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A note about changes in the print magazine and what you'll find in our new online version

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This step corresponds with a whole new format for CHRISTIAN STANDARD. We hope you like the changes you see in this issue and the spirit and tone of the magazine you'll discover in the coming weeks.

One set of changes needs special note. Our

treatment of the International **Sunday School Lessons** will no longer be contained in the print magazine. But you may find this feature every week on our Web site. At the same time, we are discontinuing completely our weekly **Communion meditation**.

Our changes reflect our serious evaluation of who we are, whom we're serving, and why we exist. It's a process that began months ago and will continue as we receive feedback from readers and potential readers. Let us know what you think!

—Mark A. Taylor
Publisher and Editor



Religion and the World

CHRISTIAN SITCOM ATTRACTS INTEREST: A Christian sitcom that aired nationwide as a pilot program has attracted the attention of family-friendly television networks like PAX-TV, Sky Angel, and Faith-TV. Financing for an entire season of shows is still missing, however, according to the show's producers. Greg Robbins, creator and star of *Pastor Greg*, said agreements he has made to air the program across North America provide more than enough collateral for the roughly \$750,000 he needs to produce the first 13 episodes. But more financing is needed, and he hopes it will come as word gets out about the show's quality. Robbins, senior partner of the Oregon-based Uplifting Entertainment, said the show, though overtly Christian, has tested well with non-Christian viewers. He said the show would prove to viewers that "God has a sense of humor." (EP)

CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION EXPECTED TO INCREASE: The world should prepare for a growing number of attacks against Christians in 2003, concludes a new report from the World Evangelical Alliance, Edmonds, Washington. WEA researcher Elizabeth Kendal said trends point to an esca-

lation of attacks targeting foreign Christian workers. "This is particularly true in Muslim majority nations and regions, especially the Middle East, Northern Nigeria, Indonesia, and Pakistan," she said. Other dangerous areas include "nations where other religions are striving to regain their historic dominance and influence, and where religious nationalism is being used as a political tool. This is so with Hinduism in India and Buddhism across much of South East Asia." Even in Europe there might be increased persecution, as Bulgaria, Belarus, Moldova, and other countries have approved or are considering laws that favor Orthodox nationalism and ban or restrict religious activity of Christians from other denominations. (EP)

PRO-ABORTION GROUP CHANGING NAME: Officials of the nation's largest pro-abortion group are planning an extensive campaign to renew the group's image and make abortion a major issue of the 2004 presidential race. The National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, one of the most aggressive abortion advocacy groups, is changing its name to NARAL Pro-Choice America, reported *The New York Times*. (EP)