Looking Forward
Looking Forward
The Next Forty Years

Edited by

John Marks Templeton

A Giniger Book
Published in Association with

Templeton Press
CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW EDITION  
John Marks Templeton  

2 THE ENVIRONMENT  
Ghillean T. Prance  

3 THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
Owen Gingerich  

4 GEOPOLITICS  
Orrin G. Hatch  

5 THE ECONOMY  
John Marks Templeton  

6 HEALTH AND MEDICINE  
Denton A. Cooley, M.D.  

7 THE FAMILY  
Armand M. Nicholi, Jr., M.D.  

8 EDUCATION  
Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.  

9 COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA  
David Brown  

10 CHARITY, PHILANTHROPY, AND VOLUNTEERISM  
Ruth Stafford Peale  

11 RELIGION  
Robert L. Herrmann  

INDEX  

INDEX
Looking Forward
INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW EDITION

by John Marks Templeton

Sir John Marks Templeton has had a long career as an investment counselor. Founder of the successful Templeton group of funds, he has been a pioneer in searching out worldwide investment opportunities. He is also widely known as a philanthropist, particularly for his foundation’s Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, the world’s most generous philanthropic cash award.

Just over a century ago, when Edward Bellamy penned his classic Looking Backward, he envisioned our globe in the year 2000 as a somewhat somber place—a world in which individualism had been suppressed and entrepreneurship vanquished, with most of its people toiling under a system of state socialism. Now, we stand poised on the brink of another new century—indeed, a new millennium—and Bellamy’s predictions have, thankfully, been tested and proved wanting. Today’s world is not a place of gray uniformity and institutionalized drudgery for the sake of social security and the least amount of injustice. Rather, it is a world of great hope and glorious promise—a world stepping boldly into a new golden age of opportunity.

We live in a wonderful age—a period of unprecedented discovery
Looking Forward

and opportunity, a blossoming time for mankind. It is also a world
of dramatic changes—politically, economically, culturally, and spiri-
tually.

The evolution of human knowledge is accelerating enormously.
More than half of the scientists who have ever existed have lived
during the twentieth century. More than half of the discoveries in
the natural sciences have been made in this century. More than half
of the goods produced in the history of the earth have been pro-
duced since 1800. More than half of the books ever written were
written in the last fifty years. More new books are published each
month than were written in the entire historical period before the
birth of Columbus.

We know, in a vast and intricate cosmos, that there is still much
more to be discovered. And we need to plan! Now, more than ever
before, we need to try to see the future more clearly. What will the
next thirty or forty years portend? From a business perspective, we
must consider the types of products that we will be buying and sell-
ing. What careers will be meaningful? What will the job market be
like? What types of materials and services, which currently do not
exist, are likely to be commonplace by then? Will our lifestyles forty
years from now be as different from our current lives as our current
lifestyles are from those of forty years ago?

THE ART OF PROPHECY

This book is intended to suggest some answers to those questions—
to look ahead with a sense of expectancy and hope. We will try to
peek into the future through clouds of uncertainty, much as we try
to watch a parade from behind a crowd of heads.

Of course, prophesying is not without its hazards. The Princeton
His opening chapter, "The Art of Prophecy," notes that many writ-
ers, in addition to Edward Bellamy, seeking to anticipate the future
have badly missed the mark. Rudyard Kipling wrote that war would
be out of fashion by the year 2000. H. G. Wells prophesied that
there would be a World State in 1977, which would suppress all reli-
gions. Kipling further believed that future travel belonged to the
zeppelin; Wells was convinced that the moon would not be ex-
plored until the year 2054. Perhaps Jules Verne, the famous French
science fiction author, was most accurate. He boasted that he had
read a thousand scientific articles and books before he began his prophetic 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. And his vision was quite uncanny. He correctly anticipated the Apollo moon program—the Florida launch site, the three-man crew, the initial circumnavigating around the world, and the subsequent moon landing. And he did all of this one hundred years before the fact.

