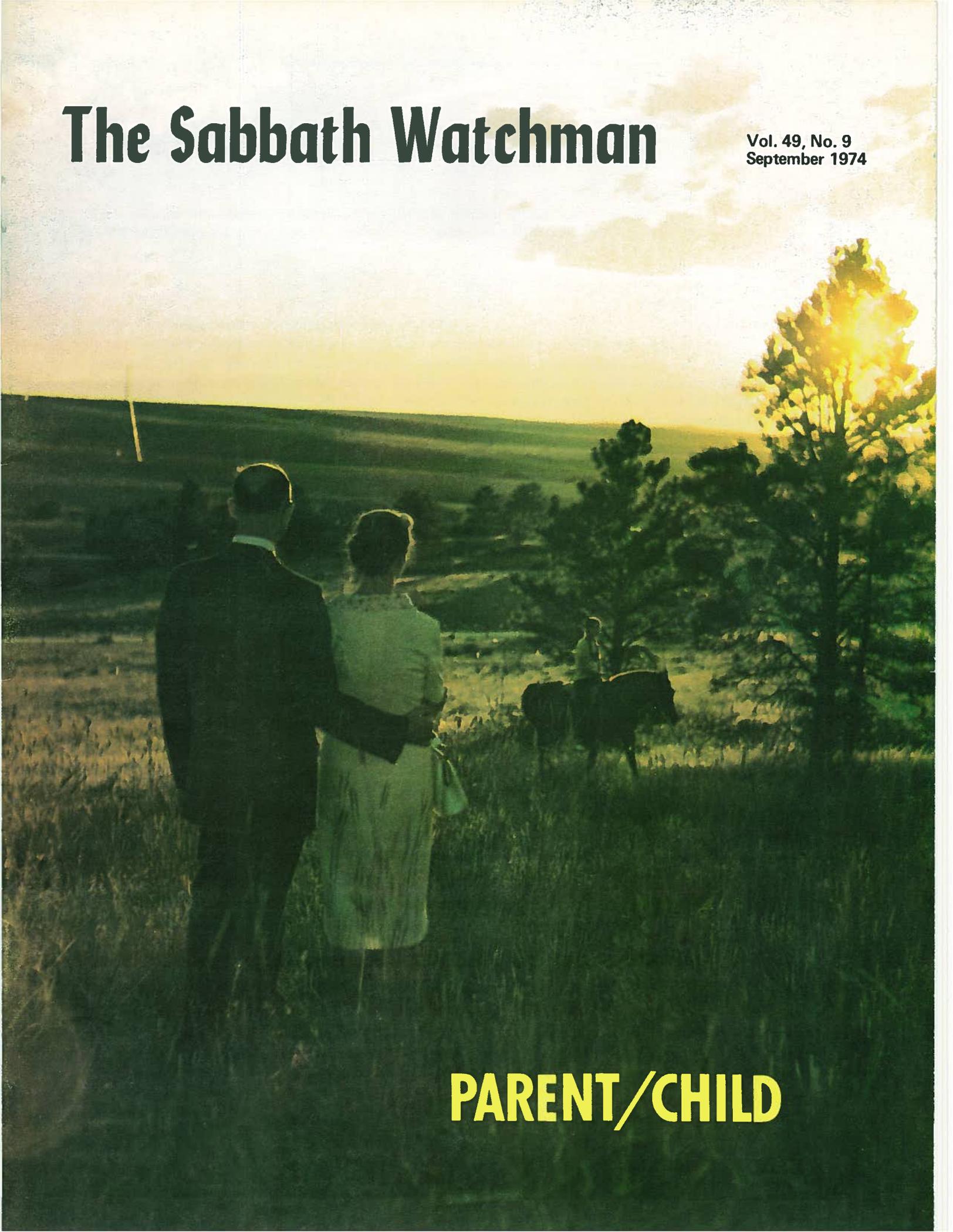


The Sabbath Watchman

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PARENT/CHILD

The Family in Trouble

Each year, an estimated half-million teenagers run away from home

"America's families are in trouble—trouble so deep and pervasive as to threaten the future of our nation." —1970 White House Conference on Children report

The divorce rate is rising dramatically for marriages made in the past several years, and in some densely-populated West Coast communities is running as high as 70%

FOR many young adults, the thought of raising children is a fascinating, thrilling experience. The Creator has designed man and woman to come together and create a family and raise their children in the love of God. There is nothing more precious than the love between a father and mother and their child. The long-awaited fulfillment of the husband and wife is shed upon the small child in love and genuine affection. The child, in turn, looks up to his mother and father in innocence and dependency, returning to them the only kind of love he knows—that which his parents have given him. The child's first experience in sharing love comes from his parents; and the more generous their giving, the happier the family.

The family unit has always been an essential part of society. It was designed to give support and love to each member of that family. Up until recent years, families included brothers and sisters, their wives and husbands, their parents, their children, and various other relatives—all living under the same roof or in close proximity. The family was large, including all ages from infants to great-grandparents. Each member benefited from the vital support of the other members. The young learned from the old—the older ones being refreshed by the young. There was security in standing together, helping one another, working as a family, sharing love and sharing responsibility. The structures of such a family created a feeling of need among its members, and it was this closeness which cultivated the kind of love God desires us to have among our families.

There was a time when the family provided security, love, and protection from the difficulties of life. But today the family concept is changing, most notably in the Western world. The family is now without function; it no longer provides the necessities of life, such as warmth, understanding, security, responsibility, and processes of learning. The basic characteristics of the family have changed for a variety of reasons.

Primary to our discussion is the mobility of our society today and the migration from the rural areas to metropolitan centers. The large families have broken up, each family member having moved away to establish his own family. Such a move not only eliminates the possibility for children to learn from a variety of adults of all ages but has also done away the possibility for members to rely on one another in time of need. Until recently, the family was considered a prime source of strength in time of crisis. But today, when this source of strength is most needed and we are confronted by the gravest crises ever facing mankind—from the energy shortage, overpopulation, and starvation, to war—it has practically vanished.

Under the pressure and responsibility of being independent, young couples are now spending longer hours at work to become financially stable. As a result, they spend little time at home with their children. In addition, social obligations have become part of their way of life, not only as a requisite to living and working in the city but also as a substitute for the larger family system of which they were once a part.

The large family gave opportunity for young and old to exchange ideas and experiences. Today, as new patterns of social life develop, the adults are leaving home to seek recreation and relaxation with other adults, and children are forced to associate exclusively with other children. The introduction of the TV has created still another barrier between parent and child; as the adults leave home, the children turn to TV as a more diversified means of mental stimulus. Unfortunately, not only has the TV eliminated any possibility for the exchange of ideas among family members, but it has also caused less

coherence and cohesiveness in the family. And most important today is that the programing which children are allowed to watch is detrimental to the learning process by stunting a child's natural creativity and filling his perceptive mind with abnormal thoughts and behavior and an unreal view of the world around him.

Secondly, the entrance of the woman into the work force has created a new dimension in family life. Where once the role of wife and mother was reinforced by church and community, the woman in society today no longer feels satisfied with her home-oriented tasks but leaves her home looking for emotional and intellectual fulfillment. This is not to say that a woman should never work outside, but it should not be so time-consuming that a child feels neglected or uncared-for because his mother is away from home much of the time.

Lastly, the broken home caused by divorce has completely modified the structure of many families. With divorce occurring in one out of every three marriages, there are multitudes of children who find themselves alienated from one parent or another; and in many cases, as a result of second marriages, they obtain an additional mother or father and possibly sisters and brothers. The emotional strain on a child can be irreparable, to say nothing of the effect on the parents. Divorce causes insecurity to overwhelm the child, and in most cases it initiates abnormal behavior, juvenile delinquency, and failure in school. And lastly, mental illness has been proven to culminate as a direct result of the broken home.

It is apparent that in every instance the downfall of the traditional family structure is due to parental neglect, whether it be for financial reasons, job opportunity, or a parent's search for something better. In each case, the child suffers—not because he may be more sensitive or more vulnerable to hardship than are his parents, but simply because a child is the product of his parents' love. When that love is insufficient, the bond between parent and child diminishes.

As a result of this diminishing bond, the character of a child may be shockingly distorted. Children are by nature very loving—eager to learn and eager to help. By the time they reach 4 years old, they have acquired 50% of their intelligence—and by 8 years of age they have obtained almost 80% of their intellect. Frightening, isn't it, when we realize how many small children are looked after by babysitters and daycare centers from infancy up until the time they are ready to enter the first grade!

During this period of time a child is developing his character by example from those around him. If in his first 6 months of life a child senses the warmth and affection of his parents, chances are he has just been given the best possible start to developing into a happy, well-adjusted adult. If, on the other hand, the child feels a withdrawal of interest on the part of his parents, or feels he is not wanted (and certainly this is possible, for a child can perceive love as early as the first week of life), then a child of 6 months or even less can suffer a state of infantile depression which might last for years. Doctors have now concluded that one quarter of all children's emotional upsets are based on this very thing—depression.

A child's dependency in the first year of life needs to be responded to with unreserved warmth and affection; otherwise he may be prone to fall into one of the many emotional illnesses which doctors are now beginning to understand. Such problems may result in early signs of rebellion, hearing and eye problems, or difficulty in school. And as the child approaches adolescence, disobedient, wild behavior, recklessness, promiscuity, and running away from home come to the foreground. If these problems are not overcome at an early age, chances are that such a child may become a real threat to his community.

This might all seem a little over-simplified—start with a neglected baby and end up with a criminal. It isn't exactly that easy, but it can happen. Where once the family felt it an obligation and duty to teach their children moral values, today such teaching is left up to the babysitter, the TV, or the elementary and high school teachers. Where once a child was given love as a reward for kind behavior, now a toy or money is given in exchange. Where once a child learned the joy of helping and giving to others, now parents show their children how to be selfish and suspicious of others.

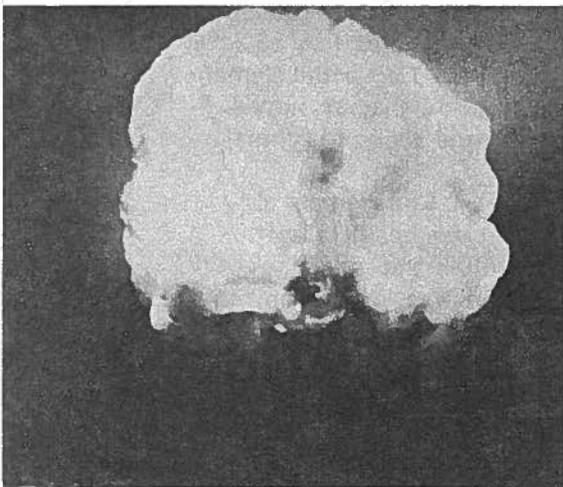
In our society today we still have a responsibility to our children and to our God. Children are a precious treasure given to us by God, and by the same measure we should respect this beautiful gift. Although society around us may not feel deep love and responsibility for its children and youth, nevertheless we can. This special issue of "The Sabbath Watchman" provides some practical and spiritual solutions to problems facing parents and children. If we are willing to love, to give of ourselves, the rewards are great.

"FEAR NOT"

By M. P. RINGELBERG

THIS command of the Lord Jesus is of utmost importance to modern man, especially since it was He who predicted in His great prophecy, "And there shall be . . . upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; . . . Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Luke 21:25, 26.

In the last four decades, modern man has been grappling with the overwhelming symptoms of fear. There can be no doubt in the mind of any thinking person that we are living in the times which Jesus predicted. The most intelligent, the most highly informed, and those who have the greatest responsibility in world leadership know that it is time to fear. This fear is reflected in the billions of dollars spent for defense by opposing nations in this world. The fear of atomic conflagration has not abated, for the threat is still very real. It is no longer the Bible-believing Christians who are called the doomsday criers; today the scientists have taken up the refrain.



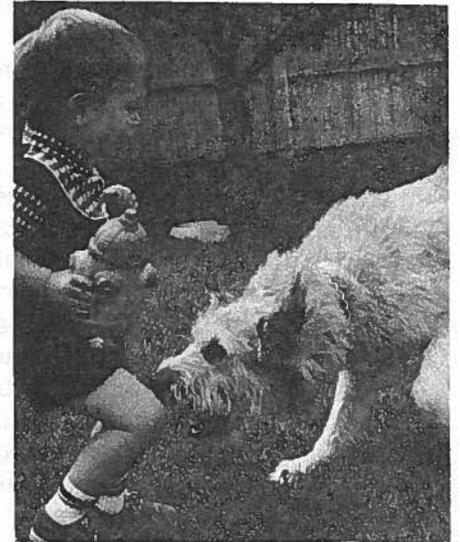
Dorothy Thompson, commentator, said, "The scientists are alarmed. They rush about, warning that it is quite possible that the world may come to an end. People believe them, but it is almost as though they didn't care much if the world came to an end. I never remember anything like this before in America."

Dr. Harold C. Urey, atomic scientist, said in a Town Meeting of the Air broadcast, "I am the apostle of doom. I am still a frightened man, and I wish you to be frightened."

Robert Hutchins, noted educator at the University of Chicago, in a widely-quoted radio address, declared: "It is very late. Perhaps nothing can save us, but the handwriting on the wall is plain enough. It says to the people of the earth, 'Unite or die.'"

President Harry Truman, quoted in *The New York Times*, said that if we have another war nothing would be left but a world reduced to rubble. Gone would be our hope for the greatest age in the history of mankind.

These dirges of fear could be continued *ad infinitum*, but fear does not stop with the perils of atomic warfare. It also permeates into the deepest crevices of our society. There are dangers in peace time—class struggles, racial struggles, the criminal explosion, and the resulting sense of insecurity in the land. People are very dissatisfied, and they are disposed to seek protection both through their own ingenuity and by looking to the all-encompassing functions of the state and federal governments. Now there is a growing tendency to escape from the reality of this life and seek refuge in the abstractions of Eastern religions, in hypnotic

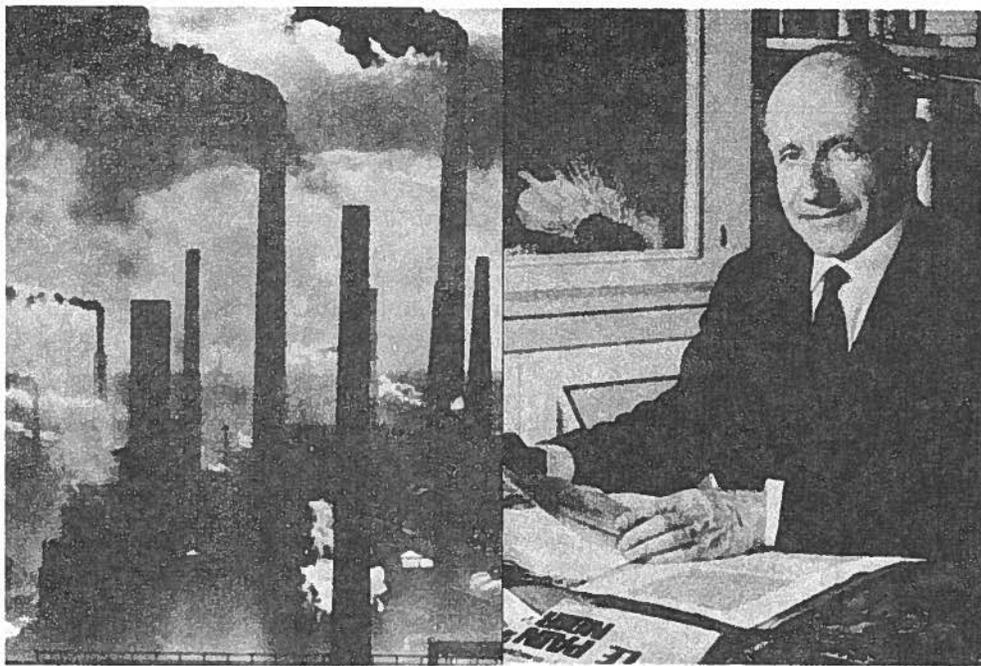


rituals, or in the false haven of drug abuse. The United Nations, standing on the banks of the East River in New York, is the colossal monument to the fear of the world and man's futile attempts to achieve world peace.

