

# THE SABBATH SCOOP

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## Man Walks on the Moon

*A look back at that marvelous moment when Apollo 11 put men on the moon 40 years ago*

**By Gregory Dullum**

For thousands of years, man has looked to the night sky with wonder and admired that giant white orb which is our moon. He dreamed of going there someday, of setting foot upon our nearest heavenly body—240,000 miles into the harsh, forboding, unfor- giving vacuum of space.

In 1865, French author Jules Verne published *From Earth to the Moon*, a fanciful tale of men being shot to the moon from a giant cannon.

Nearly 100 years later, U.S. President John F. Kennedy began turning the dream of man walk-

ing on the moon into reality as he made it a national goal. On May 25, 1961, he told Congress, "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon, and returning him safely to earth."

The technology didn't exist to accomplish this lofty goal. It had been only 20 days since Alan Shepard had completed America's first 15-minute suborbital flight. The tiny Redstone rocket which shot Shepard's Mercury capsule to the edge of space didn't have enough power to send a man into Earth's orbit, not to mention to the moon!

Challenged by the president, American ingenuity went to work. Six more Mercury flights followed, each manned by one astronaut. Blasted into space atop larger Atlas rockets, these mis- sions put Americans into Earth's orbit.

Throughout the mid-'60s came the Gemini project. These were larger cap- sules carrying two men that sat atop even bigger rockets—Titans. Astronauts



*photo by Gregory Dullum*

On July 20, 1969, Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin Jr. stood at controls like these, and watched the moon's sur- face get closer through the triangular windows as man landed on the moon for the first time. The world watched via TV from 240,000 miles away.

performed tasks such as space walks and docking maneuvers that prepared them for the ultimate space trip—to the moon.

As the end of the decade approached, NASA (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration) began its most ambitious program, the one that would take men to the moon—Apollo.

On Jan. 27, 1967, astronauts Roger Chaf- fee, Virgil Grissom and Ed White were locked in their Apollo capsule for a train- ing mission when an electrical arc ignited a fire inside the capsule, taking their lives.

It set back the Apollo program for a year as the capsule was redesigned to pre- vent a repeat of the deadly accident. Fi- nally, the unmanned Apollo 5 capsule was shot into Earth's orbit atop the same Saturn 1b rocket that would have sent Chaffee, Grissom and White into orbit.

The unmanned Apollo 6, launched April 4, 1968, tested the bigger and more powerful Saturn V booster rocket—the one needed to escape Earth's gravity.

On Oct. 11, 1968, Apollo 7 was launched—the first successful manned

Apollo mission. The flight, which never left Earth's orbit, was so suc- cessful that astronauts Walter Schirra, Donn Eisele and Walter Cunn- ingham were given extra assignments.

The world watched in awe Dec. 21-27, 1968, as astronauts Frank Bor- man, James Lovell and William Anders flew to the moon for the first time in Apollo 8. There was no Lunar Module aboard—it wasn't ready yet—so they couldn't land on the moon. But as they traveled to the moon, they sent back awesome photos of the

beautiful blue, green, brown and white sphere we call Earth, surrounded by the black emptiness of space.

Apollo 8 traveled around the moon, giving mankind his first-ever look at the back side of the moon. And who can forget those famous words Borman spoke on his Christmas eve broadcast beamed back to earth? No more fitting words could be spoken than those from Genesis 1: "In the beginning, God cre- ated the heavens and the earth..."

Apollo 9 traveled only so far as Earth's orbit March 3-13, 1969, as as- tronauts James McDivitt, David Scott and Russell Schweikart tested the en- tire spacecraft.

It was to the moon again May 18-26, 1969, as Apollo 10 astronauts Thomas Stafford, Eugene Cernan and John Young tested the Lunar Module in the moon's orbit. They flew within 9.4 miles of the lunar surface but didn't

**MAN ON THE MOON**

Continued on Page 2

## Man on the Moon

Continued from Page 1

land. Their Lunar Module was too heavy to blast off from the moon. It worked well as a training device but a lighter version was developed for Apollo 11—the mission that would finally put man on that dusty, gray lunar surface.

It is estimated that a million people congregated around Cape Kennedy in Florida to watch Apollo 11 blast off on Wednesday morning, July 16, 1969—40 years ago.

