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MAY 1985

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

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**The
Plain Truth
About**

ABORTION

**Why
So Little
UNDERSTANDING?**

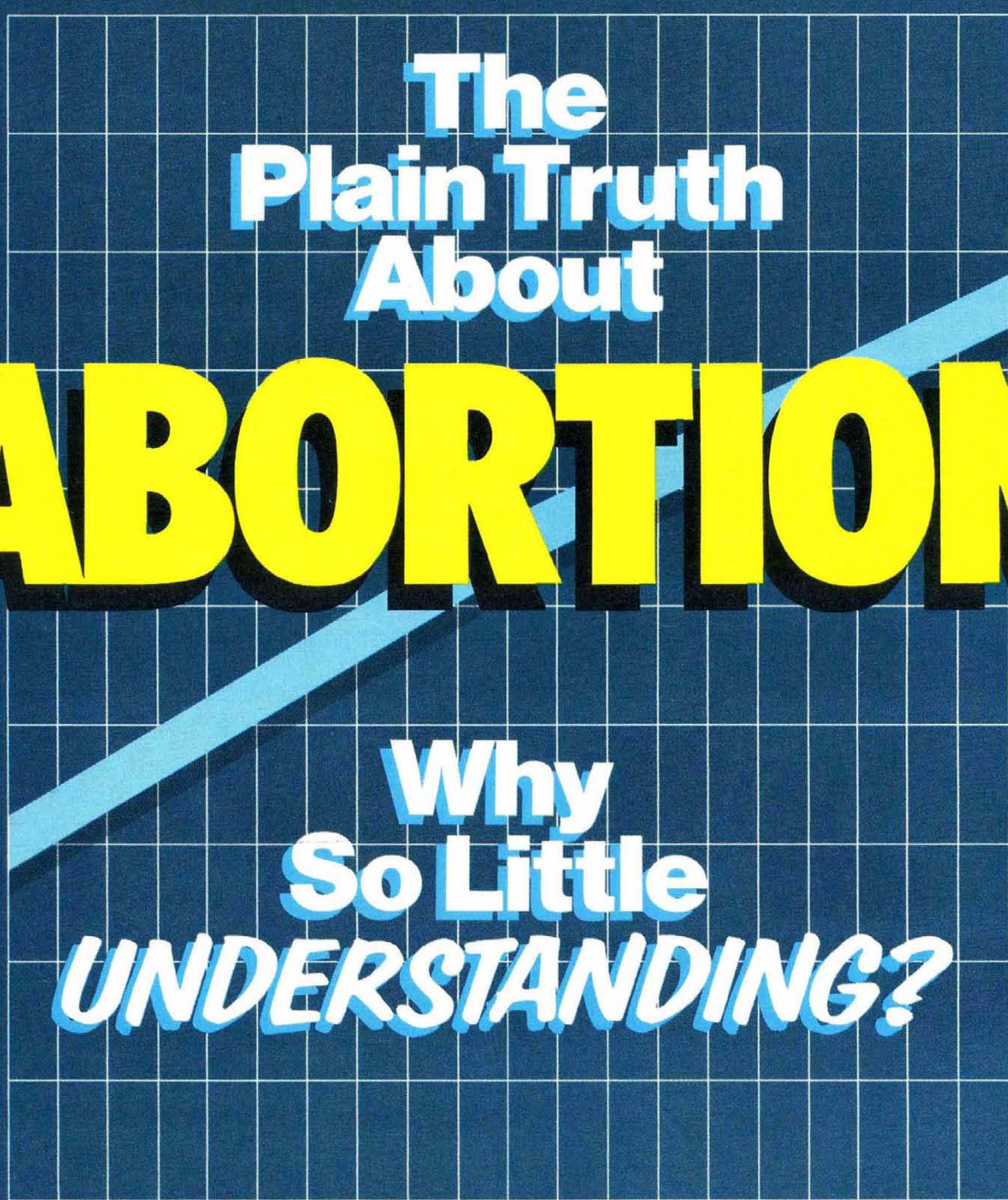
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1965

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NUMBER OF ABORTIONS WORLDWIDE



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PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOL. 50, No. 4

Circ. 7,540,000

MAY 1985

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OUR COVER

Abortion statistics for 1965 and 1975 are based on estimates in *Population Reports*, vol. VIII, no. 4, Series F, no. 7, Population Information Program (The Johns Hopkins University). The 1985 projection is based on our estimates from present trends.

The Plain Truth is published monthly (except combined July/August and November/December issues) by the Worldwide Church of God, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, California 91123. Copyright © 1985 Worldwide Church of God. All rights reserved. Application to mail at Second-Class postage rates is pending at Pasadena, California and at additional mailing offices.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

U.S. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Plain Truth*, Box 111, Pasadena, CA 91123.

United States: 300 W. Green, Pasadena, California 91123

Canada: P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2M2. Call toll free 1-800-663-2345. In British Columbia, call 112-800-663-2345

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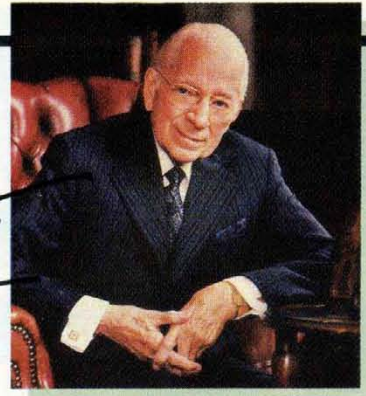
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PERSONAL FROM



Men Did Not Teach Me What I Preach

Letters regularly ask, “Were you ever a ‘Jehovah’s Witness’? Members of that organization have told me you once were.”

Although I have stated positively and definitely in *The Plain Truth* that I never belonged to the group known as Jehovah’s Witnesses, it seems that some continue spreading the claim that I once belonged to them.

Let me once again make the truth plain.

I have never been a member of the Jehovah’s Witnesses. I have never in any manner, shape or form, had any remote connection with them. I have never had any fellowship with them.

I have never attended any meeting of the Jehovah’s Witnesses. I have never had any kind of fellowship with any of their leaders or members.

I did not learn any of God’s truth from the Jehovah’s Witnesses. I have, of course, read some of their writings and their books, and I have been glad to find that they have certain truths, as most all groups have (though often mixed with errors), but God had already revealed these truths to me long before I read of them in their literature. I learned nothing that I believe and teach from this organization.

I learned God’s truth directly from God—through his Word—the Holy Bible. I say unto you, as the apostle Paul said:

“But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but

it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. . . . But when it pleased God, who . . . called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him” to the world, “I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood”—neither went I to any group but I went directly to the Word of God, and on my knees asked God through his Spirit to open my understanding—to correct me, reprove and rebuke, and instruct in his truth and his righteousness—. . . then after three years I went” to some of the humble of God’s people in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, and preached to them beginning in 1931. (Please compare with Galatians 1:11-18, Revised Authorized Version.)

My ambition and zeal was not persecuting God’s true Church, as was Paul’s, but climbing the ladder of business success and making money. God struck me down three times successively, by taking out from under my feet the businesses I had started, wiping me out, financially. Then God brought me to the study of his Word by causing me to try to refute the eternal validity and good of God’s spiritual law, which he had revealed to my wife, and which I at first bitterly opposed.

During that six-months’ study of more than 14 hours per day, I read very little literature favorable to the law, but I read everything I could find which opposed it—but mostly I studied—just the Bible! After six-months’ intensive study I was forced, in honesty before God, to swallow the most bitter pill of my life. It literally “killed” me—and I died—surrendered wholly to God, gave my life henceforth to him to use “if he could.”

I had been brought up from birth in the Friends Church (Quakers), though I had never been converted or begotten as a child of God, and at age 18 I strayed almost wholly away from all church interest or attendance, and devoted my whole energies to business. I had passed age 30 when God forced me into this study of his Word, and total surrender to him and his rule over my life.

From then on, I studied the Bible on my knees. Time after time it corrected me. Repeatedly I had to suffer reproof, and acknowledge I had been wrong in my beliefs and desires. God chastened and corrected me repeatedly, not only through revealing his truth in this (Continued on page 43)

The Plain Truth About **ABORTION!**

Why So Little Understood?

by Ronald S. Toth

Who has the right to choose whether the unborn live or die?

THINK of it! In just 50 years this world has changed from abortion being unacceptable (with minor exceptions) to abortion being an accepted form of birth control.

Most today fail to realize how radical a change this is.

Forty years ago Nazi Germany was condemned for sterilizing the "unfit." Twenty years ago abortion was still illegal as an alternative to unwanted pregnancy. The term "abortionist" conjured up the dregs of society—a monster who destroyed unborn babies.

Earlier in this century both national laws and the medical Hippocratic oath protected the unborn. No one then questioned abortion being murder.

But worldwide attitudes within the last 20 years have changed so

drastically that the turn of events can be likened to throwing a light switch.

Flipping the switch to "off" throws a brightly lit room into blackness. Society has flipped the switch from light to darkness—to "off" for the unborn.

Why Abortions

Of course there are the relatively rare tragic cases of girls becoming pregnant through incest. These sad cases naturally draw compassion and sympathy.

And women need to protect themselves against rape. Local police or reference librarians can provide much needed information about rape. Any woman who becomes victimized by a rapist should seek professional help *immediately*. Don't delay. Don't wait three months or three weeks or even three days. Seek medical advice *immediately*.

But the abortion issue today does

not center on such tragic cases as incest or rape. The *genuine* reason for today's high abortion rate—an overwhelming 97 percent of the cases in the United States, for example—is simply one of *convenience*.

Preserving the life of the mother, the expectation of a defective child, rape and incest account for only 3 percent of all abortions in the United States. In this latter part of the 20th century, abortion is thus not a lifesaving operation. It is a major form of birth control.

Gaining International Acceptance

Beyond the borders of the United States—in the Soviet Union, Poland, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and Japan, just to name a few—abortion now has become an accepted, integral part of birth control efforts. In 1985, about *55 million babies worldwide* will be aborted—nine induced abortions

for every 20 live births.

Today, within a growing number of historically predominantly Catholic nations legalized abortion has become a major form of birth control. In Communist-led Poland, for example, experts find the abortion rate higher than the nation's birth-rate. Abortion estimates range from 800,000 to one million annually, compared to 702,000 children being born.

Married women account for 80 percent of abortions performed, and most already have children. Even with a variety of available birth control methods, the Japanese still regard abortion as a necessity.

An official of a Japanese feminist group states, "One out of every three women walking down the street between the ages of 25 and 40 has had an abortion."

Despite opposition by the Greek Orthodox Church, abortion remains Greece's most popular form of birth control. According to figures released by Athens Social Science Center, 56 percent of Greek women who have abortions begin after the birth of their first child, and for every birth thereafter there are two abortions. Some women reported having up to 30 abortions.

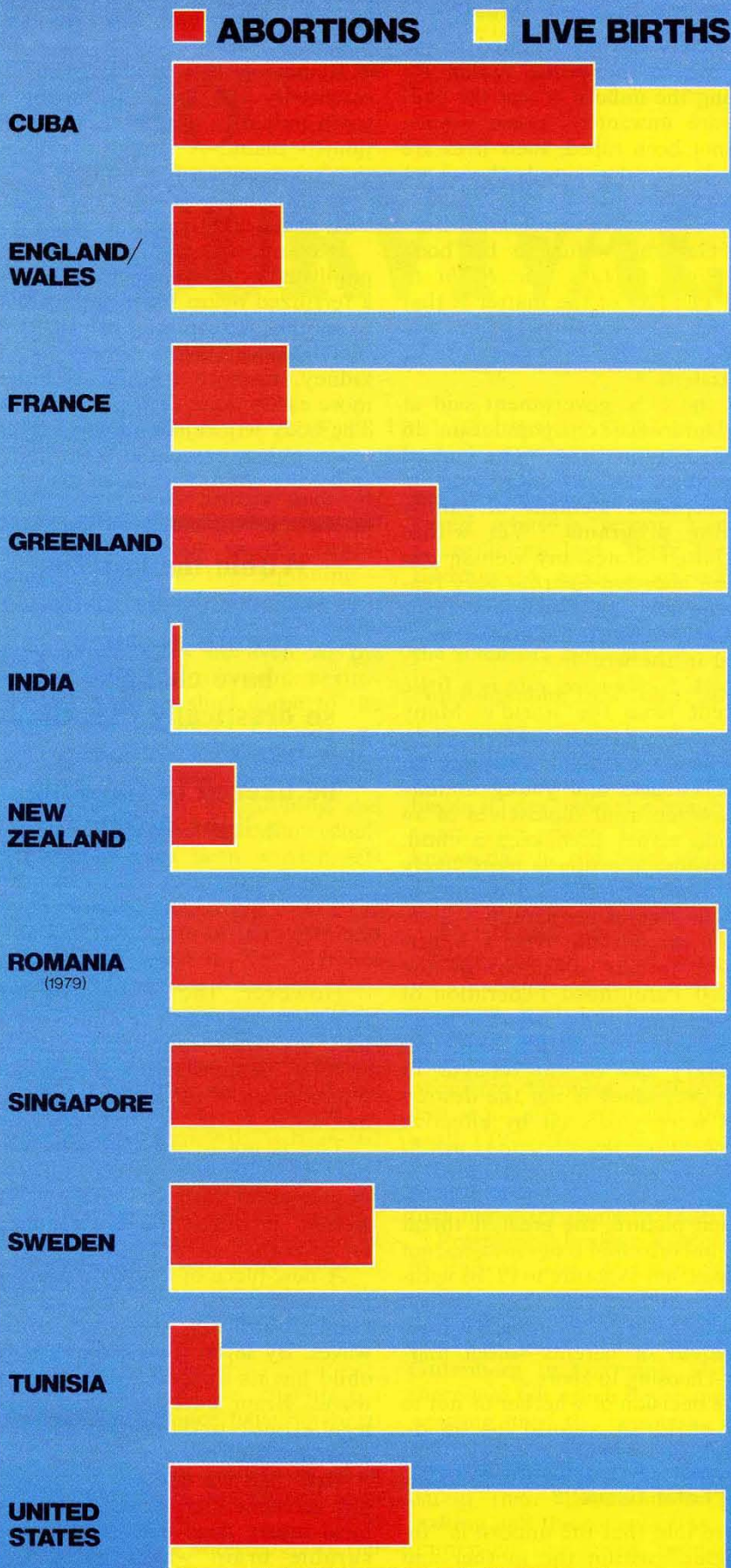
In 1981 French women had more than 180,000 legal and an estimated 80,000 illegal abortions. "One in four pregnancies [in France] end in abortion," reports the *Times* of London, "and only 30 percent of women of child-bearing age use any form of contraception."

In Romania 60 percent of the pregnancies end in abortion. Abortion has become so much a part of Romanian experience that the country has one of the lowest birth-rates in Europe.

In order to reverse this trend Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu wants Romanian women to have four children. It's their "patriotic duty," he says.

The list goes on, but one country "wins" with the highest abortion rate: the Soviet Union. Demographers within the United States estimate that 10 million abortions are performed annually in the Soviet Union, between two and three for every live birth. A typical Russian woman has about

Ratio of Abortions to Live Births



PT CHART BY RANDALL COLE; SOURCE: INDUCED ABORTION, A WORLD REVIEW, 1983 THE POPULATION COUNCIL, NEW YORK; BASED ON FIGURES FOR 1980

four abortions in her lifetime.

Parents the Greatest Threat?

Our society has degenerated to the point where the prime reason for aborting the unborn is that the children are unwanted. These women have not been raped, their lives are not in danger; they simply choose not to have a baby after its conception.

Dr. C. Everett Koop, U.S. Surgeon General, writes in his book *The Right to Live, the Right to Die*, "The fact of the matter is that abortion as a necessity to save the life of the mother is so rare as to be nonexistent."

As the U.S. government said at the conference on population in Mexico City in 1984, "The United States does not consider abortion an acceptable element of family planning programs." Yet within the United States any woman can have an abortion for *that* very reason. The abortion laws in hypocritical America are among the most liberal in the world.

The U.S. abortion rate is a little different from the world's. Many U.S. abortions are performed to cover up premarital or extramarital sex. Teenagers and young unmarried women avail themselves of an abortion rather than keep a child. Worldwide, abortion is more likely to be used by a married woman to limit the size of her family.

Even the late Dr. Alan F. Guttmacher, former president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and one of the most ardent pro-abortionists, admitted, "If every act of intercourse in which pregnancy is not the desired result were protected by effective contraception, *few abortions would be performed*" (emphasis added).

When looking at the worldwide abortion picture, the greatest threat to the unborn child is not measles, not smallpox, not exposure to PCBs within fish, not acid rain. The greatest threat to the life of an unborn is from the parent or parents—often married—choosing to abort.

The decision of whether or not to have children should be made *before* conception, not after.

Just "Fetal Tissue"?

We are told that the unborn is "fetal tissue" within the mother and

that the mother has the right to control her body. We are told she can do with her body as she pleases.

Removing this "fetal tissue" is essentially the same as having a tooth pulled or a haircut, pro-abortionists claim. A simple operation that takes only a few minutes.

Is the unborn baby just part of her body, like teeth, hair or a kidney?

It's time we examined the latest published evidence. By transferring a fertilized ovum from one woman to another we can establish that the "fetal tissue" is not simply like a kidney. Embryo transfer is much more easily done than a transplant. The body will reject a transplanted organ unless prevented from doing so by the continual use of drugs.

**Within the last 20
years, worldwide attitudes
toward abortion
have changed
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a light switch.**

However, the body will not reject an embryo. The embryo can be transferred from one woman to another, demonstrating the unique separateness of the unborn from its mother.

This is not to say that a baby is not its mother's. After embryo implantation into the uterus, the woman provides the environment for growth.

A new piece of evidence proving the humanness of the unborn has been found by study of brain waves. By seven weeks, the unborn child has its own measurable brain waves. Brain waves are among the legal criteria to determine whether a person is alive or not.

How can we declare a 20-year-old accident victim with a severe head injury dead because no measurable brain waves exist, but

maintain an unborn baby is not alive when it *has* brain waves?

As one doctor stated a decade ago, since brain death has become the chief standard for deciding when a person is dead, brain life, or the point at which brain waves are first detected, should determine the viability of a fetus.

When the doctor stated this, scientific equipment could only detect brain activity around the seventh and eighth *month*. Therefore it was prematurely concluded that a human fetus was not living until that age! Since brain waves can now be detected at seven *weeks*, doctors are in fact aborting *living humans*. And of course the fetus is already alive before the seven weeks!

If one has any doubt when a human life begins, one should give the baby the benefit of the doubt. As U.S. President Ronald Reagan has written, "If you don't know whether a body is alive or dead, you would never bury it." The same criteria should be used for the unborn.

Most abortionists try to draw the line at viability or self-sufficiency. The fetus depends on the mother's womb for life support. As long as the unborn cannot survive apart from its mother, they reason, then abortion can be performed. (In some cases, a viable fetus is aborted and left to die on a hospital table!)

Yet, adults sometimes depend upon life support systems to remain alive. Many people depend upon kidney dialysis machines to cleanse their blood. Others depend upon respirators to remain alive. Some who turn these machines off are being charged with murder. Just because people depend on something else for life does not exclude them from the human race.

Today many babies born prematurely live, even some born as young as four and one half months.

Consider this: A woman rushes to a hospital in labor. Within minutes she gives birth to a 22-week-old premature baby. Since the mother *wants* the child, the hospital will do everything within its power to save the life. Great sums of money in health care may be spent on the effort.

Now go down a corridor and into another room. There a woman has

(Continued on page 42)

The Key to HUMAN SURVIVAL!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The one BIG QUESTION in all our lives, right now, is that of human SURVIVAL!

THE MOST urgent problem right now is the question of *whether*, and *how*, we may survive!

But survival *alone* is NOT ENOUGH! We must have survival in PEACE, in happiness, in joy, in prosperity and plenty, and in abundant well-being for ALL!

And that's a big order! If anyone has the answer, for the sake of humanity he'd better speak out! I am prepared to give the ANSWER—and it is going to be PLAIN SPEAKING, without pulling any punches! It's *time* for PLAIN SPEAKING! You are *betting your life* on someone to come up, in time, with the right answer!

To get to the crux of the problem immediately, realize first that these existing conditions and evils are merely the EFFECT! For every effect, there has to be a CAUSE. Our problem of immediate urgency is to find the CAUSE, not only of present evil conditions, but also of what is the not-being-used CAUSE of peace, happiness and abundant well-being!

If we are going to learn that CAUSE, we need first to ask: What has made MAN as he is? How did humanity come to be on this earth? Or, going back even further, how did the earth, itself, come to *be*?

That may seem like going a long way back. But humanity's futile search for PEACE goes a long way

back—as far as history goes—or further. Man's troubles, evils and wars extend back to the beginning—or prior to the beginning—of history. To find the right answer, we need to go back even to prehistory! That takes us even to the question of ORIGINS—OF BEGINNINGS! And we shall come to the right answer more quickly by beginning at the beginning!

Many scientists have devoted their lifetimes to researching and studying this question. Many scholarly books have been written setting forth the results of these lifetime studies, purporting to tell the story of the origin of the earth and of mankind upon it. Yet is it not significant that their studies, theories and hypotheses *fail to tell us* WHY man is as he is, or HOW he got that way, WHY man seems always to be befuddled with unsolvable problems, WHY he is always in trouble, WHY humanity is harassed with so many evils, and WHY these evils are fast increasing?

This is no light matter. Ignoring humanity's present dilemma will not cause it to go away. Human SURVIVAL hangs in the balance! We need the *right* answer—and we need it NOW!

And *we can know!*

The fruits of the speculative assertions of science have not been peace, happiness, universal prosperity and abundant well-being. The world, instead, is SUFFERING! It is very sick!

To come to a knowledge of the

RIGHT ANSWER, we need to understand what is wrong with the scientific method. WHY have the findings of modern science NOT produced peace and universal happiness? What has been wrong with the scientific method?

The Beginning of Modern Science

The world has had science, of a kind, for a very long time. But what we know as MODERN SCIENCE began its dramatic rise roughly 175 years ago. Even then, the new knowledge in the fields of science and technology developed very slowly at first.

Until this advent of modern science, the world had gone along for thousands of years virtually on an even keel—with no material progress to speak of. It was primarily an agricultural world, using primitive farming methods. The cast-iron plow was not invented until 1797. The disc plow was not invented until 1896, when I myself was alive and a growing boy! The first harvester came in 1836.