Fear on the national level has seeped into the structure of the home and the family. The family is the cornerstone of the nation, and when we see this disintegrate, there is real cause for alarm. It is fear on the level of the fathers and mothers, as well as the youth, of our time that we want to focus our attention on in this article.

What is fear?

When the first human pair came from the hand of the Creator, there was no fear in their hearts. This is almost incomprehensible to us today, since we cannot imagine a life that has no fear of anything. In Genesis 3:10, Adam's response to the loving call of God, "Where art thou?"—"I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself"—is



the first reference to fear in the word of God. Following this, the Bible record is speckled with references to fear, the result of sin.

This fear is not something God intended man to have. It is acquired. In addition to the common capacity to experience fear, there are many fears we suffer which have come to us through conditioning, such as the training our parents have given us, their example, and their expressions. Society as a whole has made us very aware of dangers and thus of fear.

The psychologist separates fear into two different categories and says that things cause fear, whereas people cause anxiety. Anxiety, then, is a special kind of fear, a state of concern, apprehension, or uneasiness. By whatever label we call it, it was something unnatural to man as God originally created him. As Christians, we therefore believe it is our goal to overcome fear in all its forms, because with fear in our hearts it will be impossible to meet our Maker.

We might add that the goodness of God is still evident in our lives, for a certain sense of danger acts in our present sinful condition as an effective warning system. A child who has not learned to fear anything is constantly in danger of his life. Similarly, we are counseled to have "the fear of the Lord," as found in Proverbs 1:7. The word here translated as "fear" comes from the Hebrew *yare*, which has a connotation of reverence. In the exhor-

tation of the angel in Revelation 14:7—"Fear God, and give glory to Him"—the translation of the Greek word *phobeo* has reference to reverence and respect. These positive concepts are necessary and beneficial.

Causes of fear

When we discuss the causes of fear, we can separate them into three categories, physical, mental, and moral. Because the physical world is visible and tangible, it seems the closest to man today. Things such as money, houses, lands, cars—and the emotions connected to these, such as status, pride, and position—are readily understood by modern men. But it is just these things, which are so common and so absolutely necessary for our comfort, that cause the greatest fears and anxieties. Here is where we see innumerable people suffering under fear of insecurity, which may lead to greed, dishonesty, and ruthlessness. The fear of the future in this life fills their whole mind; their horizons do not stretch any further than what this world can offer in the possession of goods, honor, and position. And yet God's word says that all these things will perish in the end of time. Although one may acquire goods and preserve them with the greatest care, yet in a few hours a fire which no skill can quench may destroy the accumulations of his entire life and leave them a mass of smoldering ruins. This was the case with Chicago in

1871. The fire struck, and within a few short hours the whole city was laid in ashes.

We find similar examples in antiquity, such as Pompeii; under the ruins and ashes of the ancient city, destroyed by volcanic eruption, the well-preserved remains of a woman were found holding in her hands pearls and other treasures. In her last moment, her mind was filled with thoughts of saving her earthly treasures. The Bible predicts that soon storms, earthquakes, whirlwinds, fire, and the sword will spread desolation everywhere until men's hearts will fail them for fear and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.

Fear of physical discomfort, pain, or suffering in any form, including sickness and death, is very real to people. Many will do just about anything to escape the unpleasant sensation of pain. Such fear of physical pain may lead to alcoholism, drug abuse, or other ways of escape. Some may fear that their overwrought nervous system will break down, so they attempt to "calm" their frayed nerves by stepping up their use of cigarettes or other drugs. Of course, the sad and fearful outcome is drug addiction, cancer from smoking, or other destruction of health.

The emotion of fear, which may strike as an overwhelming flood in its suddenness and intensity, cannot be stayed or conquered by half-hearted measures. Our fears will not just depart upon command. When we try to dispel fear, we must replace it with something more valuable, something more lasting.

The mental world

Turning from the physical world to the world of thoughts, measurement becomes more difficult, for each person is different. In our minds we may harbor basic anxieties, feelings of insecurity, or fears of isolation. Some are afraid of crowds, and others may be afraid of lack of affectionate response by their fellow men. Some strong men may be afraid to show fear; they want to save face, and so they put up a front which does not reflect their true feelings and emotions. As an example, think of the military ethic; it simply would not do for a

soldier to show fear. Very few people dare to show their true face.

In our contrived economy of artificially created needs and wants, much of the commercial world thrives on the cultivation of fear. An outstanding example of this is the insurance industry. Certainly it is very reasonable to have some kind of protection against sickness, accident, fire, and the like—and we believe it is not inconsistent with Christian principles to have some kind of buffer against the exorbitant prices of replacing any loss. But the insurance companies, capitalizing on these many fears, flourish.

Since sin entered and the human mind began to harbor mixed emotions of doubt and faith, fear and love, true and false thoughts, all kinds of fears have become an integral part of our makeup. Therefore, what can be more appropriate for modern man than the counsel found in the pages of the Bible, “Fear not; I am the first and the last”? Revelation 1:17. Faith in the Creator, who will also speak the very last word in the world, is certainly a good basis for casting out fear.

To the second church of the Revelation, Smyrna, Christ said, “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer” (Revelation 2:10); and yet this was the church which went through great suffering. Many of them were cast into prison to be tried and had great tribulation for 10 years under Diocletian. Some of the most cruel torture was inflicted upon them, and yet the counsel was given to them, “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer.” How could they do it? They looked beyond this life.

On one occasion when one of the rulers of the synagogue came to Jesus for help because his daughter had died, Jesus answered him, “Fear not. Believe only, and she shall be made whole.” Luke 8:50. All the anxiety and distress of the father were dispelled by just these two words, “Fear not.” So the Lord says to His people to the end of time, “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32.

Christianity and fear are not compatible. Thoughts often arise in our minds—our mental world—which we have not wanted or cre-

ated. They will be caused by things we see or hear. However, we may also harbor thoughts in our minds which cause fear. But Christ promised, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27.

Moral fear

When we speak of moral fear, we refer to fear that arises from guilt feelings, a consciousness of wrongdoing, or an awareness of not being right with our fellow man or God. We are living in times when morality is defined in different ways. The Christian’s definition is unalterable and refers only to His attitude toward God’s law. Thus when we are exhorted to “Fear God, and give glory to Him,” this refers to the loyalty we should show to Him by keeping His law.

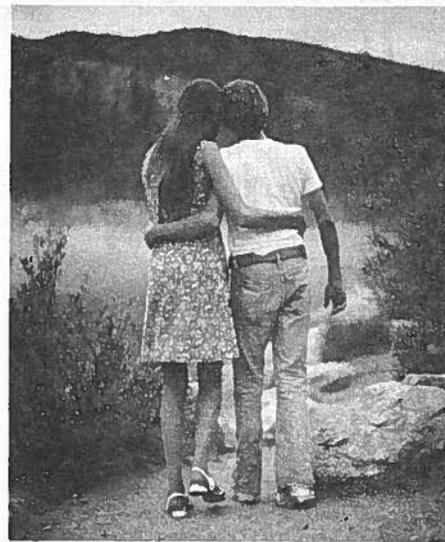
Just as is true in the realm of mental health, particularly the many abnormal fears that exist in mentally deficient or mentally sick people, in the moral realm there are fears that are not justifiable—fears that have been caused by wrong ideas. There are millions of earth’s inhabitants who suffer fears born out of false concepts of deities and gods and their supposed justice. The medieval Roman Catholic religion was based on fear. Likewise many heathen religions today are founded only on anxiety that the gods have not been properly appeased.

In rebelling against these groundless moral fears, people tend to reject anything that they believe exerts control over them. Thus the sexual revolution, immorality, homosexuality, immoral politics, dishonesty, tax evasion, and a general moral breakdown are an overreaction to such falsehoods. The Creator, who made the first man with integrity and with a moral character of great nobility, instilled in him respect for all things good, noble, pure, and divine.

In the degenerative moral atmosphere of our world today, we see that even what is noble and pure is not appreciated and is cast aside. The bill for this anarchical behavior is charged to our present young generation, which suffers overwhelming fears and depression.

Physical love

Marriage and its physical aspect, unity between two partners, male and female, is an institution which comes to us from Paradise to complement and perfect us. It is no wonder, then, that this institution is so fiercely attacked by the arch-enemy and that its sanctity, beauty, and purity are consistently assailed by the powers of darkness. Many young people leave the path of righteousness when they reach the age of love and marriage. The overriding fear in the minds of many young Christians is that they will not find a mate among those who believe the same as they do. Often parents have failed to talk openly



and frankly with their children on this subject, so many a young girl and young man goes into the world unprepared to withstand the pitfalls.

Whereas sexual relations outside of marriage are definitely frowned upon in God’s word, they are blessings and a gift from God within the marital bonds. The English term, “to make love,” is of significance, since love does not come by itself but has to be made. Father and mother as the partners in the family must continually work on this love and broaden the concept of love from the simple physical level into the spiritual realm. It is undoubtedly true that when John said in 1 John 4:18 that “Love casteth out fear,” this is also applicable to physical love. If all were well in this area of human experience, if our families were pure and straight before God, the church and society would be far stronger today.

Mental love

Luke 10:27 says we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Our love toward God should not be just an emotional experience; it should not be merely feeling. It is something we may base upon facts. God has revealed His love to us in many, many ways which we can understand, begin to grasp, and marvel at with our minds. God loves us with an everlasting love, and His love encircles us wherever we go. When we have this love in our minds, we will be able to overcome all the fears that may exist there—including fear of people and what they can do to us. The knowledge that God loves us will help us overcome any feelings of inferiority and at the same time tone down the superior human feelings that rule in the hearts of many.

The fears that may linger in the mind of a wife about the fidelity of her husband can be promptly dispelled if the love that he has for her is expressed in words and deeds. The husband is to cultivate tender affection. The woman is of a more sensitive nature and needs to be cherished. Every word of tenderness, appreciation, and affectionate encouragement will be remembered by her and will reflect back in blessings upon her husband.

The anxiety and stress which the husband may feel about taking care of his family and the circumstances under which he must do so can be alleviated to a great extent by the

loving care and affection shown by his wife. In such warm surroundings of the home, where there is true love between husband and wife, the children will grow up to be people without excessive fears and anxieties. They will see in the looks and behavior of their parents the illustration of the character of God. With confidence and love, with open hearts and minds, they will look forward to serving Him in their future lives and having families of their own. They will be sheltered from all the shadows and frets that darken the life of a person without God. When they learn the truth and see it exemplified in the lives of their parents, these children will grow up to be free from these fears. Jesus said—and it is definitely so—that the truth shall make us free.

Moral love

Seldom do we speak about love on a moral level. Too often we disregard the ethical side of love, and yet true physical and mental love are not possible without adherence to the moral law and the moral code which God has laid down as a rule for all His children.

Every single trespass of men is not necessarily immoral, but it is unmoral. The Bible describes a relatively small class of people who will stand free from all stains of sin and be prepared to meet their Saviour. In His strength they will have achieved the stage of morality which is acceptable before God. Christ's robe of righteousness is covering them now, and they will finally reach the marvelous state, incomprehensible to us today, where there will be no fear whatsoever. They will stand right before God.

What love and forbearance God has with us! If He were to deal with man according to his corrupt ways, who could live in God's sight? A major part of the parents' responsibility is to convey to their children the high moral standard which God requires. It is evident that thousands around us are devoid of principle. These very ones are transmitting to their offspring their own miserable, corrupt passions. What a legacy! Thousands drag out their unprincipled lives, tainting their associates and perpetuating their debased passions by transmitting them to

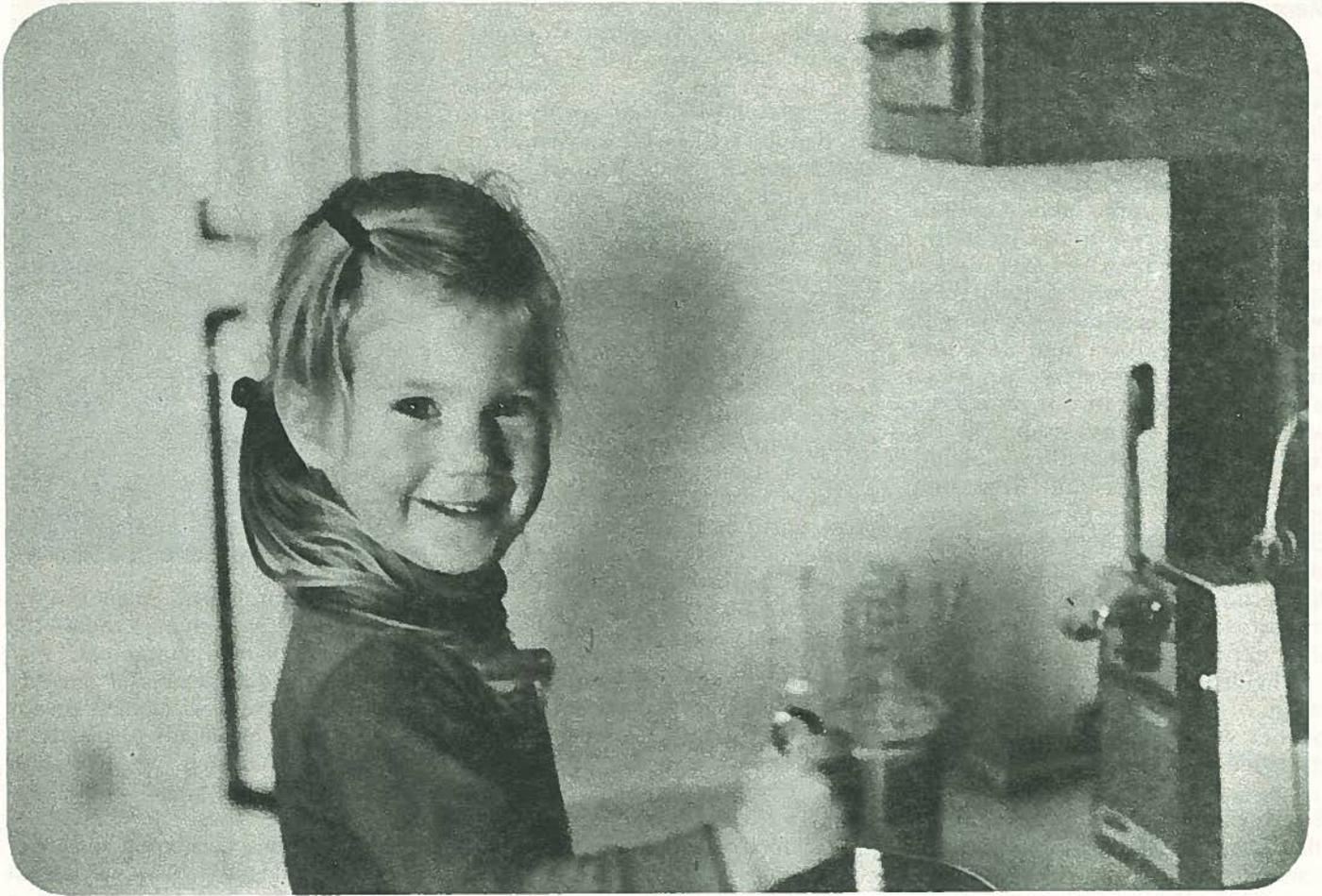


their children. They bear the responsibility for giving them the stamp of their own characters.