Among the scientific prophets of the past, O'Neill extols the virtues of the English biologist J. B. S. Haldane, who argued correctly that fundamental scientific advances have an enduring significance whereas the impact of military conquest diminishes with the passage of time. Thus, the generals of World War I are virtually forgotten except by a few historians. But every schoolboy knows about Albert Einstein. During the first quarter of our century, Haldane correctly anticipated the fertilization of human eggs outside the body—first carried out in 1978. In 1928, he prophesied that the world was at risk of successfully completing experiments in “induced radioactivity,” the precursor to nuclear reactions.

THE STATIC SOCIETY

The idea of future threats to personal freedom was seriously discussed in sobering terms by George Orwell in his classic 1984 and by Aldous Huxley in Brave New World. Both authors perceived the threat of a future government’s absolute control over society, the end result being a static society devoid of creative thought and expression. The ultimate objective was “social stability” at the expense of human experience. O’Neill expresses alarm that, in our contemporary world, distinguished scholars have published a book, The Limits to Growth, which proposes restriction of certain freedoms in order to more effectively manage a global static society. These authors, focusing on the negative aspects of our world, fear a rapid depletion of natural resources and the threat of nuclear catastrophe. The static society is not a new idea, having been proposed in the last century by Rudyard Kipling and others. But it represents a pessimistic doomsayer’s approach to the future and fails to capture the energy and resources inherent in the human spirit. From my perspective, this doomsayer approach is also inconsistent with the evolutionary history of our species, which has demonstrated its resilience by creating and ever increasing its sophistication and adaptability, moving ever forward to some purpose. Indeed, the
doomsayer misses the overriding fact that there is a Creator behind this drama, moving our world and us to bring an ever greater revelation of His goodness and concern for His creation.

THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

With the sheer driving force of advancing technology, it is increasingly clear that our society is moving from a material-based one to an information-oriented/knowledge-intensive base. John Naisbitt pointed out in *Megatrends* that, in 1950, only 17 percent of us worked in information-related occupations. By 1982, that figure had soared to 65 percent. Teachers, computer programmers, clerks, secretaries, accountants, stockbrokers, and so on, all saw their relative numbers increase, and the knowledge and information content of their jobs explode.

Today, most Americans spend their time creating, processing, or distributing information. In 1980, more than a decade ago, American companies generated $60 billion in revenues from selling goods and services overseas. That represented about 20 percent of the world’s share of trade. Since that time, America’s trade deficit has been the subject of widespread political and social debate; indeed, trade negotiations between the U.S. and some of its key trading partners have resulted in serious shifts in trading practices such as the North American Free Trade Agreement. But in *Megatrends 2000*, Naisbitt and his co-author Patricia Aburdene suggest that the deficit problem is overstated because conventional trade accounting focuses primarily on the output of manufactured goods and fails fully to account for trade in information and knowledge. Indeed, after accounting for our heavily information-oriented intangibles, America may be experiencing a significant trade surplus.

A second distinction of the information economy is that it is based upon renewable and self-generating resources—knowledge and information. It is thus inherently less dependent upon material resources such as oil, coal, or nuclear energy. Consequently, we have another reason to reject the static society doomsayer. As we become more of an information-oriented society, we require fewer material inputs to create additional economic output. We are essentially substituting knowledge for physical capital and unskilled labor.

The major challenge to be faced by the new information econ-
omy is to find faster and more efficient ways to process the enormous amount of technical data accumulating in our society. In the mid-1980s, scientific and technical information was doubling every twenty months. Now it is doubling in less than nine months. This extremely valuable resource must be organized and made accessible. Consequently, the focus of current efforts should shift away from the gathering of information and move toward analyzing, evaluating, and selecting the relevant segments of this information tidal wave. On-line databases and wide-spread access to the information superhighway via the internet give the user direct access to resources such as special libraries, indexes, and information once available to a very few. Such “democratization” of information gives individuals access to this wealth of information at only nominal cost. As this process continues, and the technology for providing information evolves, the balance of power will shift from those who excel at providing information toward those whose strength lies in analyzing the data and inferring superior insights from it.

