

MARCH 1976

GN

The Good News

YOUTH AND CRIME

SPECIAL ISSUE



GN

The Good News

Vol. XXV No. 3

March 1976

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ABOUT OUR COVER

This month we present a special issue on youth and crime. We examine not only the alarming statistics but the cause and effect relationships which account for it's unparalleled rise in youthful crime and violence. The shocking truth is criminals are made.

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WHY THE LAND IS FULL OF BLOODY CRIMES

"Make a chain," God told Ezekiel, "for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence." No prophecy of your Bible any more graphically indicts our peoples than this one. Today the great, all-wise, divine and powerful Creator God has to look down at the incredible irony of the peoples who have been given the greatest material blessings ever bestowed upon any nation; who possess the choicest piece of real estate this world ever saw; who have been granted the greatest natural possessions in raw materials and minerals; who like Atlas try to shoulder the burden of the entirety of the world; and yet cannot even discover why their most precious national resource — their youth — are out in the streets committing monstrous crimes.

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Our beloved United States of America — now celebrating its 200th birth day in our bicentennial year — ironically finds itself in the midst of losing some of those most precious freedoms that the founding fathers worked and fought so long and hard to establish.

We no longer are free to walk the streets of many of our cities even in broad daylight; no longer free to do a simple thing like making change on our buses and taxis; no longer free to architecturally design our homes and apartment buildings without considering the hideous specter of violent crime (often taking the form of ghastly bomb explosions, kidnappings, murders and rapes).

Is freedom cowering before criminals? Is freedom living in terror of our own youth? Is freedom being locked up at night in our own

homes and apartments while violent gangs of criminals roam our city streets?

More and more millions of us are being forced to change our lifestyles because violent crime continues to sweep across America at an ever-burgeoning rate — now even in previously untouched rural areas.

Crime Capital. The murder capital of the world is not atheistic Red China; it is not even godless, communist Russia — it is our own beloved, Christian land of the free and home of the brave. Over 20,000 human beings were murdered last year in the United States of America. The American homicide rate (proportionate to the population) is more than twice that of West Germany, nearly three times that of France, four times the rate of Australia, and over twenty-five times that of Great Britain.

We ought to be hanging our con-

lective head in shame. But no, when some horrible political assassination (actual or attempted) takes place, our politicians are oh so quick to put the blame on those few demented souls who are the off-couring of our society — all the while excusing that great majority of Americans who would never dream of committing a crime (unless, of course, it's cheating at cards, shaving their income taxes, or maybe padding their expense accounts).

We seem to be in total ignorance of the fact that we have created a "beautiful" climate for crime by our own foolish notions. We are a nation that does not understand the simple principle of cause and effect — and we seem always to prefer dealing with the effect while ignoring the cause. The elementary fact that criminals are made and not born escapes us.

We had better get very busy about the business of discovering the causes of crime in this country, and upon finding those causes, systematically eliminating them one by one. We don't have forever!

National Punishments Prophesied. Ezekiel wrote of a "watchman" whom God would inspire to foresee impending national calamities (Ezek. 33). That prophet issued the sternly worded warning that if the watchman failed to perform his God-ordained commission, the blood of the people dying in future calamities would be on his head (verses 3-6). Notice now the next vital verse.

"I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word of my mouth, and warn them from me" (verse 7). God has commissioned this work to take His warning and witness (the message of Ezekiel) to our beloved America.

Our Creator is a patient, long-suffering God. He does not possess a "short fuse" like so many human beings. He doesn't "fly off the handle" in sudden, uncontrolled anger — lashing out in unconstrained fury at His human creation.

But God will tolerate just so much flaunting of His holy laws — just so much trampling on His Ten Commandments — before He allows the automatic consequences of our

own actions to overtake and overthrow us. Usually God does not need to take a direct hand. More often than not, the principle of "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee" (Jer. 2:19) works all too efficiently.

The seventh chapter of Ezekiel prophesies of a time when God has finally decided to punish a nation for its own good. "Now is the end come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense upon thee all *thine abominations*" (verse 3). But what abominations — and why?

Bloody Crimes. An unprecedented wave of ugly, unsightly, revolting, repulsive crime and violence is one good reason why "Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness," says your God (verse 11). "Make a chain for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence." He continues (verse 23): "The increase in crime, right now, is the largest in fourteen years — the greatest increase since records have been kept in their present form."

So when God told Ezekiel to "make a chain," He implied that the land would be so replete and saturated with crime and violence that one crime would be following another like the links on a chain! And so it is! Serious crime rose more in 1974 than any previous year on record. The FBI Uniform Crime Reports (1974 edition) reported 10.1 million serious crimes in the United States — about a million and a half more than in 1973 — adding up to a whopping increase of 16%. Of course, you know that in addition to these categorized criminal acts, many crimes go unreported for a variety of reasons.

God continued His long conversation with Ezekiel: "For they have hated the land with violence" (Ezek. 8:17). Then said he [God] unto me, The iniquity [lawlessness] of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood [the result of many murders], and the city full of perverseness for they say [by their actions], The Lord hath forsaken the earth, and the Lord seeth not

[God doesn't exist, and even if He does He isn't all that interested in what's going on down here on earth]" (Ezek. 9:9).

There is no fear of God prevalent in the United States of America today. Daily we hear of more and more bloody violence rearing its ugly head in city after city.

God is finally going to react if we don't do something about it of our own free will and volition. "And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head" (verse 10).

Do these prophecies sound a little vague — perhaps a little archaic — a little too much like some "Old Testament fire and brimstone"? Don't delude yourself! God is going to punish our peoples severely for our national and individual crimes and sins unless we really repent and turn to Him with all of our hearts and minds!

But our Creator is not a vindictive human being seeking revenge for its own reward. The English word "punish" comes from the Hebrew root *yasar*, which literally means "to admonish; instruct; chasten and correct." To God, punishment is only a tool to teach humankind the big lessons of life — the most severe forms of which He would far rather not use. Notice Ezekiel 33:11: "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Our Creator pleads with us.

He cries out: "O Israel [for all of humanity], thou hast destroyed thyself, but in me is thine help" (Hosea 13:9).

Is Crime a Social Mystery? Our nation is sick to its innards with the cancerous disease of violent crime — and a big part of the sickness is our stubborn, mule-headed refusal to face cause and effect. Crime has causes! If we first discover the causes and then systematically eliminate them — we will have won the war against crime.

It's high time to take Uncle Sam's temperature and suggest some cures for a very seriously ill patient. It has now been over ten years

since crime became a political football — over ten years since we conducted a massive study involving the expenditure of billions of dollars (most of which was used, as always, to treat the effect — not the cause).

Throwing more and more money at the problem is *not* the solution. More policemen, more modern crime-fighting hardware, the opening of additional police academies, more juvenile halls and detention centers, additional farm programs and summer camps, softening the image of officers — all of these "solutions" have failed to halt the avalanche of crime.

Recently our television team interviewed administrative personnel in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Lt. John N. Barnick told our reporter that juvenile crimes increasingly involve the use of firearms — unfortunately, sometimes resulting in murders. At the Altadena substation, Lt. Allan Tol told us that juveniles were responsible for about one of all reported crime in that area. He found that 14 and 15 year olds were being arrested for crimes that only a year before had been minimal in that particular age bracket.

Nationally in 1974, youths under 18 accounted for 27% of all arrests in the United States, while a shocking 43% of all arrests were of persons under 21. Arrests of persons under 18 years of age increased 9% for the year.

Our TV team also recently conducted an interview with Joseph N. Sorrentino, author of the informative book *The Concrete Cradle* and a juvenile court judge in California. Judge Sorrentino told us that juvenile crime is escalating very dangerously and is symptomatic of a society that is morally sick. He pointed to the failure and apparent deterioration of our traditional institutions — the home, the church and the school. He talked about the middle-class parent who has become consumed with status seeking and ambition — making him into a virtual nonparent. Judge Sorrentino mentioned a poor substitute which cannot fill the void — an electronic parent called television!

He pointed to the emotional star-

vation a child suffers when his parents neglect him. He said 70% of the children who come into juvenile courts stem from broken homes — suggesting to him the all-important role of parenthood in preventing child crime.

Judge Sorrentino said something very significant in the course of the interview: *"Without a decent set of parents, a kid doesn't have much of a chance in this society."*

The Home. The disintegration and destruction of the American home as a viable unit in our society is the principal cause for our growing crime problem in general — and more specifically and particularly

"Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness

Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence"

(Ezekiel 7:11, 23). Serious crime in the U.S. rose more in 1974 than in any previous year on record.

the reason for our mountainous tidal wave of child crime. Yes, the church and the school have their part to play. But there isn't anybody — not the church, the schools, or the courts — that is going to be able to even begin to cope with what parents do accidentally, without even thinking about it.

The home is the world's first authority, the world's first comfort, the world's first protection, provision, security, warmth, to every young child — regardless as to race, color or nationality. Yet the home (especially in the United States) is fast disappearing as a traditional bulwark for standards of conduct. Every third American home has been ripped asunder by divorce!

Many studies are available which directly link juvenile delinquency and teenage crime with broken homes. (Remember Judge Sorrentino said in the interview that 70% of the children who come into the juvenile courts are from broken homes.) But for each home directly involved in a divorce, there are many others which are only hollow shells of their former selves — couples barely clinging together because of socioeconomic pressures, and not because of any desire of their own.

Remember, every home is a vital building block — an integral part of the very underpinnings of society. As go our homes, so goes our nation. A house divided against itself cannot stand — just as nations filled with divided homes will not stand indefinitely.

One-Eyed Monster. In the aftermath following World War II, thousands of American families found themselves able to afford more entertainment. Television was on the increase, and millions of Americans were now able to afford top Hollywood talent, nightly, in their own living rooms.

The television set became, in effect, an automatic babysitter — an electronic parent, so to speak. Children have been allowed to grow up in hunch-backed stares of transfixed, avid admiration before a one-eyed monster that demands incredible amounts of their time in the years preceding formal schooling. A media that too often glamorizes violence is offered as a model to our children.

Millions of adults, far more concerned about their own personal interests, have abandoned their own flesh and blood right in their own private living rooms.

Some completely misguided souls in ancient Israel actually offered their own sweet little children as literal sacrifices to fat, leering idols. Today, self-seeking, lust-filled, pleasure-mad, middle-aged Americans — wildly casting about for self-fulfillment — are sacrificing our most precious national resource, our children, on the altar of their own vanity — letting day schools, television, movies and the like form and shape those precious

little minds in those first few *critical, formative* years of their lives.

Obviously, to analyze the entire picture of the dissolution of the American home, and its drooping effectiveness in accepting its responsibility as the traditional teacher of morals, the instiller of social values and spiritual precepts, would take at least one large book, if not several. But I did want to pass on some *positive tips* to parents on how to improve themselves — from, believe it or not, hundreds of juvenile delinquents.

Tips on Teenagers. A social worker at a correctional center in Ontario, Canada developed quite a rapport with a large number of young people who had run afoul of the law. These youths were asked what parents could do to prevent other adolescents from winding up in juvenile courts and correctional centers. They gave seven major points, in their own teenage jargon, that all parents ought to sit up and take notice of.

1) "Keep cool. Don't lose your temper in the crunch. Keep the lid on when things go wrong."

Our children need the reassurance that automatically emanates from controlled responses to their inevitable mistakes. Parents don't need to "blow their minds" in fits of unrestrained temper just because the child spilled the cereal bowl. A lot of sensationalized child beatings have resulted from just such angry, emotional reactions on the part of far too many parents.

No punishment or discipline should ever be administered in an uncontrolled emotional state. Correction appropriate to the infraction ought always to be meted out by a normal, mature, emotionally stable, loving, forgiving parent.

Solomon said: "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" (Prov. 25:28). Parents, you'd better heed what these young people are telling you!

2) "Don't get strung out from too much booze or too many pills. Whenever we see our parents reaching for those crutches we get the idea that nobody goes out there alone; that it's perfectly okay to go for a bottle or a cap when things get heavy."

Parents, your children are the greatest imitators in the world. The old "don't do as I do, but do as I say" syndrome never did "cut any ice" with children.

