



***MARANATHA!***  
***THE MESSIAH IS COMING!***

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**My dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Grace, peace and joy to you in the Name of Y'shua the Messiah - the Living Water, the Source of Life.

On Nov. 2, I returned to Perth after six weeks of ministry in Dubai, and England; 32 meetings in all. I was very encouraged by receptive audiences; and it is always a joy to meet those who love the Master's Return. **Dubai** today is a beautiful city with tremendous development. And I would like to share a little about this city with you.

May Yahweh bless you and keep you.

Your brother in Y'shua the Messiah,

*Don Stanton*

## **DUBAI SKYSCRAPER IS WORLD'S TALLEST**



AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE *BURJ DUBAI*

Huge buildings are reaching for the skies, and there has been keen competition to see who can build the world's tallest building.

*Construction of the Burj Dubai* in the Emirates state of Dubai, was begun in September 2004. It is not yet finished, but the skyscraper has already reached 512m (1,680ft), with 141 storeys - more storeys than any other building in the world. Eventually the Burj Dubai is expected to reach 693m (2,275ft).

When finished, the *Burj Dubai* will have more than 160 floors, and an observation platform on the 124th floor. And there is speculation that with the spire, the final height could be more than 800m. But the Emaar construction company is keeping structural details secret.

The tower is expected to break the record for the highest man-made structure, which is currently held by the 628m (2,072ft) tall, KVLV-TV mast in North Dakota, US.

A director for Emaar said: "It's a symbol of Dubai as a city of the world. Dubai has aspired to build a global icon. It's a human achievement without equal."

The building is expected to be completed in 2008. And the spire of the building should be able to be seen from 100km away.

Previous skyscraper record-holders include:

New York's Empire State Building at 381m (1,250 ft)  
Shanghai's Jin Mao Building at 421m (1,381 ft)  
Chicago's Sears Tower at 442m (1,451 ft), and  
Malaysia's Petronas Towers at 452m (1,483 ft).

The world's first attempt at building a skyscraper was at Babel. The builder was a man named Nimrod – a great-grandson of Noah, and a renowned hunter. (see Genesis 10:6-10). The account of the attempt is given in Genesis 11:

“Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. And as they journeyed eastward, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there ... And they said, ‘Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in heaven, and *let us* make for ourselves a name, lest we be scattered over all the face of the earth.’

“Then YHWH came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And YHWH said, ‘Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is only the beginning of what they will do; and now nothing that they propose to do will be impossible for them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.’

“So YHWH scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel (*confusion*), because there YHWH confused the language of the whole earth; and from there YHWH scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.” (Genesis 11:1-9)

The men at Shinar “wanted a name.” And so do they all - the great skyscraper masters of today!

But it is the spate of high rise buildings and mushrooming cities, in our generation, that reminds us of the Saviour's words. He said that men will be [building](#) in the days prior to His return.

“It was the same in the days of Lot: [they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying and selling, planting and building](#), but on the day Lot went out of Sodom, fire and sulphur rained down from heaven and

destroyed them all. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.” (Luke 17:28-30)

One interpretation of this passage says that many will be prosperous, and everything will be going on “as usual” prior to the Master’s return, and that people will be indifferent to the coming “[Day of the LORD.](#)”

That’s a fair enough interpretation! But there’s another way of looking at it. As all those conditions – eating, drinking, trading, planting and building are common to all times, they are not unusual or significant signs. Many believe the Master was prophesying of the increase and extremes of these activities – bingeing (excessive eating and drinking), gigantic trade, massive agriculture and booming construction – in the endtimes.

And all these excessive signs we see around us today!

As I [look up](#) from ground level at a soaring skyscraper, and I am reminded of the Saviour words:

“When these things begin to take place, [look up and lift up your heads](#), because your [redemption](#) is drawing near.” (Luke 21:28)

My dear reader, we know that many will sleep in the endtimes; but let [us](#) be awake, and let’s pray for a [wake up](#), and for [revival of the Blessed Hope](#), in the churches in these urgent days!

## MYSTERY BABYLON



## THE 4TH PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS

MORE than 8,000 people from nearly 80 countries gathered in Barcelona, Spain, in July (2004), for the [Fourth Parliament of Religions](#). The giant “spiritual summit” took place during, and as a part of, Barcelona’s Universal Forum of Cultures, a 141-day international festival which was billed as a “Cultural Olympics.”

