

AUGUST 1981

the

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



The Drug Connection
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ABOUT OUR COVER

REAPING IN ASIA'S GOLDEN TRIANGLE. In her native hill-tribe garb, a woman gathers in her only major cash crop. The thick fluid extruded from gashes cut into the green seed pods of the opium poppy will be transported via connections to factories in the developed world. Potent derivatives will then be fed clandestinely into the drug market worldwide for redistribution into the streets.

Cover photo by John Launios—Black Star

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Personal from...

Harold A. Armstrong

Keep Your Eyes on the Goal

I have written of the *Seven Laws of SUCCESS*. They are really the seven laws of LIFE. Most people do not know, or practice, or apply a single one of them.

The first is to have the RIGHT GOAL. That goal involves realizing the PURPOSE of your life—the reason why God had you to be born—the reason you draw breath and exist—and it involves realizing HOW to live this temporary existence so as to arrive at that goal.

That GOAL—God's PURPOSE for having put the breath of life in you—is that you be born of GOD, to share with Him the GLORY of creation, to inherit His divine NATURE, to be LIKE HIM—to do what He does, to accomplish what He accomplishes, enjoy what He ENJOYS—peace, happiness, joy, resplendent glory in LIFE EVERLASTING.

No other goal could be as great. It is superlative.

But consider: What are you, now? Just a mass of matter, put together like a machine. Your present existence has to be constantly SUSTAINED. You have to keep drawing a breath of air into your lungs about every four or five seconds. You have to eat food on the average of three times a day. You have to take care of eliminating the impurities from food, and of bathing and cleansing your body. You have to maintain and sustain your physical anatomy to keep on existing—and even then you are ageing and degenerating every day and every year—and the most certain thing in this existence we call "life" is that this machine process is going to run down—YOU ARE GOING TO DIE.

Yet most people keep on, day after day, year after year, pumping that existence into themselves, with NO MORE PURPOSE than to try to be comfortable, free from pain and to be pleasing the five senses—with their minds on the passing physical and material things of the moment—things that are not lasting, and are soon gone.

Unless God's own CHARACTER is being formed and developed in your mind and your life, replacing the human nature that is there now, you shall have, missed your GOAL. God's PURPOSE is to CREATE within human beings, during this experience we call physical life, a new and perfect CHARACTER, so that you and others may be given eternal life—self-containing, inherent life.

That character is developed through instruction from the Creator Himself. What kind of instruction? Instruction in the true knowledge—knowledge of God's PURPOSE for you—knowledge of and about GOD—and knowledge of HOW TO LIVE. Jesus Christ said you must actually LIVE BY the words of the Bible. It is your GUIDE TO LIVING—your INSTRUCTION BOOK the Maker sent along to instruct you HOW to OPERATE this mechanism that is YOU.

More, you must study His Word—your BIBLE—to find what is wrong in what you now believe, and what you are now DOING that is wrong—to be CORRECTED and reproved by it. You must study it to let it INSTRUCT you in the ways of God's RIGHTEOUSNESS—His WAY OF LIFE. And then you must devote yourself to LIVING IT!

This kind of Christian life—the only kind that truly is Christian—requires, as the Bible emphasizes repeatedly, zealous DILIGENCE. You must CONCENTRATE on it. You must be DEDICATED to it. It requires utter CONSECRATION. It requires total EARNESTNESS.

It requires, in addition, the application of the other six laws of SUCCESS—education, in which the Bible is the main textbook; good physical health; DRIVE, or concentrated DILIGENCE and EFFORT; resourcefulness; sticking to it—enduring; and continual contact with, and the guidance, help, and power of GOD.

Remember what a GLORIOUS GOAL we have before us! Make it your supreme overall life VOCATION, and WORK HARD AT IT! □

CHILE Up From Chaos!

by Gene H. Hogberg

This is the astounding story of one nation's renewal—a bright spot in a world of increasing turmoil. In it are vital lessons of government that you need to know.

THE STATISTICS are indeed impressive for a developing country:

A booming economy averaging 8 percent growth a year for three straight years; inflation—once more than 700 percent a year—down to 30 percent and headed lower; a balanced national budget plus an annual surplus in the balance of payments.

In today's tumultuous world, the foregoing economic recipe almost sounds too good to be true. But the fact is that Chile—that oddly shaped string bean of a country that stretches for 2,654 miles along the west coast of South America—is undergoing one of the most dramatic economic transformations in history.

A U.S. State Department official admits that today's Chile represents "a case book study in sound economic management."

Economics, however, is only part of this Cinderella story. Chile's success is made possible because its citizens today, unlike eight years ago, are largely at peace with each other. The reason for this is firm, if not always appreciated, leadership.

Distorted Picture Prevails

Perhaps nowhere else in the world is there a greater contrast between a country's image especially as presented in the world's press and on-the-spot reality.

Because of its military government and temporary suspension of democratic rule, Chile is often pictured as having a repressive fascist-style government in which individual liberties are ruthlessly crushed. Nothing could be further from the truth. Any open-minded visitor to Chile, searching almost in vain for soldiers and tanks, quickly attests that the country is no intimidating police state—except perhaps to an infinitesimal number of would-be troublemakers.

The fact is, few people have taken the effort to understand the bitter trials the people of Chile have experienced in recent times. Fewer people yet appreciate the enormous effort underway in the country to mold new ways of thinking so the citizens will not fall prey again to the political demagoguery of the past.

At the core of Chile's revival is an experiment calculated to make present and future generations think *first* of what is best for the nation as a whole, instead of their narrow self-interests.

The Marxist Gamble

Chile had long enjoyed comparative democratic calm in a continent ripped by revolutions, repressive dictatorships and persistent political violence. But less than a decade ago, the slender republic was nearly destroyed by internal division, abetted by foreign subversion.

In the country's presidential elections of 1970, a Marxist, Salvador Allende Gossens, emerged victorious in a three-way race. Allende, who won barely 36 percent of the vote, championed a leftist Popular Unity coalition spearheaded by the Socialist and Communist parties.

Even though he lacked a clear mandate to do so, Allende launched a highly unpopular program of rapid and intensified nationalization of industry and agriculture.

Basic elements of Allende's policy, however, had already been set in motion in preceding gov-

CHILEAN VIGNETTES - Clockwise from upper left: Copper mine at Chuquibambilla, industry and agriculture existing side by side, Chile's President Augusto Pinochet at an outdoor market, a crowded shopping mall in downtown Santiago, the capital, a huaso (cowboy) at rest in Chile's Patagonia region, the harbor at Valparaiso, largest port on west coast of South America; a dock worker in Puerto Montt.

Clockwise from upper left: Bruno Bertel - Magnum; Raymond Depardon - Liaison; Vito Lozza - L'espresso; Larran - Magnum; Jonathan Wright - Liaison; Jonathan Wright - Liaison; Hans Hauberg - DT; Jonathan Wright - Liaison



ernments. Chile's leaders today stress that it was *political mismanagement for more than three decades before 1970* that was responsible for bringing Chile to the sad state of affairs whereby a Marxist could even be elected as a minority president.

This was particularly the case during the Christian Democratic administration of Eduardo Frei that ruled from 1964 to 1970. Frei's radical reform policies not only angered traditional business interests, but, as importantly, alienated much of Chile's formidable middle class, which had grown greatly in number during the 20th century.

It was the middle class, not the rich, of which there are few in Chile, which had borne the brunt of the economic reforms that had never worked. As a result, the nation's economy remained stagnant for 40 years.

Instead of reversing past policies, Allende instead took them to new extremes, with disastrous consequences. Allende's regime, in effect, proved to be the proverbial straw that broke Chile's back.

Chaos and "Kitchen Revolts"

Through the 1,000 turbulent days along the rocky path of Allende's "road to socialism," Chilean society became increasingly polarized between the government's supporters and its vehement opponents—clearly the majority of Chile's then 10 million people.

By the summer of 1973, Chile's economy was careening toward complete collapse. Inflation was raging well over 400 percent a year. Foreign reserves—which stood at \$345 million when Allende took office—had vanished. Instead, foreign debt zoomed.

Agricultural production nose-dived as a result of continued expropriation of private farms, often at gunpoint by extremist vigilantes, whose illegal activities were condoned, if not approved, by the government.

Commerce and industry was at a standstill. Most of the 500 firms nationalized—or "intervened," to

use the Chilean expression—were running up huge losses. (Pursuing his goal of total state control and power, Allende had used legal loopholes in the law to issue decrees to take over private industry.)

The private sector, meanwhile, reduced to a mere one quarter of the economy, was hamstrung by governmental edicts. Many businesses simply shut down, rather than operate in the red.

Chile's social fabric was unraveling under the economic strain. Political assassination, sabotage, running street battles between leftists and rightists—all these were the order of the day.

Lines for rationed food supplies—which never existed before Allende's rule—grew longer as agricultural output slowed to a halt, compounded by a nationwide trucking strike. The black market flourished, but the poor couldn't afford the high prices.

The housewives of Santiago, infuriated by chronic shortages, staged periodic "kitchen revolts." A signal would begin somewhere in a neighborhood, and before long the sound of spoons banging on empty pots would fill the city from one end to the other in a Klaxon-like crescendo of protest.

Internationally, Chile was veering dangerously toward the Communist camp. The United States originally viewed Allende's experiment with guarded optimism. Washington offered considerable monetary aid in an attempt to encourage him from going too far to the left.

This offer was withdrawn when Allende expropriated some U.S.-owned copper mines without compensation, justifying his action by claiming that the owners had already taken excessive wealth out of the country. Strained ties between Washington and Santiago, in turn, increased the Allende government's reliance on the Soviet Union and Cuba.

The Last Days

By early September, 1973, Chile was virtually without food. No child had been to school for two months

because of strikes by teachers and transport workers. Armed factions in the country were only a trigger squeeze away from igniting an all-out civil war.

Perhaps most alarming of all was the rumor that the extreme left, backed by a terrorist army of 14,000 foreign nationals (including Cubans and various South American "urban" guerrillas), was preparing for a total takeover within the month. More than 200 key civilian and military figures were believed targeted for execution in the so-called Plan Z. (Huge stocks of smuggled-in weapons were subsequently uncovered—even in the two presidential residences.)

Chile's military, unlike in other countries of South America, had evolved a long tradition of non-involvement in politics and of subordination to civilian authority. The military had even responded to Allende's numerous calls to put down civil unrest.

As the summer of 1973 drew on, however, the leaders of the armed forces reluctantly reached the conclusion that the only alternative to either civil war or outright Communist rule, Cuban style, was Allende's departure.

On September 11, 1973, the commanders of the army, navy, air force and national police jointly executed Operation Cochayuyo (seaweed). Surrounding the presidential palace, La Moneda (the old mint), the units ordered President Allende to resign his office. In return he was offered safe conduct out of the country.

Allende and armed supporters in the palace chose instead to fight. The besieged president reportedly told a follower, "They will only take me out of here dead"—which happened four hours after the siege began.