President Abraham Lincoln once explained how mechanical and industrial progress could not have developed until the invention of printing, about 1450 by Johann Gutenberg in Germany. Even so, there was not much development in printing until the beginning of the 19th century. Then, German inventors emigrated to Great Britain to patent their inventions in paper-making and the rotary press, which immensely increased productivity

in printing. Think of it! Through those long millennia the world was without modern means of transportation or communication! Transportation on land was by foot, mule, horse, camel, elephant or in vehicles drawn by these animals. By sea, it was by slow-moving sailboat. Fulton didn't invent the steamboat until 1803. And the telephone, to provide communication, did not arrive until 1876. The telephone was in its infancy when I was a boy.

In my own lifetime, we have whipped past the machine age, the jet age, the nuclear age, and into the space age. Much of the acceleration of inventions was stimulated first by the printing press, which made possible a greater diffusion of knowledge and exchange of ideas, and then by more rapid means of transportation—the steam engine, the steamboat, the automobile, the airplane. And finally, the telephone, telegraph, radio and television.

But what was the original impetus?

With the emergence of "modern science" around the beginning of the 19th century, scientists assured the world that man had progressed to the point where he then could dispense with the superstitious crutch of religion and belief in God. Now humanity could rely on the *new* messiah—modern science.

"Given sufficient knowledge," said the scientists, "we shall solve all of humanity's problems and cure all the world's ills."

To replace religion and belief in God, secular scientists and educators had substituted the doctrine of evolution. The tools modern science used in the production of this new KNOWLEDGE were a stepped-up use of those man had employed since the dawn of history—rejection of revelation as a source of knowledge and the use of observation, experimentation and human reason.

So the production of KNOWLEDGE increased at a constantly accelerating pace. But, paradoxically, as knowledge has increased, so have humanity's problems, troubles and evils, at almost an equal rate of acceleration!

What's wrong with the dictum that knowledge is the sole need for

achieving solutions? We are face to face with the stern FACT that increasing evils have escalated alongside increasing knowledge! That is not to say that the increased knowledge *caused* the growing evils. It does mean that the knowledge produced *did not cure* existing evils, *or prevent new evils!*

The ANSWER becomes plain. There was *something wrong* with the knowledge being produced, or else the needed MISSING DIMENSION in knowledge was not being discovered.

To the dictum of science that given sufficient knowledge, mankind's problems would be solved and humanity's ills cured, I add this: Solutions come from the *right* knowledge that supplies the *right*

Why have the findings of modern science not produced peace and universal happiness? What has been wrong with the scientific method?

answer—the true CAUSE of both the evils and the CAUSE that would produce peace and joy and every GOOD result; and secondly, solutions come from the application of that knowledge. For that knowledge is of value only to the extent that it is *used!*

Freedom to Choose

In this feverish development of knowledge production, scholars in universities have been placing great emphasis on *academic freedom*. Academic freedom is defined as the independent judgment allowed teachers, scholars, scientists and students in the pursuit of knowledge.

Science as a whole and higher education have exercised the academic freedom to postulate a creation without a Creator. They have engaged in the activity of knowledge production with total rejection of any possibility of the miraculous, the supernatural, the existence of God—or anything outside the realm of the material. They have

utterly rejected revelation as the source of basic knowledge!

When I engaged years ago in research on the theory of evolution, I studied Darwin, Haeckel, Huxley, Vogt, Chamberlain and other exponents of the theory. But also I looked at the other side of the question. I would venture to say that most of those whose higher education has been acquired during the past half century have been taught and have accepted without question the evolutionary theory, *not having examined with any seriousness* the BIBLICAL evidences of special creation—and I *don't* mean the conclusions of modern "creation science." The world's "best-seller"—the Bible—has been dismissed *without a hearing* and distorted.

Is it not human to err?

Could it be *possible* for the most highly educated minds to have been intellectually misled or deceived? Could they, viewing only *one side* of the question, be infallible, entirely above making mistakes? For many years now, I have observed that errors almost always come when a person starts with a false basic premise—carelessly assumed as self-evident and taken for granted without question—and then builds on that false basic hypothesis.

Suppose we now appropriate the academic freedom to question that which educators have dismissed without examination.

Is it possible for us to find the EXPLANATION of why MAN is as he is, WHY the world is filled with evils? Is it possible for us to discover the CAUSE of all human suffering, anguish, unhappiness and inequality? Is it possible to find the CAUSE that would produce peace, happiness, abundance and prosperity—the CAUSE that world leaders have apparently overlooked? Is it possible to find the key to human survival?

The answer to the preceding questions is "YES!" Yes, it is possible to answer these basic questions that have haunted man as long as he has existed. Yes, there is an answer to these questions that deal with man's very survival. If you want ANSWERS to these questions, write for our booklet *Why Were You Born?* It's free for the asking. □



NATHAN FAULKNER—PT

FOR TEEN EYES ONLY

by Dexter H. Faulkner

At times teens think their problems are more than they can handle. Family, friends, even your own feelings can get you down. Read this article for some encouraging, positive solutions.

WHAT'S so great about being a teenager?

Your teachers tell you that the world is your oyster, that you can be anything you want to be.

You wonder, don't you?

Your parents tell you that you should enjoy these, the "best years of your life."

That would be a good trick—since you may be the shortest kid in your class, have acne and add to your chances of becoming a candidate for lung cancer every time you walk into the smoke-filled school lavatory. If these are the best years of your life, you can imagine what the rest will be like!

You're right. Being a teenager isn't easy. It's a time of change—change in your body, in your mind, in your outlook.

Books and magazines throw around the issues of hormonal adjustments, peer pressure, sex, drugs and academic pressure so much that you get the impression the teen years are like the chicken pox—something everybody has to endure once.

But look at it another way. The changes, pressures and conflicts in your life are not necessarily bad. They are just circumstances. And, circumstances can affect us positively or negatively, depending on how we respond to them.

The Proverbs in the Bible tell us to make the most of our lives while we have the chance. So let's take another look at being a teenager, from a more positive point of view.

Your Health

Perhaps you know that, at least in the early part of the teen years,

hormones are signaling the changes that turn your body into an adult's. These chemical changes can also contribute to moody spells, stimulate the oil glands in your skin and, among boys, cause growth spurts that make your limbs feel too long for your body and your trousers rise treacherously off the floor.

Seems like your body is playing a mean trick, doesn't it? But don't forget, even in the midst of this hormonal activity, you probably still have excellent overall health. Years of work and stress have not taken their toll. Your body has not had time to absorb many of the poisons society produces. You can probably work hard all day and still feel ready to go out at night, while your parents collapse into the nearest easy chair.

Your body is like a new car, just out of the factory, its engine rev-

ving to go! Your health allows you to do wonderful things that other people might not succeed at so easily: break athletic records, stay on your feet through a fast dance medley, study and keep a part-time job at the same time, or just enjoy life without the worries and handicaps of illness.

Your Dreams

Ever see a middle-aged man or woman talk about a dream, like sailing around the world or writing a novel or visiting the Himalayas? You might have noticed a wistful look in the eyes, and an "if only" attitude. But when a teenager talks about the same kind of dream, he or she's not wistful—he or she's making plans!

What's the difference? Middle-aged people, more often than not, have obligations. They have spouses and children and jobs they cannot ignore. With determination and hard work, a dream trip is possible for one person, but taking a whole family can require an exceptional amount of long-range planning and budgeting.

Also, since it is likely that nobody depends on you for support, what better time to plan and prepare for what you want to do with your life? An older person might have to take any job he can get just to put bread on the table, but you're probably still living with your parents.

Now is your chance to get the education you'll need for the kind of job you'll enjoy. If you want to know how much of a privilege that is, ask someone who had to leave school early to get married and support a family.

Of course, preparing can be difficult if you have no idea what you want that future occupation to be. Funny, isn't it, how everybody wants you to choose your life's vocation when you have not had a chance to do much of anything but sit in a classroom and study?

Take advantage of all opportunities, be they school courses, higher education or on-the-job training, offered to you now. How? First, think about what you already do well and explore the occupations that fit your abilities.

For instance, if people like you and trust you, you might look into the field of sales. If you like your

part-time job at the library, ask the librarian about her career in library science.

Second, corner relatives and adult friends and get them to talk about their jobs—ask them what kinds of aptitudes and training they needed and if and why they like the work they're in. Don't overlook your own parents. Remember there's no law against following in Father's footsteps, if that is what you want to do, and he might be able to give you the extra help (like a summer job with his company or as an apprentice) to start you on your way.

Third, try to get all the hands-on work experience you can right now. Even if you don't intend to spend your life frying fish or volunteering your services for the handicapped, you might learn useful things about yourself: you perhaps don't like to work too closely with a boss, you learn difficult manual skills quickly, you like (or don't like) dealing with the public.

Any direction you choose now, even if it isn't one you plan to follow indefinitely, will get you started toward your goal in the world of work. Who knows whether you might meet a future employer while selling popcorn in a movie theater or caddying on the golf course? The world really *can* be your oyster—provided you hunt for the pearls.

Cultivating Yourself

As important as career and financial preparations are, there's more to life than money. The teenage years are the perfect time to start discovering some of the excitement and rich experience life holds.

Start by cultivating yourself.

Cultivating yourself means making yourself more valuable and productive. It requires wide reading, some knowledge of the arts—the finer accomplishments of humanity—and social experience.

Wide reading can start in the classroom and the library. If you're unsure about where to start, ask your teachers about the classic literature of your language. Don't neglect current events and history. Such reading will give you a deeper understanding of why the world is the way it is.

While at the library, don't overlook the record and tape collec-

tions. You probably have a keen interest in music. Why not take advantage of it by developing your taste in various kinds of music? Visit museums and be on the alert for cultural events. A wealth of beauty and understanding is ready for you to explore.

Get involved in social activities and service projects to develop your skills in that area. As a teen you have an advantage: You are expected to make a few mistakes socially. People aren't so kind when adults commit social blunders.

Try to gain experience talking with people of different ages. And don't neglect the opposite sex! If you can learn to talk to a fellow or girl while stringing up crepe paper for a dance or participating in a track meet, you'll find yourself much less self-conscious in a more formal dating situation.

The Biggest Advantage

Finally, we come to the biggest advantage of your teenage years. The fact that you're reading this magazine suggests that you are interested in right ways of living.

That's great! Because God is interested in you and your success in life. He created the world with certain laws built in, which, if followed, will guarantee you a worthwhile, profitable life.

These laws are to keep us from making the mistakes that cause sorrow, suffering—every evil in the world. Add this to your advantage: Because you can learn about these laws early, you can avoid the painful mistakes that have caused others so much unhappiness.

You can learn about these subjects by requesting a free publication of ours, *Youth 85*. A high-quality, full-color magazine for teenagers, and it is without advertising. A magazine that covers a wide variety of exciting topics. Written for teens about teens. No other teen magazine is like it. No other provides the answers—the missing dimension in knowledge—for the problems all teens face.

You need it! It's free! Check the inside cover for the address nearest you. You'll never regret it. And don't forget to enjoy yourself and prepare for a fulfilling life. That's what being a teenager is all about. □

How many mistakes are there in this map?



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

by Keith W. Stump

Geographic illiteracy has become a disease of epidemic proportions! Why?

THE WORLD of education is still reeling from the shock!

A report released just last December by the Association of American Geographers and the National Council for Geographic Education declared, in no uncertain terms, that the United States is rapidly becoming a nation of "geography illiterates"!

The report cited a 1983 test in geography developed by prominent educators and administered by the Dallas *Times-Herald* to American 12-year-olds. More than 20 percent

of the students could not find the United States on a world map. Another 20 percent identified Brazil as the United States!

The report also said that in an American college-level survey of global understanding by the Educational Testing Service, the median score was an appalling 42.9 out of a possible 101!

"There is a huge number of children and adults who haven't a clue about the relationship between geography and history or geography and anything else," observes Dr. Bob Aangeenbrug, executive director of the Association of American Geographers. "We now

have a generation that has a limited capacity to put those things together."

A few years earlier, the Gallup organization administered a nationwide test on world geography. Here are just a few of the many "interesting"—but *incorrect*—answers supplied by those American 17- and 18-year-olds:

The Sinai Desert is in Vietnam. Angola is in the Philippines. French and Latin are the most widely spoken languages in Latin America. Africa is the world's most populous nation. Mexico and Canada were the last two states admitted to the United States. It would

appear that some high school students are a bit *confused*—to say the least.

Appalling Ignorance

The same study also revealed that only 23 percent—fewer than one out of four—had any idea of the distance between New York and San Francisco. Only 28 percent could guess close to the U.S. population. Only 15 percent could identify Ottawa as the capital of Canada. And 41 percent didn't know that China is the world's most heavily populated nation.

Other government studies and private surveys among American high school and college students have shown that:

- Only one out of 25 could give the world's approximate population.
- More than half thought England is located on the European continent.
- More than one in four thought the Rocky Mountains lay *east* of the Mississippi River.
- More than one out of three could not locate Alaska on a blank world map.
- Nearly half could not find Los Angeles.

Even more amazing, a government-funded study of American *college* students revealed that many of them—like their younger brothers and sisters—are also confused about *just where the United States is!* Asked to circle the region of the world where they were born, some circled the words Central America or South America. As it turned out, those who had circled Central America had been born in the Midwest, and those who had circled South America were from Tennessee, Georgia and other southeastern states!

It's laughable—or is it?

For decades now, pollsters have had a field day documenting the geographic illiteracy of high school and college students. What disturbs pollsters the most is the incredible lack of knowledge about the vitally important concerns of the day—issues that are widely reported and discussed in the news media.

During the Vietnam War, for example, many American students

could not even come near to locating Vietnam on a world map! Many had not even heard of Laos.

A government survey just a few years ago showed that an amazing 40 percent of American high school seniors thought Israel was an *Arab* country! And that the late Golda Meir had been president of *Egypt!*

In another study, a majority of students at a major university did not know that war-torn El Salvador is in Central America! At another university, 42 percent of *geography students* couldn't find London on a map!

Unbelievable?

**Now more than
ever before, it is time to
watch world
news—and watch
it with
understanding!**

Not really.

Even more disturbing are the revelations of recent years about the ignorance of basic geography at high levels in the U.S. government.

In one widely publicized incident, a newly appointed ambassador to an Asian country had no idea that there were two governments on the Korean peninsula—one in communist North Korea and one in noncommunist South Korea. Nor did this person know the capital of Australia (Canberra)—or even recognize the name when he heard it!

Some years earlier an embarrassed nominee for ambassador to Ceylon admitted to a senate committee that he had no idea of the name of the capital of the country

for which he was being considered! (The capital of Ceylon—now called Sri Lanka—is Colombo.)

A well-read 10-year-old in many countries could have easily set these individuals straight!

Cellar Position

Americans today know dangerously little about the world. For many Americans, the world stops at the edge of town.

This hazy knowledge of the world beyond America's doorstep is a continual source of amazement to foreign-born students studying in American colleges and universities.

Geography was one of the first basic subjects to be relegated to a cellar position in the American high school and college. Today, nine out of 10 graduating high school and college students have not been exposed to *even one* course in the subject!

The average high school student in the United States today takes 30 percent less geography than students a generation ago. And a generation ago students took precious little!

The vast majority of high schools no longer teach world geography as a separate subject. Geography has either dropped out of the curriculum completely, or has been lumped in with "social studies"—an amalgam of history, economics, government, sociology and related subjects. And even social studies as a whole are being slighted.

"Certainly, there are many reasons for this [geographic] illiteracy," observes Dr. Aangeenbrug of the Association of American Geographers. "But the main reason is simply that geography is just not taught in this country [the United States]. This is the only major nation in the world where geography is not required in many curriculums." He adds that part of the problem is that teachers themselves are not well educated in geography.

Educators *used to* believe that a person was not educated if he was ignorant of the world in which he lives. *Not so today!*

Notice the contrast:

Among the questions asked in an 1875 U.S. high school *entrance*

examination were: "Name the countries of Europe, Asia and Africa that touch upon the Mediterranean Sea" and "Name the states of the union bordering on the Atlantic, on the Gulf of Mexico, on the Pacific and on the Great Lakes."

How many young Americans entering high school today could answer these questions? How many high school graduates? How many college students or graduates?

And how many who admittedly don't know would be motivated enough to *find out*?

Educational Folly

Few American high schools are acting like high schools these days. In many, the basics have been abandoned in favor of the "trendy" and the "innovative." At a time when too many young people can't read, compose a simple paragraph or locate their own country on a world map, courses such as "Rock Music as Literature" and "Basic TV Production" have replaced what once were core classes of basic knowledge.

As a result, ignorance and illiteracy are *rampant* on high school and college campuses!

Education is in deep trouble. The decay of schooling in America is more serious than many realize. Declining achievement rates on basic elements of knowledge have declared that fact for years.

Yet high schools and colleges seem unable to counter the trend.

Why?

Modern education is adrift on a sea of false values, driven by winds of fluctuating trends and fashions. Few seem to be able to agree even on the *goals* of education, much less the *methods* of achieving them.

Education has rejected the *foundation* of all knowledge. That foundation is *the Bible!* Having cut anchor from this foundation, modern education has drifted off course and has lost its way!

It's only logical. Without a knowledge of the true *purpose* of life, institutions simply cannot provide the proper education toward achieving it!

Thus, high schools pander to irrelevant student interests rather than provide a *real* education. Stu-

dents are graduated lacking even the most basic skills necessary for success.

Colleges and universities gear to overspecialization. They focus on the postgraduate paycheck, teaching students how to make a living, but not *how to live!*

To anyone willing to take a realistic look at modern education, the appalling picture becomes painfully clear! Rather than producing educated graduates to mold and shape society for the good, modern institutions of "learning" have *yielded* to society. Rather than helping to overcome society's ills, they *have been overcome* by a decadent and aimless age!

It is impossible to properly evaluate a world event without an understanding of geographic relationships of countries. Geography makes current events come alive!

Geographic illiteracy is a prime example. Today's lack of basic geographical understanding is a vivid reflection of modern society. It's a symptom of the "Me" epidemic that has been widespread in recent times, of the "look-out-for-Number-One" syndrome. The attitude of many today is simply: "Why concern myself with anything outside *my own* individual world?"

The average American and too often the average Westerner are busy with their personal day-to-day affairs, too isolationist to be concerned with the international scene. Students are too narrowly focused on career-related matters to contemplate goings-on in, for instance, *Albania* (where's that?).

Yet our age demands an accurate understanding of the basic facts of

world geography and international affairs! "We desperately need a population that can read maps," one major weekly magazine recently declared. But where is such a population?

Climactic Times

We are living at a crucial time in world history. Forces are even now converging that will soon propel this world into a time of unparalleled chaos and calamity! Regular readers of *The Plain Truth* are aware of the ancient prophecies that are soon to be fulfilled in world news.

Now more than ever before, it is time to **WATCH** world news—and watch it *with understanding!*

It is impossible to properly evaluate a world event without an understanding of geographic relationships of countries. Geography makes current events come alive! The interplay of men and nations takes on an added dimension when we see the geographic relationships involved.

To understand the master plan of Bible prophecy, it is necessary to have an accurate view of the world. How can one grasp the importance of the Sinai Peninsula in Egyptian-Israeli relations when one believes the Sinai to be in Vietnam?

And your very *life* may well depend on an accurate understanding of world trends and events!

Jesus Christ declared: "WATCH ye therefore, and pray always, *that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things* that shall come to pass [including the coming religious persecution to befall this earth] . . ." (Luke 21:36).

God wants men and women with a concerned *world view!*

What You Can Do

Here's what you can personally do to acquire a greater understanding of world geography and world events:

- If you don't already have one, purchase a world atlas. A new paperback atlas costs just a few dollars. Or you could purchase an atlas at a used book shop for even less. Any atlas will do.

- Use your atlas. Open it and really *look at* the maps. Begin with
(Continued on page 38)

Drought, Famine, War

...Has God Lost Control?

by Roderick C. Meredith

DROUGHT, famine, disease epidemics, earthquakes and other “natural” disasters unprecedented in history are headed our way!

Plus a potential nuclear World War III.

The most awful national catastrophe in earth’s history is shaping up *just ahead* for the English-speaking world. Why? Has God lost control of earth’s affairs? Can’t he prevent what is about to happen, not only to the English-speaking world but to all peoples?

Consider these facts!

We—the English-speaking world—have been *given* national greatness and power. But we have not honored the God who gave it and are *dishonoring* him in the increasing decadence of our national and personal lives.

Why impending catastrophe? Because the Creator God is going to *humble* the English-speaking world—to teach lessons we seem unwilling to learn in any other way—unless, that is, we repent of our national sins.

It is not that God has lost control, but that he is in control!

But **HOW** are these terrifying events going to come about in a modern, civilized, highly techno-

logical society? Aren’t modern food production, storage and distribution systems, major flood-control dams and modern medicine, science and industry foolproof against catastrophe?

Have we already forgotten the Union Carbide tragedy in India?

How Bible Prophecies Happen!

The biggest stumbling block to anyone, be he a scientist, physician, businessman, or even a modern theologian who does not take the Bible literally, in understanding revealed Bible prophecies is the failure to grasp the absolute reality and the total **POWER** of the Creator God! Just how has God’s power throughout history worked, and how will that power work in bringing about national punishments till we learn the way to happiness and peace?

The God revealed in your Bible has **TOTAL** power and **TOTAL** control of nations and individuals. He says: “Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. . . . It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: that bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of

the earth as vanity” (Isa. 40:15, 22-23). Here God says that *he* can determine the rise and fall of princes and rulers.

Can we believe that?

The book of Daniel describes how Nebuchadnezzar was to become insane and driven out of office “to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men” (Dan. 4:17). God not only rules over the nations of men, but often sets up the “basest” of men.

In the Old Testament, the great prophet Moses described how God orchestrates and guides the

migrations and geographical locations of nations and peoples: “When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel” (Deut. 32:8).

In plain language, the Creator of mankind intervenes in his creation and orchestrates the ebb and flow of national power, determining—when necessary—who will be in charge over nations to fulfill his purpose. He guides major nations to the areas of the earth where he wants them and blesses or curses them in weather, war and prosperity according to how they yield to his will.

God Controls the Weather

Jesus Christ said God “sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matt. 5:45). But occasionally God withholds rain to teach national lessons!

In the New Testament, James describes how Elijah “prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit” (Jas. 5:17-18).

So God has power to send the rain, or to cut off the rain.