Truly, moral principles strictly carried out are a safeguard to the soul. This is especially difficult in the times in which we live. Our children associate with others who do not have these principles. A moral paralysis has come over our society. The only bulwark which can safeguard our children is a wholesome family where love reigns supreme and where all the monstrosities of fear—all its aberrations, excesses and victimizing influences—are successfully disarmed.

If as parents we rely solely upon the strength which is found in loving God above all, with our whole heart, mind, and soul, our hearts will not be failing for fear. Then what will happen to our children in the future, notwithstanding the terrible times in which we live? Their characters will not be warped because of fears which have been dealt out to them by their parents' behavior, practices and expressions. Their bodies will grow strong; their minds will open as budding blooms; and their characters will be straight, forthright, and unhampered by the fears of sin and its results. May the greatest power in the world—love—be given free rein in our families, in the church, and in all associations between individuals. This will bring us in direct harmony with God's character and soon unite us with the coming King in the clouds of heaven. 





The Rod of Love

By EVELYN HOLMSTROEM

LAW and order are necessary in Leach home, school, city and nation—the entire universe itself—simply because through such order life is made easier and more enjoyable for everyone. How happy and secure would your life be if the law of gravity worked *most* of the time, if the sun shone on your crops and flowers *now and then*, if our present traffic laws were abolished and everyone was allowed to drive anywhere and however he wished? How disappointing it would be if your carefully planted corn, string beans and tomato seeds produced dandelions, oxalis, and daisies. Law, order, rules, and regulations—rather than stifling creativity and true freedom—make life safe, pleasant, and secure so that man is free to enjoy the blessings of peace and prosperity.

Law is love; love is law

The Bible plainly declares that “love is the fulfilling of the law.” Romans 13:10. When you translate this into practical meaning, it is quite obvious that fulfilling doesn’t mean “doing away with” but rather “obeying.” The only way for children to show love for God, their parents, their friends and relatives is to obey every command and fulfill every good wish of their loved ones.

Teach your children that love is the law of your home, that love is shown by obedience to established rules of order—rules made for the convenience, happiness, and safety of every family member.

Why rebellion?

As to why rebellion—the refusal to obey law—exists, we have no

answer. It began in heaven, where, in the midst of perfect happiness and order, the highest-ranking angel said, “NO!” “I won’t!” “I’ll do it *my way*.” And thus began the conflict of the ages—millenniums of suffering, bloodshed, anguish, and heartbreak—because one being refused to obey and devoted his life to causing every other being, if possible, to follow him in his rebellion. Those words first spoken by the devil himself form on the lips of every lovely little child born into this world.

Why discipline?

Why is discipline, or the “rod of love,” necessary in your life and in your home when it’s so much more fun to be free? We in America savor the word “freedom.” We want to be free from all restraint, to be our-

selves, to "do our own thing." But "there are two freedoms: the false where a man is free to do what he likes; the true where a man is free to do what he ought." —Charles Kingsley.

To teach our youngsters to do as they ought, we must insist that they obey us, and if they do not, we punish them to help them to submit to or remember our rules of conduct. We discipline them to help our youth make it a habit to act from principle, instead of feeling, to do what ought to be done, rather than what would be the most fun to do. We and our children want to be like Moses, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Hebrews 11:25. We must teach them to "seek not for happiness, for it is never to be found by seeking for it." Rather, "go about your duty." —Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 2, p. 136.

I often think of why I don't smoke. I can give many reasons why one should not do it, but the actual reason for my not acquiring the custom is that my parents didn't smoke; they wouldn't let me do it either, and I am forever grateful to them. When I was older and away from home, it was a relatively simple matter to decide I didn't want to start smoking. How much easier that was than to try to break an already-deeply-a-part-of-my-life habit. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Whom to discipline

Someone has said that there are three ways to teach children: (1) example, (2) example, and (3) example. Therefore, it is imperative that we discipline, or bring under control, our own selves so we can be examples of self-discipline to our children.

The inestimable value of self-control is shown in Proverbs 16:32: "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

Abraham was commended because he set a worthy example for his family: "For I know him, that he will command his children and

his household *after him*, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment." Genesis 18:19.

When to discipline

Begin to teach a child to obey as soon as he begins to assert his own will. Surely, a child has rights. He has a right to be well fed and warmly and appropriately clothed; but he does not have the right to talk loudly when someone else is trying to rest, to play in the front yard when you are working in the back yard and must watch him, to grab a pretty blue toy away from a friend, to play with things that can hurt, cripple, or kill him. He may be too small to understand why you say "no," but he can learn to obey you.

Some parents maintain it's best to leave their home exactly as it was before Baby came. "He has to get used to *our* way of living," they insist. Then, when the toddler breaks an heirloom vase, he is likely to be severely and angrily whipped not because he disobeyed but because Mom is furious that he broke an irreplaceable treasure.

Other mothers and fathers put away everything they don't want the baby to touch, leaving him with a roomful of touchable, squeezable, accessible toys and playthings—a Garden of Eden minus the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This is farther than even God went in the beginning of the world.

Why not compromise these two schools of thought? Be sure to remove everything that a child can hurt himself with; or, if you can't remove it, then fence it off, cover it up, tape it shut, or whatever. Also put away those things that you would be broken-hearted about losing or having to put back in order, replacing them with substitutes or leaving in reach items that you will say "no, no" to but which will not cause you undue anguish if they are broken while Baby is learning the meaning of "no, no."

Remember that no infraction of the rules is too small to notice and to correct. Prohibit yourself from rationalizing: "But he took only a small piece of candy." "He didn't mean to hurt his brother." "He forgot!" Paramount it is that the



child disobeyed and for that he is to be punished. After all, Eve obviously didn't harvest the entire crop of the forbidden tree. One could reason that she was hungry and the not-to-be-touched tree was the closest one; she took only enough fruit to satisfy her hunger; then, with a heart full of love, she took some of the newly-tasted delicacies to share with her husband. And Cain, surely he didn't mean to harm his beloved brother! Cain just became upset and, before he knew it, he had committed murder. Both Eve and Cain, however, knowingly broke a law; and both harvested the natural results of their sins, their disobedience of the law.

Make it a habit to discipline, to correct, immediately. The threat, "Next time I'll whip you" is both an invitation to do it again and a way of undermining confidence in what you say. "Next time" will you really remember that you once promised to whip for the same offense? Or will you again say, "Next time I'll . . ."

How to discipline

Be as consistent as you can in correcting similar offenses. Make each punishment fit the deed, not your mood. What sense does it

make to a child to be spanked severely today for sneaking some cookies from the cookie jar and to have Mom say tomorrow, "Dear, you shouldn't have done that"? He learns not that it is wrong to steal but that, to avoid punishment, he must not take cookies when his mother doesn't feel well.

you tried hard not to do it, but that temptation overcame you. But you are getting stronger and I know you will overcome. Let's pray that the Lord will continue to help you and, as He shows your sins to you, help you really want to overcome those sins." Talk about and visualize the ultimate goal in life—heaven

"The gospel is a wonderful simplifier of life's problems. Its instruction, heeded, would make plain many a perplexity and save us from many an error." —Ellen G. White, "The Ministry of Healing," p. 363.

Do you spank Johnny soundly for a certain wrongdoing and then, in Johnny's presence, laughingly tell a friend of your son's prank and add, "But spanking doesn't seem to do a bit of good; he does the same thing again and again"? Naturally Johnny will, for with your hand you've whipped him, perhaps because "it's the thing to do," but with your tongue you've praised him. He will work for praise despite the minor inconvenience of getting spanked before receiving the verbal pat on the back.

Remember, discipline with the rod of love. End punishment with a note of encouragement. "I know

and the earth made new, where all will be happiness, beauty, and freedom from temptation.

Encourage your sons and daughters by noticing when they do things right too. "Thank you for making the bed so neatly, Sue. I'm sure you can do just as nice a job of hanging up your clothes." Occasionally offer a reward for right doing. "If you do the dishes every day for a week, without being reminded, we will go to the beach next Sunday. How about that?"

Where to discipline

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone." Matthew 18:15. Remember how sensitive you are and how it hurts to have someone broadcast to friends and neighbors how you burned the toast or made this or that foolish mistake. The purpose of discipline is to correct and to prevent recurrences of the same errors—not to humiliate and cause a child to feel he can never please or satisfy you.

The illustration is given of a man who beat his servant with a bull-whip. The wise servant soon realized that the closer he got to the handle of the whip, the less the beating hurt. Let us draw our children close to us so they may feel the love, not just the sting, in our discipline.

Recommended reading

The Adventist Home, by Ellen G. White
Child Guidance, by Ellen G. White
Children Can Be Taught, by Josephine Cunningham Edwards

THE ROD OF LOVE

Why to discipline

"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." Proverbs 29:17.

Whom to discipline

"My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of His correction. For whom the Lord loveth He correcteth, even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." Proverbs 3:11, 12.

When to discipline

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." Proverbs 19:18.

How to discipline

"The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Proverbs 29:15.

Where to discipline

"He that covereth a transgression seeketh love, but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends." Proverbs 17:9.

"Parents can tell but never teach unless they practice what they preach." —Anon.

Parents:

What are you teaching your children?

By ESTHER H. McSHERRY

As parents, our attitudes and actions are better teachers than our words! At some time, every parent is confronted with one of his children taking something that does not belong to him. In most instances, learning not to steal, particularly for small children, is only a matter of growing up. There are situations, however, where stealing indicates some basic need which is not being met. Whatever the motive may be, we as parents will do well to provide the best guidance we can offer to our children. Two questions we might ask ourselves: What preventive measures can we take to help our children resist this temptation? and, If our child has stolen something, how can we best handle the situation?

Preventing a child from stealing

I believe we must first evaluate, as completely as possible, whether or not the child's basic needs are being met. This is not meant in the material sense but in the emotional aspect. Is the child loved and accepted? Does he feel that he is of worth to himself and to others? We can best give a child this feeling if we show genuine concern for his behavior. If he does not come home on time, he can sense whether or not his parents are concerned, and knowing that someone important really cares gives him a security. If he knows his parents would be greatly concerned for him if he were to steal, he feels loved, accepted, and worthwhile. Therefore, parents should insist on correct standards of behavior for their children.

Teaching correct principles is another essential preventive

measure. Nothing is more fundamental than the Bible in teaching our children the rewards that result from keeping the commandments and the consequences that follow if we break the law.

The Bible tells us that God commanded parents to teach His laws to their children. He was not pleased with those whose children were growing up in wickedness, whose eyes were "full of greediness." This thought suggests that parents have a tendency to teach their children to be self-indulgent rather than to seek the riches of eternal life.

As we teach our children the scriptures, they can know that God and His commandments can be depended on to be constant and unchanging. When society's moral values change from year to year, children and young people often become confused and feel they can be certain of nothing. The Bible teaches that God is always the same and has revealed the same truths and commandments to men who lived in all periods of history. For young people it is a comfort and security to know that their heavenly Father loves them, for the scriptures testify of this fact in such a way that it cannot be doubted.

Parents are to be examples! Few parents ever commit gross crimes of theft, but children quickly observe petty stealing that may occur in everyday situations. A father, for example, brings home from his company office paper, pencils, etc. Or when he returns from a business trip, the children find towels with motel labels on them. Then the child in turn takes a piece of candy or a package of gum off the shelf in the grocery

store. Or the student brings home the coat he "found" at school. Almost everyone can recall similar incidents.

Making it right

Now, what is to be done if a parent finds out that a child has stolen something? He should take immediate action, regardless of the motive, to make the child recognize that he has behaved irresponsibly by breaking a commandment and has infringed upon the rights of others. Knowing the motive is helpful in deciding the best course of action—but the immediate task is to help the child make right what is wrong.

Insist that the child at once return the stolen article. He can either return it by himself, the parent making certain it is returned, or be accompanied by his parents.

The next step is to understand the child's feelings and prescribe a course of action that will correct the attitudes and behavior of the child—taking into consideration the motive, the seriousness of the offense, and the child's attitude. For a small child, teaching the difference between right and wrong might be appropriate. For an emotionally disturbed child, ministerial and professional help could be required. For older children, a loss of privileges, restrictions, or other punishment may be necessary. A child of any age should never be allowed to get away with stealing, regardless of how small the item or what the motive may have been. Remember, it is the behavior, not the child, that is being rejected.

The Saviour continually taught us to condemn the sin but love the sinner. We must clearly communicate the message that the stealing behavior is bad, not the child. Children tend to live up to their labels. Therefore, a child must be taught that his stealing behavior is wrong, but he also must be made to feel loved and accepted as a person worth the efforts of correction.

Your children are a blessing from God. When you notice them, speak to them, listen to them, and confirm their self-respect, you will be greatly blessed by being loved and respected by them. 



Guidelines to Family Communication

By LARRY WATTS

subtle art requiring effort, understanding, and lots of practice. "But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation [behavior, or manner of life]." 1 Peter 1:15. In order to establish a healthy relationship, parents need to rely less on authority and more on close listening and a genuine effort to understand. We have to do more than just listen to the words being said. How often our children come to us, asking us to notice some "trivial" matter, and with an unthinking "Uh-huh" or "That's nice," we go about our busy way. We fail to realize that the little one is just asking if we care about him. If he sees that he is worth some of our precious time, then he will feel he is worth something. On the other hand, when we make generalizations about a child's being awkward or a nuisance, he tends to fix in his mind that this is his normal behavior and acts accordingly. A conscientious mother realizes that she is responsible for the image the child establishes of himself and how he relates to others.

Today there is a breakdown in family communications in our "advanced" society. Families used to live and work together, and experiences were shared. Common wisdom was passed on from parents to children, and there was no need to study books on how to bring up

UPON learning of a new arrival in someone's family, our first concern is, "Is the baby well and healthy?" We are glad to hear that "Mother and baby are doing fine." To bring a well-formed, healthy child into the world is as much a miracle today as it ever was; but to raise a child who will find success and happiness is a task that cannot be left to miracles alone.

Since a child does not come into the world by choice, it is his parents' responsibility to supply him with values and guidance so he can develop the competence to become a worthwhile human being. In nature, the rearing of young is not left to chance; it is accomplished

through a blend of instinct and parental training. In the human infant, the most helpless of all babies, there is almost no instinct whatever. The entire process of becoming mature is accomplished through parental care and communication between parent and child. The quality of this communication is directly reflected in the personality of the child. Therefore, it is definitely worth developing within our own families the kind of communication that will build healthy relationships through understanding and being understood.

Communication is a two-way street and cannot be measured by the number of words used. It is a

Johnny. But today the artificial way of life—lack of parental presence, mechanical babysitters, over-emphasis on material goods, loss of real values, city living with its lack of purposeful activities—has caused a built-in “generation gap.” However, these obstacles can be overcome. Studies reveal that success is bred by old-fashioned love and caring.

Many mothers are beginning to realize the importance of raising their own children. Dr. Lee Salk, chief child psychologist at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, has said, “I’d much rather see people not have children at all than leave infants in a day-care center,” and some mothers are listening. But even among conscientious mothers there tends to be a difference in their abilities to raise children who are successful in their social relationships with others and their ability to do well in school. What makes the difference?

