Chapter One

About Us

Before looking at worldwide phenomena and how the human race has reacted to it, let us consider those personally experienced phenomena that have impressed themselves indelibly on our own psyche. In Dickens' classic tale *A Christmas Carol*, a ghost burdened with a long, heavy chain forged from his dubious financial deeds on earth visits Scrooge to warn him that his own chain is greater and growing daily from his mean, miserly practices. Are we, as this great writer suggests, cloaked, clothed or bound in a fragile aurora of connecting links? I believe we are, and now shall try to make a case for it.

I'm not suggesting an Edgar Casey-type of perception (a therapeutic medium, pre-World War II). Nor do I allude to that weird sensation often visited upon us by the disconcerted feeling of realizing you have been there before, seen/heard it before or, the most frightening sensation of all, feeling you know what is about to happen. My mother-in- law, I believe, had this ability of "premonition." This frightening revelation was only revealed to that member of her intimate little family whom she felt might be affected by it, and then only privately, as a concerned suggestion to travel possibly a different route to work or, better still, stay the day at home in bed. Skeptical as I was during those earlier years of my marriage, her cautionary to me long after my two sons were born made me appreciative of her ability.

While I suspect from chance remarks of others that they, like myself, have experienced the skin-chilling realization of the first two strange sensations, I feel the predestination such as my mother-in-law's ability exceeds the realm of possibility to earthbound creatures such as us. But, I will conditionally agree in principle with how Ebenezer Scrooge so eloquently characterized his ghost of

being nothing more than a bit of undigested cheese or a bite of moldy bread from his recent meal.

If any unplanned event ahead of this moment I now write in could be foretold, then life itself would be nothing more than a charade. If we cannot hope to mold the events of the future through our endeavors today, what logic can we apply to our inherent drive to improve our status and environment? If life was not happenstance, why ponder the future? Fatalist claim not to—what will be, will be. For those in fear of the future, religions have been encouraged to offer a hereafter to their faithful that is abundant in all that most have not enjoyed on this earthly world. Thus, making bearable the harsh stigma of their simple existence under the privileged peer system often supported by their laborious but menial endeavors. Later, before seeking a conclusion, we'll delve more deeply into fatalism, idol worshiping and holy intervention, wading through the religious dogma that has paced and controlled much of man's development to date.

The human body, beautiful and well crafted as it is while the private domain of the vital spark (soul) residing within, is as nothing without its occupancy. Almost with the last heartbeat as that vital spark departs, the body begins to decay until only the hard calcium bones that carried it about in this world, remain. But the blueprint that guided the vital spark in creating us, the so-called biological DNA/RNA, has obviously remained as recent discoveries have proved.

Could there also be something else left behind, as yet unperceived through research thus far? Perhaps another illusive form that stores the multitude of information each of us has gathered during our lifetime, and perhaps some from our genetic family tree. Would such a thing not account for the unreal awareness mentioned earlier of having seen/heard or experienced a similar event or even identical event before? We often see children who look more and act more like their grandparents or great-grandparents than their father or mother. Could this, like the vivid recall of awareness, be stimulated from a genetic memory gifted on to a descendant?

What about this vital spark? Medical researchers have long been aware of it, yet, so far, none have been able to identify it. Madame Curie's arduous search for her tiny spark of radium is an example of the diligent research that might be required to find the

vital spark. We are told that a black lump of pitchblende resting on a metal key above a glass plate negative in a dark drawer, created an image of the key on the silver nitrated glass plate. Mme. Curie's curiosity to discover why took her many years to process more than six tons of pitchblende just to recover a gram of the vital stuff. This, amongst other things, provides us with the x-ray, used extensively to day for a variety of purposes both medical and industrial.

Many healthcare workers nursing terminally ill patients claim that as the vital spark prepares to depart, it displays visible signs on the patient's skin; sometimes black spots, sometimes a weird pallor or often a twitching. Before leaving this interesting mystery, let us consider one doctor's method for proving something actually does depart the human body at the instant of death. Closely monitoring ailing patients and their body's discharge upon a very sensitive set of scales, he found the scales actually indicated a minute reduction in weight as the lungs collapsed in death, not a slight increase in weight as one might expect. (Does a room full of air weigh more when a large bird flies through it, or less?) Though I have long forgotten where I read of this, the doctor concluded that he must have actually weighed the vital spark or soul, much like Archimedes did by floating a heavy gold nugget in water to find its volumetric weight through displacement; thus creating a table of specific gravities (comparisons with a standard weight/volume of water) for many of the known minerals and elements.