If multiple millions of parents hit the bottle too hard and have a medicine cabinet that looks like a miniature corner drugstore, they shouldn't be a bit surprised to discover that their teenagers are alcoholics, pill poppers or hard drug addicts.

Several of the first chapters of Proverbs are simply addressed to "My son." One of the purposes of the book of Proverbs is to give "the young man knowledge and discretion" (Prov. 1:4). Solomon wrote at least part of this biblical book directly to his own son.

But do you know that Rehoboam, his son, paid a lot more attention to what Solomon *did* than what he said? Solomon talked an awfulty good fight — but he ended up not living it. He lived to see his very own son begin to fulfill one of his own proverbs: "A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame" (Prov. 17:2).

3) "Don't blow your class. Keep the dignity of parenthood. Stay on that pedestal. Your children have put you there because they need someone to look up to. Don't try to dress fancy or talk like you kids. You embarrass us, and you look ridiculous."

Fathers, you don't need to wear your hat like your teenager does or use the slang he does. He won't respect you for it.

Why is it that we see parents following their children instead of the other way around? The kids just don't like it. You've got to find a better way to "relate" to your young people.

Parents ought to follow the apostle Paul. He wrote: "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (I Cor. 13:11). Our children respect us when we act our age!

4) "Bug us a little. Be strict and consistent in dishing out discipline. Call our bluff. Make it clear that you mean what you say. Don't be wishy-washy. Lukewarm answers

make us uneasy. Show us who's boss. It gives us a feeling of security to know we've got some strong support under us."

Hundreds of these young people happen to agree with a thesis I wrote twenty years ago which has long since been condensed into a book that is periodically revised and brought up to date. The title is *The Plain Truth About Child Rearing*. On page 72, this book has a sub-head captioned: "It Must Be Consistent."

I'll quote some excerpts from this section in order to make my point: "To punish for an infraction one day, and then to allow the same infraction without punishment the next day is *totally confusing to the child*... I have observed many parents make the gross mistake of totally inconsistent punishment and training. The underlying cause for inconsistency is that the parents have lapsed into the habit of punishing their children only when the children finally get on their nerves to the effect that the parent becomes angry, and lashes out at the child in retributive haste...

This is perhaps the most common of all parental failings in administering just and loving discipline. On one day, mother may spank little Johnnie for having poked a knife out of the drawer. On the following day, she may totally ignore Johnnie as he plays with a whole fistful of knives and forks."

5) "Don't compromise and don't be intimidated by our threats to drop out of school or leave home."

All too often parents react through fear of terrible, imagined consequences. Sometimes parents need to be firm and take a stand. A father might have to look his teenager right in the eye, and simply say: "Okay, go ahead and leave home. But as long as you're under my roof partaking of the food at my table, you're going to do what I say."

Parents should make the rules in their own homes (of course, with due consideration for their children). Oftentimes the result of too much compromise is a juvenile delinquent.

6) "Be honest with us. Tell the truth no matter what and be

straight-arrowed about it. We want you to tell it like it is."

There's a family film with an interesting title being shown in the movie theaters across America these days. The National Board of Review rates it "one of the year's ten best." The title is "Lies My Father Told Me." I haven't the faintest idea what this movie is all about; I haven't seen it. But I do take issue with the title because it is reflective of an enormous sin being committed wholesale in this country today — a sin that is paradoxically acceptable to people as the normal thing to do.

Parents by the multiple millions lie to their children about "Santa Claus," "the Sandman," "the man in the moon," and "Jack and the beanstalk." Their little minds are completely cluttered with sugared and candied lies — *but lies never-thless!*

When one of our former Presidents was a young boy, his mother ran into an unusual "problem" in reading to him. She would start a fairy story, and he would interrupt her with: "Mother, is it true?" She would tell him it wasn't. "Well," he would say, "I don't want to hear it then."

Very few children possess that kind of perception. In the vast majority of cases, the parents must bear a heavy responsibility.

The ninth commandment says "Don't lie" and that includes not lying to our offspring because *children are people, too.* It is wrong to teach your children fairy tales, fantasies, guesswork, hazy notions, prejudices, racial hatreds, spurious information about sex — or *anything* that is false. God condemns it as wickedness!

Incidentally, on page 88 of *The Plain Truth About Child Rearing*, there is a subhead captioned "Don't Be a Liar to Your Child."

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

This attractively printed free book — *The Plain Truth About Child Rearing* — echoes the seventh point these young people are advising. For example, on page 57 it says: "The positive type of punishment always carries with it the *automatic understanding* that the child is *now forgiven* for his wrong action, and is now in the good graces of his parents. . . . You will be surprised how often a child will thoroughly repent of his wrong action and assure you that he is sorry for his wrong deed, throwing his arms around you, and telling you how much he loves you, when you punish in an attitude of love and let him know that the punishment carries *forgiveness with it.*" This free book also advocates explaining "why what we did was wrong."

Although written primarily about younger children in those first few formative years, this book does have a chapter at the very end devoted to teenagers. Why not write now for your free copy of *The Plain Truth About Child Rearing*? This 144-page book is a practical, workable manual that gives you the means of guiding your children to their full potential.

Cause and Effect. Criminals are made — not born. Our mushrooming crime problem should be no mystery to anybody who really looks into it. It's all a matter of cause and effect. Our epidemic of criminal behavior has been learned from adults in a factory we call the home. Thousands of criminals have been molded in our tottering homes.

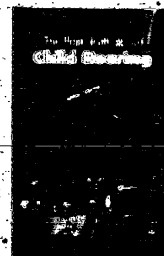
But it doesn't need to be that way. We could begin to raise a whole generation of respectful, loving, obedient young people who are a gigantic plus and an enormous credit to this great country. But will we?

No matter what may befall this United States of America, you can as a committee of one begin to rear your children right! God said of the ancient patriarch Abraham: "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. . . ." (Gen. 18:19) Does God know that about you? □



Build A Better Person

About that child of yours. Will his or her life be as happy and rewarding as you hope? It largely depends on you, you know. The book *The Plain Truth About Child Rearing* helps parents provide the wise and loving guidance children need in those crucial early years. To receive your free copy, write *The Good News*. (See inside front cover for addresses.)





"AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH"

"And the earth was filled with violence. And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth" (Gen. 6:11, 12).

by George Ruter

Philadelphia, 1971: Two boys aged 10 and 11 were put on probation following an orgy of beating, raping, robbing and burning in the apartment of an 64-year-old widow. The boys used the ruse of offering to do some shopping for the widow as a means of entrance, then proceeded to wreck the apartment, spray paint graffiti on walls, cut the widow's hair off, burn her breast and stomach and rob her of \$200.

Marseille, France, 1972: Two fifteen-year-old youths, bored after watching the local afternoon matinee, went rampaging through liquor cabinets in private homes. With the help of an appropriated .22 rifle they staged a "western-style" shoot-out by blasting out window panes in one residence. In the process, they managed to wound two children and hold off police for several hours.

Sydney, 1973: A 57-year-old driver returning home one night dies suddenly and violently from a knife plunged through his chest. Motive for the murder — unknown.

Springfield, Massachusetts, 1973: A seven-year-old girl dies from stab wounds received at the hands of her eight-year-old companion after he became incensed because she apparently told him a lie. Murder weapon was a four-inch steak knife taken from his parents' house.

Chelyabinsk, Russia, 1974: Four drunken adults beaten to death by two teenagers.

Pasadena, California, 1975: An 87-year-old lady suffers a ruptured spleen after being knocked down with a lead pipe welded by a 13-year-old purse-snatching assailant.

Isolated instances of delinquency? A few eccentric youths letting off steam? The actions of a handful of maladjusted teenagers? No way.

Overindulgence in Violent Crime. The younger generation is currently involved in a mounting wave of violent crime that is virtually unprecedented in the annals of recent history. The "kid's stuff" of yesterday, such as stealing apples, pencils and hubcaps, is now passé. Today the "in things" are muggings, rapings, homicides and assaults.

FBI crime statistics for 1974 show that 44 percent of murders in the United States were committed by persons under 25 years of age. One-tenth of these total homicides were the work of minors — youths under 18. In the city of Los Angeles, the number of juveniles arrested for serious or violent crimes showed a shocking 1800 percent increase during the 20 years following 1952. And in New York City the number of incidents of rape, murder, robbery and kidnapping perpetrated by youth rose by more than 100 percent between 1972 and 1973.

Gangs of teenagers have graduated to the "big leagues" just like their adult counterparts. No longer are switchblades and home-made zip guns the main line of defense, but automatic rifles, police revolvers, bazookas, hand grenades and Molotov cocktails are fast becoming popular with juveniles in gangland. And many are quick to use such weapons at the slightest provocation. According to one community worker in Detroit: "They drive up in a car, roll down the windows at an intersection and blaze away" (*Newsweek*, July 21, 1975).

Juvenile offenders in Europe aren't far behind their American counterparts. In France, the number of youths below 18 years of age appearing in court virtually tripled from 1958 to 1973. Violent juvenile crime is particularly prevalent in many of the newly built suburban areas. Youngsters of 13 have been involved in auto theft, purse snatching and breaking and entering. In not so gay Paris, two thirds of all bank robbers caught in 1973 were under 25. In some parts of France, youthful crime has reached such serious proportions that one assistant mayor was prompted to say: "The number one problem posed to the large city is the security of its inhabitants in light of delinquency and rising vandalism."

When in Rome? The story is the same in the "Eternal City," where gangs of youths in Rome have been instrumental in armed robberies and kidnappings. Roughly one third of all arrests made in West Germany are of persons under 21 years of age. A sharp increase in juvenile delinquency has been re-

ported even in peaceful Switzerland. During the last few years, one half of all criminal offenders have been under age 20.

In Sweden the crime rate jumped some 90 percent during the 10 years following 1963. One concerned Swedish authority was quoted as saying: "The most disturbing thing is the alarming increase in wanton attacks by youngsters on people in the streets and on old people in their homes for no apparent reason, no motive" (*U.S. News and World Report*, July 30, 1973).

Violence and crime are also fast becoming epidemic among the youth of Britain. In 1974, 31,000 youngsters from ages 10 to 16 were arrested in London. An additional one-thousand were under age 10. A government report showed that nine out of ten British schoolboys have committed at least one theft by the time they leave school at age 16. Youth generated violence is also rife on Britain's buses and railways. Gangs of 20 to 30 have been known to "storm the gates" in order to force passage without paying. Once on the train or bus, "They slash seats, spray paint from aerosol canisters over walls and windows, and walk on the ceilings by hanging upside down from the supporting straps" (*Christian Science Monitor*, January 23, 1975).

A Disturbing Downward Trend. Equally as disquieting are some of the long-term implications of this youthful crime wave. According to Sydney's *National Times*: "Today, most violent crime is being committed by people aged between 15 and 25 years. This is a significant long-term social change which in effect adds a huge new group of potential criminals to the population."

British Home Secretary Sir John Hill also recently reported: "What must be disturbing is the indication that these young people are acquiring a professionalism in criminal expertise at a much younger age."

Trends among juveniles in the United States give a great deal of substance to Mr. Hill's warning. Young gangs that populate America's cities by the hundreds now include 9- and 10-year-old criminal

neophytes. The "rat pack" has been replaced by the "mouse pack" in many large metropolitan areas. One 11-year-old made no bones about his involvement in such underworld activities: "When I have the time to case a house, I'm a burglar — that's really what I am. . . . But most of the time I need the money and can't take that much time. So I'll rip off a purse from an old lady. Nah, you don't try to hurt them, but if it's me and my money or them — well, it's jham!" (*National Observer*, December 22, 1973.)

A New Generation of Killers. Why the recent upsurge in youthful violence? Experts feel a number of factors are involved, which include: 1) the disintegration of family life; 2) lack of discipline in both the home and school environment; 3) prevalence of violence in the media (see box next page); 4) lack of deterrents in the juvenile justice system ("revolving-door" justice as it's called); 5) increasing amounts of leisure time; 6) influence of drugs; and 7) easy access to guns and other lethal weapons.

