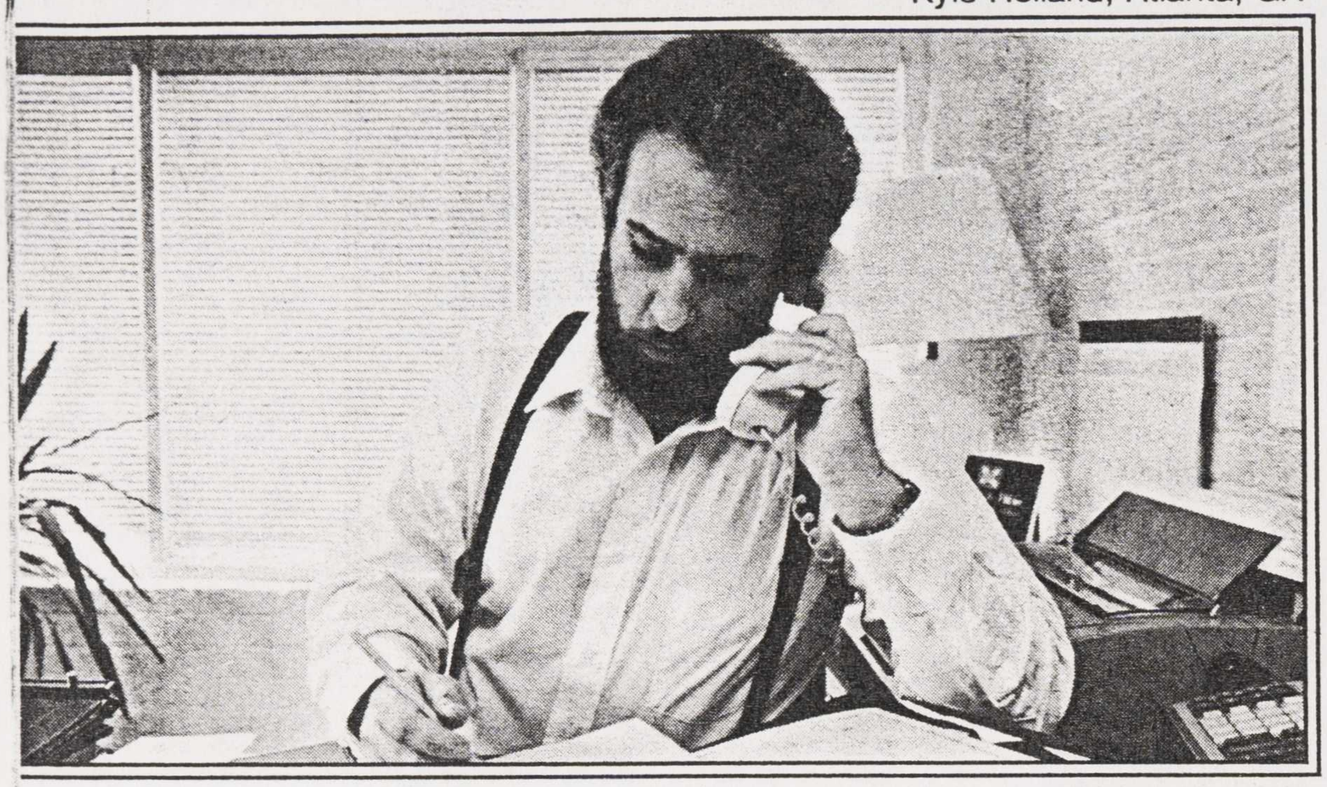
Kyle Holland, Atlanta, GA



adopted so much of society's view of life that the thinking of many Christians can hardly be distinguished from the thinking of the humanistic society that surrounds them. This realization motivated us to start looking for answers. The Bible became our starting point.

**NW:** ***How does an individual's world view influence the various institutions he or she is involved in?***

**Gary DeMar:** There is a direct relationship between the actions of individuals and the direction of a nation. An individual's understanding or lack of understanding of the Bible will be reflected in the condition of his family. The condition of families will be reflected in the life of the Church, the business world, and the educational institutions. The leadership that is developed from these institutions will be reflected in the institution of civil government.

Let me give you an example. If an individual doesn't understand basic economic matters, ultimately that lack of knowledge will be reflected in our nation's laws and policies. For example, the Bible teaches that long-term and multiple indebtedness is wrong. If we do not know that the Bible teaches this or we refuse to accept it, then that lack of knowledge or disobedience will be reflected in how we make individual and family economic decisions. Moreover, we're not going to look disapprovingly on a federal government that runs up huge debts if our families and churches are in debt as well.

**NW:** ***Do you think that by and large the Christian's application of the Word of God to life is incomplete?***

**GD:** Yes! I believe that we have fallen for the lie of Satan that we should read the Bible with tunnel vision. Too often we only see the application of Scripture to personal matters. Of course, this is the starting point. But we need to go to the Bible with the attitude that every single area of life must be evaluated in terms of the Word of God.