This vital spark thing could be, for want of a better description, the electromagnetic world that we still struggle to understand. Certainly the awe-inspiring display of the aurora borealis (northern lights) or its southern counterpart seems to depict the earth's electromagnetic capabilities. Much of earth's minerals and vegetation also have proven such capabilities (consider the colossal display of electrical power when the polarity of earth's minerals or vegetation is titillated by turbulent atmospherics, i.e., thunder storms, etc.). Why should man prove any exception? Such a force appears to function almost instantaneously, whether dealing with the infinitesimally small world of inner space on one hand or the abysmal vastness beyond the extremes of the universe on the other hand.

Doctor David Suzuki with his thought-provoking program, *The Nature of Things* on CBC, recently presented a documentary on "touch"—the ability of the human skin to sense change and transmit

this information to the brain. Strange as it may seem, I was just in the process of rewriting this section, so was keenly interested. Many of his program's parts actually accentuate, or at the very least enhance, the premise I had used to project my own thoughts. While very flattering to a grade school educated writer, his comments were exceedingly exciting when added to those clues I had already unearthed. Could there be more to this paralleling of thoughts than meets the eye?

Forgive me while I divert from the subject to explain why paralleling of thought will hold such an important place further along in our story. I started writing this book more than twenty years ago, and was soon delighted to find not only my favorite magazine *National Geographic* doing beautiful pictorial and graphic work on the stories of early man, but the knowledge networks of Carl Sagan's days, began offering tantalizing programs of the scientific researches into man's origin and the earth's development. Then along came another breezy television personality, James Birk, who began connecting various discoveries with human development through the ages. It was a feast of information I could not ignore, for my own endeavors, while not as sophisticated, almost paced these media presentations.

Now, this was neither the first time, nor the last, that I found others on the same trail as myself. Though noted here only to make a point, not to claim any recognition, it does make one wonder if the evolutionary clock (i.e., DNA/RNA) could be coinciding these efforts. We have been told that many inventors, to mention just a few such as Bell, Edison, Morse and even Marconi, suffered from such debilitating claims. Often the claimant was miles or continents away, so could not have known of the other's progress. Were world conditions just right for more then one inventor to discover the same thing? Was there a common trigger that focused both of their DNAs on this opportune moment and, thus, caused each to claim to have satisfied it first?

For many years I have pondered about the so-called "word of God," and the various interpretations given to it by that multitude of pious gentlemen claiming to understand it. Ignoring that bit of silliness written into the Bible about the Tower of Babble, shouldn't a god capable of creating a vast universe such as ours, be also capable of guiding it with one voice without all the discord and confu-

sion our multivoiced so-called prophets of the last two to three thousand years have garbed it in?

My own UFO experience (described in a later chapter dealing with this phenomenon) had made me aware that we might not be alone, but what really triggered me to begin investigating this subject, were books like *Chariots of the Gods* or *World in Upheaval*, which not only questioned popular beliefs, but dared to offer other considerations to rationalize the former.

While I had written mostly West Coast histories to that point, just what had enticed me to begin writing down what these renowned researchers were also exploring at a similar pace is a mystery, and that is the frightening part. Am I really a part of the big picture and capable of contributing valuable input, or am I just an annoying but fascinated onlooker? Could the DNA be some other type of timing device, and all those with like characteristics activated into similar pursuits by the same stimulus?

Consider the giant tortoise's prodigious effort to continue her species (undoubtedly, there are others, equally valid which would make my point). At a certain time each year, thousands of female turtles drag themselves out on to selected beaches above the reach of the sea, to bury their eggs in the sand. None ever sees those eggs again, nor the infants that hatch from them. Yet instinctively those tiny newborn creatures know to seek safety by scurrying down to the water. As we know from the wonderful films shown to us, few actually make it. Most become lunch to the predators who await this annual banquet, and those fortunate few who gain the refuge of the sea must still avoid the predators that await them there. That some of them do succeed in surviving is evident from the *status quo* of the specie. Is this the logic behind the many duplications of the DNA—to ensure the possibility of success by improving the probability?