With power shifting toward those who excel at analyzing data, we must become concerned with the ability of our workforce to successfully access information, analyze it, and draw valid conclusions from that analysis. This, in turn, requires an educational structure which will train our citizens to meet these knowledge-intensive tasks. There continues to be an acute shortage of high school and college science and math teachers, which has already adversely affected the entry-level competence of new workers. Perhaps just as important, there seems to be a failure in American society as well as in many other societies to cultivate the intellectual skills required for critical thought and analysis. Academics have bemoaned the deterioration in writing expository skills, necessary tools for the critical thinker. In consequence, we have a powerful anomaly developing. As our society becomes more information- and knowledge-oriented, our schools are providing us with graduates unable to meet the requirements of our evolving society. In Naisbitt’s words,

without basic skills, computer illiteracy is a foregone conclusion. In the new information society, being without computer skills is like wandering around a collection the size of the Library of Congress with all the books arranged at random with no Dewey Decimal system, no card catalogue—and of course no friendly librarian to serve your information needs.
And we would take his analogy one step further. Access to that great library is not enough. Without the ability to read, comprehend the ideas, and utilize them, the benefits associated with entry to that tremendous library would be lost.

To meet the predicament, corporations are going into the education business. Many of the nation’s largest companies are operating remedial courses in basic math and English for new employees. And, of course, the opportunities for science, math, and English teachers to consult and to tutor in these areas are widespread. But, interestingly, the “invisible hand” of the market may be aiding us as well. Preschool students are successfully being introduced to our information society through a wide variety of computer games, video arcades, and a host of child-oriented products. While these products have been criticized (perhaps rightly so in many cases), today’s youth are far more computer-literate than most of their parents. Indeed, many young people are computer-literate before they are book-literate. In every generation, we tend to underrate our youth. Perhaps we are doing the same now. Watching a preschooler successfully operate a computer beyond my capabilities leads me to conclude that our youth, as historically has been the case, will rise to the needs of society.

As I look out over the next forty years, I am watching a swiftly moving cavalcade of progress. The technology to access and deliver unfathomable amounts of information is evolving rapidly. Increasingly sophisticated and accessible technologies allow for real time/high-resolution audio and video access between individuals with personal computers, and transfer of information to and from the great libraries of the world.

The same technological innovations will allow individuals access to video/audio/written information between virtually anyone located anywhere on the earth. A child with moderate computer skills can log on to the internet today and converse in real time with another youngster thousands of miles away. Companies that were once limited in their expansion capacities by distance and travel time to foreign locations can now carry on virtually every facet of business without leaving their home turf. Extrapolating into the future, I expect that one day soon, today’s fax machine, overnight delivery, and internet services will seem as primitive to our grandchildren as the telegraph key and the Pony Express are to us today.

In practical terms, sitting in my home in Nassau in the Bahamas, I
have immediate real time high-resolution multimedia access to virtually any information source. Information sources include not just books and library documents, but also video, radio, and theatrical broadcasts, great symphonies, moving operas, recorded speeches, and conventional data. Moreover, it is all available not only from my office, but from the pool side or the beach!

Perhaps I can provide a helpful example of why critical analytical skills will become increasingly important with time. Allow me the liberty of using the investment management business, a business with which I was associated for over fifty years. As information technologies evolve, the transaction costs involved with buying and selling stocks should decline sharply. In today's world, expensive brokers take the orders to expensive stock exchanges to process the buys and sells. However, as technology continues to develop, we are increasingly able to cut through those two layers to effect a transaction. Investors from anywhere in the world are already able to enter orders on several automated trading systems, and this will accelerate over time. The democratization of information, coupled with the ability to implement decisions based on that information instantaneously and inexpensively, will mean that markets are likely to become increasingly efficient. Consequently, those who seek to benefit from short-term trends will find the opportunities increasingly elusive. I have seen this process developing in the United States, where index arbitragers, using the more common models, are unable consistently to generate profits above their costs of capital.