At 5 p.m. Tuesday, the Apollo news center at Cape Kennedy issued a status report:

“The Apollo 11 countdown will resume tonight at 11 p.m. when launch crews will begin chilling down the systems which will be used to flow the cryogenic fuels into the Saturn V launch vehicle....

“The prime crew for Apollo 11 spent most of the day relaxing in the crew quarters. Apollo 11 commander Neil Armstrong and lunar module pilot Edwin Aldrin did spend some time in the lunar module simulator.

“Tonight the crew will have an early dinner consisting of combination salad, broiled sirloin steak, mashed potatoes, buttered asparagus, tomato purée, cottage cheese, fruit bowl, bread, butter and a beverage. After dinner, the crew plans to retire early. [The flight crew skipped the salad, the asparagus and the fruit bowl.]

“The weather outlook for the 9:32 a.m. launch tomorrow continues to be satisfactory. There will be broken cloud cover at 15,000 feet. Visibility will be 10 miles, winds light and variable, and the temperature near eighty-five degrees” (*First on the Moon* by Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, Edwin Aldrin, Jr., Gene Farmer and Dora Hamblin, 1970, p. 64).

By 10 p.m., an hour before the countdown resumed, the three astronauts were sound asleep. Hardly anyone else, for 30 miles around, was. Every motel within driving distance had a countdown party. The Cocoa Beach bars closed at 3 a.m. The Cape bars had special permission to stay open until 5 a.m.—45 minutes after the three astronauts were awakened by knocks on their doors, signifying time to get up and go to work.

By 7:52 a.m., the astronauts were sealed into their capsule atop the 363-foot-tall Apollo 11/Saturn V spacecraft, ready to begin their historic adventure.

Their final minute on earth, as announced by NASA, went like this:

“T minus 60 seconds and counting. Fifty-five seconds and counting. Neil Armstrong just reported back. It’s been a real smooth countdown. We have passed the 50-second mark. Our transfer is complete on internal power with the launch vehicle at this time.

Forty seconds away... all the second stage tanks are now pressurized. Thirty-five seconds and counting. Astronauts reported, feel good. T minus 25 seconds. Twenty seconds and counting. T minus 15 seconds, guidance is internal. Twelve, eleven, ten, nine, ignition sequence starts, six, five, four, three, two, one, zero, all engines running. LIFTOFF! We have a liftoff, 32 minutes past the hour. Liftoff on Apollo 11. Tower cleared” (ibid., p. 98).

Apollo 11 had a successful liftoff and journey to the moon, some 240,000 miles away. After establishing lunar orbit, Armstrong and Aldrin moved into the spindly-legged spider-looking Lunar Module (nicknamed “Eagle”) and separated from the Command Module, leaving Collins to orbit the moon alone.

Many people back on Earth held their breath on Sunday afternoon (Houston time), July 20, as they watched the lunar descent on television. They saw grainy pictures of the lunar surface getting closer and closer. The dream of putting man on the moon was about to become a reality.

With very little fuel left, the final 60 seconds of approach went like this:

“ALDRIN: Lights on. Down 2-1/2. Forward. Good. 40 feet, down 2-1/2. Picking up some dust. 30 feet, 2-1/2 down. Faint shadow. 4 forward. 4 forward, drifting to the right a little. 8... [static]... down a half.

“CAPCOM: (Duke): Thirty seconds [of fuel remaining].

“ALDRIN: [static]... forward. Drifting right... [static]... Contact light. Okay, engine stop, ADA out of detent.

“ARMSTRONG: Got it.

“ALDRIN: Mode controls, both auto, descent engine command override, off. Engine arm, off. 413 is in.

“CAPCOM: (Duke): We copy you down, Eagle.

“ARMSTRONG: Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed.

“CAPCOM: (Duke): Roger, Tranquility. We copy you on the ground. You’ve got a bunch of guys about to turn blue. We’re breathing again. Thanks a lot.

“ALDRIN: Thank you” (ibid., p. 24).

The exact time of the moon landing was 3:17:39.9 p.m. CST—Houston time (*Flight* by Chris Kraft, 2001, p. 322).

Everything had gone so well with the lunar landing that the moon walk (extra-vehicular activity, or EVA) was moved up four hours.

According to Armstrong, “We wanted to do the EVA as soon as possible.... it would make more sense to go ahead and complete the EVA while we were still wide awake and not try to put that activity in the middle of a sleep period” (Armstrong et al., p. 306).