I wonder what Mme. Curie's DNA looked like. Or how about Leonardo da Vinci and Albert Einstein's DNA? It would account for the many instances of supposed duplication throughout history, most within similar time frames, such as Marconi, Edison, Bell and Morse all suffered with.

It should also be appreciated in discussing this theory, that these same stimuli could have come to the fore many times during the long history of man, but human intelligence or world conditions were not fertile to realize them. So, no matter how diligently we

search, the answers may evade us until we have proven a mature track record of peaceful existence where such knowledge might come to fruition.

While it is my intention to return to the above subject later in this story when UFOs and other strange sightings will be looked at, let us continue the discussion of the body's wonderful skin and its sense of touch. Less than one-thirty-second of an inch (1 mm) thick, our skin is a pliable matrix of nerves, blood vessels, sensors and growing tissue cells that renew themselves almost daily. Behind its protective shield, the body's vital organs, skeleton and muscle system are protected from outside hostile contamination.

Acupuncture is an ancient Chinese practice professing to relieve body pain by puncturing specific areas of the skin with long thin needles that are directed to intersect a specific part of the nervous system. While I have personal experience with such a treatment that gave the hoped-for relief, it was a television presentation that gave me the greatest insight into the skin's own method of dissipating pain. While the main thrust of the production was an abdominal operation performed on a wide-awake thirty-year-old female, suitably immune from the pain through acupuncture needles. It was a short add-on film that really excited me most.

A Chicago doctor experimenting with a new fast film had photographed for the first time the aurora long suspected by researchers to surround or envelop the human body. Not only that, but she had actually photographed an upheaval in this envelope when the body below that point was in pain. This was revolutionary, but the following boggled the minds of all her associates, many of who had frankly sneered and ridiculed Chinese medicine for leaning so heavily on acupunctuary and herbs. Photographing the huge aurora surrounding a patient's painfully injured forefinger, while at the same time photographing his uninjured left forefinger with what appeared as a normal aurora surrounding it; they applied an acupunctuary shunt (one needle at the back of the neck) that crossed the nerves leading to both fingers. Amazingly, while the aurora quickly reduced about the right-hand finger and a reduction in pain was announced, the aurora about the left-hand forefinger increased in size and discomfort there was reported.

Now, in David Suzuki's presentation on touch, it depicted a young boy who could neither see nor hear; reading his teacher's

words by feeling her facial activity with the fingertips of his right hand, while he felt her fingers and hands performing the deaf and blind sign language with his left hand. Having practiced and trained his own vocal cord reproduction using these same indicators, he managed to give quite clear audio replies plus wonderful facial expression to questions, he could neither hear nor see, just sense through his fingertips. Without going further into this marvelous accomplishment of feel- related information being relayed by the skin to that same area of the brain as would the normal eye and ear, let us look at two more examples of touch offered on the same program.

Placing a small, stiff printed card face down on a blind girl's tongue (the tongue is equally endowed with as many sensors and enhancers as the fingertips), they asked her to describe the picture message transmitted to her brain. With nothing else to distract her mind to the task, she soon began identifying cards with circles or "O" and double "O" or figure eights. She concluded this activity by reading the word "hope" with her tongue. The next segment of the show introduced a woman who had lost the feeling of her body from the neck down. In her case the skin on her temple was trained to identify objects that normally would have been identified by the fingers.

Do we only sense things, i.e., sight, sound, touch, taste and smell, by stimulating a sense organ through contact, which then relays that information to the brain? Could some of these sense organs not also have the capability to transmit a signal out from the body, as a product of the same reaction? While the ear obliviously can only function by receiving sound waves, it can vary the intensity of the anvil's (small bone within the inner ear) signal to the brain by stretching or relaxing the eardrum under the hammer (another small bone) through the attention level of the listener. This will be discussed further at another point, but first let us consider if the eye could be an input/output sensor.