Many of these factors are discussed at greater length in the other articles in this issue and in our booklets such as *Crime Can Be Stopped — Here's How and The Plain Truth About Child Rearing*. Suffice it to say here that sociological conditions now extant in modern Western society have combined to produce a new generation of violence-prone youth who are markedly different from their predecessors.

As reporter Ted Morgan wrote in the *New York Times Magazine*: "It is as though our society had bred a new genetic strain, the child murderer who feels no remorse and is scarcely conscious of his acts."

Wayne Mucci, director of the American Bar Association Institute of Judicial Administration Juvenile Justice Standards Project, put it this way: "Most kids tend to be highly impulsive and seek immediate gratification. They didn't plan to murder the person they were robbing, but it seemed to happen if someone got in their way. . . . It seemed incidental."

Prophecies for Our Day. Cen-

turies ago, Jesus Christ likewise spoke of a violent generation. In His famous Olivet prophecy recorded in the 24th chapter of Matthew. He compared global conditions that would be extant just prior to His return with those that existed during the time of Noah: "As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of man" (Matt. 24:37). Like most of us today, Noah lived in the midst of a violent generation (see Gen. 6:14, 12). But Christ didn't stop there. He went on to elaborate by stating: "And because wickedness [lawlessness] is multiplied, most men's love will grow cold" (Matt. 24:12). He likewise inspired the apostle Paul to write about the "perilous times" that would be extant in the latter days (II Tim. 3:1-5, KJV).

The Old Testament prophets were also filled with the same message. In numerous passages they directed many a stinging indictment at the violent generations of their day. Here are just a few:

Hosea 4:1-2: "Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel; for the

Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or kindness, and no knowledge of God in the land; there is swearing, lying, killing, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds and murder follows murder."

Hosea 7:1-2: "For they deal falsely, the thief breaks in, and the bandits raid without. But they do not consider that I remember all their evil works."

Isaiah 59:6-7: "Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, desolation and destruction are in their highways."

Amos 2:7: "They... trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth, and turn aside the way of the afflicted."

Jeremiah 22:17: "But you have eyes and heart only for your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence."

A Warning for Our Day. Needless to say, this epidemic of violence and bloodshed among the peoples of ancient Israel and Judah did not go unnoticed by God. Repeatedly He warned His people through the prophets that continuation of such criminal conduct would lead to disastrous national consequences.

Notice a few more Old Testament examples specifically given to the House of Judah.

To the people of his day, the prophet Jeremiah wrote: "For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly execute justice one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place... then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers for ever" (Jer. 7:5, 6).

Also, in the 22nd chapter, Jeremiah wrote: "Thus says the Lord, Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place. For if you will indeed obey this word, then there shall enter the gates of this house kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their servants, and their people" (verses 3-5).

Unfortunately, the nation of Judah, like her sister nation the House of Israel, didn't heed those warnings. Because those people refused to turn their national crime patterns around, they ultimately paid the penalty in the form of war, invasion, famine, loss of nationhood and national captivity.

Today the same cause and effect factors are at work in this generation. Either we clean up the crime and violence in our cities, on our streets, among our youth and in our homes, or we must be prepared to suffer the consequences.

As God told ancient Israel: "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse, therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live" (Deut. 30:19).

THE MASS MEDIA AND THE VIOLENT GENERATION

London Daily Telegraph: "Those who claim that programmes depicting violence have no influence on children should take a peep at school playgrounds. Boys have always fought. But today it is no longer with fists or wrestling holds that such fights are conducted. The Kung Fu kick, the karate chop and the boot in the groin are favorites now" (Feb. 11, 1975).

Dr. David Abrahamson, a psychoanalyst specializing in behavioral disorders: "There are no doubts about it [violence in media], it serves as a stimulus. It can trigger hostile actions."

Dr. James Short, visiting professor of law and sociology at Stanford University: "We don't need to have violence reported."

I'm not suggesting a direct connection [with television], but it's inconceivable that there is no effect. I don't view it with equanimity.

Dr. Marvin Wolfgang: "A play of violence has more of a response... people imitate violence."

New York social worker: "These kids talk about shooting someone in the same way they describe someone being shot in a movie and shooting someone themselves. To them, everything is one big movie."

Report of the Surgeon General to Senate committee: "The overwhelming consensus indicates that televised violence indeed does have an adverse effect on certain members of the population."



"A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM"

Our world has lost its flavor. The spice is gone and in its wake is an extremely bland, unpalatable jumbo of homogenized mediocrity.

Individuality is found only in the gauzy glare of the myriad television sets reposed in their respective altar-like niches. Young minds — and old — are captivated by the magnetic strength and booming character of a Matt Dillon, Ben Cartwright or the Six Million Dollar Man. The gnawing realization that something is dramatically missing in our societies, and consequently in our lives, creates resentment, frustration and rebellion.

Instantaneous, Nightmarish Destruction? Our world has changed!

Prior to 1945, its citizens were not subjected to the awesome specter of total nuclear annihilation. Prior to just a short century ago, the world continued on basically the same course originally charted at man's beginning on this earth. The world was basically agrarian in nature and the problems of respective countries were generally of little interest to the world per se.

Never before in history have youth — the children of our nations — had such influence in the world, even to toppling and reestablishing governments. Though youthful oppression is promised at a time when world leadership has caused its peoples "to err" (Isa. 3:12), other prophecies promise a fantastic future for these same young people. Once they have been properly taught, they will have the most unique and challenging opportunity in history: to become leaders in the World Tomorrow under God's government.

by Hubert C. Smith

Sophisticated technology became a reality just twenty short years following the Armistice of 1918 which concluded the "war to end all wars." Radar, sonar, jet aircraft and other modern innovations replaced the long established methods of conventional warfare, and that "progress" continued right up

to that infamous day when people all over the world puzzled at their newspaper headlines: "Atom Bomb Destroys Hiroshima."

Since then, the entire society of man has lived under the threat of instantaneous, nightmarish destruction — at the whim of any number of frail despots who sit at the controls of the world.

Is it any wonder our youth are uncertain and resentful?

They live in the first society in which mankind has produced the capability to absolutely obliterate himself from existence, worldwide!

The Cry of Youth. In our introverted society, we cling desperately to "today," because we cannot be certain there will be any tomorrows. The global community is engaged in a futile battle for survival — and it has produced youth who ache for changes, security, peace and happiness, but do not know the way to achieve it.

That frustration is vented in myriad ways. The heartache of watching our youth run frantically in search of answers became obvious with the introduction of the "Hippie

movement" several years ago — and which spread like wildfire among the youth of nations all over the world. A withdrawal from the existing society seemed to be the motivating factor, but without valid alternatives a sort of "subculture" resulted.

Protests were voiced from college campuses around the world, and united effort by force soon began to unseat long-established governments throughout Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Our youth also wrought havoc in colleges and universities in England and America.

A frustrated adult world, suffering from acute pangs of guilt at the unsettling recognition they had failed their heritage, began to apologize weakly by accepting the symbols of that rebellion and tacitly getting "in step" with it — as *followers*, and no longer leaders!

The societies of the world belong to the youth, and they will contemptuously legislate *their* "no-answer" culture to an adult world they cannot accept. Today's music belongs to the youth. Advertising is geared toward our teenagers and young adults — for they are responsible for the success or failure of products, personalities and businesses.

Violence is as much a part of our young people's way of life as apple and Mom used to be in the older generation. Blatant and homogeneous pre- and post-marital sex activity is accepted as natural, and the older folks might have a difficult time explaining it any other way to them. After all, haven't the adults set the example?

When an "Individual" does stand up, he immediately has a hungry, adoring following. Our youth *aches for leadership!*

A Panorama of Our Day. In the book of Isaiah, in the Old Testament of the Bible, God inspired the prophet to record events in advance of our day — a time when the leaders have lost knowledge of the way which would guarantee peace, happiness and abundant, rich, productive living. A time when the leaders have failed to establish governmental systems structured upon equity. A time when confusion and near chaos reign world-

wide, and when there are seemingly no answers.

Isalah wrote: "For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away . . . the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, the mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, the captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counselor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator. And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them" (Isa. 34:4).

Here is portrayed a panorama of life, from the ability to properly provide foodstuffs and nourishment for millions, to the ultimate inability of our great military men, our lawmen, the average men on the street, the businessmen and the great, eloquent speakers to administer proper judgment. It talks about a time of global confusion!

Is it any wonder our youth attempt to establish their own laws?

Continuing in verse 12: "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them: O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths."

What a stern indictment against our world leaders — in government, religion and education.

Our world is in chaos!

Our youth are smart enough to recognize that fact, and they desire to do something to dramatically change it. But they do not yet have the answers, or the wherewithal to achieve that goal. That frustration has led to the oppression which Isaiah wrote about.

We Shall Yet Be Saved. What the world does not yet understand is that the Almighty God who created this planet is not going to allow man to destroy himself. When Jesus Christ inspired Matthew to write about the "time of the end" — a time when "iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matt. 24:12) — He guaranteed His intervention in an awesome manner.

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not, since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [alive]; but

for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (verses 21-22).

That promise is the *only hope* for this world in which you and I live! That promise is one which will open opportunities unimagined to the youth hungrily seeking strong leadership. That leadership will come through the government of Almighty God!

Christ said the world would enter into a time of tribulation and trial such as has never been experienced before. That means it must necessarily be *the most perilous* time in man's history, a time when, barring divine intervention, man would literally commit universal cosmoicide.

We are living in those general times today!

Time of the End. For centuries men have been proclaiming the impending doom of the world, but only since the advent of nuclear weapons in 1945 has that doom become an absolutely immediate reality.

The Bible talks about shocking events prophesied to happen in the "time of the end." The good news is that only the governments of man will end. Only the way of life which has led us inexorably to the brink of destruction will be destroyed.

Isaiah 24:21-22 warns: "In that day . . . the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth." Punishment is coming upon world rulers.

Notice also Isaiah 13:9: "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it."

The "day of the Lord" is also the "day" or time of the imminent return of Jesus Christ to this earth to set up His world government (see Zechariah 14:1-9).

When Jesus Christ sets His feet on the Mount of Olives and begins to restore His government on this earth, there will be millions of people alive who have survived the prophesied nuclear holocaust — who will eagerly reach out, with tear-stained eyes and hearts filled with gratitude, for instruction in the way of life which will completely turn them around. They will want to

be shown *how* to live, *why* they were born, and *what* is their ultimate destiny.

In the United States alone, more than one half of the population is under 27 years of age. In the rest of the world, the average age is even younger.

The populations of the world are prophesied to be reduced dramatically through war, famine, pestilence and natural disasters just prior to the intervention of God, but there will still be multiple millions of human beings left alive — and most of them will be *under* twenty-four years old.

Opportunity for Leadership. Who would be the most logical ones to teach them in the new way of life? Who would be better able to equate with, empathize with, have rapport with than those of their own peer group? Would not peers who understand the same philosophies be better qualified to assist in reeducating the masses?

God offers a fantastic challenge to the youth of today, who recognize the world has gone insane but are unable to change it — *now!* Rather than vicariously live "leadership" in the heroes of yesterday, or in the limited scope of television productions, God is offering our youth the opportunity to train to *become leaders* over millions in just a few short years.

Rather than agonize at the "no-answer" society of today — the result of blatantly and flagrantly ignoring living laws designed to insure healthy, happy lives — be one who gives the answers to the eager society in the World Tomorrow!

Are *you* a teenager or young adult who aches for the opportunity to make *right* the myriad wrongs you are able to recognize? Do you, if you live in England, anguish at the disintegration of the once awesome British Empire — on which the sun never set? Do you — the youth of France, Australia, Europe, Israel — not fervently desire to discover the answers which will enable all peoples of the community of earth to be filled and satisfied?

Can you — the youth of productive America, who have shown by your frustrated fruits your total unacceptance of the heritage be-

queathed you — continue to lash out in rebellion without accomplishment?

Or does something tell you there is a *better way* — and that way is available to you right this instant?

God desires that His creation have the good life (Ill John 2). He has created us for such an *ultimate* destiny as to literally boggle the mind. **Utopia.** After the coming oppression and holocaust will come a time of total peace and harmony such as the world has never known. A loving God — with the assistance of physical human beings — will reestablish a utopian society on this earth. As the prophet Ezekiel wrote: "But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people Israel; for they are at hand to come. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown; and I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded: and I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring forth fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better unto you than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezek, 36:8-11).

