

## Publishing Editor's column

*COMMENTATORS on world affairs looking back at 2001 have tended to consider it in two parts: pre-September 11th and post-September 11th. Most people can remember what they were doing when they first heard the shocking news, and the terrible events of that day have apparently largely driven earlier events of that year out of people's minds. It was said at the time that the world would never be the same again, that we were entering a new era of uncertainty and trouble. Many looked with fear and perplexity at the future, and we saw in this Luke 21:25,26 fulfilled.*

*Yet, four months later, that day has faded from many people's minds. Afghanistan has been relegated from prominence in the media, with Osama bin Laden's power base having been removed and the man himself a fugitive or even dead. Stock markets have more than recovered from the falls that occurred, and fears of major recession seem to have faded. Was it all of no great significance? Surely not, for militant Islam is still there. It has, for example, caused great tension between India and Pakistan, which at the time of writing threatens to bring war between two nuclear powers. Furthermore, we must remember that underlying Islamic militarism is a fanatical hatred of Israel, and all who support her. While that remains, world peace will always be threatened and attention will never stray far from the Middle East.*

*It was said at the time that 11 September was a wake-up call to the Brotherhood, and so it was. The number of baptisms reported in The Christadelphian increased considerably in the following months, for example. But are we still awake, or have we dozed off to sleep again, lulled into a false sense of security? Yet we surely must recognise that such a devastating destruction wrought upon that great centre of world trade and finance was a warning to us not to trust in uncertain riches—for the present world is soon coming to an end—but in God and His wonderful plan of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*In the meantime, the members of the Testimony committee thank all readers for their support throughout another year and hope that they have benefited from reading the magazine. May 2002 bring the day we all look for, and if not, we trust The Testimony will help us all to remain close to the things of God's Word.*

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*Publication of articles in The Testimony does not presume editorial endorsement except on matters of fundamental doctrine, as defined in the Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith.*