The eye transmits, via the optic nerve, a stimulus to the brain to reproduce its sighted target. And like the sound stimuli provided by the ear, the brain catalogues and stores this information for quick and ready reference. But just how does the eye gather in this image to identify and store? We are told by those knowledgeable in this matter that the groupings of light and color entering the eye, activate

light sensors that energize a signal to the brain via the optic nerve. We are also told the eyes can estimate distance through the angle each eye takes to align the sighted object. Much like a range finder whose pair of optic lenses can present their images via mirrors to an eyepiece, and by manipulating the lenses until both images align together at the eyepiece, the angle taken by them will indicate the distance away from the observer.

The eyes, however, seem to have another capability that should also be discussed, and that is the occurrence of eye contact. It can be embarrassing, exciting and also utterly frightening if you are trying not to be noticed. What happens between two pairs of eyes at that moment? It is almost like a signal flies between them. Even animals appear not to be immune to this phenomenon. (Ever watched two cats staring steadfastly at each other?) Does the eye actually transmit some sort of beam or energy pulse? I have long believed that it does, and would like to give a few examples I've experienced personally to make my point.

Now, in both the following examples of eye contact, I was as remote from the other pair of eyes as it is possible to be, yet still close enough to see the subjects clearly and the involuntary body language displayed. I was behind the heavy glass window of a city bus drawing into a stop, with people jostling about to disembark and the busy world marching by outside. Looking up from my book, I spotted this smart-looking young woman of admirable posture and breeding walking in the same direction as I sat, not more than ten feet away across the sidewalk. Book forgotten, my unguarded stare was noting all her pluses, when without warning or breaking step as she glided by, her head swung toward the bus until she was looking over her shoulder in a quizzical glance right into my eyes. I was so stunned all I could manage was an admirable grin of embarrassment. In return her lips parted slightly and her eyes sparkled with mischievous good humor before she swung her head foreword and disappeared into the crowd.

The second example had no sexual overtones, though the sighting conditions were almost the same. This time my object of admiration was a lovely, well-trained German shepherd. Waiting for the traffic signal to change, my bus was stopped near a pedestrian crosswalk; the dog came alongside on the sidewalk and paused for the light to turn green. This in itself was exceptional, for neither traffic

nor people were moving to give indication to the animal. I examined him critically to see if he were a seeing eye dog. Perhaps my stare was more intense than might otherwise have been the case, for he immediately became alert and without hesitation swung his eyes around to my countenance glancing through the bus window.

How did he know I was looking at him? How did the lovely lady know? You might say that women are normally alert and sensitive to a male's admiring glance, but how can you explain what caused the dog to become aware of me. Not the bus, just me! Might it be something like the radar units we use at sea, to literally see through fog, snow or blackness?

Along those lines, consider the following. As a mariner, I am quite familiar with navigating through fog, mist and falling snow by using whistle echoes to locate landmarks or even other vessels. Before we employed radar, I traveled from one end of this long hazardous coast to the other, in heavy fogs that seldom provided a sight of the rocky coast and few of its navigational markers. Yet, rarely was the ship put at risk, if proven time and course were run. Echo navigation is based on the premise that sound travels at approximately 1,200 feet per second. If a whistle echo is returned in one second, the sound must have traveled away from the whistle for half a second, before returning as an echo to the listener's ear during the second half of the second; thus, the echo board (whatever the sound bounced back off of) must be 600 feet or one-tenth of a nautical mile away. Multiplying the number of seconds taken for the echo to return by one cable's length (600 feet) of distance, the mariner can easily compute his distance away from (or off) the danger. If he has fortified himself with a good chart of the coast area he is sailing through and is maintaining a proven course headings with the same speed, as his logbook indicates for similar tide and weather conditions, his whistle echo should verify his progress over the ground. In a competent mariner's inner eye, each major point of the coastline will be verified by whistle echo as it parades by, while the next one coming up ahead will begin to take on form, as he runs out the final time for this new point of departure.

Anyone who has stressed the mind performing such concentration will fully appreciate the lovely clear presentation that modern radar's PPI (plan position indicator) affords. The distance to and the direction of any echo bearing is right at one's fingertips, and that

information arrives in microseconds compared to the rather slow progress of a sound signal. Because how radar works is similar to how I suspect the eye really works, we should take a moment to understand it.

