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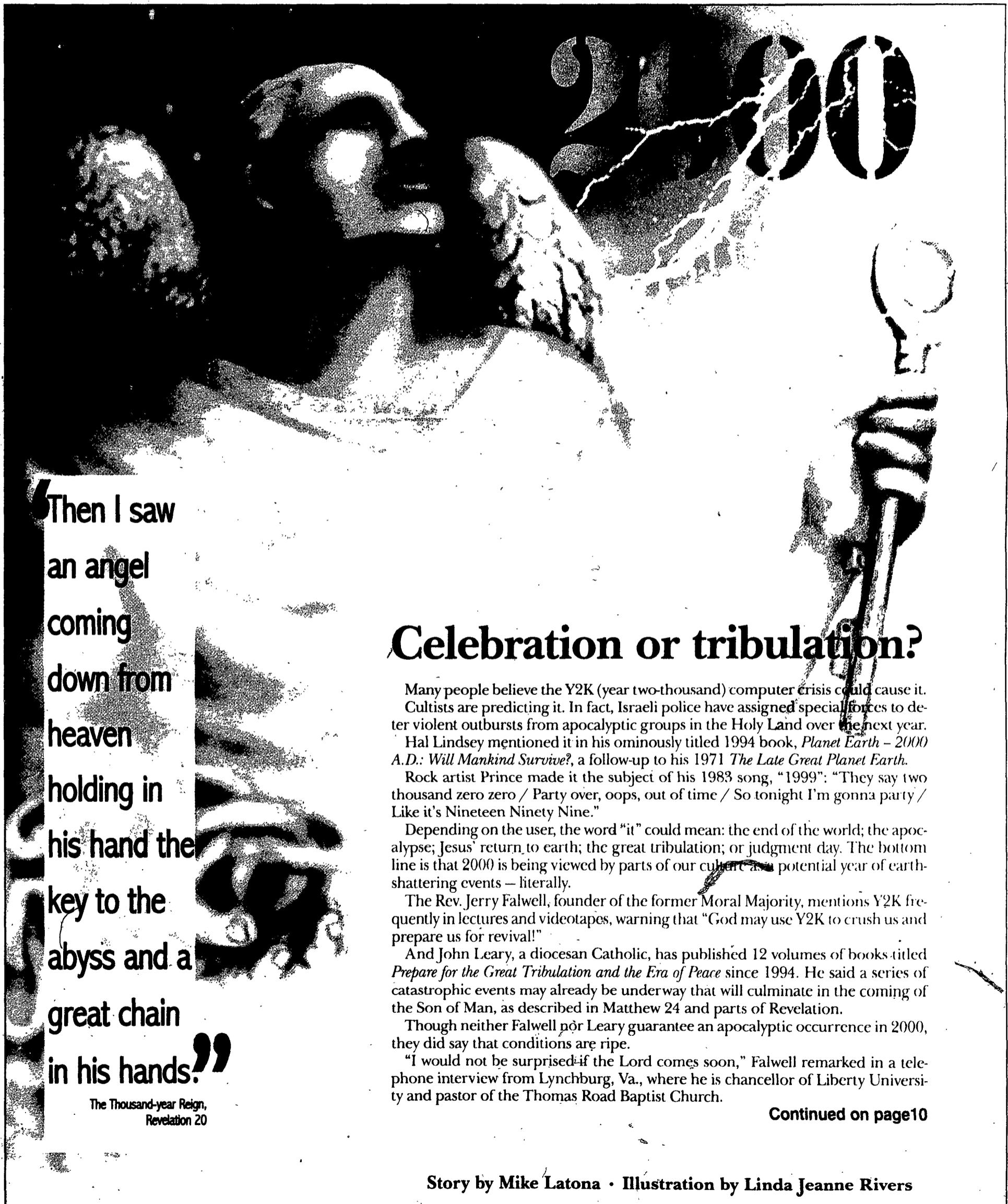


Day care program
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“Then I saw
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The Thousand-year Reign,
Revelation 20

Celebration or tribulation?

Many people believe the Y2K (year two-thousand) computer crisis could cause it. Cultists are predicting it. In fact, Israeli police have assigned special forces to deter violent outbursts from apocalyptic groups in the Holy Land over the next year. Hal Lindsey mentioned it in his ominously titled 1994 book, *Planet Earth - 2000 A.D.: Will Mankind Survive?*, a follow-up to his 1971 *The Late Great Planet Earth*.

Rock artist Prince made it the subject of his 1983 song, "1999": "They say two thousand zero zero / Party over, oops, out of time / So tonight I'm gonna party / Like it's Nineteen Ninety Nine."

Depending on the user, the word "it" could mean: the end of the world; the apocalypse; Jesus' return to earth; the great tribulation; or judgment day. The bottom line is that 2000 is being viewed by parts of our culture as a potential year of earth-shattering events — literally.

The Rev. Jerry Falwell, founder of the former Moral Majority, mentions Y2K frequently in lectures and videotapes, warning that "God may use Y2K to crush us and prepare us for revival!"

And John Leary, a diocesan Catholic, has published 12 volumes of books titled *Prepare for the Great Tribulation and the Era of Peace* since 1994. He said a series of catastrophic events may already be underway that will culminate in the coming of the Son of Man, as described in Matthew 24 and parts of Revelation.

Though neither Falwell nor Leary guarantee an apocalyptic occurrence in 2000, they did say that conditions are ripe.

"I would not be surprised if the Lord comes soon," Falwell remarked in a telephone interview from Lynchburg, Va., where he is chancellor of Liberty University and pastor of the Thomas Road Baptist Church.

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