

Northwest Tsunami Coming?

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: UN Message to Codex / CAFTA: Nutrient Danger / GC Session Video

“Three hundred years of tectonic pressure has now built up since the [A.D.] 1700 tsunami occurred [in what is now the northwestern U.S.]. A recent study estimates that 10 million people on the U.S. West Coast would be affected by a Cascadia subduction-zone quake. Today, the shaking from a quake of the same magnitude would damage 200 highway bridges, put Pacific ports out of business for months, and generate shock waves capable of toppling tall buildings and long bridges in Seattle and Portland.”—Recent Smithsonian Institute report.

Just now, seismologists and geologists are focusing attention on the ocean off the coast of the Pacific Northwest. Many experts are traveling there; and the excitement is growing.

“**‘We really don’t know what to expect,’** said Edward Baker, an oceanographer at the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, which is part of the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* (NOAA). ‘If we’re very lucky, we may get pictures of brand new lava on the seafloor.’

“Baker is co-leader of the 20-person team, which has been scrambling since Sunday, **when swarms of earthquakes started rattling the ocean bottom 200 miles offshore. In the past six days, the area has been rocked by nearly 4,000 temblors, most tiny, but some exceeding the magnitude of 4.**

“Team members from Hawaii, Oregon, Canada and Massachusetts canceled lectures and family gatherings to make the week-long cruise, funded by the National Science Foundation and NOAA.”—*Seattle Times, Saturday, March 5, 2005.*

According to the experts, a growing volcano may begin soon off the coast of Vancouver Island. On March 6, a scientific expedition sailed to a location adjacent to the coast of Vancouver Island, where they believe an underwater flow of lava is beginning.

The *Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting* (DART) consists of a system of floating buoys to address the immediate need for a tsunami network. Researchers are concentrating on the next generation of multidisciplinary ocean-observing platforms. **They are also concerned about the possibility of a new volcano developing near Vancouver Island—and the possibility of an explosion, followed by a gigantic tsunami which would hit nearby Seattle and other areas.**

Scientists have been aware of **volcanic activity occurring near the Juan de Fuca fault line**, in an area known as “*the spreading zone.*” This was worrisome; since **the Juan de Fuca fault line is a triggering area for the entire Cascadia subduction zone**, which has an unpleasant habit of cutting loose

every 400 to 600 years and producing gigantic earthquakes and tsunamis. The last one was 305 years ago. People took notice of that one and wrote it down. But there were not many people here then.

The Juan de Fuca fault runs from about one third of the way up British Columbia (where it zigs and becomes the Queen Charlotte fault line) down to off the coast of Eureka in Northern California, where it zags and becomes the San Andreas fault line. That area between mid B.C. and northern California is the *Cascadia Subduction Zone*. The San Andreas gets all the attention because it runs under San Francisco and near Los Angeles; so it can do damage to two of America’s most legendary cities. But the fact of the matter is that, as faults go, **the San Andreas is rather small compared with the damage which the Cascadia could do.** About all that the San Andreas can do is an 8.5 quake, like the one that struck in the lightly populated Tehachapi back in 1857. **The Cascadia is capable of producing a 9.5 monster**, at least ten times stronger than the 1857 one at Tehachapi.

A 9.5 quake in the ocean off Vancouver, Seattle, and Portland would produce 200-foot ground waves moving at 650 miles an hour. The jolt alone would destroy buildings thought to be earthquake-proof. **The tsunami, when it reached shore soon after, would complete the destruction.** It would be classed as the biggest catastrophe in American history, putting the entire regional economy out of commission for several years.

The wave could travel straight along the Juan de Fuca straits, more focused and intense as a result of the narrowing of the channel into Puget Sound. As the waves hit an obstruction, such as an island or peninsula, it would bend in a new direction and cause still more trouble.

Some experts recognize the possibility that **the volcanic activity off Vancouver Island could be the beginning of another Krakatoa.** Krakatoa last erupted in 1883, with an estimated force of 200 megatons. Tens of thousands of people were killed, mostly through tsunamis.

Recent studies of past earthquakes indicate a natural cyclic pattern. No one knows exactly when, how, and where the next round of seismic events will unfold. But the Seattle area, with its immense population, is one place to keep an eye on.

In March of this year (2005), there were over 3,000 quakes within 72 hours off the northwestern U.S. coast. So something is going to happen.