It was past 9:30 p.m. Houston time be-

fore the cabin was depressurized enough to open the hatch. Finally, the following conversation occurred:

“HOUSTON (McCandless): We’re showing a relatively static pressure on your cabin. Do you think you can open the hatch at this pressure?

“EAGLE (Armstrong): We’re going to try it.

“EAGLE (Aldrin): The hatch is opening.

“EAGLE (Armstrong): The hatch is open!” (ibid., p. 318).

Millions back home watched on live TV as Armstrong made his way down the ladder to the moon’s surface.

“HOUSTON (McCandless): Okay Neil, we see you coming down the ladder now.

“EAGLE (Armstrong): Okay, I just checked—getting back up to that first step, Buzz, it’s not even collapsed too far, but it’s adequate to get back up... it takes a pretty good little jump.... I’m at the foot of the ladder. The LM footpads are only depressed in the surface about one or two inches. Although the surface appears to be very, very fine-grained. as you get closer to it. It’s almost like a powder. Now and then, it’s very fine.... I’m going to step off the LM now....

“At 9:56 p.m., Houston time, Neil Armstrong stepped off the dish-shaped landing pad and onto the surface of the moon. ‘THAT’S ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND’ ” (ibid., pp. 320-321).

Man had, at last, made it to the moon. The remainder of the mission was completed just as successfully. The two lunar explorers blasted off in the top half of the Lunar Module, docked with the Command Module, and returned to Earth, splashing down into the warm, blue Pa-

### MAN ON THE MOON

Continued on Page 6

## The SABBATH SCOOP

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# WHAT IS AMERICA'S FUTURE?

*The United States celebrates its 233rd birthday July 4. How many more birthdays will it have? What lies ahead for the American people, descended from Manasseh?*

**By Gregory Dullum**

America's greatness has come about primarily because of promises God made to Abraham thousands of years ago. We discussed this in detail last month.

## To Keep Our Blessings

Is there something our people must do to continue receiving the blessings from God? Yes! Obey Him!

God tells us, "If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid... and the sword will not go through your land. You shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you" (Lev. 26:3-7).

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth, and all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks....

"You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

"And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only and not beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God" (Deut. 28:1-4, 12-13).

If our people would diligently seek God and obey Him, we would have a long, blessed future with an unlimited number of July 4 celebrations.

## Today's Condition

But it isn't happening. Instead, people are turning more and more from God's way.

Americans who claim to be religious are not obeying the Bible. They may go to church every week (or not) but they

practice lawlessness—they don't keep God's laws! This type of "Christianity" was condemned by Christ (Mat. 7:21-23).

There also is a growing population that totally rejects God. "Polls show that the ranks of atheists are growing. The American Religious Identification Survey, a major study released last month [March 2009] found that those who claimed 'no religion' were the only demographic group that grew in all 50 states in the last 18 years.

"Nationally, the 'nones' in the population nearly doubled, to 15 percent in 2008 from 8 percent in 1990....

"Local and national atheist organizations have flourished in recent years.... A spate of best-selling books on atheism also popularized the notion that nonbelief is not just an argument but a cause, like environmentalism or muscular dystrophy" ("More Atheists Shout It From the Rooftops" by Laurie Goodstein, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, April 27, 2009, pp. 1-2).

## To Lose Our Blessings

Will God continue to bless us if we don't obey him? Absolutely not! We are already seeing the blessings of God being removed from this nation. Our immediate future looks bleak as our people turn further away from God.

God promises, "But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you [are we not fighting a war on terror?], wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart [are not our hospitals filled with the sick?]. And you shall sow your seed in vain for your enemies shall eat it [are we not exporting our food overseas to countries that hate us?]....

"I will break the pride of your power [has not Pres. Barack Obama gone around the world apologizing for America's greatness?]; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze [a promise of drought and famine!]....

"And I will bring a sword against you [we will be successfully invaded by an enemy army]... when you are gathered together within your cities, I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy [weakened

by famine and disease epidemics, America will surrender to her enemy invaders]....

"I will lay your cities waste.... I will bring the land to desolation.... I will scatter you among the nations [Americans will go into captivity]" (Lev. 26:14-16, 19, 25, 31-33).