The radar's antenna (horn) turning around at about 12 rpm transmits an electronic pulse outward from the vessel. The speed of this rotation varies with the range the unit is set to scan. Thus allowing sufficient time for the echo to be caught by the screen of the antenna and generate a luminous burst of power on the PPI (not unlike a television screen or computer monitor). A luminous center point on the PPI screen indicates the position of the radar antenna on the ship, and the sweep of the energy pulsating horn about the horizon, is indicated by a light trace from the center of the PPI out to the edge of its screen. The shorter the range, the faster the horn can revolve; the longer the range, the slower it must turn.

The reason for this is two fold. Imagine the antenna is something like a catcher's mitt and the pulse signal is a baseball. This burst of power fired from the horn in the center of the mitt is only one and half degrees wide and twelve degrees tall, and when it hits something it ricochets back some of this energy in the form of an echo. Now the antenna (baseball mitt) from which the horn's narrow beam of energy was discharged, must still be in position to catch the echo that is bounced back from its contact with a target, which may be one or more miles away from the ship. Think of it like a person throwing a ball up against a wall and catching it again when it bounces back. When this happens the sweep of the indicator on the PPI suddenly flares up in a bright point, displaying both the range (time out and back to the PPI) plus the angle it presents to the ship.

Does the human eye have some of this radar capability incorporated in it? Is there a ray of power that can announce itself on another receptive human being, like the oft-times heard explanation, "I could feel his eyes on me!" And if the eyes have the capability to act a little like a radar signal, can one's hands also transmit a similar mysterious signal?

It is well known that fingers are well equipped with sensors to identify objects, plus the dexterity to manipulate things. Try buttoning your shirt, picking up coins or turning the pages of a book if they are sore, stiff or numb. Several years ago, I suffered from both pain and loss of feeling in my hands and fingers before being diagnosed

with extreme carpal tunnel syndrome. Fortunately, I was able to regain proper use through microsurgery, which severed the tendon pinching my palm together thus releasing both the blood vessels and nerves to put life back in my wizened up hands.

While we have often heard reference to the hands as the "healing hands" or "loving and caring hands," have you ever really thought very deeply about that? Do the hands actually transmit a healing balm, a loving touch or tenderness that soothes? Certainly the owner of those hands probably does, but is there a way this feeling can actually be transmitted from the hands to another's skin? I believe the sensors of the skin do transmit signals extraneous of the body. Therapeutic massaging and the playful titillation of lovers certainly make it appear so.

A fingernail protects our valuable fingertip, but if left to grow long could appear to take on the aspect of an animal's claw. Many argue that these are really the remains of human claws in man's development away from the animal world and point to the horse's hoof to show another way in which the nail has become deformed to provide a secondary service. My cat can instinctively in the excitement of play or in the temper of the hunt, extend his sharp claws beyond his rather softly padded paws. But, as I cannot change my fingernail's position, I must believe each has always served a different purpose.

Sir Francis Galton, nephew of Charles Darwin (*Evolution of the Species*), taking a keener interest in the fingertip than the nail, discovered its ridges of skin on the padded extremities of each person's finger swirled around in distinctly different patterns, as though the skin had been twisted together rather haphazardly. He came to the conclusion that such uniqueness might be used for human identification by devising both a fingerprint code and a method of recording them. This procedure was swiftly adopted by the police, and is now used worldwide to identify both the lawbreaker and the lawful.

From embryonic stage to full maturity, the body's skin is continuously stretched out to its limits to cover the growing bone, organs and muscle that is our being. The television program "Birth of a Baby," graphically displayed all the various stages of the embryo from egg penetration by the sperm, to cell splitting and the creation of the protrusion that would finally develop into torso, head, legs and arms. Throughout this evolving miracle the skin of

the body remained somewhat in place, as do the fingers and toes penetrating out of it. Sometimes there is exception to this rule, but these can usually be traced to a genetic abnormality, rather than the skin's failure to perform its rightful task.

Case in point is a childhood burn scar, which once covered my forearm from wrist to elbow, but now in adult life only occupies a modest position half way between these two points, yet the scar itself is no smaller than originally. The scar tissue would not grow, but the forearm and the skin covering it did, leaving the scar exactly where it had occurred.