—vf

July 15, 2005 - UN tells Codex to encourage nutrient use

Following the July 12 decision by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) apparently limiting the power of Codex to ban nutrients (*Aug 1 Checkpoints*), on Friday, July 15, the final day of its 2005 session at its Rome headquarters, Codex received a letter from WHO and FAO, telling it to totally change direction—from condemning nutrition to advocating nutrition!

The UN's *World Health Organization* (WHO) and the *Food and Agriculture Organization* (FAO) are the parent organizations of the *Codex Alimentarius Commission* (Codex).

There are two Codex Committees on nutrition, both of which have condemned nutrients: (1) The *Codex Committee on Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses* (CCNFSDU) has consistently defined nutrients as "toxins" (poisonous substances) and uses so-called "Risk Assessment Science" to sharply limit and control exposure to them because of presumed, but unsubstantiated, "toxic risks" from nutrients. (2) The *Codex Committee on Food Labeling* (CCFL) currently has prohibited any claims of nutritional benefit for foods "to protect consumers."

The letter from WHO and FAO told Codex that it should change direction and make a contribution to world health by actively participating in, and facilitating, the WHO *Global Strategy on Diet, Physi-*

cal Activity and Health (called Global Strategy). In other words, WHO told Codex to totally reverse direction and find ways to encourage people throughout the world to improve their nutrition and increase the amount of nutrients in their diet!

Codex is the food standard-setting trade commission of the UN. On July 15, the WHO and FAO presented Codex with a Discussion Paper which focused on what Codex could do to improve health worldwide, in view of the fact that it had done so little since its founding 42 years ago.

In the WHO/FAO document on Codex and the Global Strategy, it was noted that the mandate ("*Terms of Reference*") of both CCFL and CCNFSDU should be amended to deal with the role of nutrition in the prevention and reduction of chronic diseases, an approach which the CCNFSDU has adamantly opposed during Dr. Rolf Grossklaus' lengthy tenure as its chairman. In fact, his repeated statement on the topic is "Nutrition has no role in medicine."

The WHO Under Secretary for Food Safety, Karen Leitner, noted that Codex had not done enough for world health. The WHO further noted that, from now on, it expects a yearly report from Codex on its progress in making a contribution to human health.

Will this directive be followed by Codex? —*vf*

July 28, 2005 - CAFTA. another danger to nutrients

In late July, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the *Central American Free Trade Agreement* (CAFTA), which the Senate had earlier passed. President Bush has signed it.

Thinking Americans are deeply concerned that CAFTA will take away their jobs. They have reason to be concerned; for it surely will—lots of them.

But CAFTA, like the *World Trade Organization* (WTO), could also be used to restrict or even ban dietary supplements in the U.S. (and other regional nations in CAFTA). This is because of the enforcement power of Codex through the trade organizations. Any nation in a WTO can sue any other nation to change something it trades or sells.

The *Codex Alimentarius Commission* (Codex), organized by the UN in the 1960s, is charged with "harmonizing" food and supplement rules in all the nations of the world. Under Codex rules, even basic vitamins and minerals would require a doctor's prescription; and many nutrients and most herbs would be banned.

Now it is true that, as mentioned in the news

item above, Codex apparently may have to stop trying to forbid the sale of nutrients. —*But it may find a way to do it anyway!* Pressure and bribes are great. If people are permitted to freely purchase nutrients, they will be healthier and the drug companies would lose millions of dollars in drug sales.

Be aware that either the WTO or CAFTA could challenge our open market for health supplements in a WTO or CAFTA forum. This is not far-fetched, as Congress already has cravenly changed our tax laws to comply with a WTO order. Section 6 of CAFTA says that Codex is the regulatory standard for nations that join CAFTA. If CAFTA has nothing to do with dietary supplements, as CAFTA supporters claim, why does it specifically mention Codex?

Pharmaceutical companies have spent billions of dollars trying to get Washington to regulate your dietary supplements, as many European governments do. So far it has failed because of the 1994 *Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act*.

We must continue to be alert to ongoing developments in this battle to maintain our health. —*vf*

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION VIDEO

A friend of ours and his wife, who attended the 2005 General Conference Session, held in St. Louis from June 28 to July 9, decided to take along with them a home video recorder.

We are happy that they did; for the approximately one-and-a-half-hour video, taken on a Friday and Sabbath, provides an interesting view of the Session.

Here is a brief overview of high points, the larger part of it shot on the Second Sabbath. (Display booths were open on the Sabbath, but not sale booths; which is why, on the video, you will not hear wild music in the booth areas, from sellers of semi-rock audio tapes and CDs.)