A study done by Harvard University over the last 9 years shows that the mother-child relationship has a direct bearing on the child’s ability to cope with life. “In the first seven or eight months of life, virtually all children are treated similarly and develop equally. But at about eight months, several things happen that change the relationship between mother and child.

From that time on, there are distinct and apparently important differences in the ways mothers treat children.” —Burton L. White, Ph.D., director of the Pre-School Project at the Harvard University Laboratory of Human Development.

After eight months, the child begins to move about by himself. It was found in the study that how the mother related to the child in the early years was more important than the parent’s income, education, or family size. Those mothers who turned out the least capable children tended to put them into playpens

situations which would have stimulated curiosity and thus learning.

The better mothers were usually there to respond to the child’s attention-getting device. Sometimes she would be too busy and say, “No,” and the child thus got a taste of the future. Every child has to learn that he can’t do just anything he wishes, and if discipline is needed, it is meted out consistently and firmly. The product of these mothers are well-adjusted children—and eager students. Throughout the day they have had live communication with their mothers, while the

The average American family spends 6½ hours a day with television. From birth to high school, children spend far more than twice as much time viewing TV as they spend in school. The preschool student has spent more hours with TV before he enters kindergarten than a student spends in four years of college classes.

and restricted areas so they could run a more efficient home and keep their children from under foot. Thus they did not convey the thrill and excitement of learning. Socially “problem” children and slow learners are the result of this type of early raising.

The most successful mother safety-proofed and child-proofed her home by moving valuable and dangerous objects out of reach, leaving in their place safe and everyday objects of little value. She enjoyed having the child near her and allowed him to follow her about her daily chores, stopping her work when asked for attention, perhaps for only a few seconds at a time, using the teachable moment to give effective and direct instruction about the thing the child was interested in at the moment. In this way, the child used his mother as a teaching resource and a constant consultant. If he became bored, she made it a point to arouse his interest in learning by introducing him to something new and different. This contrasted with the least successful mother, who squashed the child’s curiosity by isolating him from the learning environment of the home. Even though she spent perhaps an entire half hour each day reading to him or teaching him letters, she did not take advantage of child-initiated

least successful children received the bulk of their language exposure from television, because the mother usually put the playpen in front of the TV.

At about 14 months, children begin asserting their own independence, chiefly by saying, “No!” The successful mothers were more likely to divert the child’s attention or be compliant, but the others felt this was the first sign of their children defying their authority, and therefore they snuffed it out with immediate disciplinary measures. “Negativism is normal, and, in balance, a healthy sign of the child’s developing an increased social awareness of himself and his relationship to other members of the family.” —Burton L. White. Mothers of successful children neither harass nor hover over their offspring. The importance of this early childhood experience is emphasized when we realize that a child’s learning processes should be developed before he is 3 years old. If these processes have not been brought up to the proper level by this time, it is difficult to change the youngster’s direction.

At this point, I mention briefly that good health habits are important for the entire family. Its communications network can break down from faulty nutrition, overwork, or lack of sleep!



As the child changes and progresses through different stages, the parent's perception of him should also change. Always uppermost should be the clearly consistent message that he is loved and wanted and valuable to his parents. Sometimes it is hard for parents to accept the fact that their baby is growing up and is able to make wise choices

youngster would probably wonder, "What in the world is wrong with Mom?"

For a child to grow up emotionally healthy, he must be able to acknowledge his feelings while mastering them—to control his behavior without losing his self-esteem. Especially in teenage, parents should allow their children to express their

times arguments occur which too many parents take personally. It is important to realize that the real struggle in trying to attain adulthood is with himself, not with his parents. Here is where the greatest understanding is needed. Communication must remain open.

There is a common danger for parents—the belief that we must teach our children and cannot learn anything from them. This is not correct. We certainly want to convey to them the necessity of constantly learning and improving; but can we convey this to them if we are not learning and improving ourselves? Can children have respect for us if we do not respect them? We have the chance, through the grace of God, to overcome our own selfishness and to be great blessings to our families and through them to the world. These practical guides and a daily walk with Christ add up to true success.

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation [behavior, manner of life] his works with meekness of wisdom." James 3:13. To mold our young in the right manner is our life's work and requires skill. To train and to restrain, to stimulate in favor of right, to rebuke tenderly—all this requires grace from heaven. With the help of God, by prayer and Bible study, we can succeed in training our children so they will be mentally and morally balanced. We will be rewarded a hundredfold for our time and care. It is within our power to grow in wisdom so we might direct our children in the right way. The impressions made upon the minds of our children will be hard to erase—so let's try to make them the right impressions. 

"Studies show that father absence has baneful effects (especially on boys), ranging from low self-esteem to hunger for immediate gratification and susceptibility to group influence." —"Time," December 15, 1967.

by himself. We should not feel that we have to dictate what ought to be done every moment of every day but should allow the child the right to express his own feelings. A constructive relationship between two people doesn't require complete agreement, but it does require complete honesty: "Having your conversation [behavior, manner of life] honest. . . ." 1 Peter 2:12. A child has to realize that the way he behaves will have an effect on what his parents do. Particularly as he grows into adolescence, your pattern of honest communication with him serves at least three vital functions:

1. Instead of intimidating the child for something he is doing that is disturbing you, honest communication tells him how you feel. "I can't possibly rest when you're making all that noise," is better than saying, "Stop that pounding right now! You should know better than that," for it tells how you feel rather than attacking the child personally. It is less likely to provoke resentment and hostility, which is an important factor in teenage.

2. Honesty helps the child understand that how he acts influences what you do and how you feel, and that he has an obligation to try to control what he does.

3. It allows you to keep your own emotional pressure below the boiling point. Telling him how you feel about his actions—"You're stepping on my foot, and it hurts"—is a release of your own true feelings, which, if kept bottled up, after repeated hurts could explode over some small triviality. Then the

feelings, which may include disagreement with the parent. Some parents feel such disagreement undermines their adult authority, but by expressing himself, the child can test his own ideas; he will gain greater respect for his parents when encouraged to express his side of things. If disagreements—and there will always be some—are kept to oneself for too long, resentment can build up to a dangerous point. Hard as it may be to accept, a certain amount of "rebellion" is a healthy part of every teenagers' development and is a rehearsal for the day when he must manifest true independence as an adult. Our success as a parent ultimately is determined by our children's ability to choose right and handle the problems of everyday life by themselves.

The teenager's desire for independence is not constant. Part of him still wants the security of parents who love him and tell him what to do, and the other part is trying to be an adult himself. This causes a turmoil within, and many

"Being a good parent requires a great deal of time—time to talk with children, time to encourage them, time to listen to them, time to respond to their emotions, and time to work out all the problems children must face and eventually overcome. The parent who is too busy to know his child—to live closely with him, to learn with him, and to succeed and fail with him—is certain to be a poor teacher, no matter what particular technique is used." —Gerald M. Knox, "Six Ways to Help Your Child Learn More," "Better Homes and Gardens," April 1974.

Revive the Spirit of the First Witnesses

By A. RINGELBERG

WE are living in a time when the clock points to a decisive hour. Many religious as well as other circles are convinced that the end of all things is near. The Advent message has reached a large part of the earth, and many Christians are convinced that Christ will soon return. Only those who do not know Bible prophecy fail to see the fulfillment of the prophetic word in the events and conditions of this world. Everything is reaching its climax today. But the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures does not benefit man if it does not lead him earnestly to prepare. Perhaps many are praying, "Thy kingdom come!" or they say, "It would be good if the Lord came soon," but they do not examine themselves to see how it would stand with them if this day came unexpectedly.

To all those who believe in the second coming of Christ but neglect to prepare by laying sin aside, the prophet Amos declares, "Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! to what end is it for you? the day of the Lord is darkness, and not light." Amos 5:18. Why will this day be one not of joy but of judgment for many people? The prophet answers this question also: "I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer Me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. Take thou away from Me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream." Amos 5:21-24.

Let us heed these words, for they are not directed to the wicked world but to all who exercise some religion and thus think they serve God. But their worship does not please God, because they are not in harmony with the law and testimony and the plan of redemption.

At the end of the 2,300 years, in the years 1830 to 1844, the Lord sent His faithful servants with a message to the world which was to uncover the deception of all false religions. The Lord

unsealed the book of Daniel, and the knowledge of the prophetic word (Daniel 12:4) showed that the time of the end had come and that an earnest preparation of the heart was necessary. It was generally conceived that Jesus would soon come in the clouds of heaven. This message was proclaimed with great assurance in nearly all churches and denominations and with such power from the Holy Spirit that sinners began to tremble and hypocrites became alarmed. "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: . . ." Revelation 14:7. Great solemnity attended this message. The bearers of the message were humble, not seeking their own honor or advantages. They were fully conscious that the blood of souls would be demanded of them if they did not warn men, explain the prophecies to them, and point them to the coming day of judgment. Without fear they rebuked sin, worldliness, and apostasy in religious matters; and the Spirit of God worked a deep conviction in those who listened to them. The belief that the Lord would soon appear led to a diligent search of the Scriptures.

The thought, "But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth?" (Malachi 3:2) gave the believers reason to spend much time in prayer. Whole nights were spent in prayer in which the believers wrestled with God with crying and tears. The forest, field, church, and closet were witnesses how hearts were poured out before God, while men, women, and children sought God with all their heart to receive pardon for sins and to speak to God as to a friend.

During the time of this movement, the believers did not leave their former churches and assemblies, as they were still tolerated in the churches. O yes, they would gather to counsel, encourage, and help each other. The message that Jesus would come soon led to personal efforts to save others. Young people prayed for their friends.

One of these young people related this experience: "I conducted meetings

with my young friends, some of whom were older than myself. I decided not to cease my endeavors until these dear souls, for whom I had such great sympathy, gave themselves to the Lord. Whole nights I spent in earnest prayer for those whom I had looked up and gathered together, to pray and to labor with them. Every one of them was converted to God."

It is reported of William Miller that during his lectures every place in the house was filled, and even the platform was crowded; but he would go down the aisle, taking old, weak men and women by the hand and making a seat for them, after which he continued his lecture. The Spirit of Christ made men tender-hearted, courteous, and pleasant. They were longing for a different world, for this world had lost its attraction. The true believers were willing for Christ's sake to suffer persecution. They were scoffed at for their faith and then cast out of their churches; yet without wavering they held on to their faith. Whoever prepared himself to meet Jesus was simple in his dress and had no desire to live like the world. He found no joy in worldly pleasure. When they came together, the believers' subjects of conversation were the coming of the Lord and preparation for it.

The lesson for us

What a glorious revelation of God's power the Advent Movement was during the years 1840 to 1844 under the proclamation of the first angel's message. The message was carried to every missionary station, and the work in many localities compared with the reformation of the 16th century. The Spirit of prophecy tells us that the proclamation of the third angel's message will supercede by far the power of the first two messages. The believers living over 130 years ago believed they would see Jesus come. We who are living today stand face to face before the fulfillment of the signs of the times. To us is granted the privilege to proclaim the very last warning to the world. We may, more than the first Advent believers, have the hope that the Lord will come in this generation. This means that many people who live today will see the Lord come in His glory. It means that we as Advent believers will soon be taken up to meet Christ in the air. This, my dear brethren and sisters, is the true, genuine, old Adventist teaching and doctrine.

Because time lasts longer than we had anticipated, many are in danger of becoming impatient. The danger is great that the Advent hope with its realistic truths might remain powerless and only a theory to us. What we need today is a revival of the spirit of the first witnesses. We must never forget that we are living in the most solemn chapter of this world's history. The ceaseless urge of humanity for worldly goods will soon be ended. The wonderful building erected by prosperity will one day collapse like a card house. Our own future well being and salvation depend on the course which we will pursue. It is dangerous today to sleep and to lose faith. The signs announcing the coming of Christ are too vivid to be placed in doubt. In view of these things, everyone who knows the truth should be a living witness. The Lord calls on all those who know the truth to arise and move into the front lines. Continued indifference is a deadly danger. The deadly stupor of self-satisfaction is of Satan. It is his strongest weapon against God's people.

When hope in the soon coming of the Lord diminishes, the church slides more and more into the world and becomes just another church.

The willingness to confess and forsake sins, as found among the first Advent believers, should be a lesson to us. Without this no soul can be ready to meet the Lord. All who are trying to excuse and hide their sins will, sooner or later, be overcome by Satan.

He who neglects to make the necessary preparation for the day of the Lord cannot receive it during the time of trouble or at a later date. His case is hopeless.

THE REFORMER, supplement to *The Sabbath Watchman*, presents news and articles of special interest to members and friends of the International Missionary Society of Seventh-day Adventists, Reform Movement, American Union. It proclaims the straight truth and elevates the standard of the threefold angel's message.

World War I saw responsible men of the Seventh-day Adventist Church publicly declaring it to be the duty of all Adventist men to defend their respective countries with weapons in hand, even on the Sabbath. Hundreds of staunch believers protested this stand, but their protest was not heeded and they were disfellowshipped against their wishes. All attempts to reunite on the old platform of truth have failed. This was the birth of the Reform Movement, which today is represented in all major countries.

FOREIGN OFFICES

Canada: P.O. Box 401, Hamilton, Ontario
 Australia: 121 Toongabbie Road, Toongabbie, N.S.W. 2146
 England: 8 Garden House Lane, Tingley, Wakefield, Yorkshire WF3 1NW
 Philippines: Box 1642, Manila
 South Africa: 98 Bertha Street, Turffontein, Johannesburg, Transvaal
 Other offices: Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, Equador, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Holland, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia

There are some who are waiting for the time of the latter rain to make the necessary preparation, but they will be disappointed. No one will receive the seal of God while his character shows spots or wrinkles. Our characters must be cleansed by faith, and we must be clothed with the righteousness of Christ, which is imputed and imparted to us by faith. By the agency of the Holy Spirit and the power of true, living faith, we must overcome our character faults; then the latter rain will be given us. Then the spirit of the first witnesses will come to life again.

A great responsibility rests on our shoulders. The Lord holds His church and everyone individually responsible for the light and the opportunities given us. All must act; all must put their hands to the task and earnestly call to God for true knowledge, courage, and strength to stand fast. The events passing before our eyes are of such great significance that they

should stir us to proclaim the truth with power. The harvest of the world is well-nigh ripe.

"The message of hope and mercy is to be carried to the ends of the earth. Whosoever will, may reach forth and take hold of God's strength and make peace with Him, and he shall make peace. No longer are the heathen to be wrapped in midnight darkness. The gloom is to disappear before the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. The power of hell has been overcome. . . .

"Christ does not bid His followers strive to shine. He says, *Let your light shine.* If you have received the grace of God, the light is in you. Remove the obstructions, and the Lord's glory will be revealed. The light will shine forth, to penetrate and dispel the darkness. You cannot help shining within the range of your influence."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 418, 420.

The Open Letter

By M. P. RINGELBERG

"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart." 2 Corinthians 3:2, 3.

A realization of this statement from the letter of the apostle Paul would undoubtedly alter drastically the life of many a professed Christian. The apostle said, "We are an open letter, known and read of all men." He reminds us that every word, every action, and every expression of the face make up the letter that can be read and is read by all men. The life of a Christian is an eagerly studied epistle, and there is no other subject more popular for discussion and analyzing by unbelievers and worldlings. Every little slip of the tongue, every little misstep or unguarded word is magnified and used as an excuse to reject our Lord.

In view of the fact that the life of the individual professed Christian and also of the church as a whole is subject to the prying, critical eyes of all men, it is appropriate that we examine our walk in this world a little more closely.