The **first gathering** of the Parliament of World Religions, held in Chicago in 1893, was thought to be the first time Jews, Catholics, Bahai's and Hindus engaged in official dialogue.

The **second parliament** was not convened until one hundred years later - in 1983; again in Chicago.

The **third parliament** was held in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1999.

The **fourth parliament**, in July 04, was a week of shared prayers, panels and discussions. The ultimate goal of the sessions was said to be “the spirit of fellowship.”

A multitude of faiths were represented, from Anglican to Zoroastrian. Rarely do Muslim clerics, Buddhist monks, Hindu gurus, Jewish rabbis and Roman Catholic cardinals find themselves in a conclave together, but this year they were all there along with cult followers and mystics.

This year the emphasis was on **action**, not doctrine.

While the Parliament of Religion espouses the grand notion of achieving world peace, the leaders hope to motivate individuals to take actions that will benefit their local communities in overcoming religiously motivated violence, supporting refugees worldwide, increasing access to clean water, and in eliminating international debt for developing countries.

The Parliament does not have any legislative authority, but the leaders say the group seeks instead, to set a worldwide moral and religious agenda.

“The parliament will not dictate to the world what to do,” said Lally Lucretia Warren, a parliament leader from Botswana. “But religion is the chief instrument through which order is established in the world.”

The conference’s executive director, Rev. Dirk Ficca, said, “this will not be an assembly issuing a declaration on what the world should do ... the goal of the conference is to help all participants create and share commitments through a list of simple and profound acts to bring back to their home communities.”

## **OPEN TO ALL**

“Today, the Parliament of the World’s Religions is the largest and most inclusive interfaith gathering in the world,” Kusumita P. Pedersen, a parliament trustee said. “It’s open to anyone who wants to come. There are thousands of groups and programs all over the world that are trying to bring religious communities closer together in better relations.”

Shirin Ebadi, the Iranian lawyer and human-rights activist and a longstanding critic of the authoritarian rule of Iran’s hard-line clerics, gave the keynote address.

“Human rights can be achieved only through democracy,” she said. “But democracy requires a frame-work. A majority has no right to govern as they please.”

Other key speakers included prominent theologian Hans Kung; Ela Gandhi, a South African peace activist and grand-daughter of Mahatma Gandhi; primatologist and activist Jane Goodall; health expert and author Deepak Chopra; and Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (known also as Amma) of India. The Dalai Lama was scheduled to speak but he had to cancel because of illness.

The Parliament’s shift in focus to real-world problems may be designed to help avoid the many doctrinal differences and historical conflicts between religious groups. The Rev. Shanta Premawardhana, associate general secretary for the US-based National Council of Churches, said the task of engaging in issues of justice and peace causes churches to “discover that we often have more in common than that which divides us.”

## OTHER RELIGIOUS NEWS

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND DECLINES

A RECENT report says that although nearly two million people claim their “current religion” as Church of Scotland, only about 240,000 of the membership worship regularly.

Some people fear the Church is too much like “an exclusive club” and they want to remain free of it, but at the same time, keep allegiance to the Christian faith.

The report adds: “People know what they want from the Church: a good funeral, a happy wedding, a celebration of a birth, but they resist when the Church tries to take this further and seems to want to take over their lives.” - [www.theherald.co.uk](http://www.theherald.co.uk)

### CANADA FORBIDS FREE BIBLE DISTRIBUTION TO NEW CANADIANS

FOR more than 50 years the Canadian Bible Society has welcomed immigrants in citizenship courts, offering them copies of the Scriptures. The right of the Society to do that was formalized in an agreement signed in 1998 with the government. At all times, it was made clear that acceptance of the Bibles was purely voluntary on the part of the recipients.

Now a Senior Citizenship Judge has removed the Society’s freedom to present Bibles to new Canadians.

In a letter to the Bible Society, Judge Simard noted that Canada is a multicultural nation where freedom of religion is guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. His letter indicated that notwithstanding the agreement, “allowing holy

books to be made available at citizenship ceremonies detracts from this message.” - Toronto / LifeSiteNews.com

## **ANTI-SEMITISM**

### **3 MILLION-STRONG PRESBYTERIANS SUPPORT ARAB DEMANDS**

JULY 17, 04. By an overwhelming vote of its general assembly, the Presbyterian Church (USA), boasting three million members, sided with Palestinian Arabs and against Israel, and chose to divest from the Jewish state.

