72 countries that "have agreed to provide to the UN troops or capabilities - infantry battalions, engineers, artillery, medical, logistical support and air transport. Princeton N. Lyman, assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, whose office coordinated the U.S. contribution said that U.S. support for rapid deployment of standby troops was motivated by the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, which cost \$700 million for humanitarian and refugee aid because the United States and United Nations did not act quickly enough. The Canadian government first proposed in September 1995 that the United Nations establish a rapid-reaction force headquarters that could assemble as many as 5000 troops immediately to deal with international crises. The move by the U.S. to fund the <u>stand-by</u> army circumvented the Congress' wishes which sought to prohibit U.S. support for a UN <u>standing</u> army.

The United Nations has now created the "equivalent" of a standing army with U.S. support," according to Thomas G. Moore, director of international studies at the Heritage Foundation. "You don't need a standing army. It serves the same purpose without standing. The political benefits are you can deny you have created a standing army even though you have created an equivalent," he said.

HOW MUCH OF ELLEN G. WHITE'S WRITINGS ARE INSPIRED?

Books:

Sister White is NOTTHE ORIGINATOR of these books. They contain the instruction that during her lifework God has been giving her. They contain the precious, comforting light that God has graciously given His servant to be given to the world. From their pages this light is to shine into the hearts of men and women, leading them to the Saviour. The Lord has declared that these books are to be scattered throughout the world. There is in them truth which to the receiver is a savor of life unto life. They are silent witnesses for God. *Counsels to Ministers*, 125.

Articles:

I do not write ONE ARTICLE in the paper, expressing merely my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision the precious rays of light shining from the throne... 5 Testimonies, 67.

Letters:

Weak and trembling, I arose at three o'clock in the morning to write to you. God was speaking through clay. You might say that this communication was ONLY a letter. Yes, it was a letter, but prompted by the Spirit of God, to bring before your minds things that had been shown me. In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. 5 Testimonies, 67.

Sermons

I long to speak to large congregations, knowing that the message is NOT OF MYSELF, but that which the Lord impresses upon my mind to utter. I am never left alone when I stand before the people with a message. When before the people, there seems to be presented before

me the most precious things of the gospel and I participate in the gospel message and feed upon the Word as much as any of the hearers. The sermons do me good, for I have new representations every time I open my lips to speak to the people. 3 Selected Messages, 75-76.

Common Matter:

I am troubled in regard to Brother A, who for some years has been a worker in southern California. He has made some strange statements and I am pained to see him denying the testimonies as a whole because of what SEEMS to him an inconsistency - a statement made by me in regard to the number of rooms in the Paradise Valley Sanitarium.

Brother A says that in a letter written to one of the brethren in southern California, the statement was made by me that the sanitarium contained forty rooms, when there were really only thirty-eight. This, brother A gives to me as the reason why he has lost confidence in the testimonies... In my words, when speaking upon these common subjects, there is nothing to lead minds to believe that I receive my knowledge in a vision from the Lord and am stating it as such... Ouestions are asked at times that are not upon religious subjects at all, and these questions must be answered... When the Holy Spirit reveals anything regarding the institutions connected with the Lord's work, or concerning the work of God upon human hearts and minds, as He has revealed these things through me in the past, the message given is to be regarded as light given of God for those who need it. But for one to mix the sacred with the common is a great mistake. In a tendency to do this, we may see the working of the enemy to destroy souls. 1 Selected Messages 28-39

Faith On the Line is the official quarterly publication of Amazing Discoveries Charitable Foundation, a Seventh-day Adventist based non-profit organization, addressing theological, political, economic, and scientific issues from a Biblical perspective. Copies are sent to all who request them. Requests should be sent to the address below. A suggested minimum donation of \$12 CDN or \$10 US would be appreciated.

Editor: Wendy Goubej Penner

Associate Editor: Ken Anderson, B.A. L.L.B.

Amazing Discoveries

PO Box 189 7101C - 120th Street Delta, BC V4E 2A9 Tel. 604-572-9457 Fax. 604-599-9949

Email: creation@axionet.com Website: www.amazingdiscoveries.bc.ca