Though controversy surrounds the exact nature of his death, Allende is believed to have taken his own life with a small machinegun.

Significantly, *Plain Truth* Editor in Chief Herbert W. Armstrong had been in Santiago three weeks before Allende's tragic end. Mr. Armstrong, who has

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WHY These Facts Have Been Kept from the Public!

by Thurston Leon Sexton

We disclose here how the world's drug problems really began—
and why! You will be shocked.

Chiang Mai, Thailand

LAST NOVEMBER concerned law enforcement officials from all over the world gathered in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

It was a momentous meeting. Delegates from Interpol to Thailand's Office of Narcotics Control Board were alarmed by the ominous projections that this year—1981—would see bumper harvests of opium from Southeast Asia's infamous Golden Triangle.

... and the Bumper Harvests Came

Their concern was well-founded. Favorable weather conditions and the cultivation of much larger crop areas this year have more than compensated for poor yields of the previous two years. More



HARVESTING OPIUM POPPIES—Western Asia, as well as East Asia's Golden Triangle, is major source for legal (medical) and illegal markets in derivatives of the opium poppy. Scene here is in Turkey.

than 300 tons of raw opium have already been harvested by the ethnic hill tribes who live in these rugged mountain fastlands I see out of my window as I write. That's where the colorful red and white poppies are grown.

Massive quantities of opium—and their more refined forms of morphine and heroin—are even now threading their way along

the various drug-smuggling routes, known as "connections," on their way to factories of greed in the mass population centers of the world.

International drug suppression forces are being marshaled to counter this unwanted addition to an already insurmountable worldwide problem. An official United Nations report, released in early February this year, concluded that the worldwide drug problem "has never been more serious or complex."

Drug enforcement officials, especially those of the affluent nations, are especially concerned that this year's bumper harvest will lead to a rejuvenation of dormant connections. They also fear the development of new connections that may lead to the reestablishment of the Golden Triangle as the major source of heroin for the world markets.

Before World War II, opium

products in this little-known and sparsely populated area of the world held virtually no significance to the international drug trade. But at the height of this area's opium production during the Vietnam War, the Golden Triangle region held the dubious distinction of being the world's major source of illicit opium and its deadly children, morphine and heroin.

How did this rugged mountainous area formed by the conjunction of the three countries of Thailand, Laos and Burma become a major center of illicit opium cultivation? Who is responsible?

Strangely enough, in a macabre twist of circumstances, the governments of the Western world, motivated by the selfish way of life we call the *get* way—as opposed to the way of giving—carry historical responsibility for the sordid growth of opium poppy cultivation in Asia. After you read this story you will see why the incriminating facts of history have been kept from the general public.

Britain Plants

In 1600 the British East India Co. was formed in order to expand trade contacts with the past.

In the three centuries to follow, this goal was pursued with much vigor. The stalwart merchant mariners of the East India Co. fought their way into the highly competitive markets of the Orient, followed by the armies of Britain's ever expanding colonial empire.

China, with her teeming millions, held the greatest attraction to the traders. Not only as a potential market for the products of the growing empire, but mainly as a supplier of luxury goods for the insatiable appetites of the growing mercantile empire, especially that indispensable item—tea.

But Britain faced a monumental problem in its trade relations with China. The Chinese wanted little of what the British had to offer in exchange for China's coveted products.

For the first two centuries of Britain's contact with China, the

balance of trade was always unfavorable to the British. This put a great strain on the economics of the Empire, as the only item of exchange acceptable to the Chinese was silver. In fact, nine-tenths of the cargo of every ship sailing for Canton was silver bullion.

Motivated by the spirit of *getting*, a solution had to be found to stop this flood of silver specie from the Empire's treasury into the coffers of Imperial China.

That solution was eventually found in a little-known trade product of India—opium.

The Chinese had long considered opium ingested whole as useful for medicinal purposes. Then in the 17th century, Dutch trad-



GOLDEN TRIANGLE—Hill country on border of four nations, in shaded area, has optimum climate for the cultivation of opium poppies.

ers on the island of Formosa taught them the habit of smoking the drug mixed with tobacco. The Chinese gradually omitted the tobacco and began smoking only the opium in their pipes.

In the early years of the 19th century, mainly young men of wealthy families indulged in opium smoking. But as the drug became more readily available, people from all walks of life began to acquire the habit. Mandarins, soldiers, merchants, laborers, women and even Taoist priests took up the pipe. More and more people were being seduced from productive careers in the society. Opium became an increasingly malignant cancer in an already diseased society.

Opium was cultivated in small

amounts in parts of China at this time but the Chinese population was kept supplied by Portuguese traders who brought the drug to China from Mogul India, the chief producer of opium as a cash crop for export. Opium remained a relatively unimportant trade item, even when the British took control of the coasts of India, until it became the answer to the Empire's trade problem with China.

British colonial powers in India soon organized the drug trade into a large-scale, directly administered government monopoly that actively encouraged foreign sales and fostered new markets, mainly in China.

Opium replaced silver as the currency of trade with the Chinese. The flow of silver specie into China was effectively halted and after the middle of the 19th century the flow had completely reversed direction.

The answer to Britain's balance of trade problem became the curse of China. The opium trade became so lucrative that others soon joined Britain in opening China to foreign trade. While the British controlled the production, transport and sale of Indian opium, the United States held a monopoly on the import of Turkish opium to China.

The influx of opium on such an organized scale had a devastating effect on the Chinese population.

While the British were openly pursuing the expansion of the opium trade with China, the Chinese Imperial government began an active drive to suppress it. As early as 1729, the domestic sale and consumption had been prohibited by Imperial edict. In 1800, the importation of opium was specifically banned. But the Ching dynasty of China was too weak to enforce its suppression policies.

Opium smuggling was so lucrative that corrupt officials and merchants greedily became involved in the drug traffic.

The Emperor's last attempt to seriously stop the flow of opium in, and the drain of specie out,

(Continued on page 39)

What Your GARBAGE Reveals About You!

by Keith W. Stump

A look inside your own trash can will reveal much about the way you live—and about a growing problem in Western society. Here's what you can do about it.

YOU CAN learn a great deal about a society by studying its garbage.

In fact, an entire science is devoted to that very endeavor—archaeology.

Archaeologists dig through the trash and debris of ancient civilizations. By analyzing the refuse and rubble of antiquity they gain valuable insights into past societies.

The same techniques can be employed in the study of society today.

Garbage is the product of our way of life. It is a mirror of society. It can tell us much about the way we live. And the story it tells is a shocking commentary on modern, affluent Western society!



Illustrated by Jay Smith

The Effluence of Affluence

The city dump probably has more to tell us about our modern civilization than any library or museum.

Some high school instructors have begun organizing field trips for their students to local dumping grounds. Armed with picks and shovels, the students examine for themselves the cast-off effluence of our affluent society—and the ecological consequences of it.

Even some universities are now offering classes in "garbology," the study of garbage. One professor describes garbology as "applied archaeology"—using archaeological techniques to solve a growing problem in contemporary society.

Students sort meticulously through people's trash, listing in notebooks what they find and then analyzing the data and writing reports. They operate on the premise that a person, in a sense, is what he throws away. It

is, of course, not really necessary to make an unpleasant and possibly hazardous trip to the local dump of landfill to make such inquiries. One can accomplish the same objective closer to home.

In fact, *at home!*

You can become a household archaeologist and "excavate" your own trashcans. What you discover may surprise you!

I Dig At Home

The author recently conducted an "excavation" of his own kitchen waste basket. The findings were enlightening.

A trash can is, in essence, a miniature tell. "Tell" is an archaeological term used to designate a raised mound composed of the remains of successive settlements, marking the site of an ancient town.

In early times, when a village or town was destroyed by man-made or natural causes, the rubble and debris was simply leveled off and new buildings erected on top. This procedure was repeated many times through history, creating a multileveled mound of waste and debris. Archaeologists dig down through these various levels, carefully analyzing the remains in each one.

In like manner, household garbage forms levels in the trash can. One layer of garbage is compacted down onto the layer below it. The older garbage is on the bottom; the more recent garbage is nearer the top. An excavation of your own trash can would thus yield a record of the past few days of your household history.

Into the Unknown

No one likes to think about garbage. Most of us pay little attention to our trash. We automatically toss waste and debris into the can without giving it a second thought.

To most of us, therefore, the diversity of the contents of our trash cans would probably come as a shock and a surprise.

In lieu of the final "field report" on my own household "dig," a partial list of "finds" follows here:

- 5 chicken bones
- 2 used envelopes
- 1 empty soft drink can
- shells of four eggs
- 2 wilted lettuce leaves
- orange peels
- 2 apple cores
- 1 broken drinking glass
- 1 used light bulb
- 4 used paper towels
- assorted pieces of junk mail
- 1 cardboard egg carton
- 3 plastic bags (from supermarket)
- 1 empty laundry detergent box
- 1 toothpaste box
- numerous scraps of cellophane wrapping
- 1 empty salad oil bottle
- 2 disposable paper cups
- 2 used tea bags
- 1 candy bar wrapper
- 1 soup can
- newspaper classified ads
- 1 eight-inch piece of string
- coffee grounds
- 1 used scouring pad

Your own "excavation" would probably produce similar "finds," with some variations depending on your personal life-style, buying habits and dietary inclinations.

The point of this exercise is simply to demonstrate that few of us are really aware of how we live because we are not aware of what we are throwing away.

Most of us think of garbage only when it begins to accumulate and needs to be taken out. Once the sanitation worker removes it from the premises, it is of no further concern to us. "Out of sight, out of mind," as the saying goes.

Yet sorting through your garbage can make you more aware of what you buy, what you throw away, and what you waste!

Millions of Tons

What is this thing called trash?

Household trash and garbage consists primarily of uncaten food and other organic materials (such as chicken bones and orange peels), broken items and things we no longer want, packaging (beer and soda cans, baby food jars, tin cans, boxes,

cellophane) and paper products (paper towels, paper napkins, paper plates, paper cups).

Beyond the home, trash and garbage includes industrial debris, agricultural wastes, construction remains and debris, junked machinery, automobile hulks, old tires and so on.

No society in all of history has produced as much garbage as modern Western society, and most glaringly the United States! In fact, the United States *throws away more than many other societies produce!*

In California's Los Angeles County alone, some 70 million pounds of solid waste is produced each day—some 10 pounds per person! Statistics vary widely, but it can be safely said that Americans throw away hundreds of millions of tons of garbage every year! According to EEC figures, European households throw away 90 million tons of waste every year, and the amount is growing.

Where Does It All Go?

During the Middle Ages, people simply hurled their garbage from upper-story windows into the streets, and let it wash down the gutters at the whims of the rains.

Today, in the Western world, more than 95 percent of our solid waste is disposed of in one of three ways: in open dumps, in sanitary landfills or by burning in incinerators.