With the decision, approved in a 431-62 vote at the 216th annual general assembly of the PCUSA, the denomination is believed to be the largest organization or institution to join the divestment campaign against Israel. It is the first Christian denomination to do so.

### **PRESBYTERIAN DELEGATION TO PRESSURIZE ISRAEL**

THE head of a visiting US Presbyterian Church delegation called on Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian territories, and said that his church is studying the possibility of withholding investments to increase pressure on Israel.

“The occupation by Israel in the West Bank and Gaza must end because it is oppressive and destructive for the Palestinian people,” Rev. Nile Harper said. He criticized as “unhelpful,” the barrier Israel is building in the West Bank to prevent Palestinian suicide bombings.

Harper warned that the General Assembly of his church, whose investments in US firms total \$8 billion, had instructed its investment agency to study the possibility of withdrawing its money from US corporations whose products “are being destructively used against the Palestinians” by Israel.

The 24-member delegation traveled to Lebanon in October, and met with the south Lebanon commander of [Hizb’allah](#), a group Washington calls terrorist, but which Lebanon sees as a legitimate resistance movement against Israeli occupation of Arab lands. They traveled to Syria, where they met with the minister of expatriates, and were scheduled to meet with President Bashar Assad. They then visited Jordan.  
- Damascus / AP / Oct 18, 04

### **ANGLICANS SEEK BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL**

“AN influential Anglican group will ask leaders of the 75 million Anglicans and Episcopalians worldwide to impose a boycott on Israel and companies that do business there, in protest at the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza strip.

The call, by the Anglican Peace and Justice Network comes amid growing concern in Israel at rising support among churches, universities and trade unions in the West

for a divestment campaign modeled on the popular boycott of apartheid South Africa.

Among the targets would be Israeli products and traders such as fruit shops that do business there, and companies such as Caterpillar which sells the bull-dozers the army uses to destroy Palestinian homes.

A campaign by British academics for a boycott of Israeli universities drew a furious reaction, including accusations of this being anti-Semitic, and an unwarranted attack on academic freedom.

Are we coming into the Time of Jacob's Trouble?

## BUSH SIGNS GLOBAL ANTI-SEMITISM LAW

OCT 16, 04. President Bush has signed into law the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004 which requires the US State Department to monitor global anti-Semitism and rate countries annually on their treatment of Jews.

“This nation will keep watch; we will make sure that the ancient impulse of anti-Semitism never finds a home in the modern world,” Bush said as he was campaigning in the key battleground state of Florida.

The bill was introduced by California Democratic Representative Tom Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor in the US Congress, in response to recent acts of anti-Semitism in Europe and the Middle East.

Under the legislation, the State Department will establish an office to document acts of physical violence against Jews, their property, cemeteries and places of worship abroad, as well as local governments' responses to them; to take note of instances of anti-Jewish propaganda and governments' readiness to promote unbiased school curricula; and to design strategies to combat them. - Source: Agence France Presse

## INDONESIA: CHRISTIAN BEHEADED

ON NOV 4, 04, Carminalis Ndele, one of the leaders of Pinedapa village near Poso, was murdered by an unknown assailant. His head was found the next day, severed and thrown from a car. Inside the bag with his head was a note threatening to target the heads of one thousand Christians. Later that day his body was found two km from his home. According to the Voice of the Martyrs, the situation in Pinadapa is tense, as the people fear for their lives. Police have been unable to identify the murderer.

Pray for peace and comfort for the Ndele's family, as well as the people of Pinedapa and surrounding areas. Pray that the one responsible will be brought to justice.



## PAKISTAN: AMENDMENTS TO BLASPHEMY LAW FAIL TO SATISFY

AMENDMENTS to the controversial Section 295-C were passed by Pakistan's National Assembly on Oct. 26 in an effort to prevent some of the abuses that have plagued the law. However, those amendments have failed to satisfy the Christian community who sees the changes as inadequate and useless.

Section 295-C state that "whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by visible representation, or by any imputation, innuendo, or insinuation, directly or indirectly defiles the sacred name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad [Peace be upon him] shall be punished with death, or imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine."