Read the curses prophesied in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. They describe what we see happening in America today and what will happen in our future. If the American people do not repent and return to God, most will die by war, famine and disease. It may be that only about 1/10 of them will remain (Amos 5:1-3). That small number will go into captivity.

Who will invade the U.S. and take her people into captivity? Not the Chinese. Not an Arab or Muslim nation. God says Assyria is the rod of his anger, used by Him to punish a rebellious Israel (Isa. 10:5-6). Who are the Assyrian people today? They are the modern Germans.

Germany will lead a European Union of 10 nations to world domination (Dan. 2:40-42; Rev. 17:12-13). This will be the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire (Dan. 2:40; Rev. 17:9-10). It may be that Germany will rebuild and reactivate its concentration camps to hold American captives! Their situation will be worse than that of the Jews in World War II. This will be a time worse than any other (Mat. 24:21-22)!

## A Happy Ending

These will be horrible times but our future doesn't end here! There is a happy ending!

Jesus Christ will return to this earth and defeat the Beast power ruling in Europe (Dan. 2:44; Rev. 17:14, 19:11-21).

Americans will not be totally annihilated (Isa. 1:9; Jer. 5:18). Those remaining in captivity will repent of their sins (Isa. 65:1) and will be freed from captivity (Isa. 10:21, 11:11; Jer. 30:1). Their return from captivity will be greater than Israel's rescue from Egyptian slavery in Exodus (Jer. 16:14-15).

Americans, descended from Joseph, will be united with their 11 national brothers and will be once again a united nation of Israel, ruled by King David (Ezek. 34:23, 37:15-25), with the 12 apostles each ruling one of the 12 tribes (Mat. 19:28), and Jesus Christ as King of kings, ruling over all (Rev. 19:16)!

# College Letters:

## Lessons of Life Learned at Ambassador College

*Concentrate more on your studies and your grades will improve.*

1-20-75

Dear Greg,

I Haven't written to you for awhile. I thought you might like to know that Mr. Ferrall died at the beginning of the week. I went home Wednesday because I was so upset. He had no funeral of any type because he stated in his will that he did not want any type of service. The cause of death is a mystery; it is being kept a secret. I know that he went to class on Friday (the day of the big storm) and was found dead in his apt. by his father on Tuesday. A collection has started in school, they are planning to buy something for the theatre. I hope you know about the big storm. It hit us at GAC [Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn.] pretty badly. Friday night it started. A group of us went to the union for a square dance—we walked through the worst part of it. Once [we were] at the square dance the electricity went out—45 minutes later the power returned.

Saturday morning we woke to find that we were all snowed in. The campus is at the top of a hill and the town is at the bottom. We could not get down to them and they could not get up to us. The caf[eteria] was closed because the cooks could not get up. Around lunch the caf. was opened by students. All we had was soup and bread. All the food was locked up (this was all that was lying around) and the only key was with a cook, who was in town.

Late afternoon they got the cook and the key up here. So we had a small dinner. The next problem was that we kept running out of food. No trucks could bring supplies up to us. Most cars up here were completely covered. To get to my dorm there are two very large stairways (on hills). Both of them were completely covered so we had to wade up them.

Saturday afternoon we were classified by the State as a disaster area. We were stuck up here until late Monday when they finally started digging us out.

How is the weather there? If you say it's blue skies, around 70-80° and beautiful, I promise you will hear me cry from there.

Right now we are in January term. We only take one course. I am taking a course on the Indian author Tagore—if you are a good journalist you should know something about him. He is quite



photo by Gregory Dullum

On Feb. 5, 1975, I wrote this letter home, making it look like an official co-worker letter, even signing my name to look like Garner Ted Armstrong's.

famous! My first semester grades were good (3.038). It could be better but I am very happy with them.

Next semester starts Feb. 10. I am taking zoology, botany, sociology and English. They should keep me busy.

What have you been up to? This weekend I finally bought myself something (a \$50 toy). It's a beautiful calculator. Randy also is doing well—3.70—not bad.

Hope you will write me soon! I am not writing much because I don't remember when I wrote last so I am worried that I will repeat myself. In your letter, come up with a lot of questions.

I am leaving you with a quote I found. "What is happiness without sorrow?"