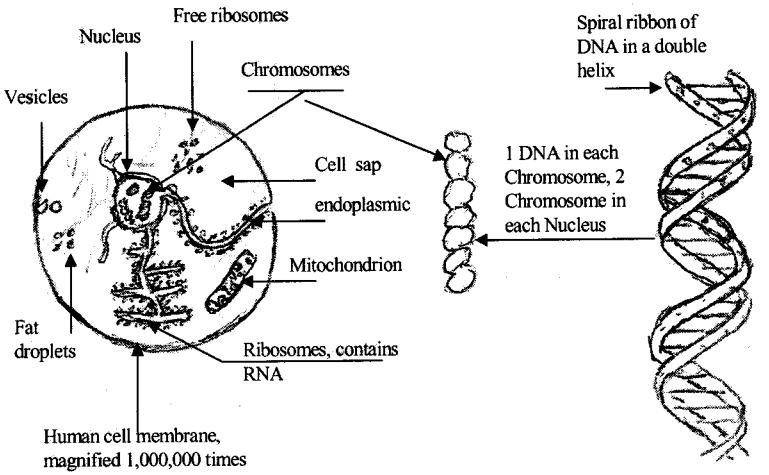
Doctor David Suzuki's *Nature of Things*, recently discussed the DNA/cell splitting and aging. What was most revealing was the difference between what Dr. R. M. S. Smellie in his 1969 book *A Matter of Life-DNA* offered as the replication of DNA (i.e., mother and daughter DNA genetic codes, being created face to face as like a copying machine process) and Dr. Suzuki's more modern proposal of the DNA being copied end for end through a joiner section.

It is this joiner section that appears now to be the culprit in the aging process of life. To release these new DNA genetic codes each time a cell splits, a small amount of this joiner section is lost on the replicated DNA. Fortunately, this is quickly replaced during our growing years (conception to about twenty-five), and from our midtwenties to the change of life period the growth of joiner material just manages to hold the *status quo*. Unfortunately, the joiner rebuilding chemicals fall into short supply during those more senior years and cell replacement falls below our daily need. Unable to replace the atrophic (worn-out) cells the body begins to deteriorate, muscles lack strength, energy diminishes, concentration less focused, zest for life modifies and even the eyes (the windows to our soul) sparkle less.

To better appreciate this scenario, let us look again at the biological miracle we call our body. It is composed of countless numbers of cells (actually 10 to the 14th power, we are told), each slightly different from the other. In multicellular organisms (such as us), all the specialized cells are derived ultimately from a single fertilized egg. The cell is contained within a membrane (bag of skin) permeable to small molecules (for feeding purposes), and is composed of a fluid (sap) in which its various parts float. Largest of these parts is the nucleus, and within this is found the chromosomes, which

contain the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid)—the double-helix-laddered blueprint of life. The RNA (ribonucleic acid) is located in the ribosome particles (either free floating in the cell fluid or attached to endoplasmic reticula, which are themselves connected to the nucleus).

Before moving on, it is important to have an understanding of the size of these various parts that make us up. If we agree the average weight of an adult is about 150 pounds, then a human cell's weight is $1/10^{14}$ of 150 pounds = .000,000,000,001 of a pound, or one trillionth of a pound. Small as that may seem, and you require a good strong magnifying glass to see it, you still are only seeing the outside membrane that holds the many parts of the cell together! Within are the fat droplets, the cell sap, the mitochondria, free ribosomes, reticula and within the nucleolus, the largest part in the cell, are located the chromosomes (usually a pair) within which is the DNA. While almost impossible to see even with a powerful microscope, these laddered, twisted chains of nucleic acids are the vital spark's instructions for creating and maintaining this wonderful body each of us has been gifted with.



The Stuff of Life and the Master Builder

These cells are capable of replicating themselves in total before splitting into two parts. Each part will be an exact copy of the other (referred to as mother and daughter), thus a body can grow larger or replace a cell (or cells) that has become worn out. By this process, life can be both realized and continued, but only if the cells split. When they fail to split, we become something like the old one-horse shay whose parts all wore out at the same time and collapsed in a heap of dust.

To create life the male sperm must penetrate the egg's wall to fertilize it. Only the head of the sperm has the information to start the cell-splitting process, and to designate many of the babe's characteristics (thus the father's heredity is insured in his offspring). Each cell when split away from its mother cell has all the information necessary in the replicated nucleotides of DNA/RNA to create a certain type cell (i.e., a little toe, a long narrow finger, blond hair, sneaky eyes, skin color, leanness, height). These characteristics in turn will take their rightful place in the body of the new life, being born in the friendly warmth of the mother's womb.