The same applies to the wind and other elements of the weather:

“Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish [symbolic of the great commercial sea powers] with an east wind” (Ps. 48:7).

A very realistic description of God’s control of the weather is this: “They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. . . . He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still” (Ps. 107:23-25, 29).

Indeed, one of the major turning points of history for the entire English-speaking peoples of the world was determined by the great God’s intervention in the weather. The outcome was a factor behind the unparalleled religious freedom, prosperity and power we now enjoy. In 1587 foreign influence over the English throne was cut short by the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots. The following year, King Philip II of Spain sent his “invincible” 124-ship Armada against England. Though the English naval forces fought valiantly, they ran out of ammunition. At that point, unprecedented gale-force winds arose and drove many of the Spanish ships to their doom. The tattered ships that escaped limped home to Spain—many so damaged that they were unfit for further service.

In commemoration of the defeat, Queen Elizabeth ordered the striking of a silver medal, bearing the inscription, “God blew and they were scattered.”

She knew who took charge of those winds at that critical hour in the history of our peoples!

Again, students of English history will always remember the name “Dunkirk.” For, once again, the very existence of the freedoms we enjoy was at stake.

Hitler’s forces had invaded France and the lowlands. They had

cut off 330,000 crack British troops, surrounding them at the port of Dunkirk. Word went out all over Britain: “Winston [Churchill] needs boats.”

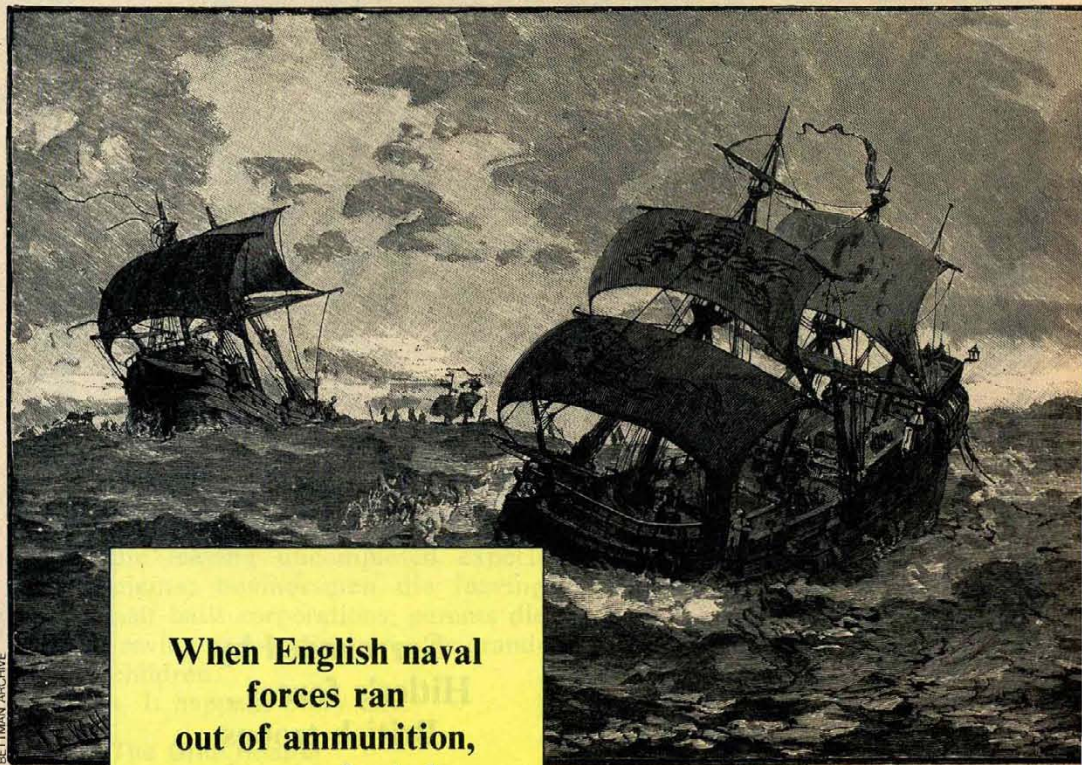
In waters that were normally very rough and treacherous, literally hundreds of small ships, yachts and boats were launched in hope, but the picture looked grim. Bad weather to the east had grounded most of the German Luftwaffe. But, an *incredible* thing happened to the English Channel that day.

Instead of being rough and choppy as usual—dangerous for small craft—it became almost as calm as a bathtub! Men and women who had lived all their lives on its shore had never seen it so calm. And so nearly one third of a million British troops—the backbone of their entire army—was brought safely over the Channel in what the British themselves call “the miracle of the calm seas.”

I have spent four years of my adult

life in Britain, and talked to several older men who were personally familiar with the Dunkirk rescue operation. They all got a certain glint or tear in their eyes when they talked about it. They all remembered the outpouring of gratitude to God by the British people after this event. For Sunday, June 9, 1940, was appointed as a day of national thanksgiving for God’s deliverance at Dunkirk, and many English vicars will tell you that their churches were packed on that day and have *never* been full since.

The day before, June 8, Britain’s *Daily Telegraph* ran an article about what it called “the miraculous deliverance” at Dunkirk. The article quotes a British officer who had been brought safely back across the Channel from Dunkirk: “One thing can be certain about tomorrow’s thanksgiving in our churches. From none will the thanks ascend with greater sincerity or deeper fervour than from the officers and men who



BETTMAN ARCHIVE

When English naval forces ran out of ammunition, unprecedented gale-force winds arose and drove the “invincible” Spanish Armada to its defeat.

have seen the Hand of God, powerful to save, delivering them from the hands of a mighty foe, who, humanly speaking, had them utterly at his mercy.”

Yes, the “hand of God” controls the weather. But the Creator also

knows that thankless man would nearly always take the wrong turn—that mankind would be influenced by and partake of the rebellious nature of Satan the devil. And God fully understands how humans always tend to compromise and to forsake the right way.

Human Nature and Divine Intervention

Right after giving ancient Israel the details of his law through Moses, God told Moses: "Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them. Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured . . ." (Deut. 31:16-17).

tively warned Israel that when blessings and prosperity came upon them, they were in grave danger of following the heathen ways of the nations around them (Deut. 6:10-12).

As you read through the history, laws, promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, it becomes absolutely clear that the Creator *understands* the tendencies and foibles of human nature to the "nth" degree. Having this profound knowledge and insight, God can authoritatively state what the basic conditions of peoples and nations *will be* in the future. Then, by intervening in the weather, in human leadership or other circumstances, God can bring about *specific prophecies* that are sometimes astonishing in their minute detail.

Angels and Demons

At times, the Creator works through spirit beings he created—

righteous angels, and even the fallen angels—to bring about his will.

A fascinating insight into the working of the spirit world is given in I Kings 22. This inspired account in the Bible pictures a conference in heaven. God had already determined to slay one of the most wicked kings in the history of Israel, King Ahab. The problem was *how* to get him to go up to the coming battle at Ramoth-gilead, where he would be killed. In this case, an evil spirit spoke up and said: "I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his [Ahab's] prophets" (I Kings 22:22).

On the day of the battle, the army God already knew was stronger and would win did indeed defeat the Israelites, and Ahab was slain by an arrow piercing the joints of his armor (verses 34-37). This was because God had determined that wicked Ahab should not stay behind and escape, but should perish right along with many of his defeated troops.

When Adolf Hitler rose to power, a noted German pastor, Martin Niemöller, perceptively stated: "Verily a time of sifting has come upon us. God is giving Satan a free hand, so that He may shake us up and so that it may be seen what manner of men we are."

In his book *The Nazis*, the respected British author George Bruce asks:

"Can the mystery of the evil of Nazism be explained? Was there a Satanic nucleus at the heart of it? One interpretation of its nature that should be mentioned is the link between Nazism and the alleged attachment to black magic and occultism of Hitler and

his inner circle, including Goering, Himmler, Goebbels, Ley and, in the early days, Dietrick Eckart and Professor Karl Haushofer.

"Hitler, according to what may seem to many people a far-fetched belief, was the medium through whom contact was made with supernatural powers of evil. Her-

(Continued on page 38)



**Surrounded by
Hitler's forces . . .
British troops
escaped over the
normally rough
and treacherous
English Channel on
seas as calm as
bathwater.**

Obviously, God knew the hearts and attitudes of the ancient Israelites and perceived *in advance* what they would do. For God says in his Word: "The Lord knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity" (Ps. 94:11). Again: "I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee" (Job 42:2). And God percep-

Who Says Time Is Closing in on You!

by Keith W. Stump

None of us seems to find enough time to accomplish all we would like to in this life. Do unrealized potentials die with us? Or are there future opportunities—somewhere beyond death? The answer may surprise you!

WHEN Albert Einstein died in April 1955 at the age of 76, a heated race came to an abrupt end.

Einstein lost.

In his later years, the famed physicist worked feverishly to synthesize a revolutionary new theory.

"I cannot tear myself away from my work," Einstein wrote. "It has me inexorably in its clutches."

It was a race against time—and time won.

A photograph of Einstein's study in Princeton, New Jersey, taken shortly after his death, shows a blackboard full of equations, a desk overstrewn with reams of paper—and an empty chair. The unfinished business is all too apparent.

"It seemed that the difference between life and death for Einstein consisted only in the difference between being able and not being able to do physics," a fellow physicist had once written.

Will Einstein ever again have the

opportunity to "do physics"?

Time and tide wait for no man, observes an English proverb. For most, time moves too quickly. We simply cannot find enough time to accomplish all that we would like to accomplish in our lives. As we grow older, time seems to fly by at an even faster rate.

Then, inevitably, comes the "end." Authors die leaving uncompleted books; composers die leaving unfinished symphonies; scientists die leaving uncompleted experiments; businessmen die leaving half-built corporations; parents die leaving growing children or grandchildren.

It happens every day.

The Grim Reaper

We are all familiar with the proverbial story of the skull-faced, scythe-wielding "Grim Reaper"—the personification of death. His human victim invariably tries to argue the Reaper out of taking his life, but to no avail.

"But I have a wife and children,"

the doomed man pleads. Or, "But things are finally beginning to go right for me; I can't die now!" Or, "I'm right in the middle of an important project; I need more time!"

Such are often the thoughts that arise as one faces the prospect of death. Even those who claim to desire death as relief from painful physical afflictions or because they "have nothing to live for" are in many cases really saying that they would like to be healed or to find something to live for.

Turning Back the Clock

For the vast majority of people, the mind rebels against the thought of death. Death is seen as an "enemy." Indeed, the Bible labels it as such (I Cor. 15:26).

Man's refusal to accept his own mortality is clearly in evidence today in so many ways.

As the years pass by, many people begin to experience a "crisis of body image." Increasing numbers are turning to cosmetic sur-

gery in an attempt to recapture at least the appearance of lost youth.

In search of a more substantial remedy, researchers are hard at work discovering ways to actually extend the human life span. Innumerable diets, exercise plans, vitamin and drug therapies and other approaches have been devised, reputed to be effective in rejuvenating not-so-youthful bodies.

It is certainly true that food does make a difference, that exercise is beneficial, that some drugs are effective in prolonging youth.

But stay young *forever*?

No.

Eventually, the physical body will simply wear out, as do all things physical. This can be postponed, but not prevented. It is inevitable. And whether death finally comes at 80 or 100 or 120, it still comes "too soon" for most.

Some few people have even gone to the length of having their bodies frozen and stored at the time of death, hoping to be reanimated at some future time when advances in scientific knowledge make such a feat possible. Though most scientists remain highly dubious about the prospects for success, the very fact that bodies are being frozen shows just how desperate some are to hang onto physical life.

What Next?

In the absence of the discovery of a fountain-of-youth drug in our lifetime, there is no alternative but to view death as inevitable.

"It is appointed unto men once to die," the Bible declares (Heb. 9:27).

So what, many ask, of uncompleted plans? Unfulfilled ambitions? Unrealized dreams? Will they die with us, never to be accomplished? Or are there future opportunities—somewhere beyond death?

Some would have us believe there is nothing after death, that this transitory physical life is all there is.

Others claim that one's "immortal soul" will spend eternity either in "heaven" or in "hell," depending on one's conduct in life. (For an in-depth look at this question write for our free reprint article "To Hell and Back.")

Mankind has pondered these ideas for centuries. Few, if any, have failed to ask themselves, "What next?"

The answer to this burning question is that there *is* a future beyond death—and what a profound and awe-inspiring future it is!

What God has in store for mankind—as shall be amply demonstrated—is an eternity of absorbing and creative productive activity! He offers us unlimited opportunities—as his immortalized sons and daughters—to realize our many unrealized potentials, to embark on adventures in learning and accomplishing that we may never have dreamed of during our physical lifetimes!

Not Just for a Few!

Before examining this great destiny in greater detail, it is important at this juncture to clear up a widely misunderstood point.

We are not here describing a future destined for an exclusive few. Rather, it will be the destiny of the overwhelming majority of all people who now live or have ever lived!

Understand this: The vast majority who have ever lived have never heard the name of Jesus Christ—the only name whereby "we must be saved" (Acts 4:12)! What kind of God would *condemn* countless millions of Hindus, Buddhists, Confucianists and others for no fault of their own?

Moreover, the vast majority of people who have heard the name of Jesus Christ have been deceived into believing a false Christ and "another gospel" (II Cor. 11:4). Satan and his ministers, masquerading knowingly or unknowingly as "ministers of righteousness" (II Cor. 11:14-15), have blinded and deceived these people. Would a just God hold them accountable for not acting on vital knowledge they never received? By no means!

The simple fact is that the vast majority of people in the world today are neither "lost" nor "saved"! Likewise, the vast majority of those who have ever lived since the time of Adam are neither lost nor saved!

Don't be misled. God is not locked in some sort of spiritual

combat with Satan for "souls." If that were the case, Satan would clearly be winning! Is Satan more powerful than God?

Satan can do only what God, for a time, *allows*. And Satan's time is about up! God is working out a great purpose on earth—and *no power* can prevent it from being accomplished!

Where Are the Dead?

If the vast majority of all people who live today or who have ever lived are neither "lost" nor "saved," where are they now? And, for that matter, where are those true Christians who have died throughout history?

The answer is simple: They are *all in their graves!*

Notice: "The dead know not any thing," the Bible clearly teaches (Ecc. 9:5). And again: "His [man's] breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish" (Ps. 146:4).

Those who have died over the centuries and millennia of history—including many of your relatives and loved ones, whether true Christians or not—are all "asleep" in the grave, "on hold" as it were, awaiting future disposition.

The Bible use of the word *soul* (in Hebrew, *nepesh*; in Greek, *psuche*) designates one's physical life. The soul is mortal, not immortal. It can "die" (Ezek. 18:4, 20). The journalist who declared that "1500 souls perished in the sinking of the Titanic" was using the word correctly.

Understanding that the soul is mortal makes it easy to comprehend Jesus' statement in John 3:13: "No man hath ascended up to heaven. . . ." Jesus also told his own apostles that "whither [where] I go, ye cannot come" (John 13:33). If the apostles were not to go to heaven, how could we expect to?

So what, then, will become of these thousands of millions of dead who today lie unconscious beneath the earth?

Three Resurrections

Since man does not have an immortal soul that continues living after death, the only hope for a personal
(Continued on page 26)

The Teen Years

The teen years are not the time to start child rearing, but to put the finishing touches on parent-child relationships.

“WITHOUT a decent set of parents, a kid doesn't have much of a chance in this society,” says California juvenile court judge Joseph N. Sorrentino, author of the book *The Concrete Cradle*.

At no time during a child's development is that statement more true than during the wonderful, crucial, turbulent teenage years. Teenagers need active, proper guidance from good, strong parents if they are to mature into successful adults.

Think: This world in which we all live is a pulsating pressure cooker—a constantly changing and challenging, even threatening, environment. And teens are faced with this world just at the most volatile period of their lives—when they are trying to come to grips with their energy and emotions, when their personalities and habits are being solidified, probably for life.

Why Frustrations?

Is it any wonder that the path from adolescence to adulthood

has been called an obstacle course?

Here's what one youth, overburdened with the problems of this world, said: “What's the use of trying to learn anything or be anybody? The world's going to blow up in a couple of years anyway. Why not just have a good time and enjoy life however you can while you can?”

This seems to be the attitude of many young people today. And can you really blame them?

Can the average 15-, 16- or 17-year-old help resenting that his world and his future could be ended in a nuclear holocaust in just a few minutes' time?

Can the average teenager help resenting a world filled with fights not of his making—problems not of his creation—frustrations



HAL FINCH—PT

Children need someone to look up to—models from whom they can learn to develop strength of character.

Parents are the very ones who can do the most to develop right dating attitudes and habits in their children.



beyond his solving?

After beginning to learn of the imagination-staggering plight of this modern world, many a teenager begins asking why, and wonders how the world got this way and where it is going.

Feeling betrayed by home, school and church, he resents the conditions of this world, sometimes becoming so resigned to the situation that he just gives up and drops out—living only for the moment in a destructive whirl of drugs, sex, crime and violence.

Obviously, there are dozens—even hundreds—of intensely personal reasons why young people defy authority, reject parents, fight police. But the one biggest reason is that they simply do not like this world the way it is, and deeply wish it could be changed.

Hope for the Future

Longtime readers of this publication know, thankfully, that this world's situation is not hopeless. Humanly, of course, it is. But the plain truth is that God Almighty is soon going to personally intervene in the affairs of this world and save humanity alive, ushering in a new world of peace, prosperity and hap-

piness for everyone (Mic. 4:1-4).

That knowledge gives us tremendous hope—encourages us to overcome the obstacles in our lives and be the best we can be. It propels us to learn and live God's way of life—the only way to true happiness.

It is this knowledge and motivation, ultimately, that must provide the solution to the problems of teenagers today. But exactly how can parents help their teenagers right now, in practical, down-to-earth, effective ways?

Almost every parent wants his or her children to succeed. It is one of life's greatest joys to see them do so. As one man said, perhaps the one reward a parent gets in child rearing is to see his or her son or daughter become a success in life. On the other hand, it is one of life's greatest heartaches for a parent when children go the wrong way.

And make no mistake: There is a battle raging between you and this world—a battle for your teenager! At birth, the battle began, between you—the parent—and Satan. The spoil is your child.

If you truly want your teenager to succeed, now is the time to con-

tinue decisive action. Next to the years of infancy and early childhood, these teenage years will most influence your youngster's development for life. You as a parent must help.

How sad it is that many parents simply choose not to fulfill this duty. Said Dr. Amitai Etzioni, professor of sociology at Columbia University: "An increasing number of parents have resigned their responsibility for the *character* of their child. It's as elementary as that."

And that, in essence, is what we are talking about here—how, given the knowledge of God's truth and the understanding of the spirit in man, by which humans differ from animals, a parent can instill right *character* in a child.

Don't make excuses! Of course, every teenager is different and must be dealt with individually, but there are some broad principles that apply during this special period of a young person's life—principles that can help a parent give a teen the best possible chance in life. Whether you have teenagers now or will have someday, this information can greatly benefit your child rearing.

Let's examine these special areas of concern applying to teens.

Strengthen Family Ties

The foundation of a healthy society is the home, and a good home is built around a strong family.

When a child loves and respects God and his family—feels a deep sense of loyalty to them—he will not want to bring shame or problems upon God or his family. He will watch his conduct so that it does not reflect negatively upon God, his parents or others in the family. He will do what is best for members of the family—he will try to please them.

Developing a strong family unit requires authority in the home. Children must be taught to respect parents, with the father as the head of

the home (Eph. 6:1-3, 5:22-23). Children who learn to respect their parents can relate to respect for God and human government in general.

Many parents, influenced by faulty modern psychology, have made the mistake of trying to be their children's friends instead of their parents. This method does not work. Children derive a sense of security—strong support—from knowing there is a trusted, reliable authority in charge. Children need someone to look up to—models from whom they can learn to develop strength of character, right confidence and emotional balance.

Strengthening family ties requires spending time—quality time—together. Eating together, constantly conversing, being entertained in a happy and fun-filled atmosphere at home rather than outside the home all the time—all these elements are important.

Communication

Families should talk. Teenagers especially need to communicate with parents during this challenging and potentially traumatic period in their lives.

Many parents do not take the time to talk with their teenagers. Even

fewer take time to listen. They have their own interests and pleasures—business to take care of, friends to spend time with, television shows to watch. They reason:

“My teens don't want me there. They want to be by themselves.”

“We just don't have the same interests.”

“I have more important things to do. I can't bother with these little matters on the kids' minds.”

How tragic! Have you as a parent forgotten what it was like to be a teenager? The matters you now think are little were certainly not little when you were your teen's age.

How many parents set aside a certain amount of time each day to talk with their children? When parents don't know what is going on in their children's lives, serious problems result.

You've known of cases in which everybody—brothers and sisters, other relatives, friends, neighbors—everybody but the parents knew a young person was smoking or running around with the wrong crowd or involved in some wrong activity. Why were the parents in the dark—the last to find out?

Because they never asked! Their children probably came to feel that they didn't care.

How many times has your teenager come home with a serious problem on his mind, actually wishing he could talk it over with you, and you gave him no chance?

How many times after a date has your daughter come home wishing to talk with her mother about certain things, yet was afraid or ashamed to because you have made it clear that you don't want to listen?

Do you ask your children about their activities? Their dates? What they did? Whom they were with? Not in a prying grill session, with suspicion in your voice, but with open, friendly, warm, loving interest.

Do you ask them what happens at school each day? Where they have been? Do you try to find out how they feel about certain things—what their viewpoint is on life and its problems?

You must! Proverbs 29:15 points out that “a child left to himself brings shame to his mother” (Revised Authorized Version throughout). Many parents, to their chagrin, learn only too late what was going on in their teenagers' lives.

Show loving, compassionate, sincere, warm interest in your teenager, and he will open up to you. You *can* help him before it's too late.

And be honest in your communication. Uncertain answers make young people uneasy. They need a solid foundation to stand on—rules to play by.

This means being generous with praise. If you compliment your teenagers they will be more able to accept constructive criticism. They want you to tell it like it is.

General Education

God intended for humans to receive instruction through the family—from father to son and mother to daughter, down through the generations (Prov. 1:8-9, 2:1-5). Many of the problems in teen-



G.A. BELLUCHE, JR.—PT

Help your teenager make right career choices by encouraging him or her to seek full information on occupations available.

agers' lives today are the direct result of their parents not following *their* parental advice. *They* didn't learn from the experiences, and yes, mistakes, of previous generations.