Some of you may have watched some of the meetings in the main auditorium on a General Conference outlet. I am told that at least one of the speakers urged the concept that “all we have to do is believe and we are saved.” But those sermons are not on this video, which provided very little footage on activities in the main auditorium.

The St. Louis Convention Center consists of two main sections, the front half which is an immense auditorium, plus some smaller ones; and the back half, equally gigantic, which contains hundreds of display and sale booths. We are told that each small booth space cost about \$700, which entrants paid to the General Conference last fall when they reserved their booth spaces. Many booths consisted of double, triple, or even larger spaces joined together. A lot of money went into the presentation of the booths. And lots more into hotel rooms!

The first part of the video is primarily about some of the hundreds of booths and activities there. (The display, but not sales, booths were open on Sabbath.)

Near the beginning of the video are shots of the booth of the Italian Adventist College at Villa Aurora, Italy. You will see the Vatican flag displayed at this booth; and discussion was made about the fact that it was carried in the Parade of Nations during the Session!

Nearby is a large Noah’s Ark with animals, and full-sized Noah and his family—all consisting of stuffed painted cloth materials.

You see the remarkably large clothing section (not selling on the Sabbath). Why people would want to buy clothes at a GC Session seems strange. But then some of the other things at the Session were unusual also.

(In 1995, visitors to Utrecht told us about the activity and seeming confusion in the clothes sales at Utrecht, while rock music blared from music sale booths in the other part of the booth sections.)

In one brief video clip, shot from a balcony, we see a business meeting in session.

The lens of the video recorder is then turned to something unusual at a booth: A man dressed in black, with a turned-around collar. A nearby sign on his booth says something like this: “*Five Minutes of a Billy Sunday Sermon.*” At some point in his rousing presentation, the

man explains that he is a non-Adventist minister by the name of Amundsen, and his booth has been rented by the WTCU (Women’s Christian Temperance Union, a non-Adventist organization). After telling that Billy Sunday was a famous baseball player who spoke so vigorously against the liquor traffic that 95% of the nation turned against it—he got Congress to enact Prohibition, which continued for 13 years and emptied a large part of our prisons. Amundsen then recited, with great energy, a five-minute talk by Billy Sunday; afterward he said that when he called 13 Adventist pastors in his (Western Washington State) area, they told him that getting rid of liquor is not something Adventists are interested in anymore.

Next, we are taken to the main auditorium for—what shall I call it?—a “concert”: ten men beating with sticks on gigantic kettles; each one about 24 inches across and 28 inches high. It was an immense racket.

After that, we are back in the huge tangle of booths, viewing this one and then another—and now we see a lady outlandishly dressed with clown makeup on her face, a mop (literally) of dyed bright orange hair,—and utterly enthusiastic at being able to lift the jaded spirits of people walking down one aisle and up another of the immense booths. (Throughout the video, few of the passersby look happy.) She puts her arms around one and then another of the passersby, and explains that she is from Birmingham, Alabama.

Suddenly, the scene shifts—and, without realizing it, we find ourselves in the lengthy last half of the video; most of which was shot in the large youth auditorium on this peaceful Sabbath afternoon. (At least, it was peaceful somewhere else.)

The youth meeting is about to begin; and, off to the side, we see the Birmingham clown lady, plus three others (all women), also gaudily dressed. But she is obviously the most talkative. She said she had been out on the streets talking to people. What must the people of St. Louis think of us? (Clown acts have been done on the streets during Sessions at least since 1995.)

Now, before our eyes, the lengthy meeting is beginning. There are singers/speakers strung out at different microphones, with a small band—complete with a full drum set—off to the left. In the middle is a lady in a suggestive dress with peculiar diagonal stripes on it, which intensify the swaying of her body as everyone sings.

When they have walked off the stage to the audience’s right, another group enters from the left.

The Birmingham clown walks up to the center, pivots her body back and forth as she screams in her microphone. “I’m going to tell you how to get a ticket to go to heaven and live with Jesus forever!”

A nearby youth mentions studying Sabbath School lessons. She screams, “No, that won’t get you to heaven! Then she sways and screams again toward the audience, “I’m going to tell you everything you need to know to get

4 to heaven!”

Another youth suggests that going to church and listening to the sermon might help.

Screaming comes the reply, “No, that won’t help you go to heaven!” Then turning to the audience and swinging her body back and forth, she yells, “I’m going to tell you everything you need to know to get a ticket and go to heaven and live there forever!”