The open dump has been with us for centuries. In rural areas it is still the norm. Its well-known drawbacks are legion. It is a breeding place for rats, flies and other insects and vermin. It stinks. It is an eyesore. It is a fire and health hazard. It pollutes streams and ground water.

The sanitary landfill is simply an open dump in an arroyo, canyon, pit or valley covered over by a thin layer of dirt after each day's dumping. Trash is thus sandwiched between layers of earth fill. Though landfills avoid some of the problems of open dumps, they still often pose serious water pollution problems and generate offensive odors.

Moreover, sites officially considered to be "sanitary landfills" are at times inadequately tended and become little more than dumps with a fancy name.

The majority of municipal incinerator facilities are also inadequate. Most do not have the proper air pollution control equipment. Consequently, they simply change a solid waste problem into an *air pollution* problem!

Despite laws designed to prevent it, much human and industrial waste continues to be dumped into river systems—killing fish and rendering the water unusable for drinking and irrigation.

Thus, the great bulk of our trash and garbage is disposed of on our land, in our streams and oceans and, through burning, in our atmosphere.

How Long Can It Go On?

"So what?" many might ask. "Just so it's out of my house. I don't particularly care where it goes!"

The problem is that many cities throughout the Western world are *running out of places to dump their trash*—and can't find new ones. Moreover, disposal costs are rising dramatically.

The situation is becoming *critical!*

Scientists say it is impossible for mankind to continue present rates of consumption and waste. *We are beginning to learn that nature has its limits! The delicate balance of nature is being severely upset!*

City planners, urban engineers and environmentalists are increasingly warning about the "solid waste avalanche." *We may soon, they declare, find ourselves buried alive in our own debris!*

The "garbage squeeze" is on! Yet few of us give any thought to the consequences.

For many years we have heard about smoggy skies and dirty water, but the solid waste problem has been largely overlooked. Solid waste is now being called the "forgotten third pollution."

If present trends continue, it will not be long before it will be impossible to forget it!

There are many culprits to be blamed for this shocking state of affairs. One of the worst offenders is *excessive packaging*.

The Packaging Problem

A package is defined as anything that protects, transports and identifies. This includes cans, glass and plastic bottles, boxes, cardboard cartons, crates, barrels and so on.

Discarded packaging materials account for upwards of 20 percent of municipal waste. It has been estimated that nearly 90 percent of all packaging is tossed on the trash heap!

Packaging is *big business* in the Western world! Attention-getting packages have become a major form of advertising.

Some packaging is deemed necessary for the prevention of theft as well as for advertising purposes. A half-dozen wood screws, for example, might be sold encased in plastic, which is in turn glued to a large piece of cardboard. This makes it difficult for a shoplifter to pocket the item. How far we have come since the general store days, when loose screws could be purchased from a bin, box or barrel!

Cans and bottles constitute a major form of packaging. More than 70 billion cans are thrown away each year! Cans and bottles make up well over 50 percent of the total volume of all litter.

It used to be that nearly all beer and soft drinks were sold in returnable bottles. Today, it is virtually impossible to find beverages in returnable bottles. Supermarkets don't like returnables because of storage and handling problems. Consumers don't want to be bothered by having to haul bottles back to the store. The decline of the returnable bottle has been a major factor in the garbage glut.

Solutions

The root of the problem is the "happiness through consumption" approach to life prevalent in Western society. Status and success are measured in terms of the

consumption of goods and services.

And with their consumption, consumers demand *convenience*. We want to consume with the least effort and bother.

Simply put, the problem is *attitude!*

The solution to the problem will thus involve radical *changes in attitude*.

If we are to avoid impending calamity, significant recycling of solid waste materials on a national scale must become a reality without delay. Today, virtually none of our municipal waste gets recycled. Multiple millions of tons of steel, wood and glass lie buried in our landfills and dumps. A few years ago it was estimated that California alone buries the energy equivalent of 22 million barrels of oil each year—more today!

Under harsher circumstances, materials would be salvaged straightway. In World War II, both consumers and industry *diligently* recycled. There was little choice. There were important national goals and objectives at stake, and all segments of society felt a responsibility.

Under present circumstances, however, humans will not *voluntarily* limit consumption of disposable goods or recycle those used.

In lieu of a *willing* change in attitude on the part of consumers and industry alike, it would probably be necessary for human governments to enact *laws* to promote recycling. This could include laws banning throwaway bottles and laws requiring household separation of glass, metal, food and paper trash to facilitate widescale municipal recycling.

Most authorities see no other alternative.

Recycling centers would have to be dramatically increased in number to make them more convenient. But to be more effective, recycling centers would have to be almost as frequent as local post offices. Yet many communities do not have *even one* recycling center!

Incentives to encourage research and development in meth-

ods of separating refuse and turning it back into productive use are also sorely needed, say experts. As it now stands, separating the multiple millions of tons of solid wastes and garbage into clean and reusable segments is difficult and prohibitively expensive.

Some interesting systems have already been developed for the collection and productive use of trash. One system—in use in parts of Sweden, Western Europe and the United States—involves the pipeline collection of trash. Trash is dropped into a chute and whisked away at high speed through underground vacuum tubes into a modern, pollution free incinerator plant. The heat generated is used to produce hot water and space heating for the households supplying the trash.

Other technologies for dealing with waste are on the drawing boards of in limited experimental use, including various types of crushers, pulverizers, magnetic separators and the like. But the days of efficient wide-scale collection and recycling is still in the future. At present, new technologies simply cost more than burying trash.

Your Role

Meanwhile, what is your responsibility, *now*, as a human being?

Each of us has an *individual* responsibility, regardless of what the majority might be doing. You can set an *example* to your neighbors. Declare war on waste!

Firstly, become a dedicated recycler! Begin with your daily newspaper. Newspapers and other paper products account for upwards of half of all household trash—by far the largest single component in solid waste. Newsprint collection centers are found in most cities. Save your old newspapers and drop them off periodically. If your city or town does not have such a service, write to your newspaper about it.

Buy deposit bottles whenever possible. And if you buy beverages in nonreturnable aluminum cans, *save them!* Crush them (they take up less space that way), then return them to alumi-

num recycling centers. You will be paid for them by the pound.

Start a compost heap in your backyard. Organic materials such as egg shells, meat by-products, fruit and vegetable waste and other food scraps should be returned to the soil. Check with a knowledgeable friend or get a book on composting from your library. And be sure to check with city authorities regarding any local regulations.

Don't waste food. Give more attention to the proper quantity to prepare for yourself and your family. And take some time to educate yourself about foods. People with a knowledge of food waste the least. Many homemakers, for example toss out food suspecting it is spoiled when it is not. Many families take pains to save pennies at the store on their food bills, then waste *dollars* worth of food when they get home!

Follow the adage: "Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without." Don't automatically junk old toys, clothing or furniture. Always ask, "Can someone use this?" Contribute reusable and repairable items to charitable groups.

Don't litter. Teach your children not to litter. And pick up litter when you come across it. Make this a *habit!* Leave your environment just a little neater than you found it. This means your neighborhood, your school, your place of employment—wherever you happen to be!

Refuse to buy products that are needlessly and excessively packaged and wrapped. Write letters of complaint to the manufacturers. Apply some pressure! Your opinion counts!

If you purchase a shoddy product that wears out prematurely, let the manufacturer know about it! Many products are designed with "built-in obsolescence"—from automobile tires to shoes to children's toys. Manufacturers could make a major contribution toward solving the trash problem by making things *better* so they don't wear out as quickly. Often all that is required is a better design, a better formula or differ-

ent materials—not necessarily higher-priced materials.

In summary, develop "garbage consciousness." Heightened awareness as a consumer can save you money as well as make a personal contribution to the environment.

Cleansing Ahead!

Speaking realistically, individual recycling and conservation efforts have made little difference when viewed in terms of the Big Picture. But don't use this as an excuse to follow the crowd and to pollute as much as the next person!

You must begin by harnessing *your own* human nature—a nature geared to *take* and *use*, with little thought to the detrimental effects to others. *You* will ultimately be judged by what *you yourself* do—*your* attitude and *your* way of life—not by the actions of those around you.

Unless we individually and collectively mend our ways and reorder our priorities, we are in for serious trouble in the years just ahead! We live in a *finite* world. God has set laws to keep nature in balance. We are breaking them! Consequently, more than ever before, "the whole creation groans and travails in pain" (Romans 8:22).

If we continue to squander our resources, we will soon have to face the consequences—a crisis of staggering dimensions that will plunge the world into an unbelievable environmental nightmare!

The outlook is not good. But there is still hope! The earth, its atmosphere, rivers and oceans *will* be cleansed and purified! We have a definite *promise* by the God who made the universe.

For a look beyond today's bad news at the world under God's rule, when all men and women will be forced to face reality and to discover happiness, write for our free book, *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. Find out how you can qualify now to help set the earth aright in the World Tomorrow, now just ahead! □

HOW SHOULD CHILDREN BE BORN?

by Jeff Calkins

What did God design childbirth to be like? A drugged nightmare, with a woman strapped to a table? Or a joyful, magnificent triumph typifying the very destiny of humankind?

DID YOU ever notice that the word most commonly used when speaking of childbirth is *miracle*?

Indeed the "miracle of birth" is a phrase used so often more in the past than now, though—that it has become almost a cliché.

No doubt there are people, probably quite numerous and vocal these days, who don't see anything at all miraculous about birth. For them, it is all a secular matter of biology and chemistry.

But more, spiritually inclined people tend to look at birth differently. They see in it the handiwork of God. As King David of ancient Israel wrote: "For thou hast . . . covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and won-



derfully made . . ." (Psalm 139:13-14).

For David, a child in its mother's womb was something "fearfully, and wonderfully made"—a

special part of creation revealing the awesome powers of the Creator.

Special consciousness of God available in the process of birth is no accident. Physical birth is a portrayal of spiritual salvation. The destiny of man is to be born into the *very Family of God*. It was this principle to which Christ alluded when He made His famous statement to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

These truths, simply stated, have a profound influence on the *preferred method* of childbirth. If God made childbirth to portray a deeper, spiritual message, then children ought to be born in a way as *close as possible* to the way God designed it.

Furthermore, childbirth not only reveals a spiritual truth, but

is itself a part of *God's creation!* When you have such ideas about childbirth, you gain a new perspective: if at all possible, childbirth should be a natural, family-centered event—not the science-fiction technological nightmare it can be in many hospitals.

A letter to America's famous advice columnist "Dear Abby" was informative in this regard. The new mother had been involved in a natural childbirth program at Illinois' Masonic Hospital in Chicago. The whole family was allowed to be present. She wrote, "Our children will grow up to respect the miracle of pregnancy and childbirth as a sacred gift from God, instead of something to get rid of."

The Natural Childbirth Movement

One of the few healthy social trends to come out of the 1960s and 1970s was increasing demand for natural childbirth. Natural childbirth is simply keeping interference in the birth process to a minimum. Ideally, no spinal blocks, no leg straps, no drugs or anesthetics are required.