You, as a parent, need to be integrally involved in every facet of your teen's education—moral, spiritual, emotional and intellectual.

It is interesting to note the Hebrew word for *train* in Proverbs 22:6 ("*Train* up a child in the way he should go"). The root meaning of *chanak*, from which *train* is translated, is "to narrow." Training our children involves narrowing the choices they have to make, instead of accepting the vast array of deceptive, negative lifestyles this world offers (Matt. 7:13-14).

Your example is paramount in educating your teenagers. Teenagers will follow parents' examples more than parents' words. Do you keep your word? Do you say nice things to other people's faces and then speak critically of them in private?

Setting the right example for teenagers includes showing affection, displaying good work habits, taking care of your health and personal appearance and providing properly for your family's needs.

A major responsibility you have in educating your teenagers is instilling within them a knowledge of and respect for God's laws and way of life. Notice the last half of Ephesians 6:4: "Bring them [your children] up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

The average parent today is totally unaware of the basic principles by which to help teenagers. Yet God's revealed Word is plain about the way children should be taught to go: "You shall teach them [God's commandments] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deut. 6:7).



HAL FINCH—PT

It can be fun exploring various musical styles—different from ones your teen, or you, may be locked into.

Sometimes parents know their teenagers are not doing what is right, but are afraid to tell them. Why should parents be afraid of their own children? Why not call your teenager aside and have a good, serious talk with him? You may simply have to lay it on the line. Tell him just where he is headed if he will not obey. Tell him again who is the head of the house. Let him know what his obligations are. Make him understand!

Thoroughly explain again God's Fifth Commandment: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you" (Ex. 20:12).

Again, in Proverbs 20:20, God gives the same principle: "Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness."

Teach your teen responsibility and emotional balance. As Lamentations 3:27 says, "It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth." Or, as one father told his son when he claimed he didn't know how to do a certain job, "You'll never learn any younger!" This applies

not only to physical chores, but to developing important character traits also.

The book of Proverbs contains much sound advice on achieving true success and building happy human relationships. Read through the Proverbs—and encourage your teenagers to do so—or, better yet, read through them together in a different translation this time. The Proverbs apply to everyday situations and are easy to understand, especially if you read in a modern translation. You may be surprised at the wisdom you find in them.

Learning from instruction, such as that found in the Bible, and from the experiences of elders, is far better than being educated in the school of hard knocks. As a parent you can no doubt vouch for that.

At this time in life, your teenager will be interested in several special areas that you should be aware of in terms of his or her education. These areas include music, sex and marriage preparation, career education and different forms of recreation.

Music
You've probably seen, in comic strips or on television, humorous

representations of the seemingly eternal war between parents and teenagers over the type of music the teens listen to. But the subject, in reality, is not really one to be laughed at.

As a parent you need to take particular interest in the music your teenager finds enjoyable—again, not from a negative, vindictive, condemning standpoint, but in an attitude of helpfulness in steering your child in the right direction. Much of popular music today, with its themes of violence, illicit sex and rebellion against authority, is simply not good fare for entertainment.

In considering the music your teenager listens to, think: Since music is one of the most powerful instruments for good or evil that the world has ever known, the music your teen selects can make a big difference in the attitudes and behavior patterns he or she develops. Encourage your children to be cautious and to ask questions before being swept away by any kind of music.

Is it constructive and uplifting to mind and body? Or does it tend unnecessarily to shock and upset and lead listeners in moral and emotional directions they shouldn't go?

It can be a lot of fun exploring the many different musical styles other than the one your teen may be locked into—or the one you may be locked into yourself! Why not make some positive musical discoveries—together?

Sex Education

Before you deal with questions about love, sex and marriage preparation—and you *will*, as a concerned parent, have to guide your children in this area—we would encourage you again to refer to our free, full-length book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.

You would do well to guide your teenager to and through specific sexual information, fully discussing areas such as premarital sex, birth control, abortion and marriage planning.

Many parents are concerned about teen dating—when to allow it and under what conditions. Parents are the very ones who can do the most to develop right dating attitudes and habits in their children.

Sponsoring quality group activities for your young people can do a lot to defuse the premature pairing off and going steady that can take place when your teens are forced constantly to find their own special outlets. Most important, get to know the friends they have.

Career Planning

The area of career planning is important to any teenager. Help your teenager make right choices by encouraging him or her to seek full information on the wide variety of occupations available. Numerous books, tests and counseling services are available to help your teen learn more about his or her aptitudes and interests.

Get your teen thinking about the future and help avoid the frustration that may come from taking any job that comes along.

Recreation

The same advice would apply in the area of recreational activities. Provide, as much as you can, for your young person to explore many different types of sports, hobbies and travel opportunities. These will help develop your teen into a well-rounded, balanced adult.

And participate right along with your teen in many of these activities. No one can take the place of a parent. It's all too easy to excuse ourselves from spending time with our children. But no parent has a valid excuse not to be actively involved in the lives of his or her children as they grow from infancy through the teen years into adulthood.

Although the individual interests of teenagers can vary as widely as they do with adults, taking the time to show a true concern will show your son or daughter that you really care.

True, it takes time to learn about photography or skiing. Roller-skating with your kids or going with them to an amusement park may not be the most fun thing you ever do. But putting forth the energy to involve yourself in a realistic way can benefit you, the parent, in building bridges between you and your children. This type of bond cannot be bought with money.

An ideal way to create this bond

is to develop interests and hobbies as a family (more fully explained in an earlier installment). These can offer areas of mutual interest when your children reach their teenage years. The point is that parents should strive to share in the interests of their children, regardless of their ages.

Teens Need Discipline, Too

As a young person grows older, discipline well may take the form of denial of privileges. Proper discipline gives a young person a sense of security. To the surprise of some parents a "code for parents" drawn up by a group of young people stipulates: "Be strict and consistent in dishing out discipline. Show us who's boss. It gives us a feeling of security to know we've got some strong supports under us.

"If you catch us lying, stealing or being cruel, get tough. Let us know why what we did was wrong. Impress on us the importance of not repeating such behavior. When we need punishment, dish it out. But let us know you still love us, even though we have let you down. It'll make us think twice before we make the same move again.

"And make it clear that you mean what you say. Don't be wishy-washy. Don't compromise. And don't be intimidated by our threats to drop out of school or leave home. Stand firm. If you collapse, we will know we beat you down, and we will not be happy about the 'victory.' Kids don't want everything they ask for."

Above all, in every area where you deal with your teenagers, be positive. Show them that you deeply care, and encourage them in every way possible to succeed.

Ask yourself: "Am I *for* my sons and daughters? Am I interested enough to get involved in their lives during one of their most crucial and potentially traumatic periods of development?"

Let's be sure we understand our parental responsibilities. Let's set the example of caring about our teens by knowing them and being involved, in a positive way, with them. Our next installment—"Coping as a Single Parent"—elaborates on this theme for those coming from broken homes. □

YOU AND YOUR MONEY



Fewer subjects stir more interest than money. Sticking to a budget is vital to financial success.

by Ronald D. Kelly

At our world headquarters in Pasadena, California, as I complete this article for *The Plain Truth*, it's budget preparation time. Our department heads are toiling over the previous year's facts and figures to which plans for expansion are added.

So a new fiscal year begins with plans for a balanced budget.

Balanced budget? What's that? An impossible dream? Or an economic necessity?

The United States government has come face to face with the greatest national budget deficit in history. Balancing the budget is

one of the biggest problems most governments face. Most corporations face. And most individuals face.

Sooner or later it simply must be done, or financial chaos will result.

National governments can and often do delay the agony of balancing the budget by printing more money. When they do, the result is inflation. That only delays the inevitable need for better budgeting. Any government resorting to such a method eventually is going to have to bite the bullet and get its financial house in order.

Corporations that find themselves in budget deficit have to make dramatic cuts. Inventories are cut back, salaries reduced, sales promotionals increased, employees terminated—anything to balance the budget. If not successful, corporations go bankrupt.

But what about individuals like you and me?

What we do know, is that in our own lives, we too have trouble making ends meet. And the tragic result of improper financial management for the individual can be the same as a large corporation or even a national government—bankruptcy.

Setting Up a Budget

The most successful way

to manage your income is establishing and sticking to a budget. If you have tried it, you'll know it is not easy. At all income levels, very few families find they have enough income to meet their needs and desires.

In fact, most find their wants increase even greater than their incomes. Salary increases never seem to keep up with expenditures.

Poor people must abide by a rigid budget. They simply do not have enough to worry about the extras in

**Nearly
50 percent of
U.S. workers in
sales,
technical and
administrative
support are
women.**

budgeting. They learn somehow to live on what they have, and hope for better days.

As one moves into middle-class income range, it would seem funds could be set aside for savings, emergencies and other needs. But for many it never works that way. Inflation, the lure of advertisers and the temptations of a credit-oriented society seem to keep the middle class at least one step behind financial security.

And the wealthy? One would think upper-level income families would be the most successful of all in budgeting. But far too often increased financial resources merely mean increased expenditures. With more money comes a finer home, automobile and designer clothing, expensive restaurant dining, foreign travel, etc., etc. And the budget may not balance.

No matter where you find yourself in the economic spectrum, it's time you set your finances in order. For several years *The Plain Truth* has been warning readers to learn to tighten their belts. The Western world has enjoyed, overall, unparalleled prosperity from the end of World War II until recent times.

But the future will not always be so prosperous. When and if harder times come, you cannot print more paper money or juggle huge corpo-

rate funds to balance your budget. You will have to prepare and stick to a plan of sound financial management.

Budgeting is learning to calculate your needs in proportion to your income. It sounds simple, but it isn't for two reasons: 1) We often don't have sufficient income for what we perceive our needs to be; and 2) our wants and desires usually overcome us and we classify them as "needs."

Let's see if we can help you establish a sound financial plan.

The Budget Meetings

The first thing to do is hold a family budget meeting. Just like a corporation or government, hours of meetings must be held involving all facets of the budgeting process.

I have been surprised at how many families simply never discuss finances. I recently asked my Family Relations class at Ambassador College how many of them knew their family's income and had participated in family budget meetings. Out of 125 students only 10 or 12 could respond positively.

College Financial Aids officers confirm many young adults are lacking understanding when it comes to money matters.

So a family budget meeting (or series of meetings) will help every family member understand how the money will be spent during the coming year. Children at an early age can be brought into the conversations. Of course very young children won't fully understand, but they will learn as the years go by.

Long-range goals such as saving for the down payment on a home, a

new car or for a college education for the children must be understood along with how to meet the rent payment, buy new school clothing and provide a weekly allowance for the teenagers in the family.

If the teenagers knew how difficult it is to meet all the family desires on Dad's income, they might be more anxious to get an after-school job where necessary.

One of the first items of business is for the family to understand its *fixed* expenditures—those funds that simply have to be paid. They include national and state taxes, mortgage or rent payments, utilities, transportation needs, a certain amount of food and clothing and any major long-term credit debts.

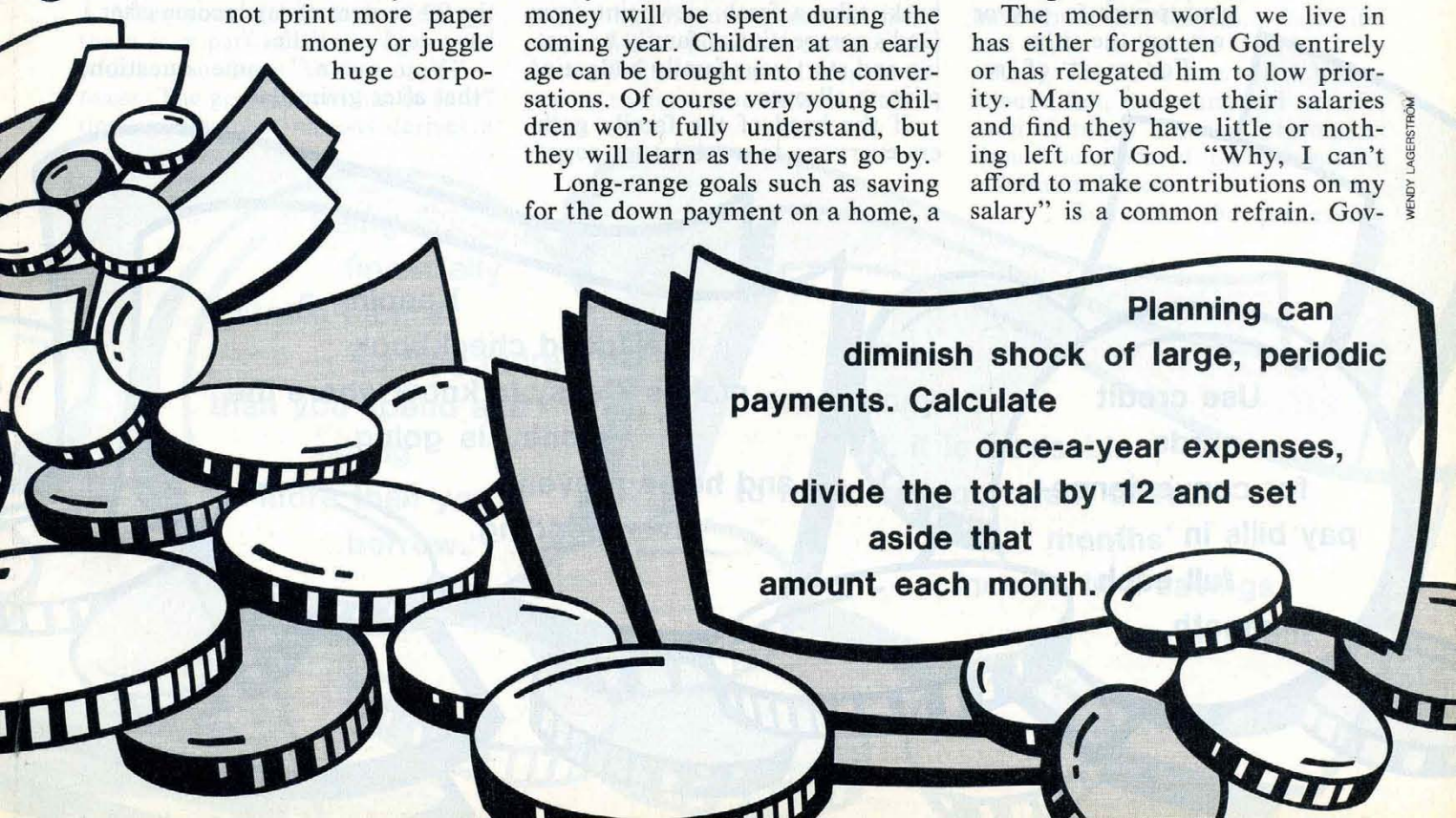
Most families will find these fixed expenditures consume a large portion of their income. It's surprising how little is left. With that knowledge, though, it becomes possible to understand how vital each family member's contribution is.

But before coming to the discretionary areas of the budget, the most important point of all should be discussed.

Put God in the Picture

It may come as quite a surprise that God should be the first priority in budget discussion—but there is nothing more essential.

The modern world we live in has either forgotten God entirely or has relegated him to low priority. Many budget their salaries and find they have little or nothing left for God. "Why, I can't afford to make contributions on my salary" is a common refrain. Gov-



Planning can diminish shock of large, periodic payments. Calculate once-a-year expenses, divide the total by 12 and set aside that amount each month.

ernments, of course, have not made budgeting easy nor taxation voluntary. Taxes are taken from wages *before* the employee receives his paycheck.

After taxes, most families pay fixed expenses and then allocate whatever discretionary moneys may remain. That can take the entire family income. But it need not!

Financial success does not begin with detailed family budgets. Such details come later. Financial success begins with God. Most people seldom stop to think God made this vast universe and this beautiful jewel of a planet called earth. He capped it off by creating mankind in his own image.

God has given humans dominion over the physical creation. We can farm the land, mine the natural resources, develop the technological skills to make life more comfortable.

No one should deny how much God has given. But what does that all have to do with family finances?

Much!

For use from all this world's resources, God has allocated for himself a tithe, or 10 percent, of the increase we receive from our efforts. Unlike most governments God does not take the tithe before you receive your check. It is within your power to pay or not pay the tithe.

For most of re-

corded human history, the majority have not known about, have forgotten about or have simply refused to honor God with a tithe of the increase. No wonder so few families or wage earners enter into a partnership arrangement with God.

Here is what God's Word, the Bible, says about partnership with him: "'Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it'" (Mal. 3:8-10, New International Version throughout).

Isn't it strange that in our modern affluent Western world there should be so much financial trouble? Huge corporations struggle—some go bankrupt. Gigantic modern nations are on the verge of debt collapse. Personal and family bankruptcies are at an all-time high.

You can do little at the national and corporate levels. But you can do a lot at the family level.

It may be time for you to step back, take a fresh viewpoint from God's perspective of family budgeting and start your family budgeting process all over.

If the head of the family gathers everyone to a miniature corpo-

rate budget meeting to discuss the coming year, you will all be able to understand and work together toward family financial success.

Where to Start

The first order of business is to acknowledge God in the family financial picture. If you have not discussed his place in the world and universe, do so.

Then determine, as God instructs, to place God's tithe (his claim of 10 percent of your increase) as the *first* budgetary priority.

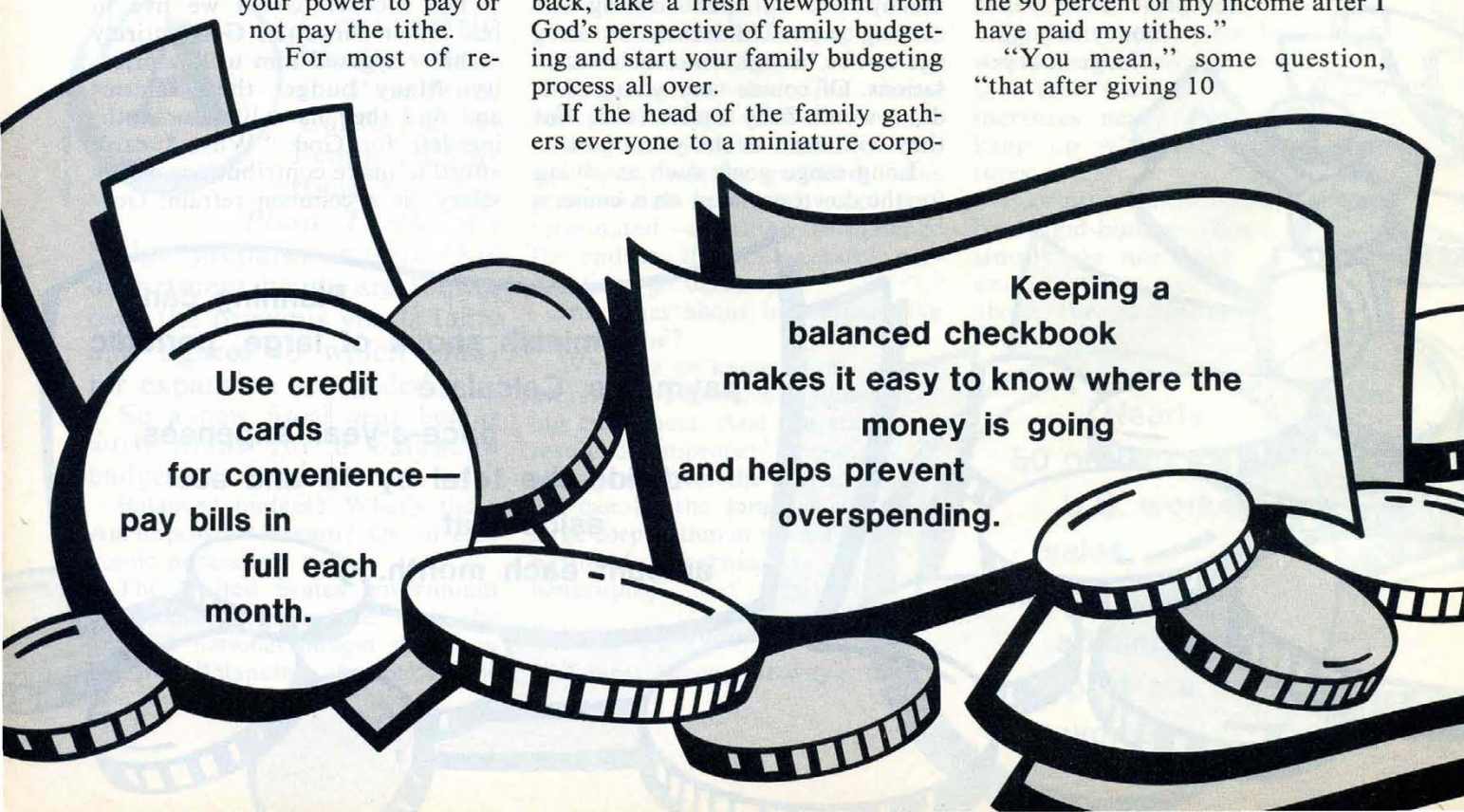
The next 90 percent is yours for its proper allocation.

To put God at the top of the financial priority list to some sounds foolish. But we are dealing with principles that transcend and supersede normal human reasoning. By tithing we are acknowledging God and his partnership in our lives. We show that spiritual values are superior to temporal and material things.

Then God blesses us. It's that kind of arrangement.

I know many people who tithe—give a full 10 percent of their incomes to God—and even give more through occasional offerings. Among them is a humorous mathematical riddle: "When is 90 percent equal to or greater than 100 percent?" The answer: "When it is the 90 percent of my income after I have paid my tithes."

"You mean," some question, "that after giving 10



Use credit cards for convenience—pay bills in full each month.

Keeping a balanced checkbook makes it easy to know where the money is going and helps prevent overspending.

percent, what I have left will go as far or even farther than the whole 100 percent would have?"

That's right!

But you'll never know till you step out in faith and try it.

Tithing Teaches Budgeting

The word *budget* implies proportioning your income into a series of categories. Think of each portion as a percentage of the money you have available. The first 10 percent of your increase is God's. The remaining 90 percent can now be allocated.

Tithing gives us the principle of percentage allocation.

There are two categories into which you must divide your budget. The first area we will call *fixed expenses*. Fixed expenses are those that will come every month and will be about the same each month. Second, there are *variable expenses*. You can also call these funds *discretionary moneys*. These are expenses we will all have, but the amount we spend from month to month might vary considerably.