Peace,

Mike [Berks]

[**Editor's note:** For my next letter home, I tried to fool Mom and Brad. I had a piece of blank stationery with the old logo for "Radio Church of God" at the top. I typed my letter using the college typing room's IBM Selectric typewriter, so the letter looked like a co-worker letter from the church. I signed my name so it looked like the signature of Garner Ted Armstrong. I included a return envelope (addressed to Herbert W. Armstrong at Box 111, Pasadena, California) and pasted a label on it that had Mom's address and church I.D. number. I put the letter and return envelope inside an official Ambassador College envelope

with Mom's address showing through the window. Even though the outside envelope said "Ambassador College," the return envelope said "Herbert W. Armstrong" and the letterhead said "Radio Church of God," I hoped Mom wouldn't pay close attention and think this really was a co-worker letter from the church instead of a personal letter from me. I even wrote the letter in third person.]

February 5, 1975

Dear Co-workers:

There is one college student at Ambassador College that I have to tell you about. His name is Greg Dullum. He ushers for concerts in the Auditorium, and enclosed is a photo of him in his tuxedo as he appeared for the Arthur Rubinstein concert [see last month's *Sabbath Scoop*].

On Monday, January 28, 1975, Greg received a letter from a friend of his at St. Peter, Minnesota, named Mike Berks. The letter mentioned how that part of the state was declared a disaster area. The college (Gustavus Adolphus) was snowed in from Friday night until Monday afternoon. Food ran short.

There has been much rain here in southern California, but it has been off and on. And it has not rained very hard; usually it has come down as a light mist. However, it is preferred over the cold snow of Minnesota.

Tuesday, in Western Civ., Greg got 100% on a quiz. He claims this is the first time he has scored 100% on any test since he has been here. He attributes it to the fact he studies harder, and is putting more emphasis on his classes this semester. Perhaps the reason this has come about is best explained by what happened to his friend, Grant Spong.

He followed this up by scoring 100% on a vocabulary quiz in English on Tuesday.

Friday, when Greg checked his mail box, he found a note which instructed him to see Mr. Juentsz in the student center about a job, which he did. The job included working as a janitor to keep the student center clean, and setting up tables for special banquets. Greg does not know for sure if he will get the job, but is hoping. It will mean he will have to get up early every morning. But he would like the opportunity to make some extra money.

On the Sabbath, Greg's alarm went off at 7 a.m., because he had breakfast prep at 8 a.m. But he shut it off and went to sleep. It was after 8 when the phone rang. He jumped out of bed because he knew it was the student center calling. He was already dressed when Darrel Orban entered the room to tell him he was on Sabbath prep. By 8:15 he was at the student center.

Services on the Sabbath were given by Mr. McCullough, and proved to be quite boring.

However, Saturday night was exciting. The ushers all met at the student center console and divided up to ride in two separate college vans. Greg got to ride in the blue one with Steve Brooks, John Walsh, Doug Wilson (son of the director of the Canadian work), and Jim Abbott (driver). Others also were in the same van, but will not be mentioned here. With Doug's expert navigation, the group soon found themselves at Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood.

Ron Robinson had gone ahead of the two vans, and had saved a place in the block-long line for tickets. When everyone else arrived (there were 33 in all), they just milled around and looked at the various foot prints in the cement... such as the Marx Bros., Dean Martin, Charlton Heston, Mary Pickford, Abbott and Costello, etc.

After one buys a ticket, then he stands in another line to enter. After about 30 people had gone through the line, and began to form the line at the door to enter, the ushers all got in the line without tickets. Then when Ron Robinson got in line to the window, he bought all 33+ tickets, and passed them out. This way, only Ron had to stand in the long line and get there super early, yet all 33 got super seats.

The movie *Earthquake* was super cool. Some of the lines were kind of dumb ("Don't lower your voice to me!"), but the special effects [including "Sensurround"—a strong base sound during the quake scenes to simulate the feel of an earthquake] were rather effective. Greg didn't think it felt like a real earthquake, though. He thought it felt more like sound waves hitting him. But he liked it anyway.

After the movie, the van stopped at campus to let those off who wanted off, and Jim Abbott, Doug Wilson, John Walsh and Greg Dullum went to the Salt Shaker and had hot apple pie a la mode. It was about 2 a.m., and it was a lot of fun. Greg said it reminded him of when he used to go out with the Farrell's gang after work.