Preferably, it does not happen in a hospital, but in the mother's own home or an "alternative" birth clinic (though there are a few hospitals, here and there, which *do* support natural childbirth). Fathers actually participate in the birth, instead of being shunted to the proverbial hospital



room to while away the time in nervous pacing.

Of course, natural, or "alternative" birth (as its supporters call it) does carry a degree of risk should complication occur. Probably the worst danger is the mother's post-birth bleeding. Other dangers involve the umbilical cord—if it slips out of the mother before it should, or if it gets wrapped around the baby's neck or under an arm. In such cases, having hospital facilities nearby becomes important.

Alternative birth advocates point out, however, that around 90 percent of all pregnancies do not experience such complica-



tions. Moreover, some home birth specialists, such as Phoenix, Arizona's, "Baby Buggy" unit, are equipping large vans and motor homes with much of the equipment hospitals provide, allowing a lower risk home birth.

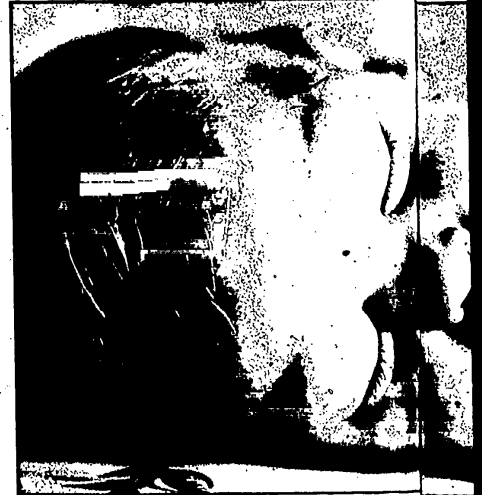
Consumer Demand

Part of the increased demand for alternative birth stems from the growth of feminism and the desire of many women to reclaim control over their own pregnancies from a mostly male medical "establishment." Another part of the demand came from a growing preference on the part of society as a whole for "natural" things. And part of it, one would hope, also stemmed from people who realized the *religious implications* of childbirth.

However, the most *immediate* reason for the demand for natural childbirth is its superiority, *at least for normal pregnancies*, over standard hospital deliveries.

For one thing, it is very com-

mon to speak of the United States' "scandalously" high infant mortality rates. By contrast other countries, such as Sweden, Britain and Holland, which make



greater use of midwives and generally use less drugs in pregnancies, have much better rates.

Observes one German obstetrician, "The Dutch, with the highest proportion of home births in

The PLAIN TRUTH



Western Europe, have one of the lowest infant mortality rates. That must teach us something." Studies inside the United States also show the desirability of alternative birth. *Medical World News* (of all places!) in its April 19, 1976, issue, reported a study done for the California State Department of Health by Dr. Lewis E. Mehl. He found, after a study of 1,146 women who delivered, or attempted to deliver, at home, that home birth resulted in lower death rates than the California average.

Fonya Brooks, president of the Association for Childbirth at Home, International (ACHI), has recently completed a research project indicating the statistical superiority of home births from studies done as early as



Photography with love—Jackie Knapp

been confirmed by a 1980 report published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Women who had a companion had fewer complications and shorter labors.

As one of the researchers said, in a statement carried over the Associated Press wire service: "Certainly a rule is that no mother should ever labor and deliver without a companion. That's awfully clear."

The study also showed that women who had companions with them were more affectionate toward their newborn babies. To paraphrase the prophet Malachi, the presence of other family members "turns the heart of parents towards their children." (Compare Malachi 4:6, "And he [Elijah] shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children...") And no doubt, as anyone with any common sense can figure out, the presence of fathers in delivery rooms will also create a greater bond of affection between fathers and their wives and children.

A related aspect of natural childbirth is that the mother can immediately hold her newborn baby. As any number of mothers can tell you, there is simply no more rewarding moment in a mother's life than being able to hold and breast-feed her child immediately after what is, understatedly, called "labor." The New Testament, interestingly enough, says much the same thing:

"A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man

BORN IN PEACE—A photo essay of birth the way it was meant to be. Photographer Jackie Knapp relives her birth and next seven months of her grandson, Justin, born in a birth center. Father and Mother, in robe, with Justin (not yet visible to the eye), walk through hospital corridor to birth-center with private bedrooms. Mural of ocean divides hospital proper from very home-like birth center. Top, joy to the world! Here is your son, Mother (Grandmother keeps wiping tears in order to focus through camera). Left center, Dad gives his son first bath. Justin, at home, about 12 hours old, lower left, looks into Mother's face. Left, when 24 hours old, Justin peers over blanket. Nursing at five months, right center. At seven months, left above, nursing in Mother's gentle embrace. Center, Justin sleeps in peace.

1895. The paper will be available to the public in September 1981 from ACHI headquarters, Box 39498, Los Angeles, CA 90039.

A Family Event

One would hope that childbirth would be an event that would bring a family closer together—not apart. One of the hallmarks of natural childbirth is the presence of the father, and often, of other relatives as well.

In the standard hospital delivery, the father and rest of the family are purposely excluded from the delivery. Yet the wisdom of allowing a woman in labor the presence of a close companion—preferably the father—has



is born into the world" (John 16:21).

The long-established standard hospital practice of taking away a newborn baby from its mother just after birth is, under normal conditions, nothing less than barbaric.

Moreover, a famous study made by Drs. Marshall Klaus and John H. Kennel of Case Western Reserve University shows much the same thing. The two doctors compared children who had only brief contact with their mother just after the moment of birth with those who had spent much more time. They discovered that the children who had spent more time with their mothers gained more weight, had fewer infections, and after five years, had higher IQs. Significantly, the study also confirmed Christ's observation: mothers with longer contact felt more rewarded for their labor.

But expectant parents have also turned to natural childbirth as much because of a revulsion with standard hospital practices as because of the joys associated with alternative childbirth.

There are a number of dangers in the standardized hospital delivery. Besides hospital-involved infections and the risk of crippling the baby for life through the use of forceps, there is the heavy injection of chemicals into the mother's body at a time when her baby still has a direct line to the mother's bloodstream. As one California obstetrician, Hai Abdul of Azusa, remarks, "I believe that natural childbirth is safe because you are not taking the chance of crippling someone with spinal anesthetics."

A registered nurse, in a letter to the editor in the *Los Angeles Times* defending an alternative birth physician against negligence charges, declares: "I am very familiar with standard hospital obstetrical practices and I feel that many are unnecessary, traumatic and even unsafe. For this reason my husband and I made the decision to deliver at home..."

Alternative birth advocates can be quite eloquent in their condemnation of certain standard

hospital practices. Parents' rights advocate Suzanne Arms recalls her own experience with standardized, hospital birth as a virtual nightmare: she and her baby were subjected to narcotics, anesthetics, labor-inducing drugs, forceps; she says she still feels the "pain and guilt of not having protected my daughter" from the doctors' overeager intervention in what should have been a joyous, natural event.

An article in *The Wall Street Journal*, February 15, 1979, also notes the consumer dissatisfaction with standardized hospital practices: "Parents also are rebelling against regimented and impersonal hospital routines. They dislike the sterile steel instruments, harsh lighting, uncomfortable stirrups and tables, shavings, anesthesia and the usual separation of mother and child after birth." And Dr. Richard H. McDonald, former president of the Orange County (California) Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, makes a startling admission in an article he wrote for the *Los Angeles Times* in 1977: "Indeed, it is hard to refute critics' charges that hospitals have gradually become a 'doctor's domain,' where nurses seem to cater more to physicians than to parents-to-be." Dr. McDonald also admitted the money cost of hospital is "frightful," and, with "the introduction of new, more sophisticated equipment," likely to increase.

As one younger mother told United Press International of her hospital birth: "With my first baby I felt like nobody cared. I was supposed to do as I was told and not make a fuss about anything. I couldn't ask why. Rules were rules. I didn't have any identity... I was in that labor room all alone with someone coming in to check once in a while. My husband was waiting downstairs. I was terrified."

In a standardized hospital birth the physician often employs any number of "procedures," which may not be free of damage to either the mother or child: drugs to hasten or slow delivery (often done, consumer groups charge, for doctors' convenience), cesar-

ean section operations, forceps delivery (oh, wonderful!) and routine cutting of the mother's vaginal area.

Doctor Convenience

The convenience of physicians often dictates certain impositions on the mother in the standardized hospital birth. Midwives will tell you that there are certain doctors whose babies arrive on certain days of the week (regardless of a baby's schedule!).

This problem was recently highlighted in a court case involving the Dortmund Women's Clinic in West Germany. The case brought out that more than half of all the births in the clinic were artificially induced: there were few if any births on Saturdays, Sundays, nights or Wednesday afternoon (which the doctors had off!). (Reuters, May 4, 1981.)

Labor-inducing drugs, oxytocin primarily, can cause usually strong and frequent contractions, which doctors acknowledge can deprive the baby of oxygen—causing brain damage. The best you can say about the inducement of labor, however risky, is that at least it is less barbaric than the practice in standardized hospitals in the 1950s, where babies would be artificially held back from birth because the doctor was not yet on hand!

The Disease Theory of Pregnancy

Another of the reasons why expectant parents turned to natural childbirth in the 1970s was a revulsion towards the "illness-oriented" atmosphere of most hospitals. One writer for the Canadian newsmagazine *Maclean's* sums up the unappealing nature of hospital birth, nicely:

"If there's one emotion new mothers may share... it's frustration at a less-than-satisfactory hospital experience. The place is so geared to sickness that childbirth sometimes seems reduced to insignificance."

"Doctors," according to Robert Mendelsohn, M.D., "intervene too much in what is a natural process.

(Continued on page 36)

So You're Finally Coping With **STRESS**

by Robert C. Borner

You can never avoid all stress. But you can learn dangerous stress signals.
And discover how to overcome the bad effects of distress.

THIS IS an age of stress and anxiety.

Stress is not new to human experience. But we live today in an especially fast-moving world where rapid changes are taking place in every facet of society.

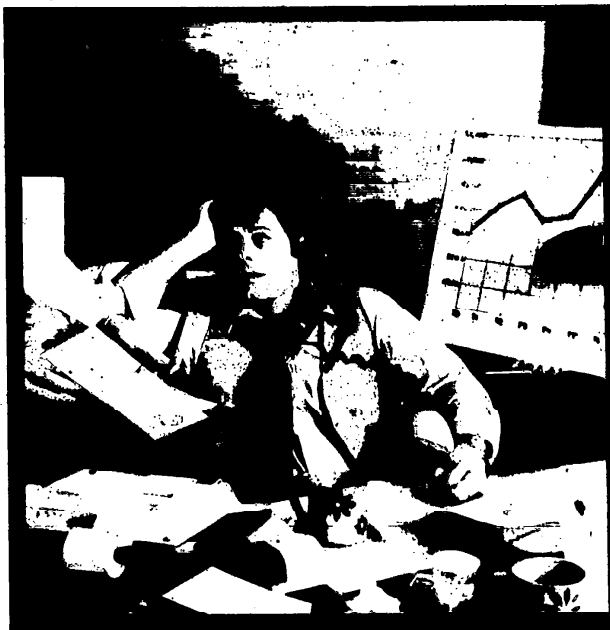
The strains and pressures of daily living in the 20th century are steadily building up. Those who can't cope try escaping through the use of alcohol or tranquilizers. Some end it all in suicide.