A fixed expense such as your monthly mortgage payment or rent will usually not significantly change. Other such fixed expenses will be cost of utilities—especially heating costs in winter—telephone, food, household expenses and transportation.

After your tithes and offerings, there is a part of the budget over which you have little control—*taxes*. The government has to function and in most nations derives a

portion of its funds from a percentage of each person's income. These taxes are usually withheld from wage earners before receiving pay.

In addition to taxes, there are other funds that are withheld from salaries. These include payment into a social welfare or social security fund, pension plans, required insurance, sometimes union dues and other smaller amounts. Since they are withheld, you have practically no control over them. But they must be calculated into your budget.

The three largest expenses most families incur are the cost of housing, the cost of food and in northern climates the cost of home heating. In some cases, there will be little left after these major items. Most families will find that food and housing will consume more than half their budgetary allocation.

In our modern industrial world, a majority of families purchase and operate at least one automobile as a principal means of transportation. Some families may be able to rely on public transportation such as a bus or subway system to provide a portion of their transportation needs. These costs will also be a fairly fixed expense. A budget must be established for fuel and maintenance cost of an automobile or for transportation fares.

Another fixed expense is insurance. Most families carry some form of life insurance, homeowners' or renters' insurance and auto-

mobile insurance. In some nations many of these insurance needs are provided by the state and are part of the system of taxation one is charged in that nation. In other nations, insurance is a private matter and must be paid for separately. Many employers will provide insurance programs to employees and will at least cover a portion of these needs as a fringe benefit.

The remaining variable expenses are simply what the name implies: a variety of budget areas determined by a family's needs and based on the amount of money available for such expenses once fixed expenses have been budgeted. Variable expenses include the cost of clothing—certainly a necessity—but usually not allocated on a monthly basis. In addition there are expenses for entertainment, recreation, vacation and travel, savings, gifts and personal allowances.

Your budget percentages will vary, but the important thing is to know where your money should be going based on a sound plan.

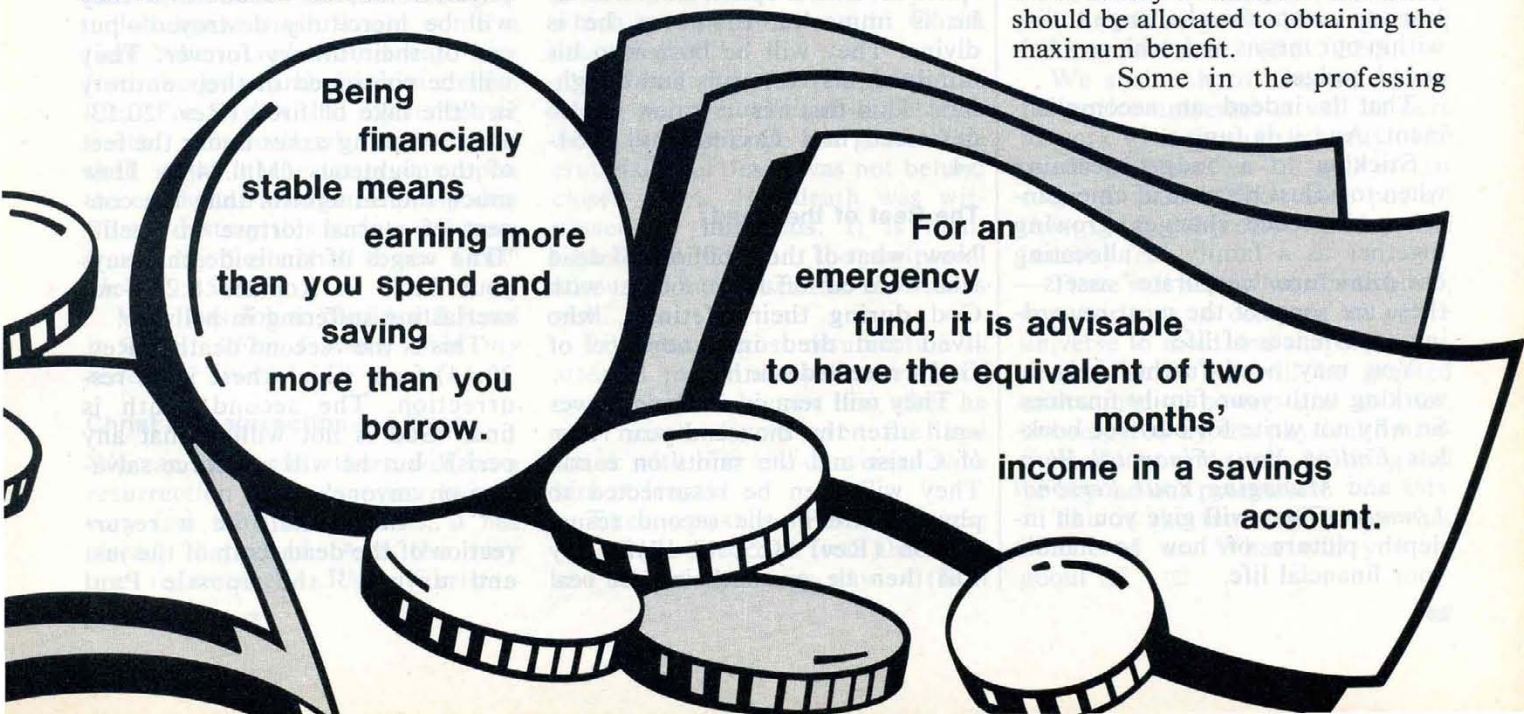
Art of Sticking to a Budget

All this family meeting and planning may sound good. But making a budget work requires diligent effort.

And budgeting should be fun.

That's right, fun. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). To add to that which brings about a full, rewarding and fun life, each family's financial resources should be allocated to obtaining the maximum benefit.

Some in the professing



Being financially stable means earning more than you spend and saving more than you borrow.

For an emergency fund, it is advisable to have the equivalent of two months' income in a savings account.

Christian world have almost come to regard poverty as a virtue. They mistakenly think the Bible says, "Money is the root of all evil." The Bible does not say that (but it does warn about not setting one's heart on riches in an improper manner).

What the Bible does say is, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (I Tim. 6:10). It is lusting after money or the things money can buy that is wrong—not the diligent hard and honest work that will bring appropriate financial gain.

We have already read in Malachi 3 that God would bless us abundantly if we place him and his way first in our decisions and in our lives. And that blessing is physical as well as spiritual.

In this regard the apostle John wrote, "I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well" (III John 2).

So while the Bible makes it plain God would have us prosper, it is also plain we get ahead by hard work and proper planning. It would not be good for God to hand over untold wealth to anyone. We first must learn to effectively handle what we have been given, then God will add more.

And that's where budgeting comes in. From tithing we learn to allocate percentages of our income, beginning with the most important allocation of all—that of God's rightful 10 percent. Then to budget the rest wisely and efficiently, we learn to accept the challenge to live within our means and achieve a balanced budget.

That is indeed an accomplishment. And it is fun.

Sticking to a budget, learning when to adjust because of emergencies and needed changes, growing together as a family in allocating our miniature "corporate" assets—these are some of the most rewarding experiences of life.

You may need further help in working with your family finances. So why not write for our free booklets *Ending Your Financial Worries* and *Managing Your Personal Finances*. They will give you an in-depth picture of how to handle your financial life. □

Closing in

(Continued from page 16)

future is a resurrection—a rising from the dead!

The Bible teaches the resurrection, not the immortality, of the soul! The resurrection is our only hope of inheriting eternal life.

Actually, the Bible speaks of three resurrections from the dead. Every person who has ever lived will be in at least one of them!

The apostle Paul describes the first resurrection in I Thessalonians 4:16-17:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ [true Christians who have died throughout history] shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain [true Christians still living] shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

At the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the righteous will be resurrected to immortal spirit life by the power of the Spirit of God. They will rule with Christ during his thousand-year reign on earth. They will be changed from mortal to immortal—"born again," to use the biblical terminology. (Write for our free booklet *Just What Do You Mean—Born Again?* for an explanation of this much-misused phrase.)

These resurrected saints shall be spirit as God is spirit, immortal as he is immortal, divine as he is divine! They will be born into his family as his very sons and daughters! This first resurrection is also described in I Corinthians 15:51-54.

The Rest of the Dead

Now, what of those billions of dead who were cut off from contact with God during their lifetimes, who lived and died in ignorance of God's revealed truth?

They will remain in their graves until after the thousand-year reign of Christ and the saints on earth. They will then be resurrected to physical life in the second resurrection (Rev. 20:5, 11-12). They will then be given their first real

opportunity for salvation and a chance to qualify for responsibility in the kingdom of God.

Few understand this vital truth! The vast majority of mankind have never even had a chance for salvation!

Anciently, the prophet Ezekiel was permitted by God to see in vision this great second resurrection. God showed Ezekiel a valley full of dried bones:

"And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou [alone] knowest" (Ezek. 37:3).

God then declared: "Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: and I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live . . ." (verses 5 and 6).

Ezekiel then witnessed—across three-and-a-half millennia into the future—a portion of this great worldwide resurrection to physical life. ". . . and the breath came into them," he records, "and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army" (verse 10).

The Second Death

Finally, what of those who steadfastly refuse to follow God's way, those who are given a chance now, in this life, to reach for immortality but turn it down?

These will have a part in the third resurrection, a resurrection to physical life, at which time they will be mercifully destroyed—put out of their misery forever. They will be consumed in their entirety in "the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:13-15), becoming *ashes* under the feet of the righteous (Mal. 4:3). How much more merciful than the concept of eternal torture in "hell"! "The wages of sin is death," says your Bible in Romans 6:23—not everlasting suffering in hell fire!

This is the "second death" (Rev. 20:14) from which there is no resurrection. The second death is final. God is not willing that any perish, but he will not force salvation on anyone!

" . . . there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust," the apostle Paul

declared (Acts 24:15). A resurrection is the *only* hope for mankind!

For an in-depth biblical examination of this vital subject, request our reprint series "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?"

How Can You Be SURE?

The Bible reveals a great future for the immortal, born-again sons and daughters of God. But how can you know that what the Bible says is really true, that we will live again?

Hanging in the Tate Gallery in London is a touching painting by a mid-19th-century artist. It shows a young woman standing deep in thought by the grave of a dead loved one. The painting bears the title *The Doubt: Can These Dry Bones Live?* This question has occupied the thoughts of mankind for millennia.

On a stone gravemarker near the woman's feet lies a sprouting chestnut, symbolic of life—possibly the artist's veiled answer to the question posed by the painting's title. On the gravemarker is carved a simple but confident inscription: *Resurgam*—"I shall rise again!"

A powerful statement, that! But how can you be sure?

Anciently, God's servant Job asked, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). Job knew the answer: "... all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change [to immortality] come. Thou [God] shalt call, and I will answer thee..." (verses 14-15).

Job knew there would come a time when God would call him from the grave and give him eternal life. "For I know that my redeemer liveth," Job declared, "and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet [apart from] my flesh shall I see God" (Job 19:25-26).

Why was Job so confident? Read it again: "*For I know that my redeemer liveth...*"!

Christ's Resurrection—a Type

We can know that there will be a resurrection to immortality by the very fact that, in one case, it has already happened. And the very one resurrected—Jesus Christ—

will be the means to our resurrection.

Christ's resurrection after three days and three nights in the grave was a type or forerunner of the resurrection God promises to all who obey him. The apostle Paul was inspired to write:

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken [enliven] your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Rom. 8:11).

Jesus Christ guarantees it! Notice what he says in John 11:25: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Jesus was the "firstborn among many brethren" (Rom. 8:29), the "firstborn from the dead" (Col. 1:18), the "firstfruits of them that slept" (I Cor. 15:20). These verses obviously imply that others are destined to follow him.

Christ's Resurrection—Fact, Not Fiction!

One final but supremely important point remains.

Some disbelieving critics have alleged that Jesus' resurrection is mere fable and fabrication, with no basis in fact. This is a serious allegation.

Notice in I Corinthians 15:17-18 that everything hinges on the reality of Jesus' resurrection: "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain [meaningless or empty]; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished."

If Jesus did not rise from the dead, we are without hope! But Jesus did rise from the grave! The crucifixion of Jesus was not behind closed doors. His death was witnessed by hundreds. It is mentioned not only in the scriptural accounts, but in secular records as well.

Likewise, Jesus' resurrection is attested to by many *hundreds* of eyewitnesses who saw him after he was raised. Some even ate and drank with him and conversed with him at length!

The apostle Paul states: "... God raised him from the dead: and he was seen many days of them

which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his *witnesses* unto the people" (Acts 13:30-31).

In I Corinthians 15:4-8, Paul elaborates: "And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: and that he was seen of Cephas [Peter], then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present. . . . After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also. . . ."

As Luke summarizes in Acts 1:3: "To [the apostles] also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."

Men do not become martyrs to what they know to be false! The belief of the early Christian Church was absolute, based on personal testimony or eyewitness testimony.

Jesus did rise from the dead! The fact of his resurrection is as firmly established as the assassination of Julius Caesar! And he, Christ, likewise, "shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body . . ." (Phil. 3:21).

This is our destiny, if we choose to accept it!

New Horizons

As resurrected, glorified, immortalized saints—born into God's family as his divine children—we will "inherit all things" (Rev. 21:7) and "shall reign [rule or govern] for ever and ever" (Rev. 22:5).

We shall inherit the vastness of the entire universe! It will be ours to work with through eternity. The words of Hebrews 2:8 will at last come to pass: "Thou hast put all things in subjection under his [man's] feet. . . ."

There will be new worlds to build, new horizons to conquer, an entire universe to mold and shape! And to accomplish it we will be granted undreamed-of powers and abilities, unhampered by the physical limitations of time and space. Nothing will be beyond our potential!

This is the fantastic future that is offered us. What will you do about it? □

Old Barracks and the New Europe

The land that lies between Katowice and Kraków is hardly the most beautiful in Europe. It is frozen and bleak in winter, a swamp in summer. It is now part of southern Poland, although it has changed hands several times in the ebb and flow of history.

At the end of the last century it was known as Galicia, a region of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. But it had by then more or less reverted to Polish control. The decision to build a new barracks for a cavalry regiment in this unprepossessing area went unnoticed by the rest of the world, for it was, indeed, a singularly unremarkable event.

The new barracks were just outside the little town of Oświęcim. Thirty or so brick barrack blocks were built. They would not have won any prizes for architectural excellence, but they were strong and serviceable, and a more than adequate home for the Polish soldiers who would occupy them. Trees planted in the roadways between the barracks softened the rather austere look of the compound. The architect and builders of this military facility would have had reason to be satisfied with a job well done.

Eventually the barracks were abandoned. Left to the elements, they became dilapidated, but because they were strongly built they did not become a ruin.

New Lease of Death

In 1939 Hitler's armies swept across the Polish border, and Oświęcim and its barracks became a part of the Third Reich. In the footsteps of the victorious army came men dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of their leader.

Hitler had outlined his goals some years earlier in his manifesto *Mein Kampf*. But few, including millions of straight-thinking Germans who had voted for him, had bothered to read it. But some had read and understood, and now in the flush of victory, they went to work to "cleanse" their thousand-year reich.

The Nazis had begun to organize their concentration camp system several years earlier. After lands to the east were occupied, the Nazis came upon the old barracks at Oświęcim while looking for a new location for a concentration camp.

By 1940 the buildings had fallen into disrepair and were no longer really fit for human habitation. The area was unhealthful. Vermin had taken over. But that couldn't have suited the Gestapo's purposes better. Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler gave the order to establish a concentration camp at Oświęcim on April 27, 1940.

A double line of electrified barbed wire fence was strung around the perimeter of the compound and guard towers were erected. And so the old barracks became Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

The first arrivals were brought to Auschwitz on June 14, 1940. They were the vanguard of millions of Poles, Jews, Czechs, Russians, Gypsies—people from all over Europe. A new, even larger camp was built close by at Birkeneau and the whole area around Auschwitz became a death factory.

Today the whole world knows what happened in the old barracks at Oświęcim. The buildings still stand today, preserved by the Polish nation as a museum and a monument to the millions who suffered there during those four and a half years of hell. A visit is still an overwhelming experience—the gas chambers, the pathetic piles of shoes and suitcases, the basement of Block 11 where certain prisoners were starved and kept in airless cells until they suffocated. No words that I have can adequately describe the utter horror of that place.

While wandering through the remains of the camp I wondered how the original builders of those barracks would feel if they surveyed their handiwork today. But how could they have known what would happen in their neat brick buildings? Architects and builders don't always know what will be done with the fruits of their labors.

The Only Solution

It is now 40 years since Auschwitz was liberated.

During those 40 years Europe has been without war—one of the longest continuous periods without war that the Continent has ever known. It is a precarious peace, more of a standoff.

Four decades after the Second World War the Continent is becoming restless once again. A new generation have grown up who have little knowledge—and no clear memories—of a war that was fought by their grandfathers. There are some disturbing parallels between the situation today and the Europe of the 1930s.

In past centuries, visionary statesmen have believed that the way to solve the Continent's perennial squabbles is to federate the individual nations into a united Europe. Politicians as far apart ideologically as Churchill and Trotsky saw a united Europe as the only lasting solution. Some, like Napoleon and Hitler, tried to forge a union through force of arms. They succeeded for a short time, but their united Europe soon disintegrated. Today more reasonable men are working hard behind the scenes to unite Europe by peaceful means.

It is an uphill struggle. The 10 nations of the European Economic Community with their headquarters in Brussels have come as close as any in the building of a united community. But their

la marcher!: "Stop talking about Europe—make it work!" was the candidate's slogan.

Roadblocks to Unity

But uniting Europe *is* easier said than done. The European nations are not in the same situation as the individual states of North America more than 200 years ago, who shared a common (and short) history. European countries have long individual histories and their own very distinct culture and languages. Some have been at each other's throats for centuries. And to this day, they still do not really like each other that much. They're going to have to have a good reason for laying aside generations of suspicion and misunderstanding to submerge their identities in a federation.

Today's hopeful architects of a new Europe are not oblivious to the difficulties. They are patient, skillful, careful men—a far cry from the bellicose dictators of the past. They write no *Mein Kampfs*. Their works are calm and reasonable, albeit with an undertone of urgency. And one sees in them a glimmer of a solution, if . . .

. . . if only this were a reasonable world where people could get along with each other. If nations could give without getting taken. If people really knew how to "love their neighbors as themselves." These are essential ingredients if Europe is ever to be united and stay at peace.

But this is not a reasonable world. And so 40 years after the end of the Second World War, the dream of a united Europe seems as far away as ever. And yet, it isn't.

There will be a United States of Europe. Today's hopeful architects and builders of a new Europe are going to find their dreams fulfilled, but not quite in the way they have planned. Not perhaps even among the nations they expect. It may happen so suddenly that even the most astute statesmen and politicians are caught off their guard. When it happens it will alter the balance of power in the world almost overnight. These patient and reasonable Eurocrats will live to see their dreams appear to come true. Except that their dream will turn into a nightmare!

The Plain Truth has said this consistently. On what authority can we say it?

What Leaders Don't Know

There is a missing dimension in most analyses of European history—ancient, modern and future. It is the prophecies of the book we call the Bible. Don't be too quick to dismiss that statement as nonsense. The course of modern European history was established prophetically long ago, long before the Peace of Westphalia, the Congress of Vienna or the Potsdam Agreements that established the



JOHN HALFORD—PT

Army barracks at Oświęcim transformed into a concentration camp by the Nazis.

union is plagued by disagreement, and their achievements after 27 years still fall far below what was politically expected.

There is now a European Parliament of sorts that meets at Strasbourg. Yet it really has no power or authority over individual governments. For many Europeans the Parliament at Strasbourg is a nonissue and its elections are marked by apathy. Driving through the countryside of Lorraine last year I came across an election poster that summed up the hopes and the frustrations of the European Parliament. *Arretons de parler de l'Europe—faisons -*

present European boundaries after the Second World War.

The die was actually cast at the beginning of the sixth century B.C. after the ancient nation of Judah was taken into captivity by the Babylonian Empire. Daniel, a young Jewish captive, who was distraught at the ruin of his people, began to be shown first in broad outline and then in increasing detail the course of the future. Through a series of remarkable visions recorded in chapters 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12 of the book of Daniel, he was given to understand that the

picture that emerges is truly astounding. The Bible shows that 10 nations or groups of nations in Europe will be goaded by circumstances to unite. They will be unlikely allies, "iron mixed with miry clay" is how the Bible describes them (Dan. 2). But a common cause—or a common fear—forces them into a fragile union.

There is nothing fragile about what happens next. These 10 nations, spurred on by religious idealism, give up their sovereignty to a charismatic leader.

This leader and the superstate that he rules are described in the prophecies as a particularly ferocious and predatory wild animal, the like of which the world has not seen. The peaceful and ambivalent nature of Europe today will change. Led by a voracious appetite and possessing—perhaps possessed by—the very power of Satan himself, this economic-political-religious union—this wild animal or "beast"—will go on the rampage. For three and a half terrible years it savages real and imagined enemies. Britain, the United States and certain Middle East countries are among the first to fall, but no nation is safe. Much of the world is plunged into the greatest period of oppression that it has ever known.

Eventually, driven by ambition and desperate for the battered earth's dwindling resources, the beast turns its wrath on the only other remaining superpower, its age-old enemy in Eurasia. With nothing left to lose, these two great powers prepare to battle to the death, with the full fury of modern warfare. The world hovers on the brink of cosmocide. Only the intervention of God in the person of Jesus Christ saves humanity from destruction.

That is the briefest of overviews—and it all sounds fantastic. Most won't believe it—now. They will later!

If you do want to investigate further, we have several free booklets—for example, *Are We Living in the Last Days?* and *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*—which we will be pleased to send you free of charge. All our readers, but *particularly* those living on the shores of the North Atlantic today, should know what they say.

This coming third superpower, portrayed in Bible prophecy, is a far cry from the peaceful European union envisaged by the hopeful men now working for unity in Brussels and Strasbourg. They seek peace and prosperity in a European union that uses its potential to improve the quality of life of all the world. Never in their wildest imagination have they thought that they may be drawing up the plans and laying the groundwork for the greatest prophesied instrument of destruction that the world has ever known.

Neither did those men who built the barracks at Oświęcim. But architects and builders don't always know what will be done with the fruits of their labors.