God cannot be pleased with a lax and lukewarm attitude in matters of doctrine or faith, because such an attitude makes the holiness and authority of His word lose their force. Examples where this great sin of indifference was rebuked, warned against, and severely punished can be found all through the word of God. In one instance, when speaking of the last church, Laodicea, whose condition is described as lukewarm and indifferent, the Lord says that He will spew her out of His mouth.

"The figure of spewing out of His mouth means that He cannot offer up your prayers or your expressions of love to God. He cannot endorse your teaching of His word or your spiritual work in anywise. He cannot present your religious exercises with the request that grace be given you."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 408.

However unacceptable laxness may be in God's service, there is another attitude leading to the opposite extreme which has been even more damaging to the church and the cause of truth.

"In every age Satan has sought to impair the efforts of God's servants by introducing into the church a spirit of fanaticism. Thus it was in Paul's day, and thus it was in later centuries during the time of the Reformation. Wycliffe, Luther, and many others who blessed the world

by their influence and their faith, encountered the wiles by which the enemy seeks to lead into fanaticism overzealous, unbalanced, and unsanctified minds." —*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 348.

When fanaticism in its varied forms appears in the church or in the lives of some of its members, the trumpet is given an uncertain sound and the God of love, truth, and wisdom is represented in a false, warped manner.

"One fanatical streak exhibited among us will close many doors against the soundest principles of truth." —*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 226.

"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand," the apostle Paul admonished in Philippians 4:5. This open letter of ours which is read of all men should breathe a spirit of moderation, temperance, and tolerance, with no extremes to one side or to the other. Moderation is a most wonderful characteristic in life. It is the compass of the spiritual ship; it pilots us safely and unerringly across the turbulent ocean of emotions. Moderation will make us wise, thoughtful, and balanced of mind. It will prompt us to enjoy and to grant true Christian liberty and will make us mindful and considerate of the feelings and motives of others, even when their actions happen to clash with our personal convictions. Thus we can grant our fellow beings the right to their own opinions and convictions without sacrificing one inch of our own position.

Fanaticism, in whatever form it may be revealed, is always a sign of limited knowledge in Christian experience. A person who has fallen into this error will deem himself all-wise and especially

favoured of God. As a result, he will be ready to criticize and condemn others who cannot see things as he does. In the church, such action will inevitably lead to disharmony and separation. Therefore we can understand the admonition given by the Spirit of prophecy in *Early Writings*, p. 63: "I saw the necessity of the messengers, especially, watching and checking all fanaticism wherever they might see it rise. Satan is pressing in on every side, and unless we watch for him, and have our eyes open to his devices and snares, and have on the whole armour of God, the fiery darts of the wicked will hit us. There are many precious truths in the Word of God, but it is 'present truth' that the flock needs now. I have seen the danger of the messengers running off from the important points of present truth, to dwell upon subjects that are not calculated to unite the flock and sanctify the soul. Satan will here take every possible advantage to injure the cause."

"Some had been bringing in false tests, and had made their own ideas and notions a criterion, magnifying matters of little importance into tests of Christian fellowship, and binding heavy burdens upon others. Thus a spirit of criticism, fault-finding, and dissension had come in, which had been a great injury to the church. And the impression was given to unbelievers that Sabbathkeeping Adventists were a set of fanatics and extremists, and that their peculiar faith rendered them unkind, uncourteous, and really unchristian in character. Thus the course of a few extremists prevented the influence of the truth from reaching the people." —*Selected Messages*, Book 2, pp. 318, 319.

There has been no better example given to us than our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Those who are close students of the Word, following Christ in humility of soul, will not go to extremes. The Saviour never went to extremes, never lost self-control, never violated the laws of good taste. He knew when to speak and when to keep silent. He was always self-possessed. He never erred in His judgment of men or of truth. He was never deceived by appearances. He never raised a question that was not clearly appropriate, never gave an answer that was not right to the point. He silenced the voice of the caviling priests by penetrating beneath the surface and reaching the heart, flashing light into the mind and awakening the conscience.

"Those who follow the example of Christ will not be extremists. They will cultivate calmness and self-possession. The peace that was seen in the life of Christ will be seen in their lives." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 317.

May the Lord grant that as the remnant people of these last days we may produce an epistle in our lives which will show our moderation and true Christian spirit to all men. The abundant fruits of this spirit will be seen in greater unity, deeper and more sincere love among believers and in greater progress in the work.

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:1-3.

From Indonesia...



Brother Situmurang, Djakarta, Indonesia, a professor of English at the Seventh-day Adventist school and one-time translator for American missionaries, has taken his stand with the Reform Movement. The decision was a very difficult one for him, since his family has not yet seen the light of Reformation. Let us pray for this brother.



Our first church in Indonesia, situated in the northern part of Celebes.



Baptism in Celebes, Indonesia. The brother looking on is Brother Sumayko, who has been a Seventh-day Adventist since 1924. In 1950, because of certain abuses, he led out in the separation of some 1,500 believers and the formation of the Advent Conference. Now this brother has learned about and accepted the message of Reformation. May the Lord bless his efforts to strengthen the work of God in Indonesia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

7:30 NIGHTLY

PROPHECY SEMINAR

Bring Your Bible

Editor M. P. Rungtberg, Guest Speaker

- FRIDAY, October 11. LEARNING THE ROPES
Interpretation of prophetic symbols. E correlates with the prophetic realm.
- SABBATH, October 12. FROM PAUL TO POPE
The 1st Year Church of the Revolution.
- SUNDAY, October 13. THE SHINING LIGHT
The last three churches of Revelation.
- MONDAY, October 14. THE TEMPLE IN ADVENTIST HISTORY
The temple through the history of the last church.
- TUESDAY, October 15. THE FULLNESS OF TIME
Prophetic symbols.
- WEDNESDAY, October 16. CALAMITY OR VICTORY?
The prophetic message on the millennium.
- THURSDAY, October 17. FOUR HEAVENLY MESSENGERS
The messenger group in all its phases.
- FRIDAY, October 18. CHRIST OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS
The message of 1893 and its present significance.
- SABBATH, October 19. THE REMNANT APPROVED
An examination of the sealing work.



"I was glad when they said said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1.

It is always a joy when believers from various churches come together for special meetings. Those residing on the West Coast will have this opportunity next month, when the Western Regional Meetings are held in Sacramento, California.

Slated to coincide with the ending of the special Prophecy Seminar, these meetings will take place from Friday evening, October 18, to Sunday, October 20, 1974. The first meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m., Friday, just preceding the eighth meeting of the Prophecy Seminar. Thus those who are not able to attend all the meetings in the Seminar will benefit from the two evening meetings in the series during the Regional Meetings.

Prophecy Seminar

October 11-19, 1974, are the dates set for a Prophecy Seminar to be conducted in Sacramento, California. The leaflet pictured above has been printed for the members in Sacramento to use in inviting the public to this Seminar.

As the above subjects show, the purpose of this series of nightly meetings is to pinpoint the place of Christians today in the broad spectrum of Bible prophecy. The topics are those which are especially significant today.

Instead of having only lectures where people simply listen and go home, the Seminar format has been chosen as a way to involve the participants in the study of these important subjects. Questions and comments from the listeners will be encouraged so that everyone will have the opportunity to have his own questions cleared up. Thus all will benefit to a maximum degree through the greatest understanding of prophetic events. Plan to attend this Seminar and bring along your friends—regardless of their religious affiliation.

WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!

When you write, please specify (1) names of all people in your party, (2) age of each person in your party, (3) the date and approximate time you will be arriving in Sacramento, (4) the date you will be leaving Sacramento. If you have already made arrangements to stay with a relative or friend, please make firm contact with him now so he will be able to notify the Coordinator of Lodging of the arrangements that have already been made.

All meetings will be held at Colonial Chapel in Sacramento, 5420 San Francisco Boulevard. Plan today to attend.

"This is a time for everyone to come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty. The forces of the enemy are strengthening, and as a people we are misrepresented. We desire the people to become acquainted with our doctrines and work. We want them to know what we are, and what we believe. We must find our way to their hearts. Let the army of the Lord be on the ground to represent the work and cause of God. Do not plead an excuse. The Lord has need of you. He does not do His work without the cooperation of the human agent. Go to the camp meeting, even though you have to make a sacrifice to do so. Go with a will to work. And make every effort to induce your friends to go, not in your place, but to go with you, to stand on the Lord's side and obey His commandments. Help those who are interested to attend, if necessary providing them with food and lodging. Angels who are commissioned to minister to those who are heirs of salvation will accompany you. God will do great things for His people. He will bless every effort to honor His cause and advance His work." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 40.

Western Regional Meetings

OCTOBER 18-20, 1974

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

IMPORTANT! Lodging arrangements are being made by the Sacramento church for all those who wish to attend the Western Regional Meetings AND for those who wish to participate in the Prophecy Seminar. Therefore, it is important for all out-of-town visitors to make immediate arrangements with the Coordinator of Lodging. Write today to:

Ernestine Schendel
4262 Bannister Road
Fair Oaks, California 95628
PHONE: 916/967-3350

FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

By RUTH JENNINGS

SO this is the day Sherri has been waiting for!—her first day at school. She is now embarking on a new experience. What will this day bring for her?

It will mean leaving the cozy protection of her home for the uncertainties of a new kind of life and new friends, so it is a big event. Challenges are before her. How will she meet them?

For months she has been practicing printing her name and wanting—oh, so much!—to be able to read stories like her older brothers. Perhaps she has often felt rather left out when they went off to school and left her behind. But now it is her turn!

Sherri has undoubtedly listened wide-eyed to tales of what you can and can't do at school, and yet it must be a pretty interesting place if so many other boys and girls go there.

Is she really prepared for this adventure into a new phase of life? What have I done to fortify her for these new situations? These thoughts run through the mother's mind as she leaves her little one at school or sees her off at the busstop for the first time. The better she is equipped, the more successful she will be. What does she need at this time to face the days ahead with confidence?

One thing which will assist her very much is if she has learned to trust her Friend, the Saviour. Has she found Him to be her Protector and the One who is always by her side to keep her pure, true and honest? Is she sure that when she needs Him, He's "only a prayer away"? How much courage she can have, knowing she is not alone! Though away from the shelter of home, she has Someone who understands. He says: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5.

She will make new friends and will need wisdom to choose good companions—friends who will not lead her away from God. If she has learned to give and take, to share with others, this will make for happiness not only in school but through her entire life.

Now she will learn to make decisions on her own and to pray for wisdom when to say "no" to things that would be a detriment to her and when to stand tall and be an encouragement to another boy or girl.

Has she learned obedience so she will have a healthy attitude toward authority and fit into school life with its many necessary regulations? There is freedom when she is obedient.

And so the thoughts and questions go on—thoughts on the part of the mother and thoughts that go through the child's mind as the day approaches. These are just a few thoughts that come to me, for my youngest will now be embarking on that journey that so many others have taken before. How will she fare?



IN a world of increasing tension and with a future of uncertain, crisis-haunted existence, the Christian parents of today are faced with the necessity of instilling in their offspring a set of values that will serve them well in their quest for true prosperity.

As one looks upon the world today, be it economic, political, social, or religious, it becomes increasingly clear that in order for the youth to make proper decisions, a set of values—or more succinctly, a set of qualities of mind, spirit, and heart—are a

necessity. What, then, are some of these values or qualities that are so important to the Christian?

Love

The concept of love embodies a realism much greater than the romantic love expressly prevalent in the social world today. It includes the love of mankind for mankind (as opposed to man's inhumanity to man), the love of mankind for God, and the love of mankind for all things created.

"When the heavenly principle of eternal love fills the heart, it will flow out to others, not merely

because favors are received of them, but because love is the principle of action and modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, subdues enmity, and elevates and ennobles the affections. This love is not contracted so as merely to include 'me and mine.' but is as broad as the world and as high as heaven, and is in harmony with that of the angel workers."
—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 4, pp. 223, 224.

However, since all concepts must contain the full measure of practicality, love is to be taught by actions. Kind words and thoughtful deeds toward all persons will show to young people that Christian love is indeed practical.

By JIM M. DEMAREST

Confidence

Confidence is a value that must be taught to children. When the world thinks of confidence, it tends to isolate the concept to the first person singular, I, or *self*-confidence. The Christian, however, must relate confidence to the first person plural, We. That is, confidence must be within us to the inclusion of confidence in others' abilities as well as our own. John Donne wrote in *Devotions upon Emergent Occasions*, "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

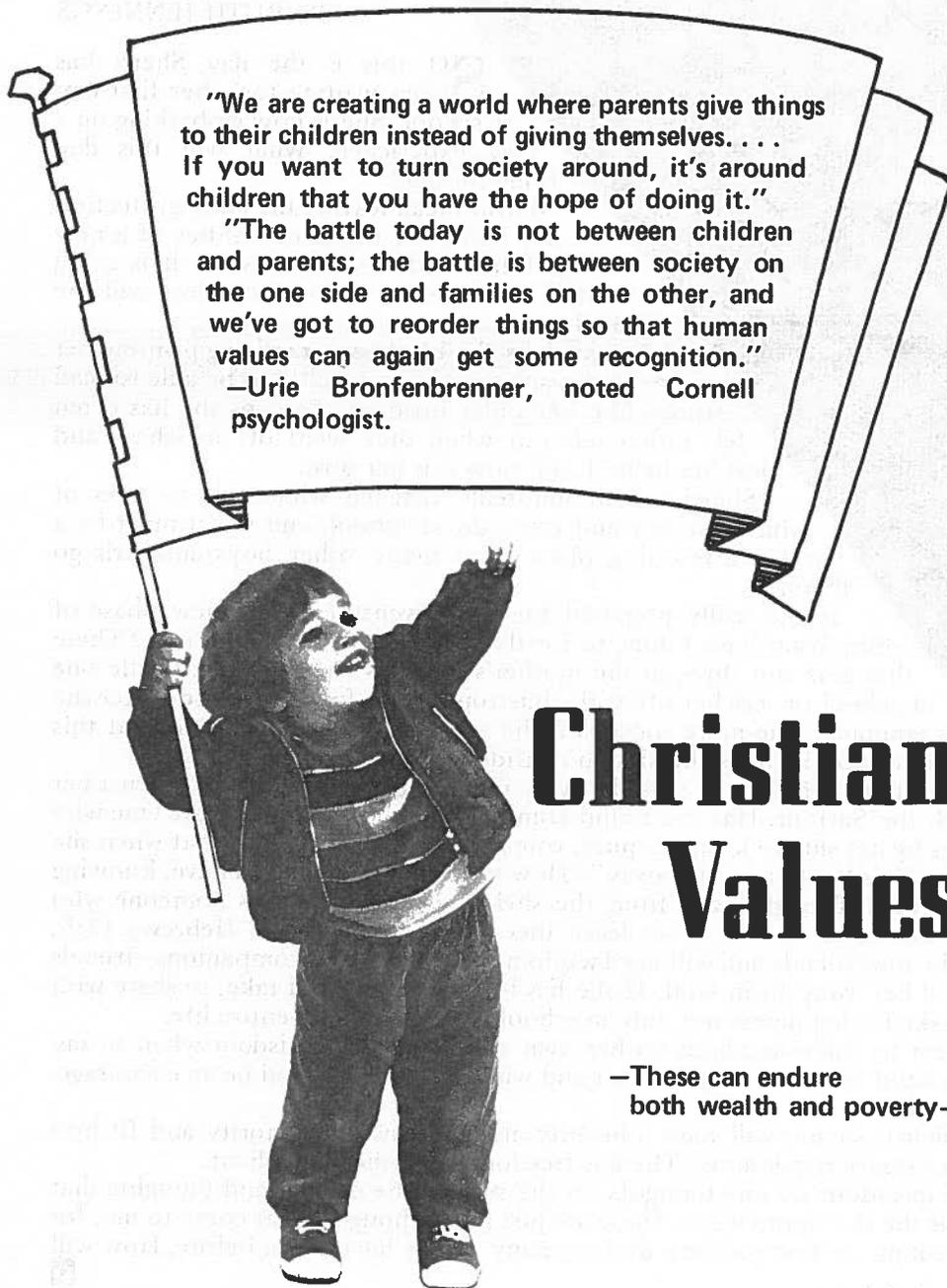
Parents can instill confidence in their offspring by encouraging them in the things they are interested in. That is, the parent is not just to push the child in the way the parent wants him to go. When a child does that one thing well, he will come to believe that he can do other things well and won't be afraid to attempt them.