And Isaiah 11:9: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

Can you imagine a society where there is no hurt, and no one is trying to destroy? Can you visualize — and desire — a society where right government leads nations into the fulfillment of everything God wishes for us?

Verse 6: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the falling together; and a little child shall load them."

You — as a little child in this new society — *can also be a leader.* You can begin today to relieve yourself of all the frustrations and anxieties which surround you in your daily struggle, and begin to prepare to be a strong leader in the government of the World Tomorrow.

God wants *you* to help humanity! □

"A thorough understanding of the Bible is better than a college education."

— Theodore Roosevelt

That's a powerful statement, coming from a man of Theodore Roosevelt's stature. And he is by no means alone in this sentiment. Many great leaders have shared Roosevelt's high esteem for a knowledge of the Bible — Newton, Jefferson, Franklin, Lincoln, to name a few. Of course, no one is suggesting that you forget about a college education. The point is that numerous men of great ability and experience have found the Bible to be of immense educational value. Yet most of us haven't bothered to read the book that is the basis of much of our Judeo-Christian heritage. Why not save a few minutes a day to find out about the most important book ever written? Our Bible Correspondence Course, consisting of 12 monthly lessons, opens the door to a whole new realm of discovery. Why not enroll today? Just write to The Good News (see address below) and we'll send you more information. You make the choice!





Women have begun to make inroads in nearly every area of human achievement, and now they are starting to excel in yet another area. In spite of social pressure and institutional opposition, many women are choosing a career in the traditionally male-dominated milieu of crime.

In the past decade women have proved they can stand toe to toe with the worst of the bad guys. In 1967 Ruth Eisemann-Schier accomplished a first for co-ed criminals by breaking into the FBI's ten-most-wanted list. A few years later Charles Manson's murderous harem proved that girls can be just as vicious and degenerate as fellows. Camilla Hall, Nancy Ling Perry and Patricia Soltysik later helped found the terrorist Symbionese Liberation Army, and their kidnap victim Patricia Hearst allegedly became a machine-gun-toting bank robber under their tutelage. And finally, Lynette Fromme and Sara Jane Moore proved that you don't have to be male to try to assassinate the President of the United States.

Libefated Larceny? What is causing this sudden upswing in women's crime? Recently a spate of articles have been written attributing it to the women's liberation movement. But as yet no detailed or controlled scientific study has been done on the phenomenon, and experts still disagree as to the cause or causes.

Speculators seem to concur, though, that it's not the formal-organized women's movement per se

What's happening to Western womanhood? A couple of decades ago, we would read about an occasional Ma Barker or Bonnie Parker. Today, our newspapers report a virtual army of female felons, and their numbers are growing daily. Statistics show that crime rates among girls are going up at an alarming rate, far faster than among boys. Why this sharp increase? Is it some sort of "fem-lib" offshoot, or is it just another symptom of our sick society?

by Carole Rittler

that is causing the increase. Most female criminals disavow the ideals of women's lib and would resent being labeled as "liberated." As Connie Bruck wrote in *Human Behavior*: "The average incarcerated woman is poor and uneducated, has a weak self-image and assumes such a traditional, dependent role that she is often in prison because of a man" (*"Women Against the Law,"* December 1975, p. 27). Only the younger, more affluent, politically oriented types seem to gravitate toward fem-lib ideology.

Dr. Freda Adler, associate professor in the Graduate School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, and author of *Sisters in Crime* (McGraw-Hill), has stated that "Female liberation has not caused more criminality. We are dealing with something

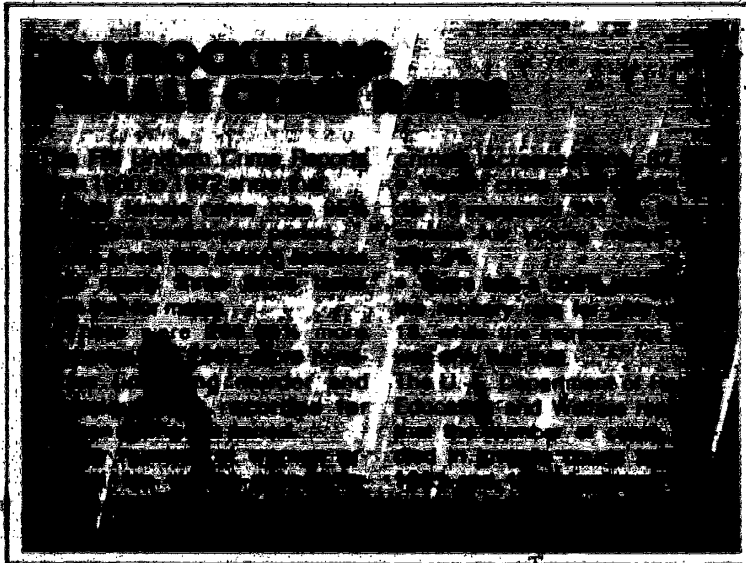
quite different. We are dealing with an opportunity structure." In other words, as more women begin to participate in the labor force, more have opportunities for crime that were formerly open only to men. She added, "Women no longer want to be second-rate citizens legitimately, so why should they be second-rate citizens illegitimately?"

And James A. Brussel, a former Assistant Commissioner of Mental Hygiene for the state of New York, had this to say: "It's nonsense to think that there is something basically or innately non-violent about women. No biological factors, no hormones are involved. Until recently, the only thing that held women back was the cultural influence. Now there is a sharing of everything — including crime" (*Pasadena Star-News*, August 18, 1973).

Dr. Rita Simon, writer of a monograph for the National Institute of Mental Health on "The Contemporary Woman and Crime," actually suggests that equality between the sexes might even discourage certain types of female crime. As women achieve a more satisfying place in the labor force, "Their sense of frustration, their feelings of being victimized, and their sense of powerlessness should diminish. . . . It is these types of emotions that stimulate women to violence" (*Christian Science Monitor*, August 6, 1975).

Undoubtedly the women's movement has had at least an indirect effect on some forms of crime by raising women's expectations faster

THE GENTLE SEX MUSCLES IN ON CRIME



FEMALE FELONS IN WESTERN NATIONS

The alarming and shocking increase in women's crime rates particularly plagues the more affluent Western countries. Here are just a few examples.

Canada: The ratio of women involved in criminal acts doubled from 1960 to 1969.

England: From 1968 to 1974, serious offenses committed by women rose 54%, while the percentage of male offenses was less than half that (25%). Noted British jurist Justice Gerald Sparrow said he "notes a sharp in-

crease in crime among women in the British Isles as well as Europe. He believes they are playing more open leadership roles in criminal activities than before" (Los Angeles Times, September 2, 1974).

West Germany: The percentage of female criminals increased from 15.4% in 1963 to 17.1% in 1970.

Norway: Women committed 4% of all crimes prior to 1958, but now they contribute to 10% of the total figure.

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groups find that they have been made obsolete by farm machinery or computerized factories. And many women who formerly found a sense of worth and dignity keeping house, find that this activity, too, has been rendered routine and boring by a plethora of household appliances (among other factors).

"The type of work which modern technology is most successful in reducing or even eliminating is skillful, productive work of human hands, in touch with real materials of one kind or another. In an advanced industrial society, such work has become exceedingly rare, and to make a decent living by doing such work has become virtually impossible. A great part of the modern neurosis may be due to this very fact; for the human being

enjoys nothing more than to be creatively, usefully, productively engaged with both his hands and his brains. Today, a person has to be wealthy to be able to enjoy this simple thing, this very great luxury: he has to be able to afford space and good tools; he has to be lucky enough to find a good teacher and plenty of free time to learn and practice. He really has to be rich enough not to need a job; for the number of jobs that would be satisfactory in these respects is very small indeed" (*ibid.*).

The Bible concurs with this analysis. Ecclesiastes 2:24 reads: "There is nothing better for a man than that he should . . . find enjoyment in his toil." And Ephesians 4:28 shows that the antidote to stealing is meaningful labor: "Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need."

In their search for meaningful work and/or an activity that gives them a sense of identity, satisfaction and accomplishment, some women are reaching out toward consciousness-raising groups and jobs outside the home. Others are expressing their sense of frustration and alienation in a life of crime.

Wayward Girls: It is not just those who are caught on the lower-class treadmill that opt for illegality. Young middle-class women also commit unlawful acts as a political

protest against "the system." And old age doesn't seem to present a barrier, either. One eighty-two-year-old woman was reported taking numbers bets totaling 80 to 100 dollars a day.

But the main increase in female crime is occurring among the young. A study involving 3000 teenagers in Illinois found that girls fight, cheat, shoplift and take drugs almost as often as boys. Carrying a weapon, gang fighting and mugging have also increased among these Midwest girls.

An HEW Social and Rehabilitation Service report reads: "The rise in girls' delinquency has generally been attributed to their changing attitude towards society and society's changing attitude towards them. Instead of the passive role assumed by girls in the past and society's protective role towards them, girls are becoming more aggressive and more independent in their day-to-day attitudes. Unfortunately some of this behavior has resulted in large increases in the incidence of running away from home and in participation in the use of drugs, often necessitating other crime-related activities, such as shoplifting, robbery, etc." (HEW News, April 12, 1972). Milt Hoffmann of the Denver Anti-Crime Council adds this opinion: "By telling girls that they are just as good as boys and can do anything a boy can do, some girls see that if their boyfriends can rip off a car, they can, too."

Implications for the Future. What does this drastic increase in female crime portend for the future? A great number of tomorrow's mothers seem to be headed for careers in crime. If mommy is a mugger, what hope do her children have of growing up as law-abiding citizens?

Statistical projections show that further increases in distaff delinquents are in the offing. With girls' crime rates "outdistancing boys" by hundreds of percentage points, the next generation will probably see even more frightening growth in this area.

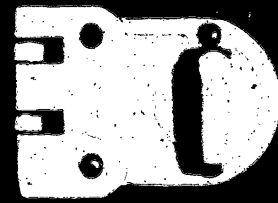
But women's crime is just a symptom — another sign that our civilization is rapidly degenerating to the state of other ancient civ-

ilizations prior to their fall. In the New Testament, Paul prophesied that "in the last days perilous times shall come. For men [and women] shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection [women are the primary killers and maimers of children], trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (2 Tim. 3:1-4, KJV). Our times come very close to fitting Paul's description.

Here is what God had to say to some ancient women who, although they were relatively uneducated, still managed to participate in their share of chicanery: "Listen to this, you cows of Bashan, you women in high Samaria, you who defraud the poor and are hard on the needy, who tell your husbands, 'Let us have wine to drink.' As sure as I am God, the Lord Eternal, swears, your day is coming, when you will be dragged out with prongs, the last of you with fishhooks, out you go, through breaches in the walls, each of you headlong, chased to mount Hermon — by order of the Eternal" (Amos 4:1-3, Moffatt).

This prophecy saw historic fulfillment — God finally did bring captivity on these women as punishment for their crimes. In light of this, what must His attitude be today toward women who manage to take part in just as much depravity as their male counterparts? Will God once again bring severe punishment upon modern nations as today's young women descend more and more into the shadowy world of crime and violence? History has a way of repeating itself!

Our Western nations are exhibiting all the outward symptoms of ancient Rome before its downfall — women's increasing role in crime is only part of the picture. For more information on this subject write for our free booklet *The Modern Romans*. It catalogs the trends that may lead to the extinction of society as we know it — and tells what you, personally, can do about it.



PROTECT YOURSELF

Your chances of being beaten, robbed or even murdered are increasing at a phenomenal rate. An urban American boy born in 1976 is more likely to be murdered than a World War II American soldier was likely to die in combat. Serious crime rose 17 percent in 1974, the sharpest increase in 14 years. There are no simple solutions to the avalanche of crime that threatens to turn our nation into an armed camp. But there are some things you can do. A free booklet *Crime Can Be Stopped — Here's How* provides practical advice on protecting your home, your family and yourself. To receive a copy, write to The Good News, Pasadena, CA, 91123. Or see the inside front cover for the address of our office nearest you.