—John Halford



Election poster typifies the hopes and frustrations of the European Parliament.

coming centuries would be dominated by a series of world-ruling empires, each more aggressive than the one before. These empires were analogized in the visions as wild animals. Daniel lived to see the end of the first empire (the Babylonian) and was appointed to an influential position in the government of the next empire (the Persian) that replaced it. He continued his thirst for knowledge of the future, and beseeched God up until the end of his long life for further details. Finally he was told to "go his way." Enough was enough—a full understanding of these matters would not come until the future "time of the end" (Dan. 12:9).

Five hundred and fifty years later Jesus Christ expanded our understanding of the knowledge given to Daniel in His prophecy on the Mount of Olives, recorded in Matthew 24. But he deliberately left some questions unanswered. The key to final understanding was given 65 years later through the Apocalypse or book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, in which the circumstances surrounding the end of this civilization were previewed in astounding detail by the elderly apostle John. But even he could not fully grasp the significance of what he saw. It was an understanding that could only be fully comprehended by those destined to live into the end time, a generation in which these prophecies would be fulfilled.

We live in that time today. We can—if we will—understand these ancient prophecies and be ready for what is about to happen to this world. The

Finding a Way Out of **FEAR AND DEPRESSION**

by Donald D. Schroeder

Why does this world not understand the
CAUSES for so much human worry, fear, mental gloom?

NEVER have so many needed to rediscover
hope, faith, courage and power to
deal with fears and
personal problems. Never



have so many needed a personal way to deal with a world plunging headlong into worsening difficulties.

Why is it that critical understanding about the human mind and human nature is missing in education at all levels of life?

Why do so many medical and mental health care personnel not understand the real causes of today's problems?

Where is the true knowledge that would *prevent* problems before they arise—rather than today's false knowledge that attempts a cure *after* the problem arises?

Missing Knowledge

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge . . ." reveals the Creator in the Holy Bible, Hosea 4:6, Revised Standard Version (and so throughout, except where noted). Where is that knowledge today?

Jesus promised, "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32). Where is that truth today?

Jesus plainly meant truth would set you free—free from unresolved fears and worries, free from mental depression, free from sin.

The knowledge that is missing in so many lives is revealed *spiritual* knowledge. Man, by nature, knows only physical knowledge, revealed by the five senses. And from that limited knowledge man speculates. But most of man's mental and emotional problems are spiritual in nature. Man is violating immutable spiritual laws, as well as physical laws, set in motion by the Creator. The consequences are grievous mental and physical suffering.

Many modern minds think it educated to reject biblical revelation and the reality of immutable spiritual laws. They do not recognize why they think this way. As a result, they cannot find the solution to many of mankind's mental illnesses. They are not dealing with root causes!

There are laws of sound mental health! There are laws of success! They produce hope, peace of mind, joy and happiness. But untold millions daily violate the laws that produce these results. They conse-

quently set themselves up for fear and depression.

The Bible reveals how to receive the help and power you need to overcome your human nature, your worries and fears in life. It reveals how to deal with every adverse situation with faith and hope.

But first, you need to comprehend why humanity has jumped the track. Why has mankind failed to learn such critical knowledge? Why do most of us respond with damaging negative fears—even hopelessness—to many of our problems and setbacks in life? The Bible explains it!

Cut Off from the Source

God created the heavens and the earth that we can see with our eyes

Why do so many medical and mental health care personnel not understand the real causes of today's mental and emotional problems?

(Gen. 1:1). But before this physical creation, the great God had created powerful spirit beings, angels, differing in rank.

These spirit beings at the first obeyed the laws and government of God. But during a period before the creation of man, a new way of doing things—the "get" and competitive way—was introduced to many of the angels by a great archangel whose name meant Lightbringer. We know him by the Latin name *Lucifer*. He was one of God's most powerful and beautiful spirit beings. He was set by God to administer God's laws and ways over the earth.

Lucifer's name—Lightbringer—meant he was to be the bringer of God's truth and laws to the earth. But he chose to exalt himself. He wanted to kick God off his throne. Through subtle slander he swayed many angels to believe that God's laws were unfair, that God's way of "give" was foolish, that his—Luci-

fer's—"get" and competitive way was more liberating, a better way of existence.

One third of the angels chose to rebel against God and his ways (Rev. 12:4). Their minds were perverted by wrong ways of thinking—by attitudes of strife, resentment of authority and selfishness. They rebelled against God's laws. As a result they lost understanding and power to do true good. Their assault on God's throne was overwhelmed by God's superior power and they were flung back to earth.

The leader of this rebellion, Lucifer, became the devil, or Satan, meaning "Adversary." His fallen angels became demons. You can read of this rebellion in Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:12-19. Jesus referred to Satan's fall in Luke 10:18.

Ever since man was created, it has been the major objective of these fallen spirit beings to keep humans, created in the image of God, from understanding the awesome purpose of their human existence and from fulfilling their incredible human potential (II Cor. 4:4). You may not want to believe it, but Scripture reveals there is a devil who has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9). Part of that deception involves causing even educated people not to believe that there are spirit beings who rebelled. And to reject God's spiritual laws that would bring us peace and harmony.

Of course, Satan hasn't thwarted God's plan or ultimate purpose for mankind. Here is why.

When God created the first man and woman, he revealed to them his purposes and immutable laws. He gave them the opportunity to qualify to replace Satan as ruler over the earth. He taught them that violation of his laws and commands would end up in death—the cessation of life (Gen. 2:17).

But they chose to believe the deceptive lies introduced by a clever Satan. They chose to disbelieve God, and that they could not die. They came to believe they had "immortal souls." They thought they could become like God and be able to determine good and evil for themselves by taking something (forbidden fruit) that was not theirs (Gen. 3).

The first human pair disobeyed their Creator and rebelled. So God drove them from his presence on earth. He cut them and all humanity to be born of them off from contact with God, except as God chose to intervene and deal with humans from time to time. For what great purpose?

God chose to allow mankind the experience of 6,000 years of man's way—Satan's way—of disobedience, rebellion, of doing their own ways—that is, to experience their own ways of thinking and reasoning under Satan's sway.

Mankind was left to human devices and power, *apart from God*. Mankind lost the spiritual understanding of how he should live, of how to constructively deal with his problems, fears and needs. When man lost contact with God, he lost the way to peace and happiness—for the Creator was the ultimate resource of true wisdom, hope, power and blessing.

Mankind has been, instead, under Satan's influence without realizing it. The Bible reveals Satan as "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). He works to influence wrong values, wrong attitudes and ignorance in human cultures and among people. The result is hate, strife, lust, fear and hopelessness. Satan broadcasts wrong attitudes and moods into unwary minds (see again Ephesians 2:2 and 6:12). No wonder so many do not understand some of their negative feelings and moods!

From the beginning of human life to now, almost all humanity has attempted to gain security, prosperity and needs through the "get" way of life—through competing governments, warring armies, ideologies and religions. Most individuals trusted in human strength and competition at the expense or hurt of others.

Most humans have not chosen the way of true love—the way of peace and cooperation, the way of giving and consideration, encouragement and service to build up those around them.

God's way of living and helping is guided by God's laws. It is the way of rebuilding and construction. It is the way of trust in God

and love of fellowman equal to concern for oneself.

On the other hand, look at the results of wrong ways of living.

Most humans, in their practical daily living, rely on their own human strength and wisdom. They are limited to their own values and ideas, to their own resources, or that of their culture, to solve their problems or to secure their needs, wants and desires.

Here is why true peace of mind, happiness and security have eluded most of mankind! Millions base their lives on values or ways of thinking and living that eventually produce problems they don't have resources to solve. They wake up and find their thinking and resources inadequate; that they have based their security

Mankind has lost the spiritual understanding of how he should live, of how to constructively deal with his problems, fears and needs.

and sense of personal worth on values, things or persons (themselves or others) that are transitory or limited in power to help them. They then suffer feelings of fear, loss and hopelessness. For millions, the results are unresolved anxieties, fear and depression.

It is time you analyzed your life, *now*, to see if your values and thinking have set you up to experience depression, fear and hopelessness.

Trusting Wrong Ways and Resources?

It matters greatly where one's ultimate trust and hope is. It matters greatly what one's values and resources are!

Many totally look to, or totally place their hopes and security in various man-devised governments, parties or ideologies. But every one of them eventually fails, becomes corrupt or collapses.

Individually, humans commonly

put their deepest trust, identity or feelings of self-worth in themselves—or other humans. But many who trust in themselves, deep down, know they have secret weaknesses, areas where they lack confidence in themselves.

And other humans in whom they put their trust do not always understand or uplift them; they may even lie, deceive or hurt them.

Many put their total security and hope in continuing prosperity. They live as if it will last forever. But man-devised prosperity doesn't last. It is based on the "get" way of life, enriching a few at the impoverishment of many. This kind of prosperity booms, then shakes, totters and collapses—destroying many misdirected minds, hopes and lives with it.

Lacking any deep spiritual purpose or hope in life, many have placed all their hopes and sense of personal worth in material goods or gadgets or possessions that wear out, rust or corrode. Or that can be swept away in some sudden accident or mishap.

It's no wonder so many feel totally worthless, hopeless, powerless. Life, for them, is not worth living when any of their transitory hopes or resources are lost or threatened with loss. Of course!—"For the creation [cut off from God] was subjected to futility . . .," said the apostle Paul (Rom. 8:20).

Many fears in life are caused by worshiping false status symbols—material things one really can't afford and which are making one poor financially and spiritually. That's not true success!

False Values and False Love, Too

A person may fail at a job or a marriage. Such big mistakes in life often cause severe fears or depressions. What's wrong with admitting you made a big mistake, facing the fact that you're not perfect? Is false human pride holding you back? No mortal is perfect. Satan and misguided human social values, under Satan's sway, have pumped pride into human minds, rather than humility and the willingness to admit mistakes. One can learn from mistakes and still go on and grow in the future.

Never have so many wrong ideas

about love set so many up for depression.

“I can’t live without you.” “There’s no one else meant for me.” “Only you can fulfill my dreams,” go modern love songs by the hundreds. It’s not true!

There’s more than one person you can learn to love. And misused sex does not mean love. It may mean unwanted children, or the horrid memory of an abortion or a disastrous marriage, or an abused or diseased body, a scarred mind.

Most humans learn to live first and foremost in the fear of the values and opinions of other men and women—most of which are wrong—rather than in any fear of God.

It is not that respect of others’ feelings or opinions, or that of a high human office, may not be important to consider. But it does matter what and where one’s real hope and confidence is.

Scripture warns, “The fear of man bringeth a snare”—all kinds of seemingly insoluble or inescapable problems—“but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be [spiritually, and often physically, emotionally and monetarily] safe” (Prov. 29:25, Authorized Version).

But why does nearly every human differ in his fears? Why do we each respond to various losses or setbacks in life in different ways and for different reasons? Let’s understand.

Different Breaking Points

Each of us, because of different upbringing, experiences or cultural learning, has acquired different levels of resilience or ways of responding to different kinds of problems, losses or setbacks in life.

Every human has his or her learned optimum values, hopes and resources in life. Jesus called them “your treasure,” where your heart will be, and also “the light of the body” (Matt. 6:21, 22, AV). They are the things one focuses and depends upon to give purpose, identity, self-worth and security in life.

You need to be aware what your real treasure, hopes and values are! Many of them may be *wrong* values, desires or feelings planted in your mind by Satan or learned

from your culture, which has been cut off from God and his ways.

Humans cut off from God establish different and usually false values, ideals and hopes, and possess varying physical, emotional and spiritual resources to achieve them. They consequently establish different breaking points if their hopes or resources fail.

A person may or may not be aware of his or her breaking point or points. People are not always aware of the limitations of their resources. These limitations are pushed into the subconscious mind or denied. For many, of course, the breaking point or resources have never been tested.

The breaking point, or failure of resources, that triggers fear, hope-

**Millions base
their lives on values or
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and living that eventually
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lessness or depression may be one thing for one person, something else for another.

One person’s breaking point may be failing to achieve or maintain a certain financial status in life. For another it is the loss of, or not being able to have, a certain friend or mate.

Another’s breaking point is not receiving or keeping a certain job or position in life. Another’s is loss of health, or the prospect of death.

Another’s is loss of physical attractiveness or beauty. Another’s is loss of certain material possessions; another’s is loss of children or something that happens to children.

It is not wrong to want to be loved. It is not wrong to enjoy a respectable status or possessions or to gain reasonable security for ourselves and our children. They are right and good if gained in accordance with God’s laws, if one is able to afford them and use them properly.

But Jesus taught, “Is not life”—

that is, the ultimate purpose of life—“more than food, and the body more than clothing?” (Matt. 6:25).

Jesus taught there is a purpose to your life that transcends physical life. All good gifts or opportunities in this physical life—human, material or other gifts—are temporary. They are but tools to be used to achieve something higher and eternal, the real purpose of one’s existence—*developing godly character!*

This true purpose of life is so enormous that Jesus taught us not to fear what men may do to us for our obedience to his ways, for the most they can do is destroy physical life, not the opportunity to receive eternal life.

Good physical possessions or opportunities should be appreciated and cared for while they last. But they are not forever. They are not the end-all, the be-all purpose of life in themselves.

But all of us misguided human beings have, at some time or another, made them so!

When we allow wrong, selfish or negative ways of thinking to take root in our mind—jealousy, envy, covetousness, lust or hate, for instance—we violate the spiritual laws of peace of mind revealed in the Ten Commandments. We commit idolatry and other sins that automatically produce problems and fears we may not have resources to solve.

Sin, the transgression of God’s law (I John 3:4), focuses our minds on false desires, false values, wrong wants, hopes and ways of thinking. We lose focus on God’s values and ways to secure our needs. We lose focus on God’s spiritual resources and power to help us. We trust in our way and resources. And when we realize our thinking, hopes and resources are insufficient, or have failed, we fall prey to fear and depression.

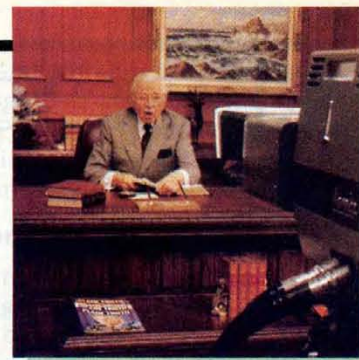
Why Near-hopelessness Ahead?

Never have so many millions totally set their hearts, affections and sense of personal worth on other persons, on sensual pleasures or on material possessions that can be suddenly swept away in an accident, in economic turmoil or natural disasters.

At the same time, never have the results of Satan’s ways, so evident in

"THE WORLD TOMORROW"

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of *The World Tomorrow* on TELEVISION and RADIO.



RADIO LOG

Listed by state or province are the station's call letters, location, frequency and time when the *World Tomorrow* program is aired.

CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

CKO-FM, Vancouver — 96.1, 8:30 pm, Sun-Fri
CJVI, Victoria — 900, 10:30 pm, Sun-Fri

ALBERTA

CKO-FM, Calgary — 103.1, 9:30 pm, Sun-Fri
CFCW, Camrose — 790, 10:00 pm, Mon-Fri
CKO-FM, Edmonton — 101.9, 9:30 pm, Sun-Fri

ONTARIO

CKO-FM, London — 97.5, 9:30 pm, Sun-Fri
CKO-FM, Ottawa — 106.9, 9:30 pm, Sun-Fri
CKO-FM, Toronto — 99.1, 9:30 pm, Sun-Fri

QUEBEC

CKO, Montreal — 1470, 9:30 pm, Sun-Fri
CKVL, Montreal — 850, 11:30 pm, Sun
CJRP, Quebec City (Fr) — 1060, 7:15 am, Sun

NOVA SCOTIA

CKO-FM, Halifax — 8:30 pm, Mon-Fri

CARIBBEAN

ZFB-1, Hamilton, Bermuda — 960, 7:00 pm, Sun-Sat

ZNS-3, Freeport (Eng), Bahamas — 810, 6:00 am, Mon-Fri; 9:00 am, Sun

RJR-FM, Christiana, Jamaica — 101.3, 6:00 am, Tues, Thurs; 6:30 am, Sun

RJR-AM, Kingston, Jamaica — 720, 4:30 am, Thurs, Sat

RJR-FM, Kingston, Jamaica — 92.7, 6:00 am, Tues, Thurs; 6:30 am, Sun

RJR-FM, Kingston, Jamaica — 94.7, 4:30 am, Thurs, Sat

RJR-FM, Kingston, Jamaica — 95.7, 6:00 am, Tues, Thurs; 6:30 am, Sun

RJR-FM, Kingston, Jamaica — 104.5, 4:30 am, Thurs, Sat

RJR-AM, Mandeville, Jamaica — 770, 4:30 am, Thurs, Sat

RJR-FM, Montego Bay, Jamaica — 92.9, 6:00 am, Tues, Thurs; 6:30 am, Sun

RJR-AM, Port Maria, Jamaica — 580, 4:30 am, Thurs, Sat

RJR-FM, Spur Tree, Jamaica — 90.5, 4:30 am, Thurs, Sat

MBC Radio (Fr), Port au Prince, Haiti — 1430, 10:30 am, Sun

Radio Caraibes (Fr), Guadeloupe & Martinique — 840, 5:30 am, Mon-Fri

BBS, St. Michael, Barbados — FM 90.7, 6:30 am, Mon-Fri; 9:00 am, Sat, Sun

Radio Antilles (Eng), Montserrat, Eastern Caribbean — 930, 6:00 pm, Mon-Sat; 7:00 am, Sun

Radio Antilles (Fr), Montserrat, Antilles — 1450, 740, 6:00 am, Mon, Thurs, Sat

NBS, Trinidad — 610, 10:30 pm, Sun-Fri

NEW ZEALAND

1XP, Radio Pacific, Auckland — 1593, 6:00 pm, Sun

1XW, Radio Waikato, Hamilton — 954, 10:30 pm, Sun

2XS, Radio Manawatu, Palmerston No. — 828, 10:15 pm, Sun

4XO, Radio Otago, Dunedin — 1206, 9:30 pm, Sun

4XA, Radio Central, Alexandra — 531, 9:30 pm, Sun

4XC, Radio Central, Queenstown — 1359, 9:30 pm, Sun

4XE, Radio Central, Wanaka — 1359, 9:30 pm, Sun

KCC-FM, Whangarei — 90.3, 9:00 pm, Sun

OTHER AREAS

A3Z, Tonga Radio (Eng), Nuku'alofa — 1020, 6:30 pm, Sun

C2AM, Radio Nauru — 1323, 9:00 am, Sun

Hong Kong Radio, Kowloon — 1044, 6:30 am, 12:00 am, Sat

Radio Ceylon — 7190, 9720, 15425, 9:00 pm, Sun, Tues, Thurs, Sat

Honduras, San Pedro Sula, Radio Norte (Sp) — 780, 8:45 am, Sun

Radio Luxembourg (Fr) — 5:15 am, Mon; 5:00 am, Tues, Thurs

France, Radio SUD (Fr), Toulouse — 1161, 5:45 am, Tues, Fri

See next issue for combined TV and Radio log

human lives and nations—war, sickness, economic instability, family breakdown, crime and violence—so jeopardized all the temporary things and dreams that humans have put their trust and hope in!

You need to stop and ask what are the most important values in your life. What are true and lasting values anyway?

It is not surprising that more and more youths as well as adults are emotionally unstable, without a clear and dynamic purpose or hope in life. They see futility and trouble ahead

in the world, even in the most materially prosperous cultures.

They do not see the wonderful world tomorrow soon to be set up on earth by Jesus Christ—that's the good news or gospel (*gospel* means "good news") he brought to man nearly 2,000 years ago. How many humans are focusing their attention on and preparing themselves to take a vitally needed role in that soon-coming government that will put a stop to world evils? That is a hope worth preparing for though all else—including your

own physical life—fails in this age!

Lack of this kind of dynamic purpose and hope is why so many seek escape from the seemingly insoluble problems of their lives or of this age in drugs or alcohol—or suicide!

Isn't it time you captured true values that would give you understanding about how to prevent problems before they arise? Isn't it time you tapped the ultimate resources to handle problems and challenges in your life? They're in your Bible. It reveals the answers you've been looking for. □



Easter Before Christ?

What do you think of when someone mentions Easter—brightly colored eggs, bunny rabbits, hot cross buns, Easter parades and sunrise services?

Have you ever wondered whether these traditional customs of Easter have any logical connection with the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Not in the Bible!

Very few have ever thought about why they believe what they do—why they follow the customs they do, or where those customs came from. Having been born into this world with its religious customs, perhaps you take for granted the customs and beliefs of society without question.

Just how and when did Easter originate? Does it really celebrate the resurrection of Christ? Was Christ even resurrected on a Sunday morning? Did the original apostles, whom Jesus taught personally, celebrate Easter?

Let's begin this eye-opening study and discover the surprising answers!

Did Apostles Celebrate Easter?

It is commonly believed that the Good Friday/Easter Sunday tradition began with the apostles of the New Testament Church.

1. What is found in the Bible regarding the observance of "Easter"? Acts 12:4, Authorized Version.

COMMENT: This is the only verse in the Authorized or King James Version of the Bible where the word *Easter* is mentioned. However, as any authority of the Greek language knows, it is a flagrant mistranslation! The original Greek word

here is *pascha*, meaning Passover. In every other place in the New Testament where *pascha* is used, it is always translated Passover. Examples of this can be found in Matthew 26:2, 17-19; Mark 14:12; and I Corinthians 5:7.

Virtually all other translations of the Bible correctly render *pascha* as Passover in Acts 12:4. The Revised Authorized Version, for example, has "... intending to bring him before the people after Passover."

Consequently, there is absolutely no biblical record of Christ's apostles and later true Christians ever observing Easter.

According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the apostolic Fathers. . . . The first Christians continued to observe the Jewish festivals [that is, God's—Leviticus 23:1-2], though in a new spirit, as commemorations of events which those festivals had foreshadowed" ("Easter," 11th edition).

Also notice what the historian Socrates Scholasticus wrote in his *Ecclesiastical History*, not long after the Roman Emperor Constantine, in the fourth century:

"Neither the apostles, therefore, nor the Gospels, have anywhere imposed . . . Easter. . . . Wherefore, inasmuch as men love festivals, because they afford them cessation from labor: each individual in every place, according to his own pleasure, has by prevalent custom celebrated [Easter]. . . .

"The Saviour and his apostles have enjoined us by no law to keep this feast . . . just as many other customs have been established in individual localities according to usage, so also the feast of Easter came to be observed in each place according to the individual peculiarities of the peoples inasmuch as none of the apostles legislated on the matter. And that the observance originated not by legislation, but as a custom the facts themselves indicate" (chapter 22).

