



Too Many People?

Editorial Comment by Warren Krug

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Recently, if estimates are correct, the population of the world passed the 6 billion mark. That's a lot of people.

For a long time many scientists have been worrying out loud about the effects of so many people upon the earth's ability to sustain its population.

Already in 1798 Thomas Malthus, a British author, speculated that overpopulation would destroy the world, unless war, famine, and disease put a halt to human growth. He reasoned that since people increase exponentially and food production only increases arithmetically, food production couldn't possibly keep up with population growth.

More recently in 1968 Paul Ehrlich wrote a book called *The Population Bomb* in which he predicted, "We will breed ourselves into oblivion." Hunger, famine and resource depletion are often mentioned as reasons for limiting human reproduction.

What is so remarkable is that now we are beginning to hear about the opposite problem-the world in general and specific countries in particular may soon be facing an under-population crisis.

Figures provided by Anthony C. LoBaido, an international correspondent for WorldNet Daily show the following:

*The world's population may peak at 7.5-9 billion in 2040-2050 and then start declining sharply.

*Because of contraception and life span increases, the world's elderly will soon outnumber its young. In 1975 the mean global age was 22. In 2050 it is expected to be 38.

*In 1950 32% of the world's people lived in developed countries in the West. Today the figure is 12%.

*Japan and Spain are two of many countries where birth rates (1.4 and 1.07 respectively) are far below the 2.1 needed to maintain their populations.

*By 2050 the population of Russia will shrink to 150 million, down from more than 200 million.

God has never been worried about overpopulation. He ordered early man to populate the earth (Gen. 1:28). He reminds parents about the blessings of children (Psalm 127). He promises to care for us always (Matthew 6:25-34).

Whether we are worried about too many or too few people, God is always there for us. *LSI*