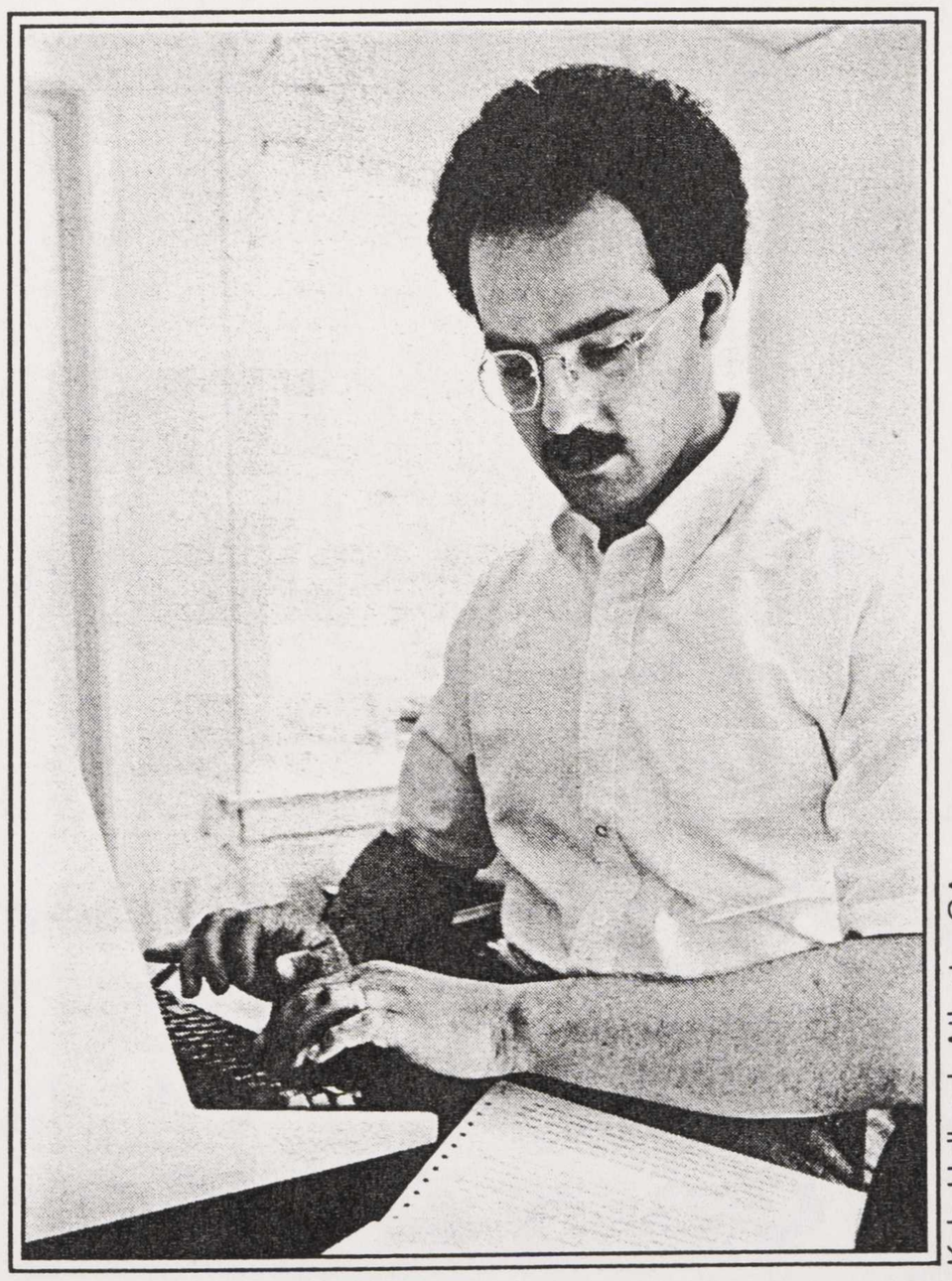
We need to broaden our understanding of the Bible's applicability to life. The Bible speaks to everyday issues. We need to wake up, take notice, and begin to apply the storehouse of biblical principles to every conceivable life situation. Christians must think and act like the sons of Issachar, men "who understood the times and knew what Israel should do" (1 Chr. 12:32 NIV).

**NW:** ***When you look at God's Word as a whole, what do you see?***

**RB:** One of the foundation truths upon which we have built our ministry is the dominion mandate. That is, God told Adam and Eve to have dominion—to be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, and rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every living thing on the earth. As man is obedient in carrying out this task, families and schools will be established, businesses and centers of worship will be developed, and every level of government will function according to the principles laid down in God's Word.

**NW:** ***What would be a practical application of God's mandate for man to have dominion over God's world?***

**GD:** The Christian must understand that he is obligated to study the Word of God and apply prin-



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*Photos: Ralph Barker, above, and Gary DeMar, right, compose material for American Vision publications*