Doctor Suzuki reported that a breakthrough on the cell-splitting slowdown may be closer at hand then hitherto imagined. It has been found that an ocean creature (I believe a form of worm) can supply the chemical or biological impetus to cause the joiner section to regrow, thus encouraging a renewal of cell splitting. This could reduce aging or at least the rate at which we do age, perhaps increasing life expectancy to the other side of the hundred-year ceiling that today is consider exceptional. (What this might do to the pension schemes could be unbelievable!)

More on the subject of DNA/stem cell/cloning/cancer cures. In their January 21, 2002, issue, *Canadian Report* magazine quotes in a column on medicine, that Parliament was split over a bill to place a ban on commercial surrogacy, cloning, manipulation of human DNA and the creation of animal-human hybrids (or chimera).

Canadian Alliance member of parliament Doctor James Lunney claims we (the people) have been sold a bill of goods on embryo research. Science cannot back up the claim of those who believe embryonic stem cell transplants will cure diseases. He concludes his argument, "In the last six to twelve months there have been incredible breakthroughs in adult stem cell research. Stem cells can now be extracted from the blood or fat of adults, and converted into skin,

muscle, bone or even nerve tissue for re-implantation. This has greater potential for success because there is less risk of tissue rejection, or genetic embryonic disease."

The New England Journal of Medicine reports that more than fifty adult cancer patients were treated with umbilical cord blood stem cells this past summer. This excites Professor David Prentice of Indiana State University, because now adult or postfetal stem cells, can be isolated in adults, children and even umbilical cord blood and placenta. The advantage of umbilical cord blood and placenta as a source for stem cells is their transferability to other individuals without provoking immune reactions. Doctor Prentice explains it thus, "Umbilical cord blood stem cells are immunonaïve. Our adult immune systems have been exposed to various diseases, colds and allergens like pollen and dust, but the umbilical blood has not been exposed to those sensitivities so they are much easier to manipulate in terms of treating patients." He also recommends we establish a "cord blood bank" because most umbilical cords and placenta are usually thrown away after birth. "Blood banks are common now, so why not a cord blood bank?" The unique properties of umbilical cord blood stem cells may create a demand for umbilical cords and add a new reason for continuing a pregnancy to birth in all but those cases that are deemed life threatening.

All this may seem out of place in a book supposedly seeking a purpose for our being here and, hopefully, some enlightenment on how we got here. But if we can learn to increase our lifespan while controlling our birth rate at an acceptable level, we might not only conceivably improve our quality of life, but also prove that those biblical lifespans noted for Adam and Noah are attainable for us.

During the years we strived to travel in space, medicine, science and technologies leaped ahead to attain unbelievable goals. Educational facilities were enlarged until they overflowed off campus, and many new colleges and universities were built to serve the increasing number of students that clamored to enroll. The cost of the vast armies of doctors, scientist and technicians required to carry out space travel put Canada and the United States, to mention just two of the many countries involved, in debt for many years to come. Yet, within all these endeavors, possibly no other piece of equipment grabbed the average person's attention more than the machine that magically records and stores my words.

For my part, a small, rather limited computer introduced me into the field of word processing (I had already worn out two old Underwood typewriters to get some books and short articles published). My old Commodore unit was really inadequate for the job, and after my publisher of that day acquainted me with the equipment he used, I timidly plunked down a couple thousand dollars to equip myself with similar word processing machinery. After a couple false starts I have progressed, with the help of my sons, to enjoy the use of the latest of computers with all the bells and whistles I can handle. The computer (like the steam engine of James Watts' day) has developed into the most awesome tool ever put in man's hands, and age is no restriction in its use. From the very young to the very old, it is (usually) user friendly. And when coupled with the vast universe of the Internet, it provides information and communication from all over the world.

No other person's name has been more in the forefront of its development than that of a young man who first gained prominence as a major contributor in the creation of MS/DOS (Microsoft's/Disk Organizing Systems). Bill Gates has since grown into an icon, a wealthy one to be sure, but an icon known throughout the computer world for his genius. My only question is: from whence did he get the knowledge and understanding to do so? There are many others out there in this field who have strived just as diligently as he, but only he it seems, had the magical touch to make it serve his purpose and ours.