Stress affects everyone. It is a problem that concerns us all. We need to know what it is. How it affects our minds and bodies. How we can cope to survive.

What is Stress?

Not all stress is bad.

Think for a moment. Whenever the body is forced to respond to a demand exerted upon it, there is a corresponding reaction of strain and pressure. This stress cannot be avoided and is vitally



Richard Ross - PT

necessary throughout our lives. Athletes use tension at the start of a race. Inventors and artists have attained their greatest achievements during periods of stress. Mountain climbers have reached the highest summits by straining their bodies to the peak of endurance.

But when stress is not managed and used properly, it has a harmful effect on the body. Too much stress can damage the body. This

unpleasant and destructive stress is actually *distress*.

Disturbed by distress, the body will suffer in some way. The list of consequent mental and physical ailments aggravated by stress is already long and increasing. They include: gastric or peptic ulcers, hypertension, high blood pressure, heart disease, mental breakdown, migraine headaches, diabetes, allergies, colitis and temporary diarrhea.

Stress can lead to heart attacks, nervous breakdowns and suicide. That's why it has been called the "twentieth century killer." Stress may even be linked with certain forms of cancer, according to recent evidence.

The link between mental strain and physical health is well documented in medical journals. Uncurbed emotional stress increases muscle tension and biochemical changes in the body to the point that its defenses against disease are damaged. Researchers now believe stress creates condi-

tions in which disease takes hold.

Are You Suffering from Stress?

People don't always know when they are under stress. Even though they don't feel tense and under pressure, their body nonetheless suffers from the effects stress produces. To determine if you're suffering from stress, Dr. Frank Finnerty some years ago listed the following questions to ask yourself:

- Do minor problems and disappointments throw you into a dither?
- Do you find it difficult to get along with people, and are people having trouble getting along with you?
- Do the small pleasures of life fail to satisfy you?
- Are you unable to stop thinking of your anxieties?
- Do you fear people or situations that never used to trouble you?
- Are you suspicious of people, mistrustful of your friends?
- Do you have the feeling of being trapped?
- Do you feel inadequate or suffer tortures of self-doubt?

(From *Family Health*, November, 1974.)

Dr. Finnerty then commented that if you answered *yes* to most of those questions, you may be on the road to illness, unless you learn to cope better with those situations.

What Causes Stress?

Any situation that upsets our normal and peaceful life can be stressful. Economic crises, energy shortages, earthquakes, bad weather, crime problems in our neighborhood, race riots and other chaotic conditions in the world can increase stress on our lives. As the world falls apart around them, people worry about the future and wonder where the world is heading.

Three major categories of situations in life can cause stress. One is where there is a *loss*—of someone or something. Losing a spouse through death, divorce or

separation produces the greatest amount of stress. Losing a job, a source of income or a close friend also causes stress.

Another situation is where there is a *threat* of some kind. It can be a threat to a person's status at work or in the community, a threat to security and health because of sickness or age. When a woman sees her beauty fade away and a man loses his strength and vitality, a stressful situation develops. If a man sees that his life-time goals are not likely to be achieved, that threat could also become a big worry to him.

The third situation involves a major *change* to a person's way of life. The change can involve marital status, health, type of work or responsibilities at work, or general living conditions. Drs. Thomas Holmes and Richard Rahe have discovered that major changes in one's life, whether pleasant or unpleasant, all take a physical and mental toll. If several major changes take place in a short period of time, including loss and threat situations, there is a high risk of falling ill.

Learn to Live with Stress

Since we cannot avoid all stress, we need to learn to live with it. We need to learn how much stress our individual bodies can take. We need to learn to manage our lives so that the bad effects from overstress do not permanently harm our bodies. *Improving our health* is the first coping strategy we can use.

It is an established fact that reasonable exercise relieves tension. Dr. Hans Selye, a leading expert on stress, found that under-exercised mice withstood stress far worse than those in peak physical condition. Building up stamina is a way to survive during periods of stress.

A few exercises in the morning are mentally stimulating. Exercise outdoors when you can to get more fresh air and sunshine. More outdoor living will counteract the tension of modern city life.

Since stress burns up energy and causes fatigue, eat regular meals of nutritious food and get adequate

rest. Sir Winston Churchill took naps during the day to reduce tension and refresh his body.

Taking time out for relaxation is also important. When pressures mount up, our minds need a diversion—a change of pace or scenery. We can listen to *good* music, but it must be melodic and harmonious to serve as a tonic for jangled nerves. Much of the loud and raucous noise labeled as music today can only increase tension.

The modern scene is vividly described by W. Phillip Keller in his book *Taming Tension*. "If we insist on filling our homes with mad music, if we turn up the volume until our heads throb, if we play discordant melodies with their provocative beat . . . we are bound to generate some terrible tensions. We



need not be surprised if our surroundings become electric and charged with chaos, stress, and outright hostilities" (p. 135).

Other forms of relaxation would include reading an inspiring book, or playing games with the family or friends. When a total change of environment is possible, take a trip to the park or an area of natural beauty where you can observe the creative handiwork of God. Whatever you enjoy doing and find relaxing can be an antidote to stress.

The mind needs "quiet times" for a change of pace. Some use hobbies as a form of quiet diversion away from people and problems. Meditation and prayer in a private place are highly recommended in the Bible.

King David of ancient Israel admitted his prayers were more effective when coupled with meditation. "My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: when I remem-

ber thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches" (Psalm 63:5-6).

Here's another important principle: *Know your strengths and weaknesses and live within your means.* Trying to be like someone else causes stress if your expectations are beyond your capability to achieve.

Analyze your strengths, weaknesses and limitations. Don't take on more than you can comfortably handle. Be willing to say no when



certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content" (1 Timothy 6:6-8).

Paul learned that whatever state he was in—whether full or hungry—he could be content and satisfied with the thought that Christ was with him to provide the strength to see him through his problems (Philippians 4:11-13).

Change Your Thinking

The second coping strategy is to *change your way of thinking.* Learning to think good and uplifting thoughts is a key to mental stability. As the apostle Paul said, "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, *think on these things*" (Philippians 4:8).



Richard Reed - PT

In a world where there is so much negative thinking, we all need an uplifting mental outlook and attitude.

Avoid gossip, degrading rumors and destructive criticism of others. Focus your mind on good qualities of others. Develop an outgoing, helpful concern for other people.

Also avoid, whenever possible, personality conflicts and explosive situations that spark off stress. Attempt to understand how others feel and be willing to forgive their shortcomings. Intolerance of others often leads to frustration and needless anger. Keep yourself calm, cheerful and pleasant even if others can't. Learning the basic skills of getting along with other people will help reduce stressful living. Of course, there is a time to speak out in righteous indignation.

Dr. Hans Selye says negative feelings "include hatred, distress, disdain, hostility, jealousy and the urge for revenge, in short every

drive likely to endanger your security by inciting aggressiveness in others who are afraid that you may cause them harm." Positive feelings include "gratitude, respect, trust, and admiration for the excellence of outstanding achievements, all of which add up to goodwill and friendship" (*Stress Without Distress*, pp. 70-71).

As negative emotions will produce damaging changes to the body's chemistry, as Dr. Selye explains in his book, the positive emotions of love, faith, hope, laughter and the determination to live produce beneficial changes in the body. Dr. John Schindler says such healthy emotions are "just as powerful in the direction of good health as the effect of the stressing emotions is toward bad health" (*How to Live 365 Days a Year*; p. 62).

Centuries ago the Bible recorded that emotions have a direct effect on the body's health. Proverbs 14:30 says, "A sound heart [mind] is the life of the flesh [body]; but envy [a harmful emotion] the rottenness of the bones." A negative emotion such as envy will damage the physical body.

On the other hand, positive and pleasant emotions benefit the body. "Pleasant words [or thoughts] are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and *health to the bones*" (Proverbs 16:24). Further, "A merry heart [a cheerful attitude] doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Proverbs 17:22). Also see Proverbs 15:13, 15.

The contrast is clear. Good emotions benefit the body's health. Negative emotions and a depressed attitude damage the functions of the body. Emotional stress must therefore be avoided to retain good health.

Make Wise Decisions

A third coping strategy: *Learn how to make right and wise decisions to solve problems.* Making decisions is a trying experience for those under severe stress. The turmoil of indecision and confusion increases tension and frustration. But we must make decisions



your time and energy are already in demand.

Struggling to "keep up with the Joneses" will also cause endless stress and strain. The modern misguided

and misdirected "rat race" is not worth your effort, energy and economic resources. The apostle Paul's answer was, "Let your conduct be without covetousness, and be content with such things as you have" (Hebrews 13:5, New King James Version).

He wrote to Timothy and said, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is

every day. Our entire life is made up of making decisions and choices.

True, many decisions are routine and simple. They can be made quickly. But others are more difficult, especially if they concern changing jobs, moving house or resolving financial problems. Such important decisions should not be made hastily without going through the following three steps.

1. *Get all relevant facts.* This includes seeking counsel and gathering information from those who have wisdom and knowledge to advise you (Proverbs 11:14; 13:10; 19:20). Find what is causing your stress. What are your fears? Discuss them with someone—your spouse, a friend or a minister. Talking it over will relieve your bottled-up tension, help you see the problem and what you possibly can do to solve it.

2. *List the possible choices or courses of action.* You can break stressful habits by proposing different choices. And there often are choices. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each choice? What does each course of action lead to? Select the choice that will be best for all concerned.

3. *Make a decision.* People sometimes avoid making decisions because they are afraid of making a mistake. But we must have courage to take the risk of being wrong. We can learn by our mistakes if a wrong decision is made. If you have gone through steps one and two, don't procrastinate. Make a decision. Once it is made, the tension caused by indecision will disappear.

Plan Ahead

Decisions for the future involve planning ahead. Planning one's life is an important coping strategy for dealing with stress, according to Dr. Roy W. Menninger. "Most of us are so caught up in the rapid pace of life," he said, "that we do not recognize the importance of sitting down and having a confidential conversation with one's

self—to focus on our inner motivations and desires."

Draw up a plan for the next five years, year, month or day. Important questions to answer first are: Where are you heading? How can you get where you want to go? What and who is most important to you? What is worth doing? What do you really want to do but never seem to get around to doing? What do you really want from life?

Set both long- and short-term goals. List the actions necessary to achieve those goals. Be flexible and willing to change your plans when circumstances change and dictate a new direction. Space out drastic changes if possible. Moving to a new town with a new job and buying a home at the same time will have a stressful impact.