Those who are successful today are employing increasingly complex computer algorithms and more expensive computer networks. Such complex investing systems require immediate access to information and computer power. However, within the next forty years, the sophisticated systems of today will look crude, and technologies for developing even more sophisticated computer trading models are likely to be widely disseminated. Consider the following analogy. Fifty years ago, computers costing millions of dollars and occupying whole rooms were used for calculating missile trajectories—the important state secrets of the day. Today, the same computer power can be found in a notebook-sized computer and the software can be written by a precocious junior high school student. The diffusion of the technology has been widely disseminated.

Increasingly, there will be little value added to following short-term investing strategies that rely on mere computer power. The
Looking Forward

computer systems required to do the job and the information required to be processed are readily available to a wide spectrum of users. While those with the most money available will do what they can to push the envelope of investment technology further along, additional gains will be difficult to achieve as the costs of accessing the information and applying advanced computer techniques to the information continue to decline. Computers and internet access have made special trading strategies such as “index arbitrage” possible. But, as the costs of these computer systems have dropped, and the computer programmers who know how to execute these strategies have multiplied, the markets have become more efficient and profits using these strategies have become increasingly difficult to achieve. Over the next forty years, these trends will continue, forcing the global markets to become increasingly efficient. This efficiency will make it difficult for even the best traders to consistently profit from their short-term trading techniques.

But despite the development of neural networks, expert systems, and other forms of exotic computer systems, it is unlikely that the component of human wisdom will be replaced in the investment process. Machines can be used to process hard data, but not human qualities such as greed, fear, or creativity. If we reflect on the fact that companies are really groups of people who manage assets and work with each other to create wealth; that they are intimately affected by other complex groups, politicians, local citizens, belligerent militarists, and so on; then it is clear that machines cannot adequately capture the complexity of these human conditions. Nor do we expect them to be able to do so within the next forty years. But the human mind obviously can. Through accumulated wisdom and experience, the human mind can integrate the almost infinite dimension of a corporation and use that process to develop long-term investment-oriented insights. As technology strips out the purely objective aspects of the investment process, the remaining subjective nature will become the fulcrum around which investment decisions will be made. And the value of wisdom will ascend.

THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

The 1990s presented us with a new world view that will play a major role in the way we move into the next millennium. As Communism collapsed with the Berlin wall in the 1980s, free market theories and
practices became the prevailing force in the global economy. China and the former Soviet Union experimented with private enterprise in the 1980s and early 1990s, and after experiencing initial bumps and pangs which come with market transitions, both have begun developing market economies. The transfer of ownership of Hong Kong from Britain to China, in 1997, and China’s subsequent adherence to Hong Kong’s long-standing free-market practices, demonstrates a substantial shift in global thinking about economies. Many pundits predicted that China would force Hong Kong to convert to a communist economy, but as the global situation changed in the early 1990s, China saw the benefits of leaving Hong Kong’s market system intact, and had even begun assimilating some of its practices into its own economy. In England, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher’s promotion of privatization of state-owned enterprises such as gas and electric utilities, the Jaguar automobile company, and British Airways, set a precedent for the world. From Chile to Turkey, Brazil to Bangladesh, and even in the socialist Scandinavian countries, tax reform and privatization became the torch of political reformers and bureaucrats alike.

The dramatic shift toward free enterprise and away from state control has affected the American economy as well. During the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton administrations, tax rates were dramatically lowered and the balance of power moved away from the central federal system toward the state and local communities. As the decision making moved increasingly into the hands of local decision makers, they became responsible, at the local level, for improving the health, education, and welfare systems of their communities. The positive benefits of this shift in the economic trends in the U.S. were evidenced in the substantial surplus in the federal budget in 1997.