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES UNITED

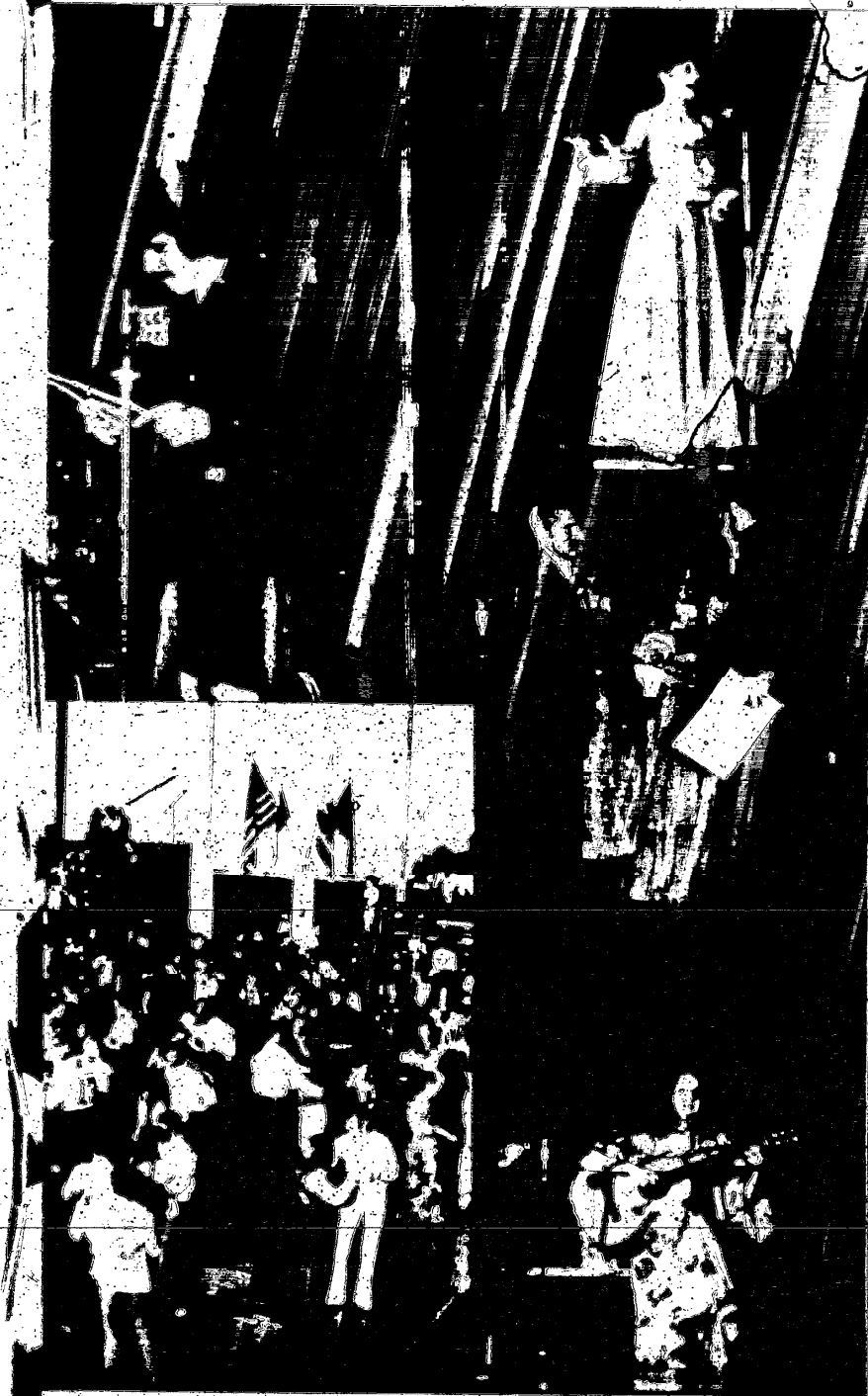
Basketball, volleyball, track and field competition, arts and crafts shows, a cross-continent bicycle trip — all of these, and more, are offered to teenagers in the Worldwide Church of God through Y.O.U. — Youth Opportunities United.

This month Y.O.U. observes the completion of its first full year of activities and events for Church youth. But the concept of youth programs is hardly new to the Church. Herbert W. Armstrong has long recognized the importance and value of properly educating youth, and providing constructive, challenging opportunities for adventure and personal growth. To train young adults to be future leaders in the Church and community, he established Ambassador College in 1947. In the early 50s Imperial Schools extended the educational program of the Church to the grade and high-school levels.

In the Wilds. In 1962 the Summer Educational Program (S.E.P.) began in Big Sandy, Texas. Three years later it moved to a new camp near Orr in the wilds of northern Minnesota. Each year several hundred Church youth 12 to 18 years of age trek to Orr for a wide range of exciting activities — archery, canoeing, cheerleading, cooking out, fishing, rock climbing, swimming, water skiing, water polo and volleyball. For many, the highlight of the summer sessions is a six-day canoe trip through the lake country of the U.S.-Canadian border region. (In addition, a backpacking program has been held for several summers in Estes Park, Colorado.)

S.E.P. is a golden, never-to-be-forgotten opportunity. But what about the thousands of other Church youth who are not able to attend? There have always been locally organized Church youth programs for them, but many came





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to see the need for a nationally organized program.

The prototype for the national youth program was a series of local and regional basketball games culminating in the National Basketball Tournament held in March 1975. Afterwards, Garner Ted Armstrong enthusiastically gave the green light to make Y.O.U. official. He appointed his personal assistant, Jim Thornhill, to be National Youth Coordinator. Mr. Thornhill is an all-around sportsman who was for several years a phys-ed teacher at Ambassador College, and who continues to lend his services at the S.E.P. summer camp in Orr. (You should see him water ski!) He is capably assisted by Ron Dick and Mike Blackwell.

Four-Year Scholarship. The first two events sponsored by Y.O.U. in the summer of 1975 were a photography contest and regional track and field meets. Talent contests also got underway in local churches leading to semifinals at various sites of the Feast of Tabernacles that fall.

The 12 finalists won all-expense-paid trips to Pasadena, California, where on November 29 they performed before a standing-room-only crowd in Ambassador Auditorium. Andy Whelchel, 17, won first prize, a four-year tuition-paid scholarship to Ambassador College, with his drum composition, "Tiffie." The second-place prize was a two-year tuition-paid scholarship. Third and fourth place cash prizes were also awarded.

Bikecentennial. The 1976 agenda is jam-packed with more sports events, arts and crafts shows, etc. In addition, the Ambassador College Big Sandy bicycle touring team (in conjunction with the Bikecentennial '76) is sponsoring a 4300-mile coast-to-coast trip. The 25-member team will be joined by about 75 "well-cycled" Church members, with priority going to young people participating in Y.O.U. The trip will start at Astoria, Oregon, in June and wind up in Williamsburg, Virginia, in August. □

REUTERS - GUL

The primary problem with drugs is not what they do, nor who uses them — but why people abuse them. Until we can answer the why, drug abuse among teenagers — and adults — is here to stay. Drugs are not the problem — but symptoms of other problems.

by D. Paul Graunke

In many respects, the current drug scene is a replay of the forbidden-fruit scene in the Garden of Eden.

"You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?" said the serpent (Satan) for opener. Every tree is all right to eat, replied Eve dutifully, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which would be fatal.

Then the serpent gave the come-on: "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

It worked. "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate" (Gen. 3:1-7). The rest is history.

The Modern Forbidden Fruit. Today's forbidden fruit for teenagers are the psychoactive drugs: marijuana, LSD, mescaline, barbiturates and amphetamines, and the opiates. Millions of them find the temptation to try them at least once to be irresistible. And they are truly a mixed-bag of good and evil: all of them can be used for legitimate medical purposes — but they also can be used in ways that can destroy health and happiness. Many who have tried the harder drugs have surely died.

But, of course, our analogy with the tree is not complete. For this chemical tree of the knowledge of good and evil does not grow in a 20th-century Garden of Eden. It flourishes in a world that is turning into a man-made hell. For many people, psychoactive drugs have become a means of pursuing paradises in the mind (or at least escaping a no-hum or hapless existence).

So the circumstances have changed — but people have not. What motivated Adam and Eve to

try the forbidden fruit also motivates teenagers to try drugs today.

Fun — A Neurological Necessity. "It was a delight to the eyes" goes the official account. In other words, the tree was very pleasing to the senses.

Likewise, psychoactive drugs can be a delight to the eyes — and the ears, and the nose, and the taste buds. They enhance, they alter, the stimuli coming to the brain from the five senses. These novel sensations and perceptions are considered to be fun, and they constitute one of the primary reasons people play with these chemicals.

Now for some **Basic Psychology 101**. Everybody likes to experience fun, joy and pleasure. We like to be entertained and amused. We like to experience new and pleasant sights, sounds, and tastes.

But "like" is not really the word. Pleasure, good times, enjoyable stimuli are more than superfluous or luxuries in life — they are necessary to life itself. Considerable research indicates that stimulation through the five senses is one of the primary needs of higher organisms.

Stimulus hunger is a basic motivation. Enjoyable stimuli are sought and preferred, but if only the unpleasant or uninteresting stimuli are available, the brain will settle for what it can get rather than shrivel up. The brain survives in such cases, but mental health suffers.

That stimulus hunger is a compelling, life-sustaining need can be seen in the following experiments.

Variety — The Very Stuff of Life. In one experiment, researchers analyzed the effect of boredom. College students were paid to don padding and blindfolds and lie on beds in isolated rooms so that sensory stimuli — sight, sound, touch — were reduced to a minimum. What remained was extremely monotonous.

As time dragged on, students be-

came irritable, restless, unable to concentrate. They talked to themselves, whistled, sang, recited poetry, counted numbers — anything to relieve the boredom. Eventually the boredom made it impossible for some to think, and they just let their minds drift. And to the surprise of researchers (they discounted the reports until they went through the test themselves), many of the students after long periods of isolation began to hallucinate.

As Christopher Burney wrote in his account of his stay in solitary confinement: "Variety is not the spice of life; it is the very stuff of it."

Of Rats and Men. If the mind has an aversion to boredom, it really tunes in and turns on to abundant pleasurable stimuli. This was demonstrated in an experiment where scientists implanted electrodes into the pleasure centers of rats' brains. They placed the rats in test boxes that had a treadle. By pressing it, the rats received a very mild electrical shock to their brains. To get another stimulus, the treadle had to be released and pressed again.

The rats "turned on" to the electric stimulus test — literally. Rats with electrodes planted in the hypothalamus — which mediates digestive, sexual and excretory processes — went into electrical ecstasy. They stimulated themselves from 500 to 5000 times per hour. Some stimulated their brains more than 2000 times per hour for 24 consecutive hours! So rewarding was this stimulation that the rats forsook all external pleasures, food, water, sex, everything — to trip on the treadle.

Human beings aren't rats. But at times they feel as if they are treated like rats, and they speak of dropping out of the "rat race." In the mid-sixties a lot of them — mostly teenagers — did just that. They turned on with the electric koolaid acid test — punch laced with LSD. And they turned on to other



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drugs that provided a direct connection to their brains, intensifying sensory experiences. And they turned on with other "electrodes" such as STP and speed. These drug binges often lasted for days — so new and powerful was the experience. In one instance, a young woman in Haight-Ashbury was reported to have taken 100 injections of speed in 24 hours. Speed trips lasting a week or longer were not uncommon.

"Desired to Make One Wise." Of course, human brains are much larger, human cognitive processes much more complex, than rat brains. People have higher and more varied needs and motivations. Man does not live by bread and circuses alone. He is also motivated by concerns for security, love, self-esteem, identity, self-fulfillment and a sense of meaning and purpose to his life.

Drugs were a means of protesting a "system" that deprived people of these other basic needs. The youth movement in its early days was a volatile mixture of chemicals and ideology. Governments were oppressive, factories polluted, work was meaningless, urban life was artificial and boring, and anybody over 30 was hypocritical and couldn't be trusted.

But drugs were more than a negative protest. They were also viewed by many as a positive means of constructing new values and lifestyles to supplant the old.