Another student mentions doing mission work, which she denounces as useless and screams again to the audience.

Eventually, a girl says she has accepted Jesus; and the clown screams, “Yes, that is all you need to go to heaven and live with Jesus forever!” Then all in that group walk off the right and another group enters from the left.

Taking their positions, the band begins playing heavily, the drummer is pounding away, and the singers up front wiggle the most heavily that you will see from humans on the entire video. (The puppets come later.)

Frequently, shots are taken of the audience; and they appear mesmerized. All are standing; and gradually, more and more of them begin swaying, some frenziedly. The idea seems to be that the more intense the music and physical movement, the more of the spirit will enter the people, and they will feel religious.

This continues on for 12-15 minutes or so.

When that particular musical jam session ends, and the singers exit to the right, a man enters who says he is Steven Gonzales, Youth Coordinator for the North American Division. After he speaks a little, he exits and the next music session begins. Keep in mind that all this is during the Sabbath hours.

More interludes of one thing or another for awhile—and then a teenage girl, wearing shiny, tight black pants, and a man walk to the center stage; he tells her to step in a box, which has “SIN” clearly written on it. Telling her it is a good place to be, he then walks off the stage.

Once inside, she screams through her mike, “I’m stuck! Someone help me out of here!” Then began a farce on how to get someone out of sin.

As you know, nothing is as deadly as sin; and many of the youth in this audience will never go to heaven because of what they will later do in their lives. Yet there is nothing in this shallow skit to help them find the right path. All the words, facial movements, and body motions are only done to produce immense laughing in the audience. Getting people out of sin is obviously just a big joke in the thinking of those who organized this skit.

A muscular, short man in his early 20s walks up and enthusiastically tells the girl to leap out of the box. She tells him she can’t. He excitedly tells her, in order to get out of sin, she needs to exercise. What she needs to do is jumping jacks, which he does vigorously, amid resounding laughter from the audience, while she just lifts her arms up and down.

Then he says she needs more exercise. So he falls on the floor and does push-ups; then he turns on his back and does head sit-ups, while the audience roars.

You see, sin isn’t so bad after all. It’s really a laughing matter. Not something for teenagers to fear.

Between the arrival of each person, the girl screams, “Can’t someone help me get out of sin!”

After the man exits, a somewhat oversized lady arrives and loudly proclaims that, in order to get out of sin, the problem is the girl’s diet. She admits that she drinks soft drinks and eats meat. She is asked if she wears makeup and has eye shadow. To all this, the laughter by the audience is overwhelming.

But, obviously, improvement on such points really do not have much to do with getting her out of sin; so the lady walks off.

Then, after more of the girl’s screaming, a man arrives and says, “Did you pray?” “Did you read your Bible this morning?” But none of that seems to help; so he leaves. A “psychiatrist” speaks to her and frequently cries, “You’re in denial!” to which everyone laughs. Finally he hands her his business card, says she owes him \$70, and walks off.

In response to more screams, another man arrives, tells her that Jesus “is already here,” and invites her to pray and accept Him. Then, taking her hand, he helps her out of the box. Someone then screams to the audience, “Say Hallelujah!” Nothing about standards, beliefs, just acceptance.

After this comes the puppet show! It consists of, first, a foolish skit about breaking a window; followed by several minutes of very wild dancing, accompanied by extremely fast music by the band.

This is followed by more music. On a giant screen on the right, words of music are projected, above floating clouds or scenes.

At one point, the wording tells how much time a person spends doing this or that in a lifetime. The last item, calculated to arouse a big laugh at this Sabbath gathering, is a picture of a toilet, with the wording over it, “The average person spends three years in the bathroom over a lifetime.”

At some point in the video, an adult explains to the youth how he writes graffiti on the walls on cities.

More music in this shattered Sabbath in the youth department. Later the video camera switches to just inside the entrance of the main auditorium. As people enter through the glass doors, they are greeted by two middle-aged men wearing almost no clothing.

Also near the end of the video are shots of an Adventist parade outside walking down the middle of the street, with Adventist women shaking their shoulders as they go; and the lengthy Parade of Nations, as people, waving flags, pass on the platform of the main auditorium.

The above summary may contains flaws and omissions; for it has been prepared from hurriedly jotted notes while watching the video.

A copy of the video may be obtained from us for \$10.00, plus \$3.00 shipping in the U.S. Ask for “GC Session Video.” But, frankly, it is something you may prefer not to look at.

—vf