2. Did Christ instruct his apostles to observe his resurrection or just the opposite—to commemorate the date of his *death*? Luke 22:8, 13-20. Also notice I Corinthians 11:23-26.

COMMENT: The evening before his crucifixion, Jesus established the New Testament Passover for Christians. He introduced the new symbols of unleavened bread and wine in place of the slaying of a lamb. Then he commanded his true followers down through the ages, "This do . . . in *remembrance of me*" (I Cor. 11:25).

Resurrection on Sunday?

Another reason why "Easter Sunday" could not have been celebrated by the early Christian Church may be found in the fact that Christ was not resurrected on a Sunday morning.

1. What did Jesus say about the length of time he would be in the grave? Matt. 12:39-40; Mark 8:31. Did he fulfill that sign "as he said"? Matt. 28:6.

COMMENT: The only sign Christ gave to prove he was the Messiah was the length of time he would be dead and buried—a period of three days and three nights, or 72 hours.

But according to the Easter tradition, Christ was crucified Friday afternoon and resurrected Sunday morning—a period of only a *day and a half*, or 36 hours!

Since Christ did fulfill his sign (Matt. 28:6), the Good Friday/Easter Sunday tradition is just that—a *tradition* and not a fact! If you are not afraid of the facts that prove Jesus was crucified on a Wednesday, and rose from the dead 72 hours later—late Saturday afternoon—write for our free booklet *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday!*

Non-Christian Origins

But what about the various customs and traditions associated with Easter? Most assume that the customs of this most-important religious holiday of the Western world came from "Christian" origins.

Shocking as it may sound, Easter and its customs date *long before* the birth of Jesus. Easter was observed nearly 2,000 years before the beginning of the Christian era!

"Easter" is actually a slightly changed English spelling of the name of the ancient Assyrian goddess *Ishtar*. It was pronounced by the Assyrians as we pronounce *Easter* today.

The New Funk & Wagnalls Encyclopedia (article "Easter") explains that Easter "embodies traditions of an ancient time antedating the rise of Christianity. . . . [It] was celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox [about March 21, the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere], and traditions associated with the festival survive in the familiar Easter bunny, symbol of the fertile rabbit, and in the equally familiar colored Easter eggs originally painted with gay hues to represent the sunlight of spring. . . . Such festivals [as Easter], and the myths and legends which explain their origin, abound in ancient religions."

The traditions associated with Easter, such as colored eggs, hot cross buns, the Easter bunny and attending sunrise services are pre-Christian and *pagan* in origin!

1. A traditional custom of Easter today is to attend an Easter sunrise service. Does the prophet Ezekiel make reference to such a practice occurring during his time—more than 500 years before the birth of Jesus? Ezek. 8:16. Does God approve of this custom? Verses 15, 17.

COMMENT: It was an ancient heathen custom to

gather at sunrise and worship the rising sun. Such services were being observed in Ezekiel's day by the nation of Judah. They had "borrowed" some of the heathen customs, in spite of God's strict command not to follow pagan practices in worshiping him!

Does Easter Honor Christ?

Many who understand that Easter evolved from pagan customs originally honoring a pagan goddess will say that they observe it to "honor" Christ.

1. What does God warn about learning and following the customs and traditions of the heathen? Deut. 12:29-31; Jer. 10:2.

COMMENT: God plainly commands his people not to adopt the practices of pagan nations. God will not accept this kind of worship, even though intended in his honor!

2. Did Christ say it is possible to worship him and still do it in vain? Matt. 15:9. What did he tell his disciples about following man's ideas on how to worship God? Mark 7:7-9.

COMMENT: God does not want people trying to honor Christ by following traditions and customs devised by men. Notice again God's command, "You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way" (Deut. 12:31, Revised Authorized Version).

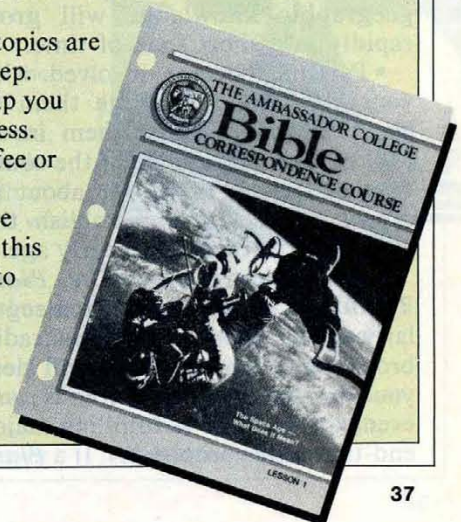
If you would like to know more about the true origins of Easter and related customs than could be presented in this short study, be sure to request *The Plain Truth About Easter*. This booklet is also free for the asking.

And don't forget to enroll in the free Bible Correspondence Course mentioned below!

—Richard A. Sediacik

ENROLL NOW IN FREE BIBLE COURSE

The short study you've just read is a sample of what you'll find in each 16-page, monthly lesson of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. There are topics on world events, family, the purpose of life, the nature of human nature, and much more. This course can help you begin to understand the Bible as never before. Interesting topics are presented step by step. Periodic quizzes help you evaluate your progress. There is no tuition fee or obligation. You can enroll by mailing the request envelope in this issue or by writing to our office nearest you.



Has God Lost Control?

(Continued from page 14)

mann Rauschnig, who observed Hitler with a cold and analytical eye, declares that he was a medium, 'possessed by forces outside himself—almost demoniacal forces.' Rudolf Olden, political editor of the *Berliner Tageblatt* in the days of Nazism's rise to power, remarked how the overwhelming, almost superhuman Niagara of words that poured forth during Hitler's speeches sometimes reached a climax during which he literally 'spoke in tongues' and seemed possessed. Andre Francois-Poncet, French Ambassador to Berlin, also referred to his apparent demoniacal possession."

Now see how God's revealed

Word describes the soon-coming final revival of the ancient Roman Empire in these words: "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird" (Rev. 18:2).

In our highly technological and materialistic society, we need to be much more aware of the very real spirit world around us. And we must make absolutely certain that we are guided by the true Spirit—the Spirit of God!

God's Purpose Stands

Being our Creator, God knew that when we were "fed to the full" and increased with material goods and prosperity, the American and British peoples would lapse into

materialism, idolatry and paganism.

He who guided the migration of the "Lost Tribes of Israel" to the temperate regions of the earth, he who enlarged us, who gave us the "gates" of our enemies around the earth, he who delivered us again and again in situations like the defeat of the Spanish Armada and the "miracle of Dunkirk," this GREAT GOD has prophesied that since we have rejected him and his ways, he will now set his hand—in love—to punish nations and humble all peoples.

We could forestall this only by a national repentance and individually turning to God in surrender to his ways, his righteous laws, his rule over our lives.

Will we? □

before your eyes, prepare yourself to understand fully the climactic events that will engulf the earth!

Your life may depend on it! □

The author is instructor in geography at Ambassador College, Pasadena, California.

WORLD?

(Continued from page 11)

a map of the world. Notice the relationships of the various continents to one another. Then go to the more detailed maps. Locate all those places you've always heard about but did not take the time to search out.

- Keep a note pad or a sheet of paper handy to jot down names of unfamiliar cities, countries, rivers, mountain ranges or bodies of water that you hear or see on the radio, on television, in conversation, in the newspaper and in magazines. Then look them up in your atlas when you have time.

- Listen to or watch news broadcasts with your atlas at hand. Make a point to watch travelogue-type programs and documentaries focusing on current events topics. Your geographic knowledge will grow rapidly in a short span of time.

- Parents, become involved with your children. Encourage them to enjoy the atlas. Show them in an atlas or on a globe some of the countries and cities they hear about in school or elsewhere. Establish the atlas-habit in them at an early age.

- Continue reading *The Plain Truth* each month, and listen regularly to the *World Tomorrow* radio broadcast or telecast. They will alert you to the important trends and events in world news fulfilling major end-time Bible prophecies. If a *Plain*

Truth article does not carry an accompanying map, use your atlas!

In this age of mass communication, there is no excuse for geographic illiteracy! It is time to awake to the seriousness of world conditions.

As biblical prophecy unfolds

How many mistakes are there in this map?

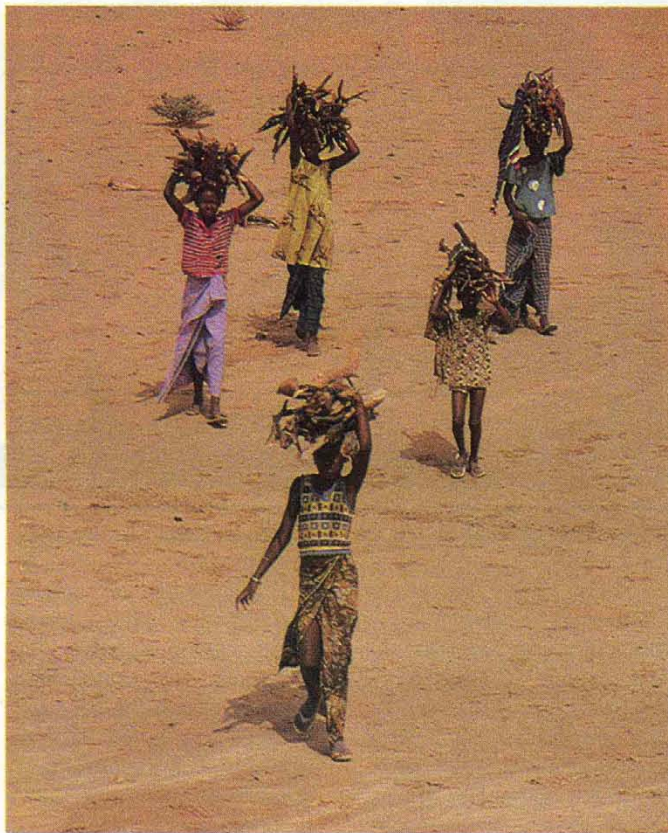
Most mistakes are shown here by red numbers. How many more can you find?



- | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Arctic Ocean mislabeled | 11. Ireland mislabeled | 20. Wrong outline |
| 2. Western Canada mislabeled | 12. Spain mislabeled | 21. U.S.S.R. mislabeled |
| 3. Canada-U.S. border incorrect | 13. Finland mislabeled | 22. China mislabeled |
| 4. Antarctica mislabeled | 14. Russia misplaced | 23. No such country |
| 5. Greenland mislabeled | 15. East Germany mislabeled | 24. Kamchatka Peninsula mislabeled |
| 6. Missing countries, incorrect border | 16. Italy mislabeled | 25. Japan mislabeled |
| 7. West Indies mislabeled | 17. Entire Levant mislabeled | 26. China Sea misplaced |
| 8. African outline, countries missing | 18. South American outline, countries missing | 27. No such country |
| 9. Caribbean misplaced | 19. Countries missing | 28. No such country |
| 10. Iceland mislabeled | | 29. Philippines missing |
| | | 30. Tasmania mislabeled |



Understanding World Events and Trends



ALAIN NOGUES—SYGMA

Firewood: The Other Energy Crisis

The energy crisis over oil that rocked the industrial West in the early 1970s is, to some degree, only a distant memory. But in much of the Third World, a fuel crisis is raging out of control.

According to a report entitled *Fuelwood: The Energy Crisis That Won't Go Away*, published by Earthscan (part of the

International Institute for Environment and Development, based in London), forests in underdeveloped countries are disappearing faster than they can be replaced. And *that* in spite of a \$100-million-a-year reforestation program sponsored by the World Bank. In many poor nations, firewood supplies more than 90 percent of fuel needs.

The main cause of deforestation in the Third World is the creation of new farmland. As new land is cleared of trees to plant

badly needed crops, firewood becomes scarce. Animal dung, needed for fertilizer, is increasingly burned for fuel. The resulting poor crops drive farmers to clear still more land, further exacerbating the fuel shortage.

The Earthscan report estimates that a 5- to 20-fold increase in tree planting, depending on the area, is required to solve the problem. But such increases, says the report, are "far beyond any realistic possibility" for many countries.

Some alternate fuels are available, but only to those who can afford them. For the majority of the Third World, the report concludes: "The depletion of formerly free firewood supplies means that fuel joins food, water and housing on the list of basic needs that are satisfied inadequately and with great trouble."

Consequently, "Poor people in much of Africa, Asia and Latin America will be able to cook their meals only at tragic cost for themselves and the environment." ■

Human Illness Linked To Drugged Livestock

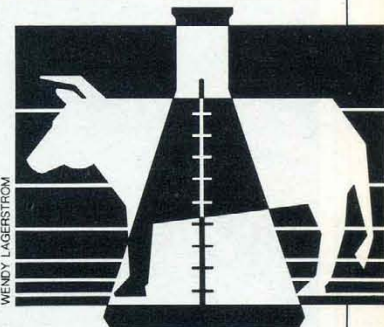
Widespread use of antibiotics to stimulate growth in farm animals is being blamed for the development of drug-resistant bacteria in humans.

Nearly 50 percent of the antibiotics made in the United States, for example, are fed to farm animals. In 1983 \$270 million worth of antibiotic food additives were sold.

Medical scientists have long suspected that animals fed a steady diet of antibiotics with their feed were potential factories for drug-resistant bacteria. Antibiotics destroy weaker

strains of bacteria and permit more resilient organisms to flourish.

Drug manufacturers and meat producers have long insisted there was no evidence that resistance could be passed from livestock to humans. Recent



WENDY LAGERSTRÖM

investigations by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, however, have renewed efforts to restrict use of antibiotics for farm animals.

New leads emerged from 11 severe cases of

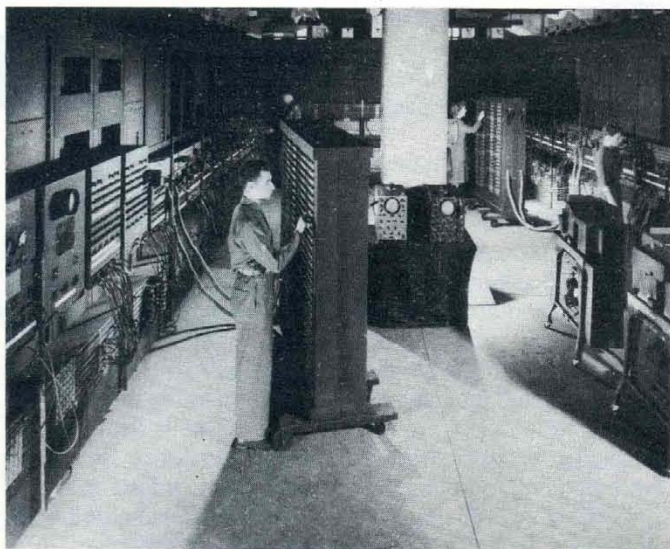
salmonella poisoning in Minnesota. All these cases were caused by *Salmonella newport*, a virulent strain. In each case, the virus showed resistance to several common antibiotics.

CDC determined that the salmonella came from beef. Antibiotic resistance was transferred to human bacteria when people ate undercooked meat or became contaminated by raw meat. A clear connection between human diseases and the use of drugs in animal feed had been discovered, concluded a report by Dr. Scott Holmberg in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. ■

Computers: Progress Amid Perils

It is the great paradox of this age: Even as technology explodes, world evils multiply. And nowhere has technology progressed more than in the area of computers.

It has been four decades since the computer revolution began. In 1946 the University of Pennsylvania completed the first all-purpose,



BETTMANN ARCHIVE

One in Six Has Mental Disorder

About 18.7 percent of U.S. adults—more than one in six—suffer from at least one psychiatric ailment, according to a six-year, \$15 million survey conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health.

Disabling anxiety, which afflicts 13.1 million Americans, heads the list of disorders that also includes schizophrenia, depression and substance abuse. Men and women are about equally troubled, according to the survey.

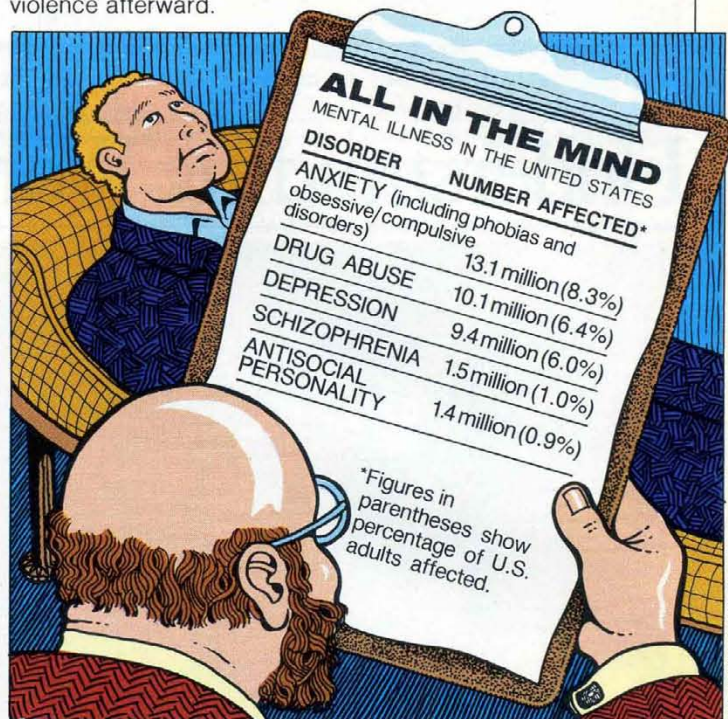
The survey defined a person with a mental disorder as one needing professional help. In other words, a person with an antisocial personality was not merely someone who lost his temper occasionally, but

all-electronic digital computer. Called ENIAC for short, it weighed 30 tons and required 1,500 square feet (143 square meters) of floor space.

ENIAC's creators estimated that the device could perform calculations more than 1,000 times faster than the conventional

a person who had serious adjustment problems with family, school and community before the age of 15 and who was often involved in crime and violence afterward.

According to institute director Darrel Regier, the study, the largest of its kind ever conducted, may prove fruitful in identifying risk factors in mental disorders. ■



electromechanical machines of the day.

Today, a \$2,000 "knee-top" portable computer can perform calculations 20 times as fast as ENIAC. And thanks to the silicon chip, by 1990 a digital wristwatch will have as much computing ability as its ancient predecessor.

Indeed, we are in what computer enthusiasts call the "information age." Up to 40 percent of the Western world's work force uses computers, either directly or indirectly. The aggregate computing power of the computers sold during the next two years will be greater than that of the more than one million

ENIAC, first electronic computer (1946), weighed 30 tons. Digital wristwatches will soon have as much computing power as ancient ENIAC.

computers sold in the last four decades.

But the more we look to computers to offer solutions to staggering global problems, the greater the number of millions of humans who suffer and die from famine, disease, civil unrest, terrorism and technological accidents.

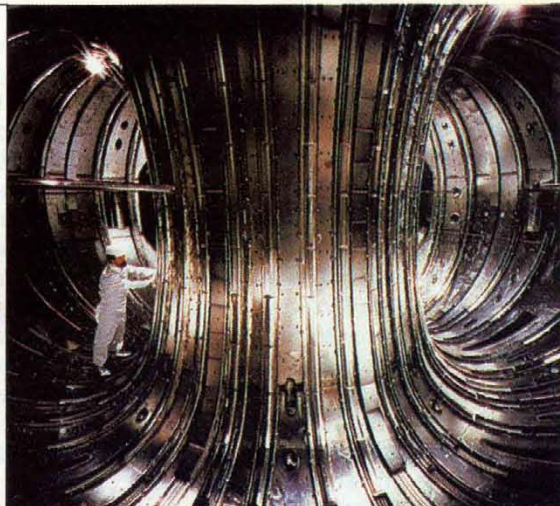
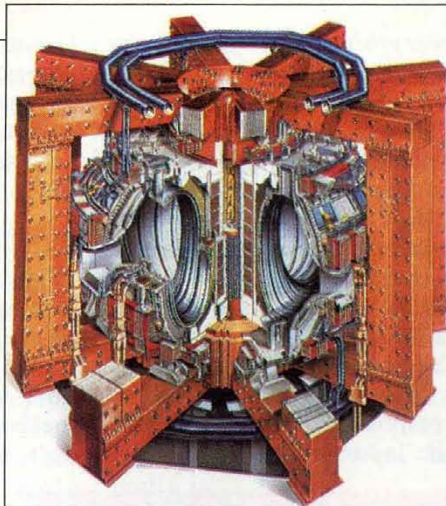
Of course, technology has not by itself caused world evils, but neither can it solve them. As John Naisbitt put it in his best-selling book *Megatrends*, "We are drowning in information but starved for knowledge."

A closer examination of why humanity's technical advances have failed to solve human problems is available in our free booklet *Never Before Understood—Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils*. Just mail the card in this issue or write to our address nearest you. ■

Fusion Energy and Your Future

In recent experiments, physicists have made major breakthroughs that could one day take fusion energy out of the lab and into the power plant.

Unlike its cousin fission, which uses rare, expensive and dangerous elements to produce a reaction, fusion uses elements that can be extracted safely and easily from seawater. The energy that could be produced from a cubic kilometer of seawater is equal to the energy that could be produced from all the world's known oil reserves. And unlike fission, fusion has virtually no problems



PHOTOS BY STUART FRANKLIN—SYGMA

with radioactive waste.

For the more than 30 years physicists have been trying to harness fusion, the technological hurdles have been enormous. Physicist Edward Teller has said that controlling fusion power is about as easy as trying to hold a blob of jelly by wrapping rubber bands

around it.

Fusion's blob of jelly is a form of matter known as plasma, atoms stripped of their electrons. To start the fusion chain reaction, the plasma must be concentrated long enough to heat it to 212 million degrees Fahrenheit (100 million degrees Celsius). At this temperature, the particles in the plasma would fuse to each other and release energy in the form of neutrons. The only other by-product would be helium.

As yet, no one has produced this reaction. But at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, and at the Joint European Torus near Oxford,

Art and photo show first European reactor for study of controlled thermonuclear fusion. Scientists hope one day to make fusion energy commercially useful.

England, physicists have confined and concentrated a plasma long enough to theoretically produce a fusion reaction. Since they did not want to start a reaction, they did not heat the plasma enough for fusion to take place.

Though fusion energy may now be in sight, the view is for the farsighted. Most physicists don't expect a commercial fusion reactor to be built until well into the 21st century. ■

Needed: Quality Sleep

Thanks to new research into natural sleep cycles, a variety of industries are becoming more aware of hazards associated with shift work—full-time work during hours different from typical daytime schedules.