Here's a daily plan: Make a list of the tasks you want to accomplish the next day. Number them according to their importance. If possible, do the most disagreeable and difficult job first. Complete each task before going on to the next one.

Wise planning helps make happen what you want to happen in your life. Besides helping you get more done, it relieves the stress of deciding what to do next.

Jesus Set Priorities

But didn't Jesus say something about not thinking of the future? When He said, "Take no thought for your life" (Matthew 6:25), He meant we shouldn't *worry ourselves sick* over what we will eat or put on our bodies. Modern translations render this statement, "Take no *anxious* thought about your life." There is no need to fret over food and clothing. God can provide you with the necessities of life just as He provides for the birds and the lilies of the field (verses 26-32).

The world is very concerned about food, clothing and homes. And God knows that we need those material things to live. "But seek *first* the kingdom of God and His righteousness [the right way to live and think]; and

all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:33-34, NKJV).

The Kingdom of God should be the most important goal in life. But it is not wrong to plan for the future. God Himself has a master plan of salvation. Because people don't know that plan they are unaware of the ultimate purpose for life—their very existence on this earth.

Those who understand God's plan realize that He is in control of the circumstances surrounding their lives and His will is being done for them. No matter what kind of distressful situation they encounter, they believe God has a purpose for allowing it to happen—that character is being formed and tempered by the stresses of trials (Romans 5:3-5 and 8:28).

The apostle Paul knew that the periods of stress he and other Christians had to endure were for this very purpose of producing and strengthening spiritual character.

Notice his inspiring words to the Corinthians, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; . . . For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a *far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory*" (II Corinthians 4:8, 9, 15, 17).

Paul had applied coping strategy number four: *Trust in God for strength and deliverance from distress.* Accept the stress that comes and respond to it, positively, with the help of God and power of the living Christ. Throughout Psalm 107 we read how the children of Israel cried out to God in their trouble and He saved them from their dis-

(Continued on page 21)

A Fresh Look at UNMARRIED SEX

by Patrick A. Parnell

Debunking the myths about sex before marriage.

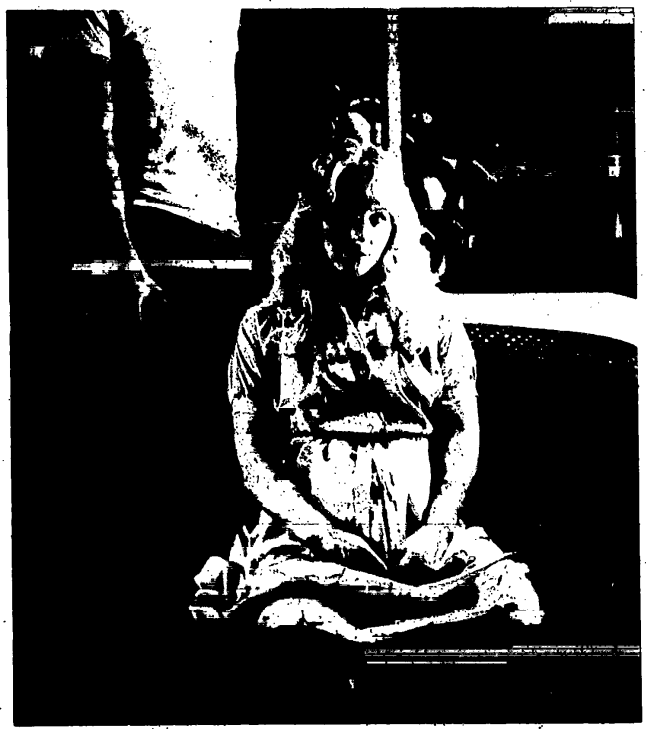
IF IT feels good, if it doesn't hurt anyone, what's wrong with it?" responded the sexually active teenager. "If you like one another, even one-night stands or affairs are all right."

"It's best to live with someone first to make sure you're compatible," commented the mature young businessman.

But just because others think it's all right, doesn't make it right. There are heartaches and pitfalls associated with unmarried sex that teenagers are only beginning to discover.

Premarital Pregnancy

For teens, a premarital pregnancy



is by far the most untimely and inappropriate kind. A concerned obstetrical nurse educator of a large metropolitan teaching hospital puts her experience with

coloring book following her delivery" (*McCall's*, "How to Talk to Your Children About Sex," p. 94, June 1979).

An unmarried pregnancy

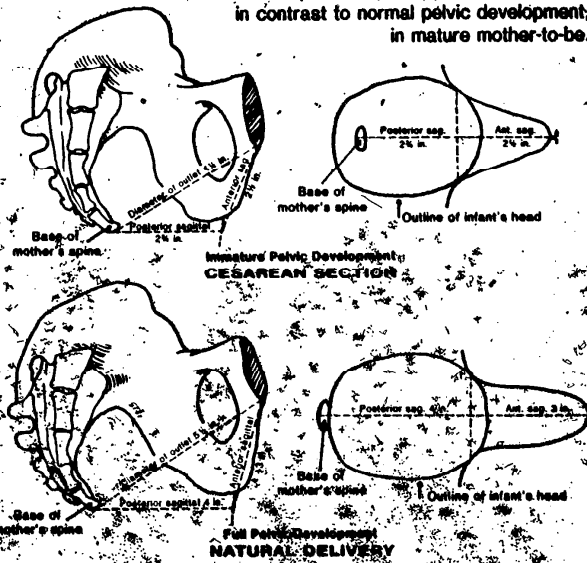
pregnant teens, in these words: "I have sat with numerous young teenagers (12-, 13-, 14-year-olds) throughout their long and exhausting labors. Many ultimately experience cesarean sections because they are still too physically underdeveloped to deliver normally."

"The fears, myths and misconceptions these youngsters harbor are alarming. Some of them don't even begin to know how they became pregnant. Others simply thought it just wouldn't happen to them. I have seen a 12-year-old sit up in bed in the recovery room and color in a

Robert Rees

Birth Problem of Young Pregnant Teens

Incomplete pelvic development in young teenage girls often creates a major problem at time of birth, leading to cesarean section. Marriage and parenthood are for mature couples, for whom natural delivery is normally possible because of full pelvic development. Artwork shows disproportion of infant's head compared with outlet of pelvis in young pregnant teenager in contrast to normal pelvic development in mature mother-to-be.



causes snowballing effects, which demand stressful answers of the young mothers-to-be: Should I have the child? Should I get an abortion and snuff out its existence? Who'll pay the hospital bills? Should I be a one-parent family, raising the child myself without the physical, financial, and emotional benefit of the natural father?

For the male: Should I marry her? Do I love her? What will we live on? Am I ready for the responsibility of raising a family?

For the parents: How could it happen to our daughter? Our son? Would it be best if we told them to marry? Should we have her get an abortion? What do we tell everybody?

And for the child? Well, children's questions come later.

Teenage premarital pregnancies further compound life's problems. The deck is stacked against marital success. The future of such a marriage lasting is slim or

nonexistent. Up to 90 percent of these kinds of marriages end in divorce!

Besides the stress of the pregnancy itself, is the shock to family and friends. And though there is an increasingly permissive view being adopted by parents about sex, outward public pressure still disfavors premarital pregnancies—because of the consequences to the children who didn't ask to be born to unthinking teenagers.

Living In

Many young people today, older couples too, maintain living arrangements as if married, in a living-together environment. But, again, unexpected potential problems and hurts are associated with this kind of unmarried sexual style.

Society now tacitly approves living together, or "living in" as the young like to call it. It is a developing social trend.

Living together got its start in the last two decades. It began with the hippie generation, the flower children and the advent of coed dorms. The trend gradually spread from the subculture to mainstream society. Today, personals in daily newspapers are loaded with ads seeking an opposite-sex housemate, apartmentmate or roommate. While some advertise for it, others progress into it from a going-steady relationship.

But living together is not a happy solution. The evidence came to light in a study by noted sociologist, Dr. Nancy Moore Clatworthy, reported in the November, 1977, *Seventeen* magazine.

Ironically, Dr. Clatworthy actually favored a living-together arrangement before she began her 10-year study of the phenomenon. In her study, she discovered that married couples who had lived together before marriage lost a measure of respect for one another, and had a lower degree of happiness and feeling of adjustment, compared to married couples that had not lived together first.

Interestingly, too, Dr. Clatworthy's findings disproved the argument of some that a couple should live together first to see if they are sexually compatible. "But the finding that surprised me most," she confided, "concerned sex. Couples who had lived together before marriage disagreed about it more often. You'd assume that this would be an area that could be satisfactorily resolved in a living-together period. Apparently it isn't."

A second major problem associated with living together is a lack of commitment. This shoots down the common argument used for living together outside of marriage: "We're committed to each other, and don't need a piece of paper to prove it."

Says Dr. Clatworthy: "The other side of that argument is obvious. If there's no difference in your relationship, what's wrong with adding one more symbol to your total commitment? What they are really saying is that they

(Continued on page 30)

L E T T E R S

What Our Readers Say

Childrearing

I seldom respond to a magazine, but I really appreciated your article in the latest *Plain Truth*. "What Price Your Birthright?" I agree with your view of the harm done to children by placing them in day-care centers at a young age.

The question is, "Are young children before the age of five emotionally-developed enough to fend for themselves among strangers?" I think the answer is no. Not without the nearby presence of a consoling parent.

I offer this personal observation for your consideration. A child is thrust into a day-care center unprepared for the experience. By nature, the instinct of self-preservation takes over and the name of the game becomes "to get across." (One of the young teens' most popular expressions.) The first act, is to put on an air of pleasant acceptance before the parent, since the child is experiencing this "near abandonment" and must not upset the parent lest the child face total abandonment, the ultimate fear in a child's mind.

The second act is to "get across" with the teacher in one way or another. Often this means trying unnaturally hard to show good results. Day-care proponents use this "do better" factor

to support their position, not realizing the difference between doing well for a sense of pride and doing well out of fear of being abandoned—in order to "get across," for the moment. How dare they compare this to feeling assured.

The young girls of this same generation haven't the slightest inkling of motherhood. Most of the time, motherhood means "getting across," which they've learned earlier; having a baby to insure a steady welfare check and then leaving the baby with a relative. Or deserting the child for work.

I realize the bleak picture I'm painting here but it's the truth. Pick up any newspaper and it will bear me out. I'd like to offer this thought to day-care center users. One day when they themselves are old and unable to fend for themselves, those same sons and daughters, having learned at a young age that it's alright to be put away someplace, will return the favor upon their heads.

Rudy Clark
New York, N.Y.

Crisis in Southern Africa

Now that Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. has stated publicly that the Soviet empire is "training,

funding and equipping," the forces of terrorism and that international terrorist activity is in the forefront of concern in U.S. foreign policy, we are hopeful that publications like your own can focus public attention on the Soviet effort to take over Namibia.