The continuing movement of the global economy toward free market systems as we enter the new millennium will generate new economic forces unseen in world history. The benefits of free markets have become evident during this century, and the world has only just begun to reap the rewards that free markets can afford us.

**THE NEW WORLD STRUCTURE**

As a result of successful United States post-World War II policy, the very dominant economic position which the United States has
maintained for many decades is becoming less pronounced. Japan has enjoyed a phenomenal rate of growth, initially in the manufacturing sphere, but also in the information sector, and has challenged, and in some cases exceeded, the United States for world leadership in several technology-intensive industries. Japanese economic strength is weakening as we approach the new millennium, perhaps in part due to pressure to lessen their restrictions on foreign trade. Western European countries have united in the European Community, removing more barriers to the flow of people, goods, services, and money. The efficiencies that the E.C. has afforded the countries under its auspices has helped make these nations participants in world prosperity. And, finally, a host of new players have joined the drama—the rapidly developing countries of the Pacific Rim: South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, and China. In fact, though the Europeans will be a prosperous economic power, the Asian countries will probably be the linchpins to growth in the next few decades. The reason for this, as argued in *Megatrends 2000*, is that the Pacific Rim region is twice the size of Europe and the United States. It contains half the world's population at present and this will likely increase to two thirds of the world population by the year 2000. This represents, in a growing economy, an enormous number of consumers with money to spend.

Of course, the United States also borders the Pacific Rim, with its West Coast states ideally situated for trade and cultural exchange. In fact, California, with its huge economy, is like another Pacific Rim country. Measured apart from the rest of the United States, it has one of the world’s largest economies. Furthermore, its economy is growing about eight percent per year, significantly more than the average U.S. rate, in part because of its position as the gateway to the Pacific Rim markets. California has already become the focal point for Japanese investment in the United States; it has more than 1,000 subsidiaries of Japanese firms. Taiwan has major investments in Silicon Valley, and also in a dozen U.S.-based plastics plants, a textile factory, and a computer plant jointly operated with Texas Instruments. More than 500,000 Americans work for Japanese companies in the United States. But there are more than 100,000 Japanese who work for American companies in Japan. And the United States has heavy investments throughout the Pacific Rim. For example, American-owned firms in Singapore
account for more than half of that country's exports to the United States.

If the Japanese appetite for American goods—Coca-Cola, Levi jeans, Schick razors, American food, etc.—is shared by the other Asian countries, then the future consumers of the developing Pacific Rim nations offer exciting business opportunities for the United States. And that seems to be occurring. During the past several years, trade barriers between the U.S. and the Asian nations have been steadily diminishing. This has stimulated dramatic increases in exports to Japan, China, and the "Four Tigers" (South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore).

THE GLOBAL LIFESTYLES

The explosion of international trade, sources, and information will increasingly influence the way we live. Because we buy and sell not only raw and manufactured materials globally but also stocks, bonds, currencies, clothing, food, and entertainment, the lifestyle images now come to us rapidly from every port of the world. This leads to a certain "sameness" in what Megatrends 2000 refers to as a code of international fashion. Nike footwear, Louis Vuitton luggage, and Japanese Toyotas are all high on the consumer's wish list around the world. America has been exporting its culture through the medium of film for a long time. In more recent years the U.S. share of the foreign film market has increased and its quality improved dramatically, with Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Japan as the best customers.

More recently the television market has been growing tremendously. With the development of international cable and transnational satellite broadcasting there has been a spate of interest in American programs. Even China has entered the media market, with MGM/UA Communications, Paramount Pictures, and Universal Studios distributing movies and television programs under contract to the Chinese government.