Problems that beset shift workers go beyond simple fatigue. Sleeping in the daytime with extra noise, light and heat is difficult enough, but shift workers often radically alter their sleeping patterns because of the new schedules. Lack of quality sleep can decrease speed, accuracy

and reaction time, as well as strain family and social relationships.

For example, malpractice suits against surgeons stem most frequently from operations performed in the early morning hours. Concerns have also been expressed about the safety and performance of pilots and truckers working irregular hours.

Scientists have determined that many major biological functions are controlled by an internal sleep-wake cycle called the *circadian rhythm*. The word *circadian* comes from Latin words meaning "about a day."

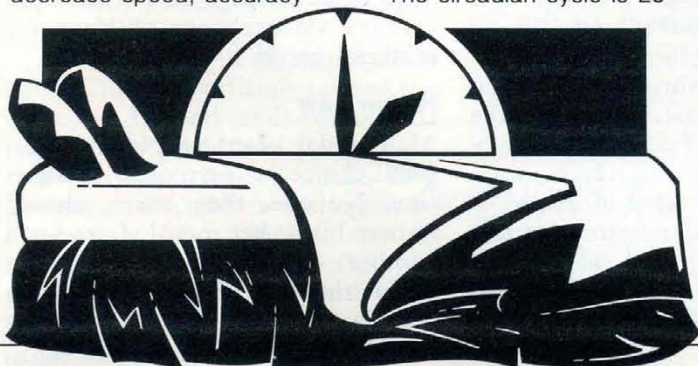
The circadian cycle is 25

Tornadoes caused 124 deaths in the United States in 1984—the largest toll in nine years—according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The worst incidents took place in North and South Carolina. Tornado-caused deaths from 1974 through 1983 were below the previous 30-year average of 104 deaths annually.

hours long. The body can adapt to small changes in this cycle with no apparent ill effects. It continually adjusts to the one-hour difference between the circadian and 24-hour day-night cycles. But modern circumstances such as changes in normal work shifts can drastically upset this natural cycle.

Doug Ayres of the Center for Design of Industrial

Schedules (CDIS), a Boston-based center for sleep-cycle research, told *The Plain Truth* about steps employees can take to ease shift transitions. He recommended a structured diet and going to bed at a fairly routine time, noting that the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs plays a part in the time needed to adjust to a new schedule. ■



WENDY LAGERSTRÖM

ABORTION

(Continued from page 4)

her 22-week-old fetus aborted. The mother *didn't* want the baby. We are told that her 22-week aborted baby isn't a viable human being! How can it be human in one room and a nonviable human in another?

The difference is the woman's—and the doctor's—attitude.

Proabortionists want to believe that the growing baby within the woman is nothing but "fetal tissue." They either avoid or conceal the fact that the baby is actually a human and dies a painful death when aborted.

Dr. Bernard N. Nathanson was once one of the most militant supporters of abortion. He has now changed his mind. Why? New facts came to his attention. Dr. Nathanson says, "It is atrocious for anyone now to maintain that a fetus is simply a lump of meat, or something insignificant, or an unprotected life."

Yet even when faced with the new scientific evidence, proabortionists believe the right of the mother to kill her unborn is more important than the right of the unborn to live.

Further, since 91 percent of abortions within the United States, for example, occur within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, let's look at a 10-week-old unborn and see what science has discovered.

Within 18 days after conception the beating heart already pumps blood through its own bloodstream.

By six weeks the nervous system begins to function. The kidneys and stomach begin working.

At around seven weeks, the unborn embryo has its own brain waves. (Brain waves are among the legal criteria that determine whether a person is alive or not.)

At nine and 10 weeks the thyroid and adrenal glands function. The embryo can squint, swallow and respond to noise.

By 10 weeks the unborn basic-

ly has *everything a newborn baby has*.

What happens when an attempt is made to end this life?

To kill the unborn 10-week embryo may require the D&E (dilation and evacuation) technique. The abortionist basically draws and quarters the embryo.

When the abortionist's instrument first touches the uterine wall, the embryo immediately recoils and the heart rate increases. The unborn responds by attempting to escape the instrument.

The First Twelve Weeks

As 91 percent of abortions within the United States, for example, occur within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, let's look at fetal development of the unborn:

● **18 days** The beating heart already pumps blood through its own bloodstream.

● **Five weeks** The nose and cheeks appear, and fingers are faintly visible.

● **Six weeks** The nervous system begins to function. Beginnings of the skeleton; the kidneys, stomach and liver begin working.

● **Seven weeks** The unborn child has its own brain waves. (Brain waves are among the legal criteria that determine whether a person is alive or not.) The tiny baby has all its outer and inner organs. It has a face with eyes, nose, lips and tongue.

● **Nine and 10 weeks** The thyroid and adrenal glands function. The baby can squint, swallow, and respond to noise.

● **10 weeks** The unborn basically has everything found in newborns.

● **12 weeks** The completely formed fingerprints will not change except for size. The little boy or girl now is more than 3 inches long and weighs about an ounce.

For this tiny baby all that remains is growth.

The abortionist grabs an arm or leg and rips it from the body. Blood begins oozing from the baby. Then the abortionist finds another arm or leg and tears it off. He continues until everything is severed.

Finally the dead, dismembered embryo has its skull crushed. The parts are then sucked out. It's all over in about 15 minutes.

To say this embryo perceives no pain is, at the *least*, not telling the entire story. Today's society doesn't tolerate convicted murderers to die this kind of death!

Latest prenatal research reveals the unborn responds to pain, touch, cold, sound and light. The unborn gets hiccups, sucks a thumb, passes

through waking and sleeping stages.

Studies divulge fetuses respond to hearing their mother's voice.

It seems that the womb is not the quiet place some thought it was.

A Selfish Society

Couples should plan a family in an intelligent manner, as to the timing of the first baby and the spacing of other children. Each couple will have to evaluate and choose which method of contraception suits them best. (If you want to know more, write for our free book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.)

To kill the defenseless unborn as a method of birth control shows the selfishness of our society. Society, of course, teaches us to live for ourselves.

Some people believe motherhood inhibits one's career potential. Children are seen as dependents, not assets. They weigh us down, prevent us from owning homes, buying the material goods we think we need, prevent us from traveling to exotic places. We can never achieve the "good life" with children around. People don't want to give up their time, money or standard of living to have children.

Today people want to avoid the responsibilities of parenthood by simply killing their own unborn. Abortion is the easy way out. Italian

lawyer Raffaello Balestrini saw this nearly 100 years ago. He wrote: "Whenever abortion becomes a social custom, it is the external manifestation of a people's decadence." Yes, what a sad, decadent age we live in!

In these closing years of the 20th century we exchange children for material goods.

Higher Law

Many today assert people have personal choice in the matter of abortion. No one, they claim, should impose his or her moral views upon another.

But there is a higher law, above civil law, which forbids abortions

because they contravene a basic way of life that governs invisibly all humanity. Humans have chosen to defy this higher law. They have been allowed to do so for nearly 6,000 years. Without fully realizing it, human beings have taken it upon themselves to decide right and wrong. That is the sole preserve of a much higher authority who has established a great law to govern mankind.

What a tragedy most reject, know little of, or ignore the source of this great law. That ancient source is known as the Holy Bible.

This authoritative Word twice states: "There is a way which *seems* right to a man, but its end is the way of *death*" (Prov. 14:12; 16:25, Revised Authorized Version).

Few realize God gives us two choices—two basic ways of life. "I have set before you *life and death, blessing and cursing...*" (Deut. 30:19). Then God commands us to choose (verse 19). To our hurt we humans have chosen wrongly. So it shouldn't be surprising that as an example of the fruits of such wrong choosing, many women go through much trauma, depression, anxiety, and some become sterile after having an abortion.

Highly educated but misinformed professional people are unaware of God's higher law when they say women have the right to abort the unborn. Their advice is in violation of basic biblical law.

The End of Abortion

Soon abortion will be a thing of the past. Jesus Christ will return in power and glory to establish God's righteous government upon the earth (Dan. 2:44-45). At that time all man-made laws contrary to God's perfect laws will be superseded (Zech. 8:3; Zeph. 3:15).

Jesus Christ will teach people to have a different attitude toward the unborn. Indeed the society of tomorrow's world will foster positive attitudes toward succeeding generations. Children will again be a blessing. "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward" (Ps. 127:3). □

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

way, but by continual circumstances. I had been conceited. But now by bitter experience, by suffering, by circumstance and by God's Word, I was brought low and humbled. I began to experience the unmatched joy of learning truth new to me, as God little by little, yet more and more, revealed truths so wonderful they produced real spiritual joy. For the first time in my life I found what happiness really is!

God launched me in his work in 1934, and after my first evangelistic effort in a church in Harrisburg, Oregon, I experienced the greatest thrill of my life so far, upon realizing lives had been brought to repentance, to surrender to God, to

faith in Jesus Christ—converted—changed! Truly it is more blessed to give than to receive!

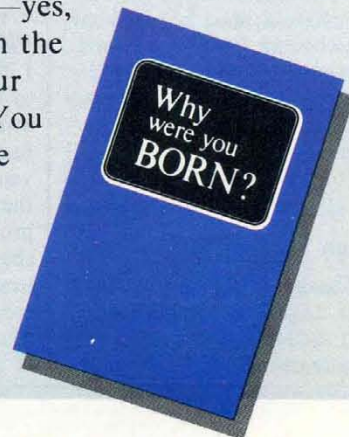
That process of being corrected, of growing in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, has continued, now, lo these many years—more than a full half century! And it is still continuing. God grant it shall forever!

No, men did not teach me what I preach to you. I was not taught of men, but of God! I do not speak to you by authority of men, or any humanly organized church of men—but in the name, and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the living head of the true Church of God!

These words of Christ, which he received from the Father—the very words and gospel of Christ that I speak and write to you—they are spirit, and they are life! □

WHY WERE YOU BORN?

WHAT is your destiny? Why are you here? Is human existence a freak accident in a meaningless universe, or does your life have a solid, identifiable purpose? The answer is incredibly positive: Humans were created—yes, created—to rule the universe on the very God-plane! Impossible? Our free booklet reveals the truth. You may have a copy by mailing the request card in this issue or by writing to our address nearest you. A list of our addresses is on the inside front cover.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



"Big Eyes to See"

I'm only ten, so you might think I'm small, but I have big eyes to see things. That is why I think your magazine has good points on the Bible. The first time I picked up your magazine was in March of 1983. I've been a subscriber ever since. As I come to the end of this letter, I would appreciate it if you would send me your book *The Unpardonable Sin*.

Steven Mendonca
Mississauga, Ontario

I am 14 years old and find your program fascinating. It's encouraging to see that you are more interested in spreading God's Word than collecting money. I would appreciate copies of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* and *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*. These books must be as interesting as your program. I look forward to receiving them.

Nathan Narusis
Red Deer, Alberta

Quadruplegic

For a great many years I have received *The Plain Truth* and enjoyed (and valued) the contents. I have my copies bound for future reference. I have to admit that my only connection with the Worldwide Church of God is through the magazine. A quadruplegic condition of more than twenty years has kept me housebound. For this reason I depend on literature for inspiration and enjoyment—*The Plain Truth* provides both.

William W. Moffat
Willowdale, Ontario

When Tragedy Strikes

Thank you for past issues of your magazine. My husband died suddenly in the night very recently, and I miss him

so. I have found real help just reading *The Plain Truth*. Will you kindly continue to send future issues to me? Very many thanks.

Mrs. B.A.S. Kelly
Worcester, England

Latchkey Child

"Hope for the Latchkey Child" was a real eye-opener. As a 16-year-old I found it very interesting.

Karen Davenport
Oldham, Lancashire

Just a short note to let you know how much I appreciate your magazine. I am an 18-year-old student in teacher training, and I have learned much from your informative, unbiased articles, particularly "When Peace Comes to Ireland." Seldom are such articles, which present both sides of the coin in relation to the present Irish situation, published.

"Hope for the Latchkey Child" also made me sit down and think. So often these problems are overlooked. People look but they do not see. Hopefully this article will bring this ever-increasing problem to light. After all, what is more important than providing a better and a more lovely environment for the future adults of tomorrow.

Miss D. Quinn
Wicklow, Ireland

Library Reader

Having just read a copy of *Plain Truth* at my Public Library I have decided, at last, to write to you requesting some literature. I say at last because I have, of course, seen your magazine around since the 1960s, when your radio programmes were heard from the commercial stations of that time. Anyway, I would like to receive your magazine *Plain Truth*, and other publications of yours. Also I am interested

in gaining a deeper understanding of your beliefs as a whole. Please send me publications or lists of publications that you do.

J.A. Appleton
Manchester

Showplaces of Asia

Being a Malaysian living in Britain I was interested in reading the article in the Nov./Dec, 1984, issue of *The Plain Truth* titled "Two Showplaces of Asia," written by Messrs. G. Marshall and J. Halford.

That fine article, however, has a mistake on page 17. One of the pictures was described as 'Malaysia's Islamic architecture, Kek Lok Si Mosque, Penang.' That tall building is in fact a pagoda of Buddhist/Chinese architecture and it is the Kek Lok Si Temple, not an Islamic mosque.

I am sure the mistake was not of the authors as Mr. Halford has been to Malaysia several times.

S.T. Saw
Surbiton, Surrey

Truth Too Strong?

I have just received a copy of *The Plain Truth* for which I thank you. Since asking you to forward this, and being put on your mailing list, I have read your booklet *Just What Do You Mean—Born Again?* I am a born-again Christian and this is a totally different gospel from what I know. I am in the Charismatic Renewal Movement and a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

I am sorry I have bothered you with asking to be put on your mailing list, and I now request that my name be withdrawn as I am not in agreement with the truth you preach.

J. Clark
Glasgow

I would like to take this occasion to say how much I enjoy your magazine. At a time when there is so much rubbish printed, it is good to know there are people who care about the real issues.

Although I don't agree entirely with everything you say, I look forward to your magazine every month as it gives me food for thought. I am glad you have the guts to speak out when others do not.

G.A. McDaid
Yorkshire

This is your advice to cancel the subscription to the *Plain Truth* magazine currently being mailed to my address. It is totally contrary to my beliefs, particularly the article by Roderick C. Meredith entitled "Wives, You Can Enrich Your Marriage."

It is inconceivable that such an outdated attitude still prevails in 1984.

P. Kassner
Seattle, Washington

• As you request!

The Way to Success

After reading your booklet *The Seven Laws of Success*, I felt something inside accepting it for its logical way of being written as well as its truth. For this reason I would like to thank you deeply for being helpful to show the way to success with God's love and help. I had never had a goal before or even thought what I would be doing in ten years or more, until I read your booklet. From that time I realised my situation and asked myself a lot of questions. "Have I a goal?" . . . Thanks to you I now know my goal and how to make it a success, as well as how it will be guided by God. I do thank you deeply, hoping to get more help from you.

Mr. Z. Abdeslam
Agadir, Morocco

Personal

I would especially like to thank Mr. Armstrong for his 'Personal' columns. Your magazine is a resting place in the middle of this disturbed world, telling the truth about the happenings in the world.

Thank you for your courage to swim upstream against worldly currents to proclaim the truth.

K.H.

Laatzen, West Germany

New Subscribers

I received your address from a friend. I have been reading your magazine with great interest. I had a chance to read the corresponding scriptures to the different articles during a stay at the hospital.

I am always amazed at the message of the Bible in light of today's news. It can't be emphasized enough as to how necessary your publications are for a better understanding of the Bible. Your magazine was the reason why I decided to get out my dusty Bible and look into the book of books. I really look forward to each issue of *The Plain Truth*.

H.S.

Kirburg, West Germany

I have received last week my first copy of the *Plain Truth* magazine.

I saw your advertisement in California where I spent my holidays last summer. I was really impressed the way it has been dealing with the main news topics. I want to thank you and your fellow workers for letting me become a subscriber.

Athanasios C. Christeas
Athens, Greece

I am so grateful for my brother who happened to come on the Greyhound from Vancouver, where he had found a copy of your magazine *The Plain Truth*. He knew I have been always wanting to read such magazines like yours, and believe me that first magazine was the most precious gift he ever gave me. Reading it soothes my inner feelings of discomfort and fills my heart with faith and confidence—it helped me cure

myself from being sick of the world around me—I am sick of the T.V. and radio news such as killing, robbing, sex abuse. I am an old woman of 76 who has lived in a different world, back in Egypt. Yes, of course there were such things happening, but not so open and continuously repeated with no consideration for children nor for the aged people. May God help us to cross the bridge and reach the other shore where we may find peace. May God grant you, Mr. Armstrong, the best health and long life to continue brightening the corners everywhere in the world.

Zahia Banoub

Mercer Island, Washington

Suggestion

I am an Egyptian Coptic student studying in the United States. Lately, I received a copy of *The Plain Truth* and was extremely impressed by it.

One thing bothers me here: a lot of Americans do not know the real truth about the Copts of Egypt. Do you know that the Coptic Pope (one of the oldest churches in the world) was exiled? Do you know that Coptic churches were bombed and some homes put on fire? A lot of these facts remain hidden from the world.

I do recommend you do some research on that, as I'm sure an article on that subject would be of great interest to a lot of people.

Mr. Armstrong, do keep going on spreading the word of peace and love.

Rawya Boctor

Los Angeles, California

When I receive your magazine *The Plain Truth*, I drop every activity behind to digest all your interesting articles. To me your magazine is unique, because in every article there is a biblical message quotable in precise terms.

I conclude by suggesting to include a medical article on current discoveries to enhance the curiosity of many readers.

F.X. Farrugia
G'Mangia, Malta

Useful to Understand Christianity

This is about your free booklet on Christmas customs offered in the November/December *Plain Truth*. Being a Hindu by origin, I don't know too much about these things. But my children are being brought up in Canada. It will be useful for them to understand Christianity—the meaning and symbols of Christmas, Santa Claus and the origin of exchanging gifts, mistletoe, etc.

If you could, kindly send me your free booklet, so I can share the ideas with my friends and relatives. I appreciate your effort in helping us to understand Christianity.

Chitra Srinivasan
Kamloops, B.C.

I must say that I do enjoy reading your magazine and have since the early sixties. Some of the statements made do stir up controversy. I have to agree with some and disagree with others.

On the subject of Christmas, I will agree with you wholeheartedly, but I doubt if our society is ready to accept such radical changes in our holidays, and traditional way of thinking. One wonders if our traditional way of worshipping God will eventually lead to our destruction, as declared in the Bible.

One thing is certain, your magazine does indeed make people think, and go to the Bible for research and that in itself is good. On the other hand, organized religion would take a different view.

Ernest F. Boggs
Calgary, Alberta

Correspondence Course

Indeed the comments received by other students concerning this course are in no way too exaggerated. Personally, I've always wanted to take up such a course, but told myself it has got to be good. What I was looking for was precise information and precise it is. I am now in my

eighth lesson, and every single subject of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course has been verified by not just one or two, but sometimes as much as a dozen examples to back up a specific truth.

Leopald Tulsnel
Alexandria, Ontario

Sick of This World

I'm so excited about finding out the truth. I'm sick of this world. I'm tired of turning on the T.V. or radio, and hearing about who got killed, raped, mugged, beaten or stabbed. I realize now I can't live without God.

I have had my chance to live in this sick world, and I hate it. I know now I want God. I need God. And I want to thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for the free booklets I've received. I'm really enjoying the book called *Where Is the True Church?*

Chris McDowell
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Financial Benefits

I am very grateful to have been able to help God's work and his people through tithing and I did not go without blessings as a result of it.

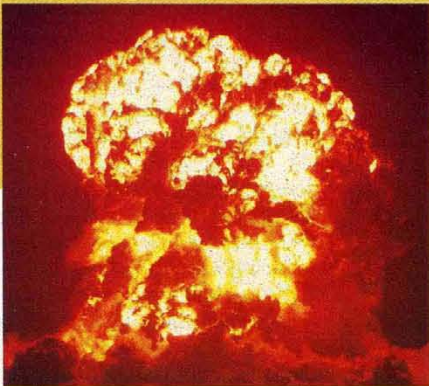
On the first day of the tithe year I received a raise in my salary that completely covered the tithe payment. On the last day of the tithe year I attended a wedding—mine. What blessings God bestows on us—even beyond the awesome gift he gives us of being able to serve his work and to help people.

Anna Larkin
Calgary, Alberta

I have been blessed with occasional jobs all year and have taken out my tithe faithfully. This is the most I've ever been able to send in. I've truly been blessed this year. I know it will be put to good use and I hope that maybe it could even help to help someone else. I've been so generously given to, that it is with great pleasure that I am able to give in return.

Tanja Knutson
Waterville, Quebec

IN THIS ISSUE:



WIDE WORLD

THE KEY TO HUMAN SURVIVAL!

The one big question in all our lives, right now, is that of human survival. Editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong presents the latest facts on and the authoritative solution to this compelling problem.

YOU AND YOUR MONEY

Few subjects stir more interest than money. Most people believe they can never get enough of it. Yet these same people probably haven't realized how far they can make their own money go. Sticking to a budget is vital to everyone's financial success.

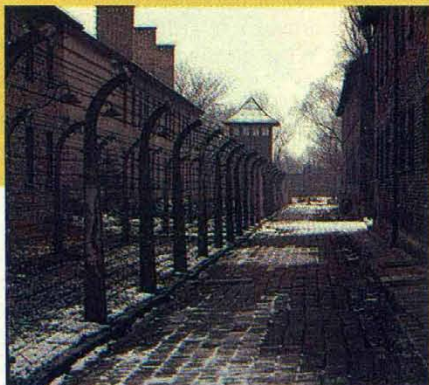


FOR TEEN EYES ONLY!

It's *not* easy to be a teenager in today's world! Teenage life is a time of change in parent-child relationships. This article explains how to make the teen years the *best* years of one's life.

THE WAY OUT OF FEAR AND DEPRESSION

Anxiety disorders and chronic depression plague millions. Why does this world not understand the causes of and the solutions to worry, fear and mental depression?



OLD BARRACKS AND THE NEW EUROPE

The builders of the old barracks at Auschwitz didn't dream how they would be used. Neither do the men who are building the New Europe dream how their plans will unfold.

WHO SAYS TIME IS CLOSING IN ON YOU!

None of us seems to have enough time to accomplish all we would like in this life. Do unrealized potentials die with us? Or are there future opportunities — beyond death?

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