Does Bill Gates possess in his DNA the necessary key to unlock many of the earlier problems that plagued the computer's birth? It would appear that he did, for a computer's circuitry is quite similar to a DNA genetic code. It is a series of shuntlike switches presenting go and no-go characteristics in a binary code that provides both digital (numbers) capabilities and analogical code (graphics, spreadsheets, word processing) capabilities. This is very similar to the pictorial and logic capabilities of our own brains little gray cells.

After suffering a major hard-drive problem, I recently installed a new hard drive with twice the capacity of the original, even though the original was more than adequate for my needs. Suddenly I thought, isn't this something like the human brain?

I believe I've heard that something much less than 50 percent of our brain capacity, is currently used. This includes memory and all

motor functions, plus the life-sustaining functions. Now, I can understand and enjoy having a much larger hard drive memory in my computer, because I have many years (hopefully) of information and programs to put in there. However, I am seventy-eight years of age! So, just how much more can I expect to put in my head in the next score or so of years? Surely not twice as much as what I already have amassed there! So, why is my brain so big, if much of it will not be used?

We are told through the Bible that God created man in his image, yet it is hardly likely that his great brain is also only half used. Did the development that would have utilized our bigger brain get cancelled when Adam was ostracized from the Garden of Eden? Or can we expect under the right mental environment to finally utilize this great brain in bringing fruition to man's quest for his being?

In the development of a human being the body parts grow according to our DNA genetic code as well as through necessity. A hard-working man will develop bigger muscles, heavier bones and larger hands than a man of more sedentary pursuits. Over a period of several generations the genetic code might even be modified to accommodate this fact. Isn't this a similar premise as that taken at the moment for human beings born with different colors of skin, even though those people may no longer reside in the areas identified with the color race that does?

This leads us to a very critical position, one that has created more strife and turmoil than religion or politics. What color were we originally? Could we have all been black, if created in say hottest Africa? Thence, on migrating out into colder/wetter parts of the earth where a change in diet and possibly clothing and shelter became necessary, gradually diluted our darker color for a brown, red, yellow hue, or perhaps a sort of albino white? Perhaps if we were created in the area the Hebrew Bible indicates, we could have started out a particular shade of brown, thence through migration, or whatever, slowly changed to a lighter or darker hue. If Indo-China (and they too can claim very ancient origins) was the site of our creation, then the transition of color and the migration of races make an even stronger argument.

But what if we consider the theory of Pangaea, and a catastrophe threatening all mankind at the time it breaks up into continents as we see them today, which isolated possibly any survivors who

may have reside well within the protecting boundaries of each plate area. By the same argument we accepted for the development of heavy muscle, large strong hands, etc., would they not possibly experience skin color, muscle and bone changes to what we see today due to their new environment? We'll be discussing Pangaea at more length in the next few chapters, so keep this thought in mind. Did humans once populate Pangaea and was this the Bible's Garden of Eden?

My wife's mother (yes, the same lady I mentioned earlier, who could foretell things) had a tiny Australian parakeet she nicknamed Birdbrain. The head on this diminutive creature was smaller than my thumbnail, yet he learned to talk and do all sorts of funny little tricks and appeared to enjoy entertaining us with his antics, for he received no special payment for them. He was usually free to leave or return to his cage at any time, where there was ample food for his needs, and he acted just like a member of the family, completely at home. So swinging on Ma's glasses, pretending to dive bomb us or just contentedly sitting on her shoulder cooing soft words in her ear must have pleased the tiny vital spark that resided within his pea-sized brain!

Could our much larger brain mean that at some time in our distant past necessity caused us to develop greater brain capacity for the role we then carried out? Or were we designed (created) with a larger brain from the onset to carry out a much greater function than the role history points out we have performed? Did something happen that deprived us of the opportunity to use all of our brains? Are those flashbacks, those moments of revelation or those inspirations of genius a chance recall of memories possibly stored away in those dusty, unused gray cells that one day, under the proper stimuli, may emerge to improve our lifestyle, our lifespan or our understanding?