For drugs did more than titillate and entertain. They could alter consciousness and change the way people thought and looked at the world and themselves. They could open up new vistas of understanding and knowledge. Like the tree in the midst of Eden, drugs were "to be desired to make one wise."

Altered Consciousness. Consciousness is one of those phenomena that occurs but is not easy to define. Very simply stated, it is the total mental configuration of a person, his perception of reality. It is the sum total of his thoughts, moods, perceptions — all the mental processes and modes of which he can be aware.

Whatever consciousness is, many parents are sure they don't

want it altered. Since the words "altered consciousness" are commonly used in connection with drugs, they suffer from guilt by association. Actually, the words are quite innocent, because altered consciousness is something all of us — whether we use drugs or not — experience every day!

Sleep, drowsiness, daydreaming and meditation are all different states of consciousness. We shift back and forth through these states in the course of our daily activity. We can even chart some of these states with an electroencephalograph — an instrument that measures brain waves. Alpha waves are associated with states of rest; beta waves with alertness and attention; theta waves with dreaming.

So altered consciousness is a common everyday occurrence. In addition, society condones — even encourages via commercials and advertisements — the deliberate alteration of consciousness by drugs! People take barbiturates to sleep, alcohol to relax, and amphetamines or caffeine (coffee) to stay awake. Parents who dread their children using mind-altering drugs such as pot may be using two or three mind-altering drugs themselves — all the while wondering what their kids see in drugs.

What their children see are images and colors unlike anything experienced in the usual states of consciousness or in the mild states of altered consciousness parents induce by means of over-the-counter drugs and alcohol. In these "higher" states of consciousness, spatial relationships and the sense of time are dramatically changed. Thinking becomes nonlinear and free flowing. Sensations ebb and flow in intensity. The experience can't really be described in words, drug users say, anymore than you can verbally describe sunlight to a person born blind. A person must see and feel it for himself to comprehend what it is all about.

Dreams Become Nightmares. Because drugs put things into a whole new perspective, it was deemed in the early days of the Youthquake to be an excellent catalyst for revolution, creativity, personal growth, mystical experiences — whatever

the drug user's intellectual bag was.

Unfortunately, drugs carry no guarantees of good trips or new revelations. Many people who were inexperienced and apprehensive about drugs had anything but ideal experiences. Cases of toxic psychosis, permanent psychosis and panic reactions were widely reported in the late 60's.

And worse yet, drugs alter body chemistry as well as consciousness. No psychoactive drug is perfectly safe. None is free of potential health hazards. All have undesirable side effects. No matter how high the experience, sooner or later the drug user must come back to earth and experience the side effects and consequences of a particular drug. Some side effects and post-trip symptoms are mild, and long-term damage is slight or unknown. But the harder drugs — the opiates, the barbiturates and amphetamines — can enslave the user by the tolerance and dependence syndrome. Certain doses and combinations can kill.

But the full dangers of drugs — particularly the harder drugs — weren't widely known then. Or they weren't believed since the information came from people over 30 who were just using nonfactual scare tactics. (That was true — to a point.) Even when the mounting death toll made believers out of skeptics, some continued to use them undeterred by the dangers. It seemed as if they had some kind of script that called for them to be chemical kamikazes.

The summer of love in '67 soon turned into a winter of discontent and disillusionment. A lot of chemical dreams turned into nightmares. Speed killed; heroin enslaved; Barbiturates enslaved and killed. By the hundreds they killed.

The Drug Illusion. Those who look for spiritual and philosophical reasons largely avoided the harder drugs and their hazards, preferring instead softer drugs such as LSD and marijuana. They were looking for new ways to live — not die. But a funny thing has happened over the years. Many of these seekers of truth and meaning have dropped drugs altogether! Why? Because they finally pierced the great illusion

of drugs and came face to face with the reality: they didn't need drugs to enjoy life. They didn't even need them to explore their consciousness.

That drugs are the best or the only way to explore consciousness is the greatest misconception held by many drug users. In truth, there are many ways of altering consciousness *without* drugs. Various esoteric disciplines have been demonstrating how for centuries. Bio-feedback has shown promise as a modern technique.

Many people who have tried both drug and nondrug methods of consciousness alteration prefer the latter — no hassle with unpleasant distracting side effects during the experience and no post-lows or depressions afterwards. They discovered they were flying high in coach with drugs — when all along they could have gone first-class without them.

Something Better. Because of the health hazards, and because a lot of idealistic users have gone on to other things, drugs are no longer sugarcoated with high expectations and naive ideology. But millions of teenagers are still taking them. A lot of teenage drug use is — always has been — experimental. Curiosity, and peer pressure, entices them to try a drug once or twice. It's part of growing up — a modern rite of passage, it seems.

But a significant minority continue to use drugs over and over for reasons other than because "it's the thing to do." For them, drugs are a chemical substitute that stands in for whatever is missing in their lives, a buffer from whatever bothers them. Drugs provide stimulation when there is nothing else stimulating to do. They bring relief from the unpleasant stimuli of life — the problems and anxieties. They are a dramatic way to kill time — and maybe kill oneself if nothing else worthwhile shows up.

The philosophy, the approach to life of many a drug abuser, is summed up in this conversation:

Interviewer: "Why do you use drugs?"

User: "Why not?"

Interviewer: "How could someone convince you to stop?"

User: "Show me something better."

The Carrot or the Stick? "Basically, individuals do not stop using drugs until they discover 'something better,'" believes Dr. Allan Cohen, widely recognized expert on drug use. "The key to meeting problems of drug abuse is to focus on the 'something better' and maximize opportunities for experiencing satisfying nonchemical alternatives."

Basic Psychology 101 again: The carrot will bring about more effective and longer-lasting change than the stick. People respond more constructively to positive inducements and rewards than to negative deterrents and punishments.

"Considering its logical importance, the literature on alternatives to drug use is very sparse, although the situation seems to be improving," observes Dr. Cohen. "Ironically, there is a huge store of literature and wisdom about possible alternatives, but this material has not been specifically applied to drug use education and research."

Positive Alternatives. Dr. Cohen has drawn up an alternatives model as a paradigm of how to deal with drug abuse. Dr. Cohen emphasizes that to offer an alternative to drug use is not synonymous with a substitute for drugs — it must be something more effective, more worthwhile than drugs for giving people real satisfaction and fulfillment.

For example, if a person is motivated to use drugs for physical satisfaction or relaxation, he may be profitably directed toward physical activities — sports, dancing, hiking, carpentry. If he is seeking sensory stimulation, he may find more satisfying experiences with sensory awareness training, music, or developing an appreciation for the beauty of nature.

The alternatives model is practical because it is based on the premise that there is no one cause and hence no one sure solution for everyone. It tailors programs to fit people, not people to conform to programs. It allows the person the freedom and opportunity to discover and develop his full potential.

This approach works because it

trouls the drug problem for what it really is — a people problem. It shifts the focus from what drugs do to *why* people use them. As such, it is not only effective in getting people off drugs, but also in *preventing* them from getting started.

And prevention is the ultimate solution to drug abuse. But that will require a radical overhaul of our way of life. For the drug problem is more than a threat to our way of life — it is the tragic *result*. A society that offers "something better" than drugs is a society that will not be afflicted by drug abuse to the extent we find today. The continuing high level of drug abuse means that a lot of young people need — but don't have — something better to do.

Tree of Life. Back in Eden there was a positive alternative to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That was the tree of life — symbolizing God's revelation, guidance and instruction. It was readily and freely available. But the original parents believed the original con artist rather than the Creator. Their children have fallen for the same line; they have eaten the same bitter fruit ever since. Mankind got off on the wrong foot, and each generation has perpetuated the same errors in thinking and choosing. The result has been a steady narrowing of options for optimal living and a proliferation and compounding of mistakes and problems.

It may seem ridiculous to say that today's drug problem — let alone all our problems — can be traced back progressively to that fatal choice in Eden — but that is the etiology of today's sad state of affairs.

Someday, soon, Christ will return to set things right. Then Satan, the Great Deceiver, will be put out of commission (Rev. 20:2-3), and Christ, ruling over and working with man, will build a world where people matter, where God's way will prevail.

Even now the tree of life is available to all who want a real choice in life, a real chance to realize their God-ordained potential. What that potential is, and what you can do about it *now*, are explained in our free booklets *Why Were You Born?* and *What Is a Real Christian?* Be sure to write for them. □

One of our editors invited a group of teenagers to express their thoughts and feelings about growing into adulthood in these complicated and troubled times. He asked them to openly, honestly, and anonymously write down what ever was on their minds, including their gripes and problems. Below are edited excerpts from their replies, plus letters from other young people who have written to *The Good News*. The staff has commented on some sensitive points.

Hair

People have the idea that individuals who have long hair are no-good, lazy bums. My parents think that just because a guy has long hair and "hippie" clothes that he is dumb, but nine times out of ten they're wrong.

I think people expect more of us than they ought to. They see our hair getting a little bit over our ears and they say to themselves, "If I had scissors I would give the kid a haircut."

Sex

I know this is a great problem. All the kids at school brag about their experiences until you get to believing it's the thing to do.

Parental Criticism

It seems whenever any guy pays the least bit of attention to me, my parents, especially my mother, go off on tantrums trying to keep us apart.

My neighbor across the street is only in her early twenties and all the girls in my family confide in her about everything. She's a very good listener. She is helping me to understand my mom a little better. (My mother and I do not get along very well.) My neighbor tells me I'm like my mother in many ways, which upsets me greatly. I know what I want to be like and my mom isn't it! Perhaps it's because she's always arguing with dad in front of us and she's always yelling at us.

She had turned me against marriage almost completely before I started liking my boyfriend. I talked to him about it and my neighbor too, and I decided just because my mother when I happily married was no reason for me not to be.

Most teens I know have actually thought seriously about leaving home because the parents constantly nag, gripe and complain. They never compliment you, but always get on you. I realize this is partly the teens' problem but I think time should be taken to iron the problems out!

My parents are always comparing me to other people and pointing out my bad points instead of expressing their thanks for my good points.

I dread my mother's coming near me because she usually starts criticizing me. She's been gone for a week and I've never felt so truly happy for such a long period of time in years.

Communication

We need to make more parents aware of our gripes and how we (both parents and teenagers) can eliminate the problems together.

As teenagers we need to feel that someone has a personal interest in us. I personally think that parents are at fault in some ways. They are trying to push instead of guide.

I would like to see maybe a series of articles on the subject of teens. I hope you can help me and the other young people that are having problems.

We teens need encouragement, we need communications, just talk sessions. You know, when there's nobody around you get lonely. And when you're lonely just for someone to talk to, you go anywhere you can find someone.

I am happy, though it may not

sound like it because I know what's ahead and where I'm going. I'm happy there are people like you around to listen and help. These articles that have been written for teenagers are the greatest thing you can receive from your magazine. I only wish there could be a lot more.

Overprotectiveness

My gripe is that I am treated like a little kid. My father is very much overprotective. Being the oldest and a girl makes my father more overprotective than if I were a boy.

I'm fifteen years old and a junior in high school. As you can see, I'm two or three years ahead. This presents quite a little problem. My father has decided that I cannot date until I turn eighteen. When I graduate I'll be sixteen. I've read *The Missing Dimension in Sex* book and about this time I find I'm supposed to be what an adult would consider a "little know-it-all." If that's what I am, then there lies my whole problem. But I don't feel I should have to wait till I'm eighteen to date, especially since I'll graduate before then and half of my friends can date already.

• First of all, you should have an attitude of respect for your parents' wishes. "Honor your father and mother" is the fifth commandment. Our parents may not always be right, but they still brought us into this world and are entitled to our loyalty.

Sometimes parents just need a little more education. Solving these situations may require some patient explaining on the part of teens. Don't sell parents short. They may listen.

Nonetheless, a parent's main goal should be to prepare his children to take on adult responsibilities and make wise decisions on their own. If parents have done their job well, they'll be able to gradually allow their teens more and more responsibility for their own lives as they get older. But children, and teenagers are individuals and ma-

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ture at different rates. Some are grown up enough to be trusted at twelve; others will mature later.

