In the July 2011 issue:

**Religion in the News**

**Steeples out of style**

Steeplejacks—those daredevils who climb church roofs to install and repair steeples—are suffering from economic hard times these days like everyone else. Partly it’s because money is tight and the demand for their services is declining. But there’s another reason: people used to look for a steeple to find a church, but many of today’s church-goers are turned off by the symbols of old-time religion. So instead of searching for a steeple, they search the Internet. And the church they find is as likely to look like a mall as a traditional church. However, some churches have found a way to put a steeple on their church and make money on it: they let cell phone companies hide their unsightly antennas in the steeple!—*USA Today*

**Secular Canadian youth**

Statistics Canada reports on a recent survey by Nanos Research for the Globe and Mail, which found that more than half of Canadians ages 15 to 29 either have no religion, or if they claim one, they do not attend church. Only 22 percent say that religion is very important in their lives. Back in 2002, that number was 34 percent.

Church attendance in Canada has been on the decline for the past 50 years. This coincides with increasing ignorance about religious beliefs and practices. Today’s Canadian young people tend to see religion as illogical and out of touch with reality. Even the influx of immigrants has not stopped the decline. Within one or two generations, the youth of immigrant parents and grandparents join the secular movement.—*The Globe and Mail*

**NIV revised**

In March 2011 Zondervan released a revised version of the New International Version (NIV), the world’s most popular modern translation of the Bible that was first published in 1973 (New Testament) and 1978 (Old Testament). To date, more than 215 million copies have been sold. The initial print run of the 2011 version was 1.9 million copies, and it will eventually replace the 1970s version. Zondervan is promoting the newer version as the first revision of the NIV in 25 years. However, in 2005 the publisher released Today’s New International Version (TNIV), which used gender neutral language wherever possible. Thus, when the words son and sons do not specifically refer to a male (as in "the sons of God"), the words child and children were used. But so many evangelical Protestants objected that in 2009 the publisher stopped printing the TNIV.—*The Christian Post*

**Atheist chaplains**

Some 3,000 chaplains serve the needs of men and women in the United States military. Most are Christians,
though there are a few Jews and Muslims, and there is one Buddhist. In the future Hindus and Wiccans may be represented, and atheists and secular humanists are pushing for the appointment of someone to represent them. The problem is that, whatever the chaplain’s religious affiliation, he must represent and counsel with military personnel of all religious faiths. Could atheists do that? Atheists counter that there’s a large group of nonbelievers in the military whose needs are currently not being met. An atheist chaplain, they say, would do everything religious chaplains do, including counseling soldiers and sailors of all religious persuasions and supporting them in living out their faith.—*New York Times*

**National Day of Prayer**

In 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming a National Day of Prayer, and in 1988 Congress ordered the day to be held the first Thursday in May. However, in 2008 the Wisconsin based Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) sued in federal court to block the observance on the grounds that as an inherently religious exercise that serves no secular function.

In 2010 District Court Judge Barbara Crabb agreed, saying that the government can no more enact laws supporting a day of prayer than it can encourage citizens to fast during Ramadan or attend synagogue. However, a federal appeals court threw out the ruling because the FFRF did not have standing to sue. The court also noted that the president’s proclamation had not caused the FFRF any harm. “Hurt feelings,” it said, “differ from legal injury.”—*The Associated Press*

### New Books

**Title: Red Alert: Hurting Into Eternity, Interpreting Today’s Headlines in the Light of Bible Prophecy**  
by Herbert Edgar Douglass

In his newest release, Herb Douglass takes the headlines of today’s newspapers and television news programs, and relates them to Bible prophecies of the end time. He deals with subjects such as:

- Increased sightings of the Virgin Mary.
- Prominent Christians leaving their Protestant faith to join the Catholic church.
- The exponential curve of natural disasters.
- Strange weather phenomenon.
- The threat of nuclear war.
- A century of wars.
- The role of religion in civil unrest and war.
- And much more . . .

Anyone interested in end-time events as they relate to current events will want to read this book.
"A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs." - Ellen White

The history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is replete with examples of missed opportunities that would allow the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit to work in hearts and prepare the way for the latter rain. The church has allowed lesser things to become more important than "the greatest of all our needs."

When the disciples prayed for the endowment of the Spirit in the Upper Room, they reached a point of full surrender, like never before. Likewise, when we receive the Spirit, it will be seen by the lives we live and the burden we have for the lost.

In Adventism's Greatest Need, Dr. Ron Clouzet shares a compelling conviction that the Holy Spirit is poised and ready to reignite an end-time people in their quest for true godliness.

**Price:** $15.99

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**2012 Doomsday or Distraction?**

In December 2012, at the winter solstice when the sun and the earth precisely align with the galactic equator, the Mayan Long Count Calendar will come to an end. It's beginning points back to a time five centuries before the pyramids, 1,500 years before the Exodus. The midpoint came around the time Daniel spent a night in the lion's den. Two full millennia have passed since the birth of Christ, and still the long count continues. But now, according to this calendar, the end of this world cycle is in sight.

The escalating hype surrounding this prediction has caught people's attention and many are justifiably curious. Now is an ideal time to share with them the truth about the end of the world!

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**As Quoted**

“Today people want their church to look comfortable, inviting, more like a mall.”

Architect Gary Landhauser, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who has worked on nearly 30 churches in the past 15 years.
The Final Sign

Luke points to COSMIC SIGNS that will be visible in the sky as the unmistakable sign of the nearness of Christ's coming. In contrast, stands the cry of nearness by false prophets, based on EARTHY SIGNS.

Increasing calamities are surely precursors to the second advent but it's important for people to understand that false christ's and false prophets will use these same signs to validate their claims.

This is a timely subject and pocket Signs are easy to share!

Price: $8.99 for a pkg of 100

Economic Crisis and Your Future

The Great Recession, as it's being dubbed, continues to gnaw at the wallets and psyche of the average American. Times are tough and the outlook for many is anything but bright.

Economic Crisis and Your Future urges people to entrust their well being to Jesus. The day will come when no man can buy or sell and complete dependence on Christ will be the only way to survive. In just a few paragraphs this Pocket Signs brings hope for the future and puts the economic crisis in perspective.

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