Honesty

We have seen what a lack of honesty can do in the political world. Of course, there are numerous other examples in the economic and social worlds as well. How, then, can we teach our young people the necessity for full honesty in all things?

First of all, it must start with honesty in little things. Examples of dishonest little things include:

1. Incorrect income tax preparation
2. Office supplies being brought home



Christian Values

—These can endure both wealth and poverty—

3. Using office equipment for personal matters

Children notice these things, especially when they are discussed in a manner indicating proper conduct. Inconsistencies in conduct and teaching cannot be explained away. Example is still the best teacher.

Enthusiasm

This Christian value normally does not have to be taught, as all children are born with a certain measure of it. Therefore, as parents and teachers, it's not so much a matter of implanting enthusiasm as protecting it. This isn't easy, because enthusiasm is fragile, easily discouraged by ridicule, scorn, or failure.

Sometimes a young person's enthusiasm may seem amusing to adults. But instead of laughing at a child's endeavors to reinvent the wheel, we should channel the energy into a slightly more productive endeavor.

We should also look at our own enthusiasm. What a difference our attitudes make in the success or failure of a project! Insipid and dull attitudes discourage, while enthusiastic attitudes spell success.

High morals

In our present-day society, where it seems high morals are almost non-existent, it is especially important to instill into our children a sense of morality. The perfect standard of morality is the Ten Commandments. But, here again, we must start by showing our children examples in little things. It does no good to talk to them of high ideals and possible hypothetical situations they might meet, but we must watch our own words, actions, manner of dressing, types of remarks made, etc. We are also to show that just because something is the current trend doesn't mean it is right, or even desirable.

Compassion

Most children are acutely sensitive to pain or suffering in living creatures. Any parent who has had to explain to a child why his dog or cat has been hurt knows this. This sensitivity must be preserved in all children. Again we ask, How can this be done?

When the attitudes of the family include sympathy and concern for others, when the child sees his parents helping others less fortunate than they, when sacrifices are made for the happiness and well being of others, then this capacity for compassion is encouraged. The child's compassion should never be stifled.

Kindness and love are, in effect, closely related and are the ethics of the teachings of Christ. "... Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Matthew 25:40.

Respect

Many of the problems we face today, both individually and as a nation, stem from lack of respect. What is crime but a lack of respect for law? What is pollution but a lack of respect for the rights of others? What is intolerance but a lack of respect for others' opinions? Can respect be cultivated in children? It can, but it must be cultivated constantly.

Start with the small things. (Aren't large things made up of small things?) Sharing is a beginning. Quietness, the folding of hands and closing of eyes during prayer at home or in church, continues the process. Finally, again with parents as the prime example, respect grows to the ultimate degree of a code of conduct self-imposed to respond to the highest standard known, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Trust

Since children are innately trusting, such a value must be nurtured, yet tempered. We have all heard of trusting little children disappearing with strangers, but this is not the aspect to be emphasized here.

Trust revolves around dependability, consistency, and truthfulness. What child can be expected to trust (or love, or respect, for that matter) the parent who continually promises but never delivers? Create the trust necessary in children by completing what has been started and fulfilling what has been promised.

As the child grows and this trust is transferred to our heavenly Father, then this concept is complete, for God always finishes what He has

begun, always fulfills what He has promised.

Adaptability

The ability to cope with change is a certain requirement in our fast-changing world. Everyone has his own ideas and opinions, but our minds must not be closed to new or different concepts. No true Christian is ever narrow-minded.

But how do you help a child acquire this adaptability, this ability to cope with change without compromising principle? Curiosity is one way, entailing search for an answer to the question, Why? Rigid people are marvelously insipid, dull, and uninterested. Another way is to encourage spontaneity of affection. Parents must admire it, applaud it, and demonstrate it themselves through their closeness. This affection can be the buffer that helps us accept as well as initiate change.

Hope

Hope is the Christian value that will spring eternal. Hope is the ability to know that questions do have answers, that the problems will be solved.

In order to bring up hopeful children, a parent has to be hopeful himself. Pessimism, gloom, and fear are highly contagious; and in a home thus infected, a child's natural hope cannot survive. Optimism, however, no matter what the present outlook, will make uncertainties seem less frightening and problems less critical.

Of course, no Christian should be anything less than full of hope, for the Christian has the greatest optimistic outlook of all, the hope of life with Christ in an eternal home.

In conclusion, parents striving to prepare their own children for the challenges that lie ahead will set an example in everything they do. The Christian values previously discussed are only guidelines for the task before parents. Suffice it to say, if love, confidence, honesty, enthusiasm, high morals, compassion, respect, trust, adaptability, and hope are taught and practiced in the home, the young adults of the future will have a firm base from which to launch their own journey through life.

BETTER THAN

WEALTH

By BETTY KRAMER

OUR choice in the environment of our homes will have a far-reaching effect on the welfare and happiness of our families. There is a trend in our modern world toward urbanization. At one time the majority of people lived on their own farms and were largely self-sustaining. Now every year thousands of families leave their rural homes and move into the cities, hoping to achieve a higher standard of living. At the same time, thousands of city dwellers have been moving to the suburbs to avoid the congestion and pollution of the bustling urban centers.

Having lived in the city for a while, as well as in the country, I feel reasonably well-qualified to give a fair evaluation of the pros and cons of living in either place.

Advantages of city living

First, let's consider the city. There are definite cultural and educational bonuses found in a city. Take, for example, the well-stocked libraries where one has access to any number of books, tapes and films for research, general education or entertainment. Consider the museums, chock-full of historical relics which enrich one's understanding of ancient cultures. Some art galleries, though not all, inspire one's appreciation of the out-of-doors, still life, and religious themes. Another attraction of cities is the planetarium, where one's knowledge of the universe, particularly of the stars and planets, may be enhanced through the observation of displays, books, and beautiful films shown on a high-domed ceiling. A visit to a planetarium is something to remember! Particularly in the summer in certain parks classical concerts are held, and in a peaceful outdoor setting they are most relaxing and enjoyable. Not to be forgotten is the zoo, which has delight-

ed young and old for years. I have many fond childhood recollections of visits to the zoo. There children learn many interesting facts about wildlife and form a deeper appreciation for God's creatures of all kinds. It's so much nicer to see a real, live animal than just to read about one or see its picture in a book.

Also in the city some families, particularly those with a transportation problem, find getting to church, school, or shopping centers much easier than they would if they lived in the country.

For a couple without children or whose children no longer live at home, opportunities for missionary work are great in the more densely populated areas. Cooking classes, home visitation programs, Bible study groups, and prayer bands are all real challenges for service.

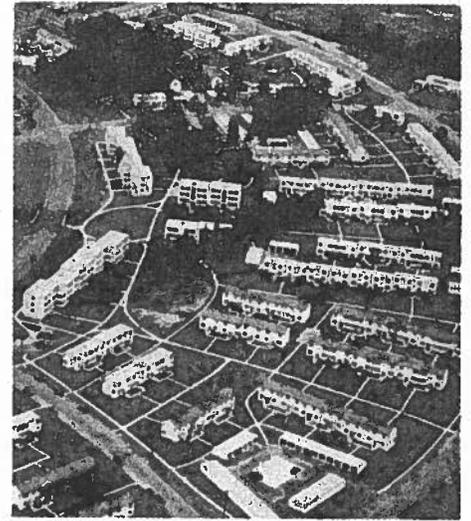
In the city it may be easier for some to find employment, and also one would generally have a shorter distance to travel to work.

Disadvantages of cities

On the other hand, when I think of the disadvantages of urban living, first of all I remember God's original plan for mankind. At creation Adam and Eve were given a garden home; and after sin entered the world, man was instructed to till the soil, which from then on was covered with thorns and thistles. After the flood, God instructed Noah's sons and daughters to be fruitful and multiply and to replenish the earth (Genesis 9:1). Isaiah 45:18 tells us God "formed the earth to be inhabited." One need only read the tragic story of the building of the Tower of Babel with its disastrous climax to discover that God never intended men to congregate in cities and build tall skyscrapers which only foster pride and increase opportunities for evil. "So the Lord scattered them

**"Better than any other inheritance of wealth you can give to your children will be the gift of a healthy body, a sound mind, and a noble character. Those who understand what constitutes life's true success . . . will keep in view life's best things in their choice of a home."
—E. G. White**

abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city." Genesis 11:8. God's commission to all men is, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.



Among the decided disadvantages city dwellers face are noise and air pollution, which are becoming real health threats in most major cities. Crowded living conditions and lack of privacy and peace are other less pleasant features of city life.

Assuming that we all wish true, lasting happiness for our families, consider the following facts carefully and weigh their effects upon your children. In the city there are many unwholesome sights and sounds constantly bombarding the individual. We are all affected by what we see and hear, and young people who are forming their philosophies of life are most vulnerable to the ill effects of such places as bars, night clubs, discotheques, amusement centers, theaters, and pool halls. Health- and soul-destroying habits, such as smoking, drinking, immorality, gambling, and drug addiction, and generally lazy, shiftless, money-wasting habits are acquired by association with people

who frequent such places. Many a young man and woman, healthy, strong, full of the joy and challenge of his best years, has become a blot on society from spending time in such schools of evil.

Moral pollution is rampant in cities. The sanctity of the home and marriage is lowered into the dust, as it were. The very foundation of society, the home, is breaking apart at the seams; and the members of broken homes bear emotional and mental scars that can never be removed. In the Old Testament, Lot was an example of one who chose city life instead of country living and bore its bitter harvest in the loss of his wife and some of his children in the destruction of Sodom and moral corruption of the rest (see Genesis 19). Even with good, moral home training, Lot's family was deeply affected by the wickedness of Sodom.

Please note that upright Enoch worked in the city from time to time but never lived there, and "he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Hebrews 11:5. Enoch was translated; in other words, he didn't have to die but was taken directly into heaven by God. Righteous Enoch's life is most certainly a good example to follow.

In cities one is drawn to artificiality, materialism, and things which contribute to an unwholesome love of pleasure. Various types of races, sports, and other fascinating attractions draw people away from the sober duties of life. These places not only waste one's money but establish habits of gambling, a love of amusement, and a thirst for competition which gradually enslaves people to the exclusion of family responsibilities and a loss of spiritual values.

"Life in the cities is false and artificial. The intense passion for money getting, the whirl of excitement and pleasure seeking, the thirst for display, the luxury and extravagance, all are forces that, with the great masses of mankind, are turning the mind from life's true purpose. They are opening the door to a thousand evils. Upon the youth they have almost irresistible power."—E. G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 363.

I have noticed frequently that children living in the city are not constructively occupied. Idleness is encouraged. On most city lots one does not even have room for a garden which would provide the family with healthful meals and at the same time create useful, healthful labor for the children. Also, in urban families, association with other children and young people is less restricted, and familiarity with evil is much harder to prevent or control. Very small children are in real danger from traffic on city streets. I've seen more than one thoroughly frustrated mother wondering aloud, "Where has Junior gone now? Is he on the street? Has he been run over by a car?"

In the larger, more crowded city schools, contact with disease is greatly increased. Also labor disputes and strikes are becoming alarmingly commonplace in cities, and often real violence is associated with them. "The time is fast coming when the controlling power of the labor unions will be very oppressive. . . . Our people are to take their families away from the cities, into the country, where they can raise their own provisions; for in the future the problem of buying and selling will be a very serious one."—E. G. White, *Country Living*, pp. 9, 10. The present economic conditions indicate that this time is just around the corner.

Some may feel that property taxes in the city are lower than those in the country. In our area, the taxes on rural homes is about 2/3 those on urban homes of comparable value.

One very vital point to remember in considering living in a city is that the last-day judgments of God will fall most heavily on the large cities. "The time is near when



the large cities will be visited by the judgments of God. In a little while, these cities will be terribly shaken. No matter how large or how strong their buildings, no matter how many safeguards against fire may have been provided, let God touch these buildings, and in a few minutes or a few hours they are in ruins.

"The ungodly cities of our world are to be swept away by the besom of destruction. In the calamities that are now befalling immense buildings and large portions of cities, God is showing us what will come upon the whole earth."—E. G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 7, p. 83.

"I am bidden to declare the message that cities full of transgression, and sinful in the extreme, will be destroyed by earthquakes, by fire, by flood. All the world will be warned that there is a God who will display His authority as God. His unseen agencies will cause destruction, devastation, and death. All the accumulated riches will be as nothingness. . . ."—E. G. White, *Evangelism*, p. 27.

There are certainly numerous disadvantages to city living, and we will be wise to consider them carefully.

Country advantages

Now let's consider country living. Its advantages are basic and manifold. First on the list is the fact that it is God's plan that families should live where they can constantly enjoy and appreciate the beauties of nature and learn from God's "other book." Country living is quiet and peaceful in an environment with cleaner air and relatively unpolluted water. It also affords more privacy and less congestion than do urban areas. Furthermore, it is a safer environment for very

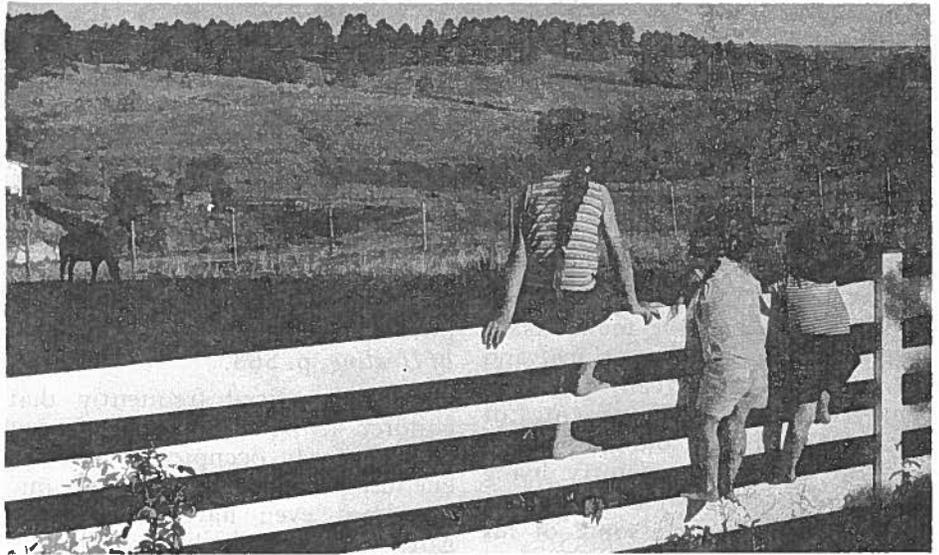


young children as far as traffic is concerned.