Christ's parents trusted Him enough at age twelve to allow Him to travel alone on an out-of-town trip (see Luke 2:41-51). They didn't worry until they hadn't heard from Him for three days. It may be argued that Mary and Joseph lived in different times than we do today, but their actions cannot by any means be termed "overprotective." Of course, Jesus had undoubtedly demonstrated His maturity and sense of responsibility to them over and over again by His actions. The fact remains that Joseph and Mary weren't afraid to trust Him even in this unusual situation.

The main point we can glean from this example is that parents should be willing to trust their children. Children will probably behave just the way their parents expect them to. If there is parental doubt and distrust, children will tend to say, "I've got the name anyhow — why not go ahead and act like they expect me to?"

If a mother or father is constantly suspicious of a girl's actions on dates — cross-examining her and demanding a blow-by-blow account of how she spent her time — she may be doubly-tempted to "have some fun" since she'll be grilled upon her return no matter how well she behaves. On the other hand, if parents expect their kids to behave well, and express their trust openly, chances are those kids will act as their parents would have them act.

A mother or father who has taken time to properly-instruct their teens and build a warm relationship with them are in a great position to gauge when that teen is responsible enough to be trusted to spend time away from home with a friend or friends. This might be earlier or later than his brothers or sisters or the rest of his peer group. But to arbitrarily set an age ("You can't date until you're eighteen") can be very unwise. It fails to take into account a teen's possible earlier maturity

and development of a sense of responsibility.

Letting go — trusting a son or daughter to not "depart out of the way" they've been taught — is one of the most difficult things a parent has to learn how to do. But this is part of the growth process. If control is not relinquished gradually and wisely, a child may feel forced to "cut the apron strings" in a more drastic and unpleasant fashion.

Changed Life

There was a time not long ago when I was very unhappy. I went from pills and smoking to near suicide. I became hard and cold to all others. I really hurt the ones I loved.

Somehow I finished my eleventh year in school and quit my job. I took a Greyhound bus to Oregon and stayed with a family I know. There I repented. Once I was willing to listen and learn about God, I became happy and I wanted to help others understand which way was really the right way.

I have many friends who smoke, get drunk, take drugs, steal, have sex and much more. They think they have nothing to lose, so why not? I myself can't convince them that what they do is wrong and I'm not saying I'm a holy perfect person, because I know I'm not. But can't they see and learn from the mistakes of others?

Rock Music

It came as quite a blow to the majority of teens in our church when we were told to stop listening to rock music. Most all of us have listened to it since we were old enough to turn the radio on. We really feel no incentive to stop.

• Different cultures appreciate different forms of musical expression. The criterion by which we judge music is a very subjective one: Is it enjoyable to us? Does it uplift us or make us feel good? Different people appreciate different types of music.

Some people find certain types of music depressing or unpleasant,

and it would make good sense for them to avoid that type of music. Also, some electronically amplified live bands play their music so loud it damages the ears, at least temporarily and sometimes permanently.

But one should not make a blanket condemnation of all forms or all songs of a certain type of music — be it classical, jazz, or even rock. There are many excellent rock artists around, and some of their songs have a lot to offer. They have well-written lyrics and are interesting and pleasant musically.

The student radio station at Ambassador College in Pasadena (KBAC) broadcasts all types of music, including rock, jazz, popular show tunes, and classical pieces. They play everything from Beethoven and Brahms to Emerson, Lake and Palmer, Yes, Chicago, and Elton John — being careful to choose the best quality music available from each musician or group, and not airing those that are artistically inferior, unaesthetic, or in poor taste.

Loneliness

I have written on various occasions for information about the Sabbath. The literature I received was excellent, as far as it went. I find that you direct most of your attention to the problems of adults, and rightly so. But I would appreciate very much more articles that deal with the problems of young people and, specifically, advice on how to deal with the problems a teen faces in trying to be a Christian.

I would like very much to become a Christian, and it is not the "crowd-bucking" that I mind. It is the loneliness I feel overwhelmed, and although I know I must overcome these obstacles, there is simply no one I can turn to for help, no one with which to share the Sabbath. It is very lonely. Please help.

• If you are interested in talking to a minister of the Worldwide Church of God, please write to the address of our office nearest you. □

SPARE THE

by Brian Knowles

"Spare the rod and spoil the child," says the old axiom. Is spanking — corporal punishment — the most important aspect of effective child rearing? In an age when child beating is at an unhealthy high, perhaps it would be better to spare the child!

Dr. Rowine Hayet Brown, medical director of Cook County Chicago Hospital, recently estimated that some 500,000 children are "severely injured each year [in the United States] as a result of beatings." She said that the death rate for children admitted to hospitals after whippings is 10 percent and that the majority of deaths are due to skull fractures, burns, concussions and injuries to internal organs (Los Angeles Times, December 5, 1975).

Child beating is by no means limited to the United States. It is an alarming social problem in many nations around the world.

To a certain extent it is a symptom of the times in which we live. The frustration of home-bound, unemployed husbands has played a role in the incidences of child beatings in the United States. Soar-

ing inflation in most Western nations, strikes, political unrest and other factors have produced unprecedented stresses on family units.

Knowledge Needed. But the real problem is far more widespread. It is a simple lack of knowledge.

How many parents, in any nation, have ever received any formal training in child rearing? How many have received one iota of legitimate instruction in this important area of life? How many have taken it upon themselves to look into what has been learned about proper child rearing or about child psychology?

Many parents don't really understand their own children. They have no clear grasp of their children's emotional and intellectual needs. To millions of uninformed parents the primary goal of child rearing is control. If they can only "get the kid to shut up" they feel they have achieved something.

For so many unfortunate children, life is an endless series of "don'ts," "no's," "can'ts," "stop!" "don't do that," "be quiet," "sit still," "no, you can't go there," etc., etc. It's all *negative*.

Merely seeking to control a child's activities, noise level and attitudes is a short-sighted approach to child rearing. Enlightened parents operate on the basis of *long-range* goals. They seek to produce an *end product*. They seek to produce a child who can become a responsible, fulfilled, balanced, informed, contributing citizen — a full-fledged, *valuable* member of his society.

I do not mean to imply that there are not legitimate short-range goals

involving the physical and emotional control of a child. These objectives are also necessary and have their rightful place in any serious child-rearing program.

But they are not the *ultimate* goals.

No Perfect Parents. No one is a perfect parent! No parent has perfect children. Such children are an ideal goal — but it is unlikely that any method or approach to child rearing can ever produce ideal children. Children are people too, and they make mistakes. They have physical flaws, character flaws and certainly spiritual flaws. So do their parents. It has often been stated, "Parents are just grown-up children."

This does not mean that parents cannot produce *better* children. A happy, well-adjusted child is a product — an end result. There are cause-and-effect factors at work in the life of every human being. We are all the end result of our parents' child-rearing methods (or lack of them), our environments, our backgrounds. Much of modern psychology is based upon the principle of tracing adult problems back to their childhood origins.

The Bible tells us: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). It is an accepted axiom that the first six years of any child's life are the most im-

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pressionable. Those of us who are "grown up" carry at least some scars from our childhood years. Habits were started, attitudes were formed, patterns were set.

The rearing of children is one of the greatest responsibilities any human being can ever have. Those of us who are parents are presiding over the formation of the next generation of mankind. That generation will be an outgrowth, a product, of this one. Will that generation be of lesser quality, inferior stature? Or will it be a better age — an age of accomplishment and human emancipation? The way you rear your children can have an important bearing on the answers!

Much can be said about proper child-rearing methods. Much has been written and published. This article will not attempt to "cover the waterfront" on the subject, but will discuss *four vital basics* for successful child rearing. (Further complementary information is contained in our free, full-color booklet *The Plain Truth About Child Rearing*.)

Key Number One: Love and Affection. Children thrive in an atmosphere of love and affection. They shrivel up in an atmosphere of anger and tension. Loving parents produce loving children! A father who is an overbearing tyrant cannot expect affectionate sons and daughters. Solomon wrote, "He that is often reproved hardens his neck" (Prov. 29:1). He also said, "A broken spirit dries the bones" (Prov. 17:22). A child cannot bear to be crushed, thwarted and demoralized by his parents indefinitely! Paul wrote: "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged" (Col. 3:21).

Sooner or later a victimized child will turn bitter. He will become angry, resentful and vindictive. The apostle Paul also warned fathers of this consequence: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

There is a time to correct, to rebuke. There is a time for righteous parental anger. But such occasions should be the exception rather than the rule! Parents should not be on a yelling, shouting, storming rampage. Such wild, uncontrolled paren-

tal emotionalism will only produce a negative result.

The Godly Parent. Some parents are very consistent — they are always angry!

But a godly parent is loving, patient, kind and affectionate toward his or her children. God's way is the way of love. We are told: "Love is patient and kind... not irritable or resentful" (1 Cor. 13:4, 5). Love is not cranky and snappy or always insisting on its own way. Love is easy to be entreated (James 3:17, KJV). It is open to reason. Loving parents occasionally give way to their children's wishes and needs when it is appropriate.

This does *not* mean, of course, that loving parents should give their children totally free rein! We are not advocating *anarchy* in the home. There should be rules. There should be control. But all such rules and their enforcement should work for the common good of the family unit.

Why Parental Authority? Parents should not wield authority simply for the sake of wielding authority. All authority is granted by God for good. It should not be used like a club merely to enforce the will of the parent. Rather, godly authority is exercised in love and in compassion for the good and benefit of all.

It is easily possible to be *balanced* and loving in the use of parental authority. A child should strongly sense his parents' unfeigned affection. Ideally, he should never have to ask, "Do you really love me Mommy?" He should *know* it! This assurance should be periodically reinforced. Every child should be reminded constantly of his favored status with his parents. He must *know* that he (or she) is accepted, wanted, loved and needed.

The Importance of Touching. One of the most important manifestations of parental love is *touching*. Hugging, cuddling, affectionate bumping or tapping are all signs of a bond that should exist between parent and child. Don't allow yourself to become distant or aloof from your children. Always be willing to give them a reassuring pat or hug from time to time.

Solomon wrote, "There is a time to embrace..." (Eccl. 3:5). Be sure you don't miss out on those important times of intimate physical contact with your children.

Results of Love. An important side benefit of creating the right emotional climate in the home may be observed in a child's I.Q. (intelligence quotient) level. Author Joan Beck writes: "Many long-term research projects show that your youngster's intelligence will develop to a higher degree if the attitude in your home toward him is warm and democratic, rather than cold and authoritarian. In one study, for example, the I.Q. of small children living in homes where parents were neglectful or hostile or restrictive actually *decreased* slightly over a three-year period. But in homes where parents were warm and loving, where they took time to explain their actions, let children participate in decisions, tried to answer questions, and were concerned about excellence of performance, there was an average increase in I.Q. of about 8 points" (*How To Raise a Brighter Child*, p. 47, emphasis mine throughout).

The author then went on to point out that she is *not* advocating a completely wild, permissive home environment. What she does mean is that "you should love your child wholeheartedly and enthusiastically, and be sure that he knows it" (*ibid.*).

To summarize, higher intelligence in children is but one of the many possible products of a loving, affectionate home environment. The constant demonstration of parental love for children is undoubtedly one of the greatest keys to successful, productive child rearing!

Key Number Two: Set the Right Example. We've all heard the expression, "Monkey see, monkey do." It's also true of children. Children are often carbon copies of their parents. Bad-tempered, irritable parents produce bad-tempered, irritable children. Sullen, sulky parents often produce children of a similar disposition.

How many fathers have been strutting along the hallway in their homes in some ridiculous carica-

CONTROLLING YOUTHFUL ENERGY

"The glory of young men," says the Bible, "is their strength..." (Prov. 20:29). One of the greatest problems in any society is the harnessing of the energy and vitality of its youth. It is also one of the greatest difficulties of parenthood!

"Johnny! Please sit still! Stop jerking and jiggling!" shouts the exasperated mother of a ten-year-old. "What's the matter — have you got ants in your pants?" she fumes. "Can't you ever be still and quiet?"

Parents have been saying things like that for centuries.

Virtually all "normal" children are bundles of pent-up, explosive energy. And that energy must be released! When it is bottled up suppressed and thwarted, it builds up incredible pressures in young children. The longer energy is suppressed the more frustrated the child becomes.