Namibia has the largest uranium mine in the world, vast diamond, copper and zinc deposits, and the deep water port off its west coast capable of basing Russia's nuclear submarines where they can bisect the oil lifeline from the Persian Gulf to the U.S. and the NATO countries. We are so concerned with this type of activity, we have written a letter to President Reagan and circulated it to many U.S. leaders.

The people of the United States have a significant national security interest in the question of whether the Soviet empire takes over Namibia by the use of terrorism. If it does, and the Western countries stand by, you can be sure—when SWAPO, the Soviet-bloc surrogate carrying out Moscow's terrorist program against Namibia, succeeds—Africa will ultimately be lost to the Soviets.

Council of Ministers
Government of South West Africa/
Namibia

By: Kuaima Riruako

STRESS

(Continued from page 18)

stress. He also can help you (1 Corinthians 10:13).

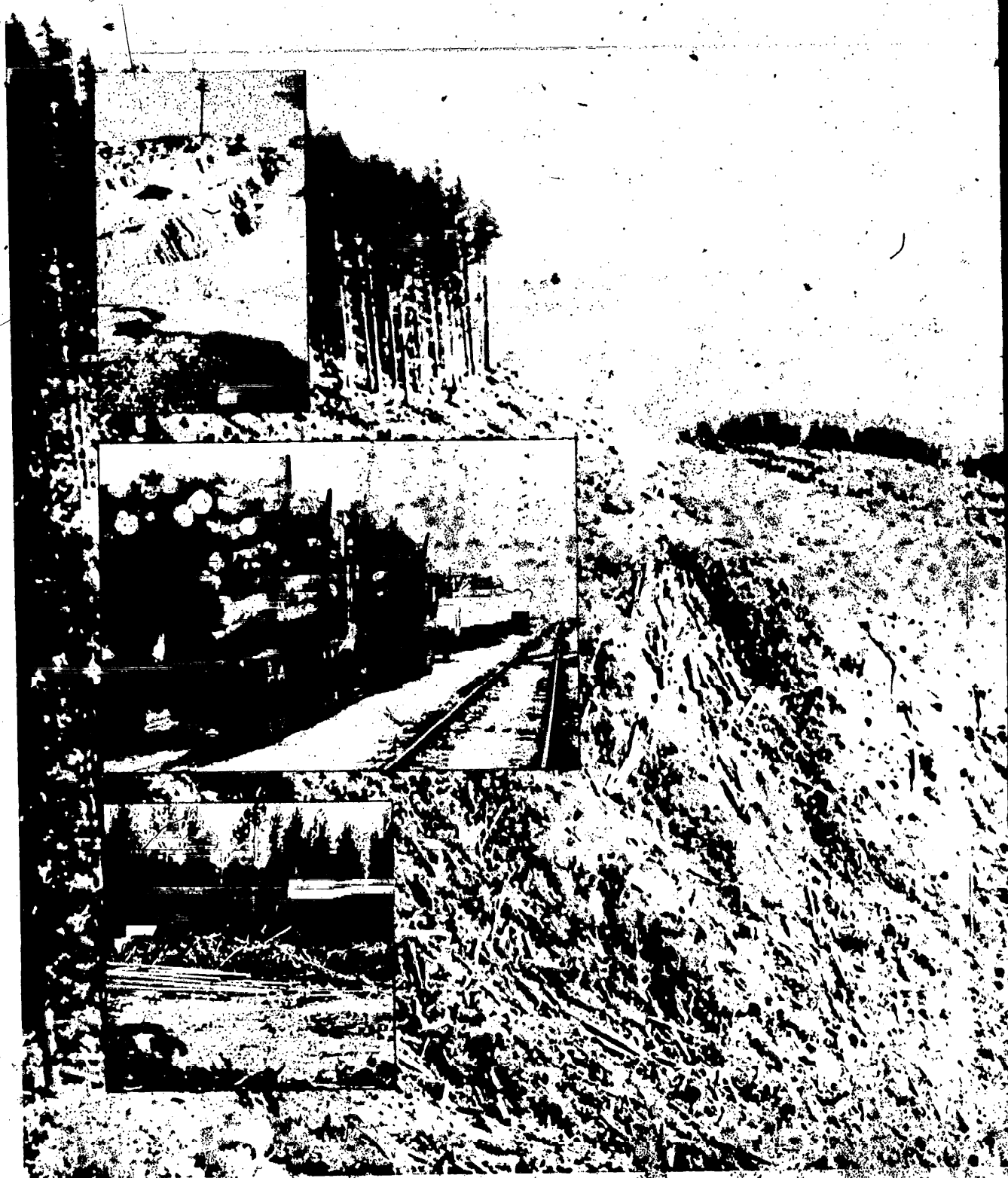
God can provide refuge and strength in time of stress. Therefore there is no need to fear the earth-shattering events that may befall us (Psalms 46:1, 2). God "gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and wea-

ry, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:29-31, New International Version).

That's why Paul was able to say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13, NKJV). With God's help we learn how to cope with fears, worries and stress.

Living the revealed way of life will never be easy. Paul compared it to running a race (1 Corinthians 9:24 and Hebrews 12:1). But the race of life isn't on a clear and smooth track. It's more like a country run or obstacle race. There are hurdles to jump over and obstacles to run around before reaching the finish line.

And so it will be that all who endure the stresses and strains of running this race to the end will be winners. □



Soon to Be Halted!

THE PLUNDERING OF EARTH'S FORESTS

by Clayton Steep

Surprising steps will soon be taken to halt and remedy man's destruction of the world's forests.

LIFE as we know it would be drastically different if all forests disappeared in the next 12 months. The good news is that they won't disappear in the next 12 months. But the bad news is that at the rate man's current war on trees is proceeding, the world's primary forests will not last another half century.

Whether you live in a sprawling city or in a lumber camp, you are about to feel the effects of rapidly vanishing forests. You will not only pay higher prices for all the products derived from trees—including fruits and nuts. You will also feel whatever effect the destruction of forest areas will have on worldwide climate and weather patterns.

Who Cares?

Chances are the building you are sitting in is constructed mostly or at least in part of wood or wood products. Likewise your chair. The Sunday edition of the large metropolitan newspaper you may receive could well contain more wood pulp than many families in some nations can gather in a day's searching.

Way more than 4,000 different manufactured products in the industrial world today come wholly or in part from the forests. For example: adhesives, dyes, paints, plastics, sugars, resins, wallboard, veneers, oils, disinfectants, alcohols, toilet tissue, napkins, paper bags, drugs, corks, charcoal, soaps, roofing materials, stains, animal foods, explosives.

Then there are the many items made of wood itself—musical instruments, matches, telephone poles, toys, fence posts, barrels, railroad ties, coffin, firewood, broom handles and everything else from boats to stereo speaker cabinets.

Today's crisis is the end of a long trail of human selfishness in managing the earth.

Trail of Destruction

For thousands of years, one of the marks of civilization's expansion has been the disappearance of trees. At one time significant highland areas of the Arabian desert were far from being a vast expanse of wasteland. The Bible mentions the "forest in Arabia" (Isaiah 21:13). Arabia was at one time known as "Arabia Felix"—"Arabia the Happy"—hardly a description of endless sand dunes and blistering heat.

When ancient Israel went in and possessed the land of Caanan, it was a lush land, full of "vineyards, and olive-yards, and fruit trees in abundance" (Nehemiah 9:25)—a land flowing with milk and honey. That's not the way it has been for centuries, though limited attempts have recently been made in reclaiming land through reforestation and irrigation.

Who has not heard of the famed cedars of Lebanon? They were, until World War I, a rich stand of stately trees growing along with pine, fir, juniper and oak. Over centuries, the Phoenicians, the Pharaohs, the Babylonians, the Israelites, the Romans, and especially the Turks in World War I, decimated the forests of Lebanon. Goats and firewood traders and British troops in World War II put finishing touches on what was left.

Elsewhere the story has been the same

PT photo image from top PT photo John Hallford - PT, John Hallford - PT

WOULD YOU BELIEVE —

A WORLD FIREWOOD CRISIS?

Why do so few understand the world we live in? A firewood crisis in an industrialized world?

Before you draw a hasty conclusion, read this scenario. It begins in North America. In a clearing, in the timber forests of Western Canada, workers are taking a well-earned break. It is only 8 o'clock in the morning, but the men have been working for hours, trimming and preparing logs for transportation to the sawmills.

A tractor crunches through the undergrowth, dragging felled logs of spruce. As it approaches the clearing, its path is blocked by a small birch tree. Once—twice—the tractor nudges the trunk, but the sturdy little tree doesn't budge. Casually—almost nonchalantly—a worker picks up his chain saw and saunters over. It takes him about five seconds to cut it down.

The tractor drives on into the clearing, crushing the fallen birch and snapping the trunk in half. Later, the tree will be dumped on a huge pile of timber on the edge of the clearing. It's the junk

pile in a month or two, when the pile has dried out, men will set fire to it. Time is money in the timber business. It just isn't economical to do anything else but burn the rubbish on the spot.

Those men in the clearing would have been astonished to know that there are people elsewhere in the world who would have walked for three days to get hold of that tree.

Those people may live in Ouagadougou, capital of Upper Volta. Or maybe they are farmers from a remote village high in the Andes. Or Haitian peasants scratching a precarious living from a few acres of scrub on their country's barren hills.

All these people have something in common—they are facing an energy crisis. But it's not the kind of energy crisis that can be eased by buying a smaller car, turning down the thermostat or insulating the attic. For them, it is more fundamental. They often can't find enough firewood to cook their evening meal!

If you have already read the accompanying article, you will realize that the

slaughter of the world's forests is going to pose a major ecological problem for all of us in the years just ahead. For one third of our world's people, the crisis has already begun. Firewood is becoming increasingly hard to come by.

It may sound ludicrous to a city dweller in North America or Europe. Firewood is no longer a part of his life (unless, perhaps, he has treated himself to a wood-burning stove as an "alternative energy" source). But for most people living in the world's



John Hafford — PT

underdeveloped places, wood is not a novelty or a luxury. It is the *only* source of fuel they have. And it is getting harder and harder to find enough.

Consider these statistics.

Approximately half the timber cut in the world today is used as fuel—for cooking and heating. Most of this use is in the underdeveloped countries. The average user consumes about one ton of firewood a year. Many countries are burning their trees much faster than natural growth can replace them.

As wood becomes scarcer, prices go up. There are parts of Asia and Africa where families have to spend up to one third of the family income on charcoal and firewood.

Those who cannot afford to pay the price must forage for themselves. It is becoming a common sight in many areas to see trees stripped of their leaves and branches.

Each year, the desperate search for wood moves farther up the mountains or deeper into remote valleys. Already, there is hardly a tree left standing within 45 miles of Ouagadougou, the once verdant hills of Haiti are almost treeless. In Inra, guards have been set to watch the forests to prevent poaching. Because of indiscriminate fuel gathering and overgrazing, 100,000 hectares of North Africa are swallowed up by the Sahara each year. That's one acre every two minutes.