While they were there, a car, apparently going too fast around the corner of Del Mar and Arroyo and hitting the center island, flipped over. Police were there in five minutes. None of the students saw it happen. It is not known if anyone got

hurt, but an ambulance also arrived soon. Before the students left, however, the car had been towed away, and even the glass had been swept up.

Monday, February 3, 1975, Greg received the *Sun* and his tax forms. He could not leave them alone that evening until he had filled them out and found out how much he was going to be getting back. He was happy to learn he will be getting back \$126.07 of federal (all of it) and \$12.78 of the state (out of 29.85 dollars).

Tuesday, the alarm went off at 5 a.m., because Greg had agreed to do the 6-8 a.m. show on KAC. But he shut it off and went back to sleep. He woke up at 10 to 6. He rushed over to the studio and got on the air just in time.

Also on Tuesday, he got a letter from home with the check. So now he's bought himself a \$7.95 dictionary that he's been wanting. That night he and Santana had a long talk about the Mystery Girl and privacy. He [Santana] felt that the tape of her conversation with Grant should be erased, to give her the privacy that she obviously wants, since she never revealed herself. It was a rather lengthy discussion, and included all the good she had done for the three involved (Greg, Grant and Santana). Greg said, "Well, considering all the things she's done for us, and because she wants her privacy, she's free. I will not try to find out who she is any more. But as far as the tape goes, I think I would like to keep it for sentimental reasons. I would have to think about it."

Santana then said, "There's a story I read in Spanish one time, I don't know if it fits for sure or not, but a lot of workers on a farm didn't like their lord because he was so cruel. So they went before a council and asked permission to kill him. And finally they got it. Then one of the workers said, 'Thank you for giving us permission to kill him. That was nice of you, because he's already dead.'"

The conclusion of the story hit Greg like a ton of bricks. Both the irony of the story, and the significance to him in this case. He [Santana] and Grant had decided to erase the tape earlier that day. Santana was going to take it to work and erase it there, because it was quicker, but Grant wanted it done right away. So he did.

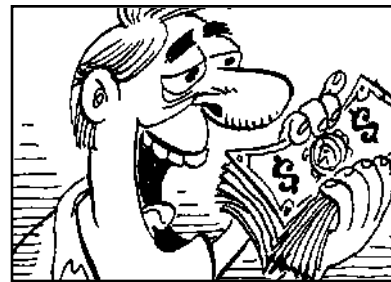
"Then I guess she's really free," Greg said, realizing he will never hear her voice again. "You made the right choice," he concluded.

This morning, Greg did not get up with his alarm at all, and woke up at 6:15, when he was supposed to be on the air at 6:00. He managed to get on the air by 6:22. He apologized to Trevor, the pro-

## COLLEGE LETTERS

Continued on Page 6

## Fun Fact



*Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS*

If you pack lunch three days a week, saving \$5 each time, you'll save \$450 in one year, just on lunches.

## Witerature

*Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.*

*First on the Moon* by Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, Edwin Aldrin, Jr., Gene Farmer and Dora Hamblin, 1970, Little, Brown & Co. pp. 123-124.

## Sincere Words, Deeds

"Besides, I like fighter pilots. I really do. They're good guys. As a group, I like them better than I like any other group. They're very independent people. They're not just talkers, they're doers. They have their lives on the line in a lot of ways, and they're good people. They say what they mean. There is no sham or pretense about them. The good ones you know not by what they say but by what they do, and when you fly with a guy you can tell what he is."

**Ps. 119:113, Prov. 26:18-19; Mat. 7:21, James 1:23-25, 5:12**

## Quotable Quote

"When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."

—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

## Memory Scripture

"But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No' be 'No,' lest you fall into judgment."

—James 5:12

## Man on the Moon

Continued from Page 2

cific ocean on July 24, 1969.

President Kennedy's goal had been met: before the decade was out, the country had landed a man on the moon and returned him safely to earth.

As magnificent as the U.S. space program was in putting men on the moon, it was meager compared to mankind's ultimate destiny.

David addressed our destiny in Ps. 8:3-6: "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man, that You are mindful of him, and the son of man, that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands: You have put all things under his feet."

All things are not yet under our authority (Heb. 2:8). But a day is coming when they will be! Our destiny is to become children of God, ruling all creation:

"The Spirit [it]self bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Rom. 8:16-17).