While we are increasingly embracing each other's cultures, there are elements of "cultural nationalism" that are highly sensitive to local tastes and customs. The clash between international culture and local custom has raised concerns about "cultural imperialism," the importation of ideas that undermine long-cherished domestic ideals and customs. Examples of the backlash against perceived US
cultural imperialism include recently instituted laws in France re­requiring the use of the French language as the language of trade. Other strong expressions of cultural nationalism are occurring, for example, in Scotland, Quebec, and Spanish Cataloña, where there are fears of transnational cultural rejection. In those areas, native language and customs are being emphasized, sometimes militantly. This conflict between local and transnational cultures reflects the increasing integration of the world.

All of this underscores the need for increased understanding and dialogue. Of special concern should be the discussion of shared moral and ethical values, and the development of an ecumenical moral-ethical climate throughout our societies. We do not service a country by undermining its standards of behavior. If you share this concern, you may wish to receive a copy of the John Templeton Foundation's *Honor Roll for Character Building Colleges*, a nationwide rating based upon the moral climate of academic institutions (free from The John Templeton Foundation, P.O. Box 8322, Radnor, Pennsylvania 19087-8322).

**DIVERSITY AS A GENERAL TREND**

Not only are our tastes becoming international, but they are also expanding in terms of the arts, our personal relationships, and our spiritual values. Future careers will favor the generalist, the broad thinker, the eclectic individual who is comfortable in several areas of knowledge and has broad-based experience. In a society where the expert has been regarded so highly, the generalist’s talents have not been highly valued.

As our culture becomes increasingly global in scope, there is a parallel expansion of interest in the arts. *Megatrends 2000* predicted a veritable renaissance in the arts in the 1990s, reasoning that wherever the affluent information economy has spread, the need for examining the meaning of life through the arts will follow. Indeed, this prediction has proven correct. The growth in attendance and in the numbers of museums has been dramatic, not just in American museums, but in Japan, West Germany and Britain as well. In the United States, funding for the arts will increasingly come from corporations, some of whom are abandoning sports for the arts as a
preferred way to define their images in the marketplace. The arts explosion is a global phenomenon. Not only is it occurring in the major cultural centers—Paris, London, New York, Tokyo—but it is flourishing in small towns and villages. Ninety percent of American theater now takes place outside of New York City.

The burgeoning interest in theater is also matched by opera, symphony, and dance. Opera audiences have tripled in a decade and a half. There are hundreds of small opera companies which are meeting in such places as veteran's halls and civic auditoriums across the country. Classical music has also become far more popular in the United States. Regional orchestras have grown from sixteen in 1975 to more than 100 in 1997. Chamber music is booming; the number of ensembles increased from 393 to more than 5,500 between 1985 and 1997. And new dance companies are appearing all across the country, often with sponsorship shared between two cities. For example, the Cincinnati Ballet became the Cincinnati/New Orleans Ballet, and New York's Joffre Ballet now has a second home in Los Angeles. Perhaps the Cleveland-San Jose Ballet is the new archetype. Cleveland was seeking a joint sponsor for its well-established group. San Jose was able to enlist support for joint sponsorship from E. F. Hutton and Apple Computer founder Steven Wozniak, who matched the Hutton gift.

The boom in art collecting also represents a trend that will continue into the next century. Sales of limited edition lithographs have increased by 80 percent. Sales of original art have reached manic proportions. Total sales at two of the largest auction houses, Sotheby's and Christie's, each broke the $1 billion barrier in 1987, and have continued to grow with celebrity auctions from the estates of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Princess Diana.

The dimensions of this art renaissance are encouraging. More than 8 million visitors each year visit the Centre Georges Pompidou, France's treasure of modern art and architecture—twice the number who visit the Eiffel Tower. The next few decades may see the arts replace sports as the primary amusement. This accelerated search for intellectual nourishment, especially for the spiritual side of life, is a primary characteristic of our new era, represented by the most affluent and highly educated population in history. The "baby boomers" who were born in the decade after World War II are leading this new trend.
Another phenomenon has been the "democratization of the genders." In the last two decades, U.S. women have taken two thirds of the millions of new jobs created in the information society, jobs where intellect is more important than physical brawn. As part of this gender democratization, parenting has become a shared and savored experience for both parents. A large number of the nation's adults are entering two of life's passages simultaneously; middle age and parenthood. To enter middle age is to realize that time is short. That in turn creates a critical need to reevaluate goals and accomplishments, and to concentrate one's remaining energies on the most productive aspects of life.