There is abundant opportunity for useful, invigorating labor in a rural setting. It is possible to plant a garden and thus provide healthful meals for the family and teach many character-building lessons to the children. It is good for children to have pets and to have room to run and play freely without getting into the street or bothering a close neighbor. The children thus learn to respect God's creatures and to accept the responsibility of feeding and caring for their animals.

Smaller schools and lower taxes are added bonuses one can consider in choosing a country home. Furthermore, more natural, wholesome sights meet the eye there and draw the beholder to love and worship the Creator. Jesus Himself grew up in a rural setting. "What were the conditions chosen by the infinite Father for His Son? A secluded home in the Galilean hills; a household sustained by honest, self-respecting labor; a life of simplicity; daily conflict with difficulty and hardship; self-sacrifice, economy, and patient, glad service; the hour of study at His mother's side, with the open scroll of Scripture; the quiet of dawn or twilight in the green valley; the holy ministries of nature; the study of creation and providence; and the soul's communion with God—these were the conditions and opportunities of the early life of Jesus." —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 265. Most of the great men of the Bible were reared in country homes.

In the country, children are in less contact with associates who tempt



them to deny their faith in God. Parents can spend time working alongside their children, playing with them, and enjoying a well-ordered, happy Christian home in a peaceful environment.

Another point to remember is this: "We are not to locate ourselves where we will be forced into close relations with those who do not honor God. . . . A crisis is soon to come in regard to the observance of Sunday. . . . If in the providence of God we can secure places away from the cities, the Lord would have us do this. There are troublous times before us." —*Country Living*, p. 20. Further counsel advises the necessity of the people of God moving "out of the cities into retired country [places], where they may cultivate the land and raise their own produce. Thus they may bring their children up with simple, healthful habits." —*Country Living*, p. 21.

Another consideration is the need to spread the truth for these last days into byways as well as the highways of the earth.

Disadvantages of the country

To be fair, one must consider the disadvantages of living out in the country. If one has a job in the city, additional time and money are needed for transportation to and from work. Also it is usually farther to go to church, stores, and cultural and educational facilities such as libraries, museums, etc.

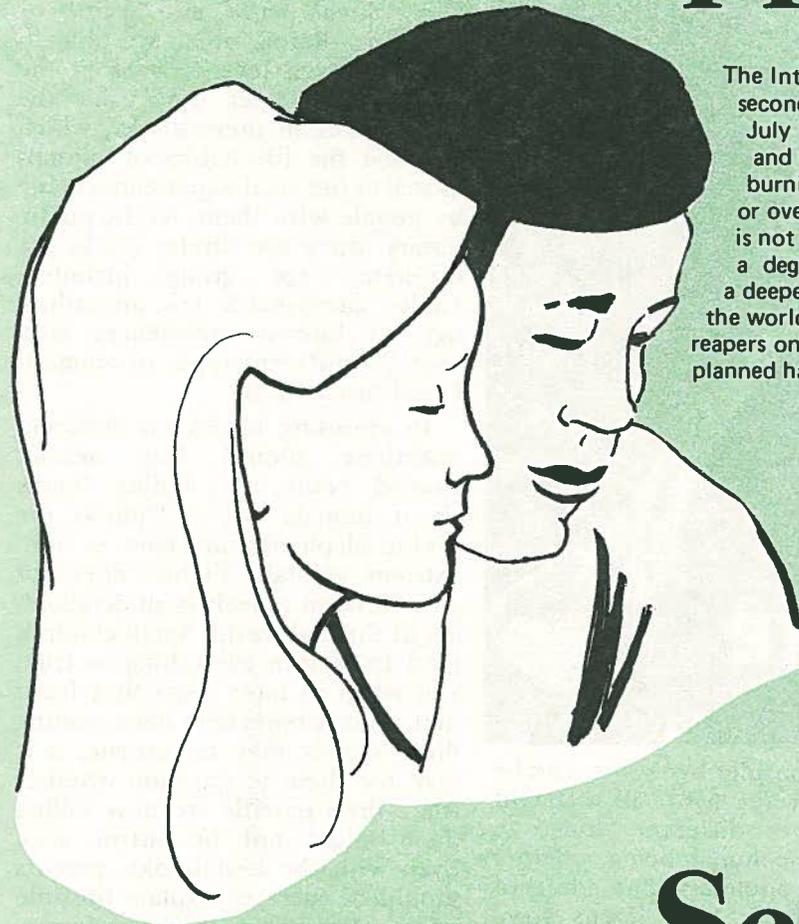
Now—time for decision

As a closing thought, consider these inspired thoughts: "There is not one family in a hundred who will be improved physically, mentally, or spiritually, by residing in the city. Faith, hope, love, happiness, can far better be gained in retired places, where there are fields and hills and trees. Take your children away from the sights and sounds of the city, away from the rattle and din of streetcars and teams, and their minds will become more healthy. It will be found easier to bring home to their hearts the truth of the Word of God." —*Country Living*, p. 13.

"Send the children to schools located in the city, where every phase of temptation is waiting to attract and demoralize them, and the work of character building is tenfold harder for both parents and children." —E. G. White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 326.



Investment Opportunity:



The International Missionary Society plans to conduct its second Missionary Training Seminar from January 15 to July 15, 1975, in Denver, Colorado. Young Christian men and women, as well as some older people, who have a burning desire to enter the missionary field either at home or overseas will benefit from this opportunity. The program is not to be compared with secular higher education leading to a degree. Rather, its purpose is to provide practical tools and a deeper experience for communicating the precious truth to the world. Surely time is short, and the harvest is white. We need reapers on short notice! The type of intensive instruction we have planned has already proven very valuable and practical in the field.

Applications for this Seminar have already been received from people in the U.S., Latin America, and Asia (the Philippines, Indonesia, and India). Although we charge no tuition and arrangements have been made to provide for room and board during the Seminar, there is a great obstacle in the way of some, particularly the overseas applicants, in the form of obtaining money for transportation to the United States. Others may not be able to attend because of their family obligations. These people would undoubtedly prove efficient and very useful in the work.

Scholarship Fund

To assist such worthy individuals, who are expected to fill a place in missionary work, we earnestly invite every reader of *The Sabbath Watchman* to contribute to the newly-established SCHOLARSHIP FUND. Contributions may be sent to International Missionary Society, 1151 Xenia Street, Denver, Colorado 80220. Make checks payable to International Missionary Society and mark them *Scholarship Fund*.

This money will be used exclusively to provide transportation and/or family support for Seminar students and to further the missionary training programs.

Perhaps you have often desired to do something for the Lord. But you may not be able to go into strange places yourself to carry the message. Here is the opportunity to assist those who are able to go in your stead!

Time is running out. God's work needs help now, while our money still has some value. Tomorrow it will be worth less. Let's invest in lives, careers, and people for God's sake!

Animals

in Your Child's Life

By BARBARA WATTS

"IT is seldom that I laugh at an animal, and when I do, I usually find out afterwards that it was at myself, at the human being whom the animal has portrayed in a more or less pitiless caricature, that I have laughed. We stand before the monkey house and laugh, but we do not laugh at the sight of a caterpillar or a snail, and when the courtship antics of a lusty greylag gander are so incredibly funny, it is only because our human youth behaves in a very similar fashion." Thus writes Konrad Z. Lorenz, an authority on animal behavior who lives in Germany (*Everyman's Ark*, Sally Patrick Johnson, ed., Harper and Brothers, New York, 1962, p. 3).

The parent who makes it one of his chief goals to bring his children closer to nature, and particularly to animals, will reap rich rewards. How so? Like the Bible, nature is a divine lesson book laden with riches of wisdom, practicality, warmth, beauty, system, stability, consistency, and sober reality. As the Bible counsels, "Go to the ant, thou

sluggard, consider her ways, and be wise" (Proverbs 6:6), all different animals have different things to teach us. The human being, whether a baby, an adolescent, an adult, or a grandparent, who learns from nature is automatically brought into contact with the Creator of the universe. He acquires a practical wisdom for life that cannot be matched by theoretical university knowledge. The parent who impresses his child with a love and appreciation for the natural world imparts genuine wealth.

There are three chief ways to instill in children a love of nature. The first is through books. From the time a child is a year old, he loves to look at books with colored photographs of animals. As he grows up to school age, he can thus be introduced to the habits and lives of the multitudes of animals living in all parts of the world, some of which he may never be able to see for himself. There are many good books about animals, and those of greatest value are the ones relating

true life experiences about different types of animals. I believe *National Geographic Magazine* is a must for everyone, and especially for families with children. The Reader's Digest Association has also published several books with beautiful photographs, such as *Our Amazing World of Nature*, *Marvels and Mysteries of Our Animal World*, and *Secrets of the Seas*. Before they are able to read, children love to look at the pictures and later they value the true stories in these books, which describe the life habits of animals as well as personal experiences made by people with them. At the public library there are similar books for different age groups—including adults! *Everyman's Ark*, an anthology of human experiences with over 20 different types of animals, I find fascinating.

In choosing books for children, selections should lean heavily toward reality, excluding books about animals such as *Dumbo*, the *Flying Elephant*, fairy tales, or non-existent animals. Fiction does not give children a healthy understanding of the real world. Small children tend to believe everything as true; and when in later years they learn that their parents have been reading them stories that are untrue, it is easy for them to question whether what their parents are now telling them might not be untrue also. Even with the best books, parents should be alert to explain possible misunderstandings or misinformation that may be given or implied, such as ideas about origins.

There is at least one fiction book about animals that I believe all children should read once before they are teenagers and at least once after attaining teenage. That is *Black Beauty*, by Anna Sewell, a young Quaker who wrote this book to protest the cruel treatment of horses.

Acquaintance with animals helps our youngsters learn about life in a natural, wholesome way. At a time when people do not even know where their food comes from, except off a truck or a grocery store shelf, our children can learn about the basic needs of animals and how these needs are met—for food, water, shelter, reproduction, health, love, play. They also learn

that it is natural to fear, to have problems, to cope with difficulties, and to die. They are shown a glimpse of the world as God created it and are also made strongly aware of the changes made by sin and of the suffering brought upon the natural world by man's thoughtlessness, greed, cruelty, and sinfulness. They observe for themselves "that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." Romans 8:22.

The second way to impart a love for nature and its creatures is through excursions into nature. From firsthand experience, I know it is difficult, especially for a mother, to travel with very small children. Therefore, I feel fathers should be patient with mothers and children during the first three years of life. Excursions and camping trips should be limited to the valleys and meadows where the children's strength is not pushed to the point of unhappiness. Slowly, however, hikes into more difficult terrain can be lengthened, and camping trips into the more inaccessible—and more beautiful—places can be made.

Our youngest is now out of diapers, and finally we can look forward to the children's being able to appreciate the more splendid views and different animals that can be seen on camping trips. It is foolish to take children into the woods before they have learned to be quiet enough not to scare the animals away and brave enough to

endure a few scratches. The zoo is a better place until they have gained a small amount of wisdom and self-control.

These camping trips as the children grow into adolescence are very important. Think of lying awake outdoors in your sleeping bag beside the lake in the Teton National Park. The stars are so bright and appear so close that you could almost reach out and touch them. It seems impossible that there could be so many stars. Your thoughts are drawn out to the universe. Think of returning to camp just before sundown and seeing the stately moose drinking at the edge of the lake. Remember hiking to the top of Nevada Falls in Yosemite; you're tired but pleased that you kept going and made it all the way. Such experiences are invaluable to children. And the family that shares such times will be closely knit together.

The third, and most important, way to teach children appreciation of nature is by living away from the city and giving them animals of their own. Small, daily impressions will set up a regular pattern of awareness of one's surroundings. Six-year-old Lisa has just been given her own horse. If she does not feed and water her, the mare will go hungry and let Lisa know. At the same time, she must learn to control the horse when she is riding. To do this, she has to keep a steady hand on the reins and be firm; there are natural consequences that will result immediately if she is careless. These are important lessons which if she learns now will help her in later life.

Dr. Bernhard Grzimek, veterinary surgeon and Director of the Frankfurt Zoo, one of Europe's finest, cautions in his book, *Such Agreeable Friends*, that to love animals is not enough. One must study their behavior and learn to understand them. To do less can be harmful and makes for only narrow relationships.

Some years ago, Michael was sent a baby alligator by his uncle who was passing through Florida. Caesar was about 15 inches long and immediately snapped at all humans when taken out of his box. What a pet! Visions of raising a

strong, kindly alligator went through Michael's head. Nobody in the neighborhood had such an exotic animal. The evening was cool, but the little alligator was put in a large cardboard box and taken around for all the neighbors to see. The next day Caesar did not seem quite so peppy. The directions on the box said to feed him hamburger and give him water, which Michael did—in the lid of a jar. Two days later, Caesar expired, draped over the jar lid of water, totally dehydrated. Loving him and having visions of glory had little effect on preserving his life; an understanding of his habits and behavior would have been more useful.

It does not matter exactly which type of animal you provide for your child. If it must be a small one, choose a puppy or a kitten that is gentle and will respond to affection and that can be trained. Even the care of a small animal can teach responsibility. And as the animal goes through its normal life cycle—sometimes having to be scolded, having to be trained, fed, kept clean, and perhaps even giving birth to little ones—the child's education will be broadened in a natural way.

Never allow a child to swing a cat around by its tail or to beat a dog. He must understand that all animals have feelings and respond to love just as he himself does. Two-year-old Bobby loves "wormies." However, he tends to be too rough with them. By the time he finishes playing with his "wormie," it has usually lost its life. Then Bobby cries. He will soon learn to be more gentle and thus be able to enjoy nature with its obvious limitations.

As our families come closer to nature, perhaps even becoming as self-sustaining as modern life will allow, with a garden, cow, and chickens, our children and teenagers will experience the confidence an animal places in its owner and provider. They will understand that it is necessary to give before one can receive; you have to feed the cow before she can give milk. Many other simple, wise lessons; many warm, thrilling experiences; some sad moments—these will help make well-rounded, understanding human beings out of our young ones and aid them in becoming wise Christians. ☩



Q/A

Forcing religion on children

Q. I think it's wrong to force religion on children. Don't you think young people today are smart enough to make their own choices about religion?

A. To answer these questions properly, we must first define "force" and consider the age level of the child. In the past, many educators advocated allowing a child to do whatever he likes. This theory stems from the idea that there are no true guidelines in life—this is called "situation ethics"—whatever you feel is right to do at the time, do it. This theory sets up each individual as a god in himself, an idea which is directly refuted in the Bible. "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Proverbs 29:15.

Why does a parent forbid his child to run across a busy road without first looking? Simply because he does not want the child to be injured. Children by themselves do not realize their danger, so their parents must guard them. If this is true in the physical sense, how much more important it is in the spiritual upbringing of children. What would we think of a gardener who refused to discriminate between weeds and desirable plants? The result of his neglect would be a good crop of weeds and a garden devoid of any good produce. So it will be if we as parents refuse to fulfill our God-given task of training our children in the ways of God.

Now in regard to the term "force," we can never force a child to become a Christian, especially as he grows older. We must guide our youngsters by precept and example, showing the rewards of true Christianity and the results of other ways. We must teach them the truths of God in such a way that they cannot help but love the same God we love. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

If parents do not do everything possible to train their children in their spiritual life as well as the physical, it shows that the parents are not sure of what they believe.

How wonderful the testimony given of Timothy is—"That from a child thou

hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15. Yes, we as parents are to take a firm stand for truth and right and command our children after us. As long as they are under our roof, it is our duty as parents to guide our children in love. (See also Joshua 24:15; Genesis 18:19). Then, indeed, when they reach the age of independence, they will be equipped to choose for themselves the way they will go.