All creation has been made subject to Christ in his glorified state (Heb. 2:9). We will be joint heirs with Christ—sharing in rulership over all creation (v.10).

In our human form we can't travel very far into space—we must bring along enough food, water and oxygen for our journey. Our speed is too slow and the distance to travel is too great. But once we are changed into spirit beings, we will be unshackled from our human limitations, and the entire universe, with all the vast galaxies full of stars and planets, will be ours to rule.

As a child, I sat starstruck before the TV, watching one astronaut after another blast off into space. Now, I look forward to the time when we will become spirit-born children of God and it will be our time to venture into space!

## College Letters

Continued from Page 5

gram director, and was forgiven. Next week, he will try to get more sleep in. Maybe then he will get up.

That's it from California. It's dinner time. Stay healthy and have fun with the TV.

Love,

Gregory Lee Dullum



## Swine Flu a Pandemic

"It came as no surprise Thursday [June 11] when the World Health Organization declared that the swine flu outbreak had become a pandemic.

"The disease has reached 74 countries, and probably met the technical definition of a pandemic—or global spread—weeks ago. Nearly 30,000 cases have been reported, but disease experts think hundreds of thousands or millions of people have actually been infected....

"The term pandemic reflects only the geographic spread of a new disease, not its severity....

"So far 144 people have died from H1N1 (Swine Flu)" ("To Flu Experts, 'Pandemic Confirms the Obvious'" by Donald G. McNeil, Jr. and Denise Grady, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, June 12, 2009, p. 1).

The swine flu pandemic shows how disease can quickly spread to pandemic proportions. In the end time, disease is pictured as one of the four horsemen of the apocalypse, riding across the earth spreading death (Rev. 6:7-8). Jesus said "pestilences" would be one of the signs leading up to his return (Mat. 24:3, 7).

## EU Showing Cracks

"The European Union is an extraordinary experiment in shared sovereignty, creating a zone of peace that now stretches from Britain to the Balkans. The union of 27 countries is the world's most formidable economic bloc, incorporating 491 million people in an integrated market that produces nearly a third more than the United States.

"But the global economic crisis has made it clear that Europe remains less than a sum of its parts....

"But although the subprime mortgage crisis began in the United States, Europe is arguably suffering more.... Budget deficits are rising, and unemployment, especially among the young, is already at its highest in 10 years.

" 'We are in a moment of severe crisis,' said Joschka Fischer, a Green Party politician and former German foreign minister. 'We have a traumatic lack of leadership.... I think crisis creates leaders, the right leaders,' said Mr.

Fischer" ("Economy Shows Cracks in European Union" by Steven Erlanger, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, June 9, 2009, pp. 1-2, 4).

Cracks in the European Union? An end-time European Union will not adhere together very well (Dan. 2:41-44). But the union will give allegiance to a mighty ruler called the beast (Rev. 17:12). Adolph Hitler rose to power 75 years ago in Germany because he offered a way out of that country's economic crisis. Is a new Hitler about to rise in Europe?

## Drought in Iraq

"Devastating drought gripped Iraq in the 2007-2008 growing season. The drought continued into 2009....

"The most affected area is northern Iraq, the country's historical breadbasket, where rain-fed wheat is grown.... ("Drought in Iraq," NASA's Earth Observatory Web site).

In the end time, famine is pictured as the third of four horsemen of the apocalypse, riding across the earth (Rev. 6:5-6). Jesus prophesied that famine would be one of the signs leading up to his return (Mat. 24:3, 7).

## North Korea Threatens

"One day after North Korea warned of a possible attack against the South, the United States and South Korea ordered their forces here [in South Korea] to their highest alert for three years... to counter what officials termed 'a grave threat.'

"The move was the latest sign of escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula after North Korea conducted a second nuclear test on Monday [May 25].... North Korea reinforced its menacing language by test-firing six short-range missiles earlier in the week" ("South Korea and U.S. Raise Alert Level" by Choe Sang-Hun, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, May 29, 2009, p. 1).

Jesus warned that "wars and rumors of war" would be a sign that we are getting closer to his return (Mat. 24:3, 6-7).

A nuclear-armed North Korea could be part of a great military power called "kings of the east" that will attack Europe (called the "king of the North" or "the beast") at the time of Christ's return (Dan. 11:40-44, Rev. 9:13-19, 16:12-14).