Charles Reich's book *The Greening of America* expressed in a powerful way the reaction of people—this time college students—to the rigidity amid apparent meaninglessness of the workplace. Reich described a new information-age phenomenon, "Consciousness III," a thought framework for a person who assigns low priority to the materialistic aspects of society, instead placing primary emphasis on the intrinsic value of the human being ("Whatever I am, I am") and the ideal of personal freedom. What a joy it is to encounter this non-conforming, open, friendly, inquisitive person, who loves nature and experiences "the sense of God in everything." Reich hoped that this vision of humanity, first appreciated by those young adults, would diffuse through the older generation and so spread throughout society. Thirty years later, it seems not to have done so. The sense of alienation has tended to be a negative effect of this transition of our society in the post-industrial age. With our information-rich global society comes an unsettling insight into a truth which recognizes the enormity of the universe of which each of us is a tiny part.

Constant change increasingly seems to be the character of our universe. Despite the cycles of day and night and the seasons, we may be learning that nothing really repeats, but evolves instead. The universe seems to be vast in its conception, yet its evolution seems curiously experimental and tentative, a truly creative work in progress. Perhaps human beings, so late in appearance in this evolutionary process, have been given some creative role in seeking to understand and interpret awesome and mysterious processes which science only now begins to fathom. Perhaps the new wisdom of this new era of information will be that we can conceptualize and
experiment over a wide diversity of possibilities in the physical and spiritual worlds.

Since Copernicus, it has been assured that we could hardly be the center of such a universe, or even the total fulfillment of God’s plan for this world. In whatever way we relate to these cosmic concepts—and the great religious traditions have contributed much, as far as they go—we believe that we must expand our efforts to comprehend our Creator’s purpose. Indeed, it is our responsibility to explore the universe’s spiritual dimension as earnestly as we have been exploring its physical aspects. For this reason, I have encouraged the John Templeton Foundation’s formation of new centers for the study of the spiritual aspects of health and healing, and for the interpretation of our new scientific knowledge of the universe in theological terms.

In much the same way that *Megatrends 2000* sought to prophesy the state of humanity in the last decade before the new millennium, the authors in this book look to the next few decades in an effort to predict our progress. Enormous advances in technology, ever-increasing access to information, and shifting demands on our time, make forecasting changes, as we look forward to our next thousand years, even more important. It is crucial that we assess our current situation and look to the future with a proper understanding of our past, and deference to the spiritual power that allows us to be poised on the brink of a new millennium with such promise.

To enjoy the fruits of our discoveries, we must allow time to educate our spirits as well as our bodies and minds. The spirit can be nourished by authors like the anthropologist Loren Eiseley and the poet and writer Annie Dillard, who capture the wonder of our world in a remarkable way. To their works I would add Ralph Waldo Trine’s *In Tune with the Infinite* and Paul Davies’ *The Mind of God.* And, if you are unfamiliar with the more recent translations of the Bible, such as the New International Version, I believe you will find them very readable.

This book can begin with a few of Annie Dillard’s words:

Einstein said that “nature conceals her mystery by means of her essential grandeur, not by her cunning.” It could be that God has not absconded but spread, as our vision and understanding of the universe have spread, to a fabric of spirit and sense so grand and subtle,
so powerful in a new way, that we can only feel blindly of its hem. In making the thick darkness a swaddling band for the sea, God “set bars and doors” and said, “Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.” But have we come even that far? Have we rowed out to the thick darkness, or are we all playing pinochle in the bottom of the boat?

January 1998