Why don't people learn to cook with something else, is

throughout history. Down the forests came, whether for building materials, for ships, for use in warfare, or as firewood, or making room for agriculture. Sometimes just because they were "in the way." In the Near East and the Mediterranean, overgrazing by goats and other domestic animals has stripped off the remaining ground cover. In nonagricultural areas herds of goats also played a significant part, eating away at the bark and sprouts of

trees. Finally the last scrub tree in an area fell victim and then there were none. The result: move on to fresh ground or else try to survive on deteriorating land.

The human factor is still to be blamed for currently expanding deserts in parts of the world.

Not that all land once stripped of its forest covering becomes desert. In the British Isles the proportion of natural forest still extant is estimated at about 2 percent of what it once was. Enough rain falls to pre-

vent the formation of desert. Still, the land has become increasingly less productive.

As for the United States, farming, logging, industrial exploitation and fires have leveled hundreds of millions of acres of forest. Erosion has made useless for crops much of this deforested land. What once seemed like limitless woodlands is now in need of careful management.

While some in the lumber industry claim there is still up to

an obvious question. But what?

If you can't afford firewood, you most certainly don't have electricity. When your annual income



Michael Leung/Photographer, Jackson

averages only two or three hundred American dollars, the escalating price of kerosine and other fuels has put them forever out of reach.

Animal dung is used as an alternative for firewood in some areas. But it is an inefficient and poor substitute. Even more important, if used as fuel, it cannot then be used as a fertilizer. The land is therefore robbed of essential nutrients.

This becomes especially critical in tropical areas. Lacking organic material, and exposed to harsh conditions, the already thin soil soon erodes and the desert takes over. Much of the Indian continent has been affected in this way.

Ingenious alternative cooking methods have been

suggested—biogas from decomposing waste, or solar energy. They work—but they are expensive, and as yet, these right ideas have not gotten beyond the laboratory or the model farm.

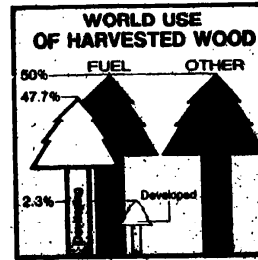
Hungry and cold people can't wait. Their need is for today. As they gather the handfuls of branches and twigs they need to bake their daily bread, they have no idea of the havoc they are causing.

Why should the Nepalese farmer, climbing ever higher in the foothills of the Himalayas in the scramble for fuel, realize that he is partly responsible for a flood in India or Bangladesh? He may not know that those trees he is destroying are helping the ground absorb moisture, and that without them, the runoff from the melting snows will increase. Nor would he know that the excess water will find its way to the rivers, and the swollen rivers will sweep down to the plains, causing the other farmers like him to lose their farms, their homes and perhaps their lives in a destructive flood. All he knows is that he needs some wood, and he can't find it close to home.

When God finished the re-creation of the world, He said it was very good (Genesis 1:31). The animal, vegetable and mineral

resources that God put on earth *should* have lasted as long as man has need of a physical environment.

The world firewood crisis is one example of how we have mishandled what God gave us. There *should* have been enough. There *could* be enough even now, if we all cooperated. But some nations have so completely devastated their territory, that they will need much help before they can even begin to solve their problem. Help *and* time, for there are no such things as



By graph by Minette Smith

instant trees.

But let's look ahead on a positive note. A government that owns a fleet of huge oil tankers that have been lying idle for some years has offered to send them to Canada. The Canadian government has agreed to load them with surplus timber that is unfit for lumber. The plan is for the ships to take the wood to North Africa.

where it will be used as an interim fuel by the nations engaged in the Sahara reforestation project. The project is going well, but it will be a few years yet before the new trees have established themselves.

No, it hasn't happened yet. Today, in a world devoted to getting, such a plan might be laughed to scorn. There would be a thousand reasons why it couldn't be done. Uneconomical. Technical difficulties. Politically inexpedient. Strategically unsound.

But it just might be the kind of headline we will be reading in a few years time, after Christ intervenes in world affairs to bring peace and prosperity to a dying world. Then people of the world will be able to work together, learning the way of giving and the consequent abundant blessings that derive from generosity. In a world economy based on giving and sharing, their problems *can* be solved. But, sadly, not until then.

Ironic, isn't it? God showed us a way that would lead to eternal life, with the *universe* as an inheritance. Mankind has rejected that way—and now we're even running out of firewood!

—John Hallford

75 percent as much forestland in the United States as when Christopher Columbus arrived, some conservationist groups dispute that figure, insisting only a small fraction of the original forestland exists.

Part of the difference is probably in terminology. Timber companies counting their replanted tree farms as "forest." The conservationists counting only virgin forest. The lumber industry has been accused of using deceptive

terminology to mask the ongoing decimation of America's forests. Conservationist groups are adamant that virgin forest once cut down can never be adequately replaced with the tree farm methods used by the industry. The original landscape they point out, is destroyed, streams are ruined, fish killed, wild life disturbed. And the uniform trees that are substituted for the original forest look like so many stalks of corn: same species, same height, same

age, same shape, same distance apart. Not at all natural forest. What is more, even with the help of fertilizers and pesticides, intensive tree-farm methods work only until the soil is worn out and supports growth no longer.

In Europe the situation is somewhat different. The bare hills of southern Europe show little evidence of the extensive woodlands that once existed in these regions. But western Europe has apparently managed to

stop the uncontrolled devastation of its forestlands, thanks in part to the accessibility of timber from northern Europe.

For how long are any forests of the temperate zones safe? Many may be "off limits" to developers and still be wasted by man-made forest fires, air pollution and acid rain. The increased cost of fuel is putting new pressure on them. Search is underway for a practical way to convert woody cellulose into sugars that could be fermented into ethanol to power automobiles. A new method of making wood pellets promises to do for many homes what coal once did—at the expense of the forests.

Undoubtedly, the biggest factor now slowing the saw in the temperate zone forestlands is the availability of large imports of timber from northern Europe, the Soviet Union and especially the tropical moist forests of the world.

The Tropical Moist Forests

All the forests and jungles in the world put together cover less than one fourth of the earth's land surface. The highest percentage of forested land is in South America, followed in order by Europe, North America, Asia and Africa.

Fifty percent of all forestland is comprised of what is called "tropical moist forests." They are located principally in the warm tropical belt extending across Central and South America, Africa and Asia. A chorus of voices of alarm is being raised about what is now taking place in these areas. Here the chain saws and bulldozers of commerce, combined with the slash-and-burn agricultural methods of local farmers, are tearing away at earth's fragile skin.

In the tropical forest regions, at least 140 million persons survive by practicing slash-and-burn agriculture. That is, they clear away an area of forest by cutting and burning. They cultivate the land for a few years. And then they move on. The reason they move on is that tropical soil is unable to sustain for more than a short period the kind of cultivation being required of it.

The cycle is all too familiar. The trees are burned or otherwise taken out. Then too many people try to farm too small an area, making every effort to wring the last bit of good from the soil. Methods commonly used in more prosperous parts of the world—such as the utilization of fertilizers, pesticides and high-yielding grains—are considered too expensive. (It goes without saying that truly beneficial practices, such as building up the soil with fertilizer and/or compost and letting the land rest periodically, are not followed either.)

Finally, heavy tropical rains pour down on the cleared land, eroding away what good dirt there is. And so the already delicate tropical soil is quickly depleted. The farmers leave behind the worn-out land, advance into the forest, slashing and burning anew, and the cycle starts over.

The "Hamburger Connection"

Slash-and-burn farmers do an estimated two thirds of the total worldwide damage to tropical forests. In South America, however, the forests suffer more damage as a result of commercial activity than from farmers. In other tropical areas of the globe, commercial interests play a lesser, but a growing, role.

Cattle raising is an important factor, especially in Latin America. The high price of beef in the developed world has led to the creation of huge cattle ranches where trees once stood. "In one case, a multinational [corporation] burnt down a million acres of forest in the Amazon basin for a cattle ranch in one single vast conflagration. The fire, which wiped out all wild life, was so big that it was reported by a weather satellite as an impending volcanic eruption" (October, 1980 "Report of the Food Industries of South Africa").

Supplying meat to the fast-foods chains in North America—hence the name "Hamburger Connection"—leads to immediate high profits. But many ranches become unprofitable

within 10 years because the man-established pasture deteriorates just like the plots of the forest farmers. Then the rancher must try to obtain another section of forest.

Also gnawing away at the forests of the tropics are other multinational corporations and lumber companies. Ninety percent of the timber in the tropical moist forests is hardwood. These hardwoods are much in demand in the developing nations, since the hardwoods of the temperate zones are either depleted or not accessible. With advanced technology it is possible to penetrate deep into the tropical forests, cut down and extract the choice trees, leaving a path of destruction in the wake.

Compounding the overall problem is the critical need three fourths of the world's people have for cooking fuel. (See the accompanying article.) Other lesser factors are the highways and the oil and gas pipelines. Although they too have required the clearing of millions of acres of tropical forest land.

An area of tropical forest the size of Great Britain is being destroyed every year. That may not seem like such a big portion of the globe, but it is a significant part of the tropical forest left.

Why Be Concerned?

What do all these problems have to do with you? For one thing there are the economic factors. As the trees disappear, the price of wood products and derivatives—from your daily newspaper to lumber—will continue to escalate. Nontropical forests will fall victim to pressing worldwide needs.

Even more ominous is one especially menacing effect of deforestation: the altering of worldwide weather patterns. "The president of the Brazilian Academy of Science warned that Amazonian forest was being destroyed at the rate of 2,700 metres an hour and would be totally gone within 35 years, possibly within 10 years because the man-established pasture deteriorates just like the plots of the forest farmers. Then the rancher must try to obtain another section of forest." (Continued on page 44)

Christ Looks at MODERN CHRISTIANITY

by Roderick C. Meredith

Few grasp the spectacular difference between the original teachings of Christ and today's Christianity.

SINCE COMING here," an African student told a white friend, "I've discovered the white man has two gods—one that he taught us about, and another whom he serves.

"A mission school taught me that the tribal doctrines of my ancestors, who worshiped images and believed in witchcraft, were wrong and almost ludicrous. But here you worship larger images—cars and electrical appliances. I honestly can't see the difference."

This disillusioned young man had discerned that modern "Christianity" has strayed a long way from the original teachings of Christ. The realization hit him like a thunderbolt.

But why have modern Christians forsaken the simple teachings of Jesus Christ?

Where Does Christ Come In?

Take a case in point. Jesus Christ declared: "You have heard the saying, 'You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." (Matthew 5:43-44, Moffatt translation).

Have professing Christians in Western culture followed Christ by loving their enemies and turning the other cheek (Matthew 5:39) as He commanded?

The truth is that most of the greatest and bloodiest wars in history have been waged primarily in Europe—the very heart of Western, Christian civilization.

Were the men, women and even children involved in these wars true followers of the humble carpenter of Nazareth who said: "Love your enemies"