Obeying an unbelieving parent

Q. My father doesn't believe in God; do I have to obey him?

A. Your father's unbelief in no way alters your responsibility to fulfill the fifth commandment, which says, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." As a matter of fact, it amplifies your responsibility to obey him. God's command does not make a difference between believing and unbelieving parents. We must, however, place every action of our life in proper perspective. Our first duty is toward our heavenly Father; and our second, toward our earthly parents. When both parents believe and follow the Lord, there will be no conflict between their commands and those of God. If one or both parents are unbelievers, however, there is bound to be conflict. The Gospel frequently causes a rift to run right through the middle of families. It is for this reason that the apostle Paul advised: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Ephesians 6:1.

As long as the commands of an unbelieving parent do not conflict with God's holy law, we are to obey him. If, however, his requirements conflict directly with God's law, we must obey God first. For example, if your unbelieving parent asks you to work on the Sabbath, you must state that you first must obey God and keep His rest day, but that you will be glad to do the required work as soon as the Sabbath has ended. In all things show yourself to be fully obedient except on those occasions when God's law and your parent's commands conflict.

Sex education

Q. What do you think of sex education in schools? Is it beneficial?

A. If parents would have been doing their duty toward their children at home in the area of sex education, this question would never have arisen. It is because parents have neglected this important duty that the schools have felt it necessary to step in and fill the gap. Many parents are embarrassed to discuss such delicate subjects with their children, possibly because they don't have a good understanding of physiology or of human behavior themselves and are unable to speak to their children in a straightforward manner. They have acted as the proverbial ostrich who hid his head in the sand and hoped the unwelcome experience would go away. Often it does go away; the children go elsewhere for answers they couldn't get at home. Is it any wonder that so many young people go astray and ruin their lives through immoral conduct?

To fill this gap left by parents, the schools have stepped in. To analyze the adverse effects as well as the benefits of this school training, we must understand what is taught by the public schools in their family life classes. The problem which looms the greatest is not so much what *is* taught but rather what *is not* taught regarding the moral and emotional aspects of sex. As proof of this lack, I recently attended a school showing of a controversial sex education film. I asked the school principal what instruction was being given regarding the control and understanding of one's emotions. He admitted that there was none. How sad it is that a subject which is so closely intertwined with human emotions is handled in so careless a manner!

This neglect of training places Christian parents under a special duty to fill the lack for their children—to instruct them regarding their moral responsibility to God and their fellow beings. Let parents also teach their children how emotions affect their lives. Teach them how to control their emotions in a manner pleasing to God by placing principle above feelings.

I believe sex education in the schools is here to stay. Wherever children face

such classes, the church and parents must be one jump ahead of the schools by instilling Christian virtues in the minds and hearts of their children. This is especially true in this degenerate age—a time such as never before, when our great adversary is at work to deceive and destroy.

Sex education in the school will never take the place of proper sex education at home. Come, parents, do not allow Satan to steal away your children. The Bible clearly delineates the results of improper living. It does not cover up or excuse wrong behavior, even of professed men of God. The results are clearly shown. We must be clear and straightforward with our children. In all the affairs of life, let them behold Jesus and His will for their lives.

Board and room

Q. Should a working child pay room and board at home?

A. Should a working child expect to live off his parents for free? A child should feel it a duty and privilege to be of help to his family. Even if the parents are wealthy, they should feel it their duty to instill in their offspring the duty of accepting responsibility. When a child reaches an age when he is able to work, he is also old enough to learn what it means to meet financial obligations. A child who does not learn to be self-sustaining early in life will never be able to stand the stress of establishing a home of his own. He will still come back to his parents for help. No greater harm can be done to a child than to give him everything for nothing. It makes him selfish and hinders his own learning to manage money wisely.

What is a date?

Q. What do you consider to be a date?

A. Dating is a subject which more often than not is a major consideration of young people. Literally, a date is an appointment to meet at a certain time. In the context which we are considering, it refers to an appointment for a young man and woman to meet and spend time together. Its purpose is to give the young

couple a chance to get better acquainted with each other.

First, what is the ultimate goal of this relationship? Dating is a part of courtship. It is one step toward establishing a lasting relationship. Realizing this, it becomes apparent that a young couple should not go out together unless they are considering the one they are dating as a possible candidate for their husband or wife. Going out together, of course, does not mean they will marry each other, but dating should not be done carelessly. Many a young man takes out a girl, shows her attention, and then drops her, not realizing that he may be causing her great heartache and sorrow. Many a girl accepts an invitation from a young man she would never think of marrying, just for what she can obtain from him.

Dating has its proper place in the realm of courtship but not out of it. With this important thought in view, we can avoid many of the inherent dangers involved in dating.

Here are four helpful guidelines:

1. Dating places both parties in an unnatural setting. How much better to observe the individual in his own home, at school, in church, or at work. How does he or she treat his parents? Does he or she get along well with others? Is he or she helpful and kind? Does he or she make God first in his life, etc.?

2. Early dating should be discouraged, for it leads young people to form attachments before they are responsible and mature enough to establish a home of their own. Early dating often leads to early marriage and many difficulties.

3. Never should a young person even consider dating an individual who is not a Christian, one who does not make the Lord first in his life. Satan lays his snares finely for God's children. He knows that nothing is more successful in bringing about the downfall of a Christian young person than to entice the individual to unite with an unbeliever. Even the mighty Samson was brought down because he did not control his emotions. A young person who refuses to date anyone except one who is a member of his or her church saves himself many heartaches and is obeying the injunction of the Lord. "Be

ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14.

4. Finally, remember that "love is a plant of heavenly origin. It is not unreasonable; it is not blind. It is pure and holy. But the passion of the natural heart is another thing altogether. While pure love will take God into all its plans, and will be in perfect harmony with the Spirit of God, passion will be headstrong, rash, unreasonable, defiant of all restraint, and will make the object of its choice an idol.

"In all the department of one who possesses true love, the grace of God will be shown. Modesty, simplicity, sincerity, morality, and religion will characterize every step toward an alliance in marriage. Those who are thus controlled will not be absorbed in each other's society, at the loss of interest in the prayer meeting and the religious service. . . ." —E. G. White, *Messages to Young People*, pp. 459, 460.

—HELMUT H. KRAMER

Do you have a question? Send it to Q/A, C/o International Missionary Society, 1151 Xenia Street, Denver, CO 80220. Others will benefit from reading it and the answer.

The Sabbath Watchman



Beacon of hope, faith, truth
in a confused world.

We believe

The Bible to be infallible, absolute truth.
The devil to be literal, untiring instigator of evil.
Jesus Christ to be the world's only Saviour,
who taught love revealed by obedience.
His coming to be imminent, visible, triumphant,
judging His enemies and rewarding His
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God's

The family image—what is it today? Perhaps more has been written about family life (pro and con) in the last decade than on any other subject. Why is this so? Because the divorce rate has risen, juvenile crime has increased, hippie philosophy has been proclaimed, and the churches' moral voice has been weakened almost to a whisper.

Thus the family image—a devoted father and mother sitting in front of a glowing fireplace with their precious children around them—has given way to some very peculiar ideas and notions about the art of living.

Going back to the beginning, what did God say regarding man at creation? "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make an help meet for him." Genesis 2:18. This was God's first pronouncement concerning the family. Second, man was to multiply and inhabit the earth. Why? Just because God said so? No! This pronouncement was made because God's plan reflects the perfect way in which the needs and happiness of His creatures can be met.

We cannot escape the fact that marriage is of God and that He desires it to be honorable and blessed. Regardless of how many divorces there are, we will never find a substitute equal to marriage and the family under God. And if we come face to face with deep problems in marriage, we can be assured that it is due to selfishness and fears on the part of one or both of the partners. We all have weaknesses, and we must either overlook them or overcome ourselves if our love for each other is to grow. This becomes more apparent when children arrive.

What an endless school the rearing of a family is! But what is more thrilling than watching a child and its eager, beautiful development? I think of many precious moments—

Once a little three-year-old girl said to her mother as she was in bed for the night, "Mama, kiss my eyes."

Mother's rather weary answer was, "I'm too tired. You kiss them yourself."

The child's unforgettable remark of wisdom was, "I can't—I'll break my neck."

Or think of the two-year-old little man after his birthday singing, "Happy birdie to you, happy birdie to you. . . ."

Oh, how blessed we are to have little children around us!

Now let's look at the word "family." Its root comes from *famulus*, meaning servant. Servant? Perhaps this can give us a little more insight into God's plan for the family as a blessing to the human race. God is telling us that in order to be happy we must give of ourselves and serve each other. This is the key to happiness which starts right in the family as the foundation of a successful social and governmental structure.

Let's picture the perfect plan. The husband serves the wife ("*So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies.*" *Ephesians 5:28*), and the wife serves the husband ("*Wives, submit yourselves unto your husbands, as unto the Lord.*" *Ephesians 5:22*). As father and mother, they serve the child ("*For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.*" *2 Corinthians 12:14*); and, finally, the child serves his parents ("*Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.*" *Colossians 3:20*).

Wherever this plan is rightly understood and continually worked at, the family life is the most beautiful witness of the love of God. Is not this the picture of joy and peace that we long for—the warmth of a home and its blessing of a family in this world of chaos?

Family Plan

We often think of a servant as just a slave who has no mind of his own or who fears to say anything except that which is in full agreement with his master—right or wrong. But this is not so. Christ served us as no one else ever can—with love and also with admonishment. Thus it is with a God-fearing family. Their love will constantly be shared in encouragement, loyalty, and admonishment.

A few important helps to family peace include the father's conducting a lively family worship in the morning and evening; mother having regular, on-time, nourishing meals; a planned time for work and play; and careful, wise guidance of recreation, especially of television.

As a family serves each other in such simplicity, certain problems can be overcome—crime, depression, suicide, mental breakdown, hatred, abnormal sex development, selfishness, and dishonesty. The family image of beauty and joy can be restored, and God's promises of faith, hope and love can be a reality.

Substitutes for marriage and the family, which have been so startlingly proclaimed in recent years by scientists, professors, faithless church leaders, and movies, have revealed their tragic weaknesses:

(1) homosexuality and lesbianism, with their frustration, hurt and humiliation, no children, no family, and no loyalty; (2) fornication, or free love, having no ties, no loyalty, no security, and no true sexual fulfillment; (3) communes, sometimes operated by religious groups such as guru worshippers and Jesus freaks, which have no privacy, no truly sacred goals, and no true family circle; (4) women's liberation groups, with their constant frustrations and firing up of the age-old conflict of equality of the sexes, instead of showing the deepest respect for each other and realizing were it not for sin there would be no such conflict.

I would like to repeat—marriage and the family are of God. We may try every substitute there is, but it will not work; and here I am of course not speaking of dedicated people who, in the providence of God, have lovingly served humanity as single people. The overwhelming number of divorces is no proof that marriage and the family are failures but rather that our characters are failures. We are becoming more and more selfish, and our faith in God and His mercy is rapidly declining.

The family which in the past sent forth men and women to inspire the world to noble aspirations in the hope of God and love for His law, the Ten Commandments, is almost extinct. The woeful, despairing cry of the world is the result.

Sin has become the common, accepted thing in every walk of life and most glaringly in government and church officials from whom we expect nobility. What do we do about this? Throw up our hands in despair and cry, "Forget it!"? We can't afford to. We have been created as individuals, able to marry and bring forth children. The wonderful, powerful force of love and its counterpart, sex, leaves us only one alternative: we must determine, by the grace of God, whether we are a father, a mother, or a young person, to have a deep understanding of what makes our lives a true success and brings peace to our minds and hearts.

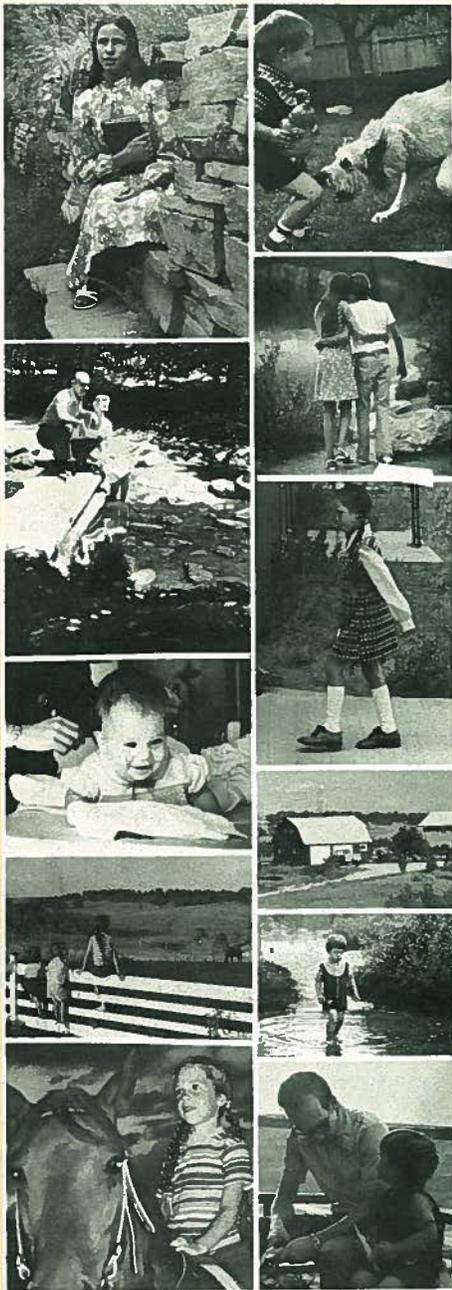
As a grandmother and missionary who day by day enters many homes and sees and hears the woes of mankind, I can confidently say, "We can rise above our infirmities. There is no frustration, no sin, no failure that cannot be healed by God." And there is no reason for us to be so proud that we cannot kneel before our living God, the Creator of heaven and earth, and ask for help. Christ walked the way before us, and He was victorious. His words of appeal to us are, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30.

Glorious promise! Glorious hope! We can win the battle of life upon this earth! And though time and again we may be like a gasping fish stranded upon a sandy shore, yet God has said, "Get up! Go forward!" "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

The family members who serve each other and then reach out to their neighbors and the whole world are God's greatest gifts to humanity.

Dorothy M. Dawkins

PARENT/CHILD



THE FAMILY IN TROUBLE page 2

What's the problem? Cries of alarm are being sounded by experts in psychology, medicine, and social science. If we heed these cries, we can benefit our own families and many others as well.

"FEAR NOT" page 4

All-pervading fear surrounds us, but it can be conquered.

THE ROD OF LOVE page 8

As permissiveness spreads in society, bewildered parents can regain confidence in knowing that just as law and love rule the universe so they are to rule the home.

PARENTS: WHAT ARE YOU TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN? page 11

"Parents can tell but never teach unless they practice what they preach."

GUIDELINES TO FAMILY COMMUNICATION page 12

Honesty, openness, and love—there is no substitute for these.

FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL page 15

Is she ready? Is your child prepared?

CHRISTIAN VALUES page 16

These can endure both wealth and poverty.

BETTER THAN WEALTH page 18

The home environment is the greatest factor influencing a child's life. What shall we choose—a city home or a country dwelling?

ANIMALS IN YOUR CHILD'S LIFE page 22

This important part of raising children is not half realized or utilized today.

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NEXT MONTH . . .

Anton Bruggen: A Life of Obedience

Personal letters written by a young Christian martyr during World War II. He chose to die rather than take the lives of others.

Rock Vs. Sand

Today's tangible objects—how do they compare to the intangibles?

A Case of Forgiveness

Could I be as forgiving?

And more