In the past, the blasphemy law has been used by Muslims as a way of harassing Christians, settling personal disputes, as well as a means for financial gain. According to *AsiaNews*, since the law was instituted in 1986, **579 people have been charged** and thirty are still waiting for the courts' decisions.

In an attempt to stem abuse, the amendments state that only senior Police officers will be able to investigate blasphemy cases. They will also not be able to file criminal charges until after investigating the allegations.

Normally charges have been filed as soon as the allegations are reported. However, since the abuse of this law has been so widespread, many Christian organizations doubt that these amendments will bring any significant change.

Pray that this section of the criminal code will be completely repealed and that those in prison under this law will be released.

### GOOD NEWS

## CHINESE SCHOOLS TO ADD BIBLE TO STUDENTS' READING LIST

OCT. 19, 04. For the first time a communist education authority in China is suggesting that children read the Bible. Within the next two weeks the Shanghai Education Commission is expected to publish a recommended reading list for middle school children, which includes Kung Fu novels - and the Bible, reported *The Shanghai Daily* .

The commission has suggested in the past that students read Chinese classics such as "A Dream of Red Mansions" as well as some Western literature. This year the list will include the Old Testament and the works of Jin Yong, China's most popular author of Kung Fu stories.

Education officials noted that the Bible plays an important role in Western culture and that Chinese students should understand it in order to truly know foreign countries.

The Bible is still a scarce commodity in China and may only be sold at special outlets for Christians.

Some parents are worried that teenagers will get involved in religion at an early age. Teenagers in Shanghai are eager to read the Kung Fu novels because of the popularity of martial arts.

## PERU: ISOLATED TRIBE REACHED FOR CHRIST

Recently, native gospel workers were able to send a team of nine to the remote Aguaruna tribe. Through a series of evangelistic meetings, some 101 souls were led to Christ. Many of the people they contacted had never before heard the gospel of salvation.

The Aguaruna tribe lives in the jungles of Peru near the Ecuador border. These semi-nomadic people retain many of their ancient traditions, such as worshiping ancestors, consulting shamans (witchdoctors), marrying multiple wives and hunting with poisoned darts.

Many Aguarunas face extreme poverty as their forest homes have been slowly destroyed by outsiders who are using the region for cattle ranching, mining and logging.

Frustration over this loss of land reached a breaking point in Jan. 2002, when a group of 200 Aguarunas attacked a settlement of farmers who had intruded into their territory. They killed about 30 people with machetes, shotguns and poisoned arrows.

Native missionaries are working to bring the love of Christ to these suffering people, relieving physical and spiritual poverty. Please pray with them as they are following up on these remote people.

## ISLAMIC COMMUNITY IN TOGO WELCOMES NATIVE MISSIONARIES

TOGO, (a little to the west of Nigeria), is one of many West African countries being overrun by Islam, yet native missionaries are seeing God work mightily in people's hearts as they persevere to spread the truth of Christ.

One missionary reported that chiefs in four Muslim villages have openly expressed a desire to hear the gospel. "Ten years ago I was persecuted in these villages, and people didn't want me because of this same gospel," he said. "But things have changed. The chiefs have invited us to preach to their people!"

Though travel is difficult in these remote areas, and missionaries are pressed by the growing presence of Islam, they continue to take the gospel to isolated villages where some have never heard it.

## THE “JESUS FILM” GOES ONLINE

15 OCT 04. The “JESUS film” is a two-hour docudrama about the life of Jesus Christ, based on the Gospel of Luke. Distributed by <<http://www.jesusfilm.org/>>, (The JESUS Film Project), the movie has been shown in every country of the world and translated into hundreds of languages in the 25 years since its release. It has already had more than five billion viewings worldwide and has impacted millions of people.

Now, according to JESUS Film Project executive director, Jim Green, that number will increase all the more swiftly, as the film will now be available online in more than 200 separate language translations.

The project’s goal is to reach every nation, tribe, people and tongue throughout the world, helping all, regardless of nationality, to see and hear the story of Christ in a language they can understand. The Internet is a particularly effective way to expand the movie’s audience.

Now, Jim Green says, “People can see the whole film in their own language and see it in the privacy of their home.” The goal, he says, is to have more than 800 translations of the “JESUS” film online, making it possible for even more people to hear and see the story of Christ in their own “language of the heart.”



### **ALSO IN THIS ISSUE OF MHG#20**

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