Just as an experiment, try this sometime. You are driving along the freeway or the motorway. It's an extended trip of several hours. There are few stops except for gasoline or "rest" stops. As you drive, study the expression on the faces of your children in the rearview mirror as they sit, squirm, struggle, wrestle, tussle, tug and pull away at each other in the back seat of the automobile. The longer they have to sit there, the worse their attitudes will become. Sometimes they will fall asleep in sheer frustration. They may keep saying, "When are we going to get there, daddy?" "How much longer?" "I have to go to the bathroom." (He just went 15 minutes earlier!)

The longer this agitation con-

tinues, the more irritable the parents become. After all, they would like a nice, quiet, relaxing trip!

Before long an explosion takes place.

"Will you kids SHADDAP!!! Just sit still and be quiet! We'll get there when we get there and I don't want to hear anymore about it!"

Sulk. Pout. Fume. Resent.

The atmosphere in the car has degenerated considerably since the trip began.

Why?

Simply because the parents did not understand, nor know how to cope with, the factor of their children's energy! It's a law of nature — energy must be released. It must be burnt up, utilized.

Yet children often lack the wisdom to know how to *rightly* utilize their own vast energy reserves. We are told that "a child left to himself brings shame to his mother" (Prov. 29:15). Children, left to their own devices, often use their energy in a *destructive* manner.

This is one of the principal reasons why children cooped up and left alone in a big-city environment often resort to acts of violence and vandalism. Children cut loose from the warm and creative environment of a close and loving family unit frequently become youthful vagrants prowling the streets and alleys of cities looking for destructive outlets for those pent-up energies. Such neglect on the part of parents is one of the key factors involved in the formation of adolescent street gangs.

The conclusion is obvious. Re-

sponsible parents must provide their children with constructive, enjoyable outlets for that vast reservoir of dynamic, vibrant energy.

A child should never be cut totally adrift from his family unit. He should be able to find expression *within* it. He should never be left *exclusively* to his or her own devices during those critical formative years. (This is *not* to say a child should not be taught independence, self-reliance and responsibility.) Parents must strive to understand their child's need for constant activity and provide ways for the release of that energy.

Family outings, sports activities, hikes, camp-outs, musical endeavors, building projects, wrestling matches with Dad, walks and runs, jogging as a family, exercising together, etc., are all invaluable and constructive outlets which can be shared by all of the family.

Children should be taught and encouraged to "Think Family." Ideally, the family environment should be the *most* enjoyable place for a child to be. It should be the most interesting, the most satisfying.

A child who cannot find satisfaction and activity within his own family unit will seek it elsewhere. Responsible, perceptive parents will recognize this need and seriously strive to provide the right kind of exciting, interest-filled environment for their children.

Granted, it takes time and planning to be a responsible parent. But isn't it worth it? Will you do your part in helping to control the youthful "energy crisis"?

ture of a walk only to turn around and find a small son following them and imitating every move? And what about little girls who like to experiment with Mommy's makeup kit? There is something appealing about a three-year-old lathering up his face with his father's shaving cream. And we've all seen young ladies "bawling" out their dolls in mock imitation of Mommy.

Monkey see, monkey do!

Right parental example is certainly a critical factor in right child rearing. What a child sees he will imitate, whether it be the example of his parents, his brothers and sisters, or his peer group. Children are chronic mimics. A child's personality often mirrors that of his parents. His mannerisms, habits, vocabulary and opinions will often reflect those of his parents — for better or for worse!

Parents who are bigots will produce children who use racist terms. Millions of little children grow up using such terminology never even realizing what it means to those on the receiving end. By the time they are old enough to comprehend these derogatory slang terms the die is cast and attitudes are firmly entrenched.

If foul, filthy language is used in the home, parents cannot expect their children to avoid such language.

Children and teenagers who smoke "pot" or take drugs will often point to their parent's own addiction: alcohol, tobacco, or prescription drugs (not that drinking *per se* is biblically forbidden — only drunkenness is condemned). Adulterous parents can expect to have promiscuous children.

Parental Hypocrisy. Nothing renders a parent's efforts in child rearing more ineffective than simple parental hypocrisy. Children cannot be expected to adopt standards to which their parents are unwilling to adhere.

Speaking to the Jewish element in the congregation at Rome, the apostle Paul wrote: "... If you are sure that you are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of children... you then who teach others, will you not

teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?" (Rom. 2:19-22.) This admonition can be applied generally to parents of children as well as to anyone!

Key Number Three: Teach Your Children. Joan Beck writes: "Within a warm and understanding home, you should see yourself not only as a parent, but as your child's first, best, and most successful teacher" (*op. cit.*, p. 49).

Often the most effective parental teaching is informal. Capitalize on situations that arise. Take advantage of the questions that emerge as a natural result of your child's innate curiosity. This is a principle of teaching which is found in the Bible.

Speaking of those laws which were contained within the configuration of the Old Covenant, Moses wrote: "And you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." (Deut. 6:7) Here, the parent is instructed to capitalize on various situations to teach his children. These are obviously spontaneous, informal instruction sessions. A conversation can develop with your child while you are simply walking "by the way." This can lead to questions, explanations and instruction. A later verse in this same chapter shows that parents should take advantage of their child's spontaneous questions to provide instruction: "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the ordinances which the Lord our God has commanded you?' then you shall say to your son..." (Deut. 6:20, 21). The explanation then follows.

This type of spontaneous, informal, give-and-take teaching session is often much more effective with children than the formal, stilted "lecture session." Children just naturally tend to resent being "lectured." They will often close their minds to parental input in such sessions and daydream about more pleasant things! (This does not

mean that there is not an appropriate time for a formal session of instruction in which the child is obliged to pay attention. But this is not the most effective, nor should it be the most common, method of instruction.)

Stimulate Thought. In addition to capitalizing on your child's natural curiosity and need for explanations, it is also important to encourage the child to think for himself. Wake up his mind! Stimulate those developing thought processes.

"The actual work of the teacher consists of the awakening and setting in action of the mind of the pupil, the arousing of his self-activities. All explanation and exposition are useless except as they serve to excite and direct the pupil in his own thinking. If the pupil himself does not think, there are no results of the teaching; the words of the teacher [i.e., the parent] are falling upon deaf ears. Make your pupil a discoverer of truth — make him find out for himself" (John Milton Gregory, *Seven Laws of Teaching*, pp. 84, 85).

Knowledge should not be "shoveled" into the mind of a child by parental "pressure tactics." The acquisition of knowledge should be one of the paramount experiences of any child's life. It should be an ongoing, thrilling, exhilarating process. Each parent should strive to give his children a sense of discovery. Guide, nudge, and direct their thought processes in the right direction — but let them draw their own conclusions! Do not try to "brainwash" or "force-feed" your child's mind. It's far too precious for that kind of abuse!

The mind of a child is pliable, impressionable. It is receptive to almost any input from any source. In a way, a human mind is like a computer — garbage in, garbage out! It is most important that children be provided with a suitable learning environment. They should be given experiences which teach. The unknown is best explained by the known. Exploit the child's own frame of reference, build on the knowledge he already possesses.

One of the great rewards of life is for a parent to observe and monitor the development of his own child's

mind. It is indeed a thrill to watch and be a part of the growth process of a small human being created in the very image of the Creator!

The Fourth Key: Discipline Your Children. Parental discipline is most often associated with spanking (corporal punishment). And the Bible does teach the principle of "spare the rod and spoil the child" (see Prov. 13:24). God Himself corrects and chastens every son He loves (Heb. 12:6). We are told by Solomon that the foolishness of a child will be driven from him by the rod of correction (stick or switch) (Prov. 22:15).

But spanking should be a *last resort*. Physical punishment should not be the *main* feature of a child-rearing program! Yet, many parents have emphasized this form of discipline at the expense of the first three listed essential keys. To some unfortunate children, corporal punishment has become a way of life!

"Sons," wrote the Psalmist, "are a gift from the Lord and children a reward from him" (Ps. 127:3, *The New English Bible*). Parents should love, teach and protect their precious heritage. They should be concerned for their physical welfare as well as for their mental and spiritual development. *No parent should ever "beat" his children!* A child should *never* be struck on the head or in any of the vital organs of the body. The place to spank is on the buttocks.

But even this form of discipline can be abused and often has been! Some parents have seen spanking as a means of revenge or of "breaking" their child's will. They have continued to spank until they have drawn blood. This, too, is an abuse. It is *not necessary* to make "hamburger" of your child's rear end to achieve the goals of proper discipline. Discipline is a means of curbing undesirable behavior. It is a form of punishment — *never revenge!* It is merely a method of effecting a "course correction" in the child's development.

Not a War! Unfortunately, many parents think in strictly vindictive terms or of "winning" over their child. Spanking or other forms of discipline become nothing more than a battle of wills.

"Most parents see the whole problem of discipline in child rearing as a question of being either strict or lenient, tough or soft, authoritarian or permissive. Because they are locked into this either-or approach to discipline, they see their relationship with their children as a power struggle, a contest of wills, a fight to see who wins — a war" (Dr. Thomas Gordon, *Parent Effectiveness Training*, p. 151).

Parents should not be at war with their children! This whole approach to child rearing is absurd and immature. It is a simple-minded approach to a complex and profound human relationship.

Assuredly there are times when a parent's will must prevail over that of his child. But there are more intelligent ways to bring this about than simply *beating* a child into submission!

Discipline can take *many* forms. Spanking is merely one of them — and possibly the least desirable, depending upon the circumstances. In some instances, controlled corporal punishment can be very useful in dealing with toddlers — especially during that time when they are difficult to reason with. But Dr. James Dobson writes, "*It is not necessary to beat the child into submission; a little bit of pain goes a long way for a young child.*" (*Dare to Discipline*, p. 35). There are other, more effective methods of punishment.

Other Forms of Discipline. One of the most effective forms of punishment, especially for older children, is the *withholding of privileges*. Banning use of the television for a certain period, for example, or withdrawing permission to play with a friend, to go to a movie, to use the family automobile, to go to a dance, etc., can be effective.

Dr. Dobson has this to say about the disciplining of teenage children:

"Teenagers desperately want to be thought of as adults, and they deeply resent being treated like children. Spanking is the ultimate insult. Punishment for adolescents should involve lost privileges, financial deprivation and related forms of non-physical retribution" (*ibid.*, p. 61).

Often, making a child of any age realize the consequences of his

wrong action or attitude is a very effective form of punishment in itself. Think of the internal agony an adult hit-and-run driver must go through when he is finally confronted with the *results* of his care-less action! A child too is sensitive to consequences of his actions. Suppose, for example, a young child throws a rock and injures his little sister or brother. The parent may then give the offending child the opportunity to "care for" the wounds of his brother or sister. Make him sit beside the injured child and hold a cold cloth against the wound. Or have him administer the band-aid. Let him "suffer" (see 1 Corinthians 12:26) *with* the injured child a little and he will soon feel remorseful over what he has done!

Children must be made to realize that wrong actions *hurt* other people. Undesirable conduct is such because it hurts everyone involved — including those who perpetrate it.

Explain Yourself. Parents should always seek to *explain* their punishment to the child who is receiving it. He must be made to realize *why* he is being punished. He should understand the *justice* of that punishment. Parental punishment should always fit the "crime." Don't overpunish for a minor infraction. Don't underpunish for a major one. And remember, punishment should never be "revenge"! Vindictive parents are ineffective ones.

Poor child rearing produces mal-adjusted, unfulfilled, inferior children. Proper child rearing bears the good fruit of bright, responsive, well-adjusted, happy children.

And proper child rearing is built upon the bedrock of these four critical principles: love and open affection; right parental example; intelligent, balanced teaching; and effective, appropriate discipline. □

RECOMMENDED READING

Joan Beck, *How To Raise a Brighter Child*, Trident, 1967.

John Milton Gregory, *Seven Laws of Teaching*, Baker Book House, 1971.

Dr. Thomas Gordon, *Parent Effectiveness Training*, Wyden, 1975.

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The Good News

P.O. Box 111

Pasadena, California 91123

Printed in U.S.A.



DRUGS: the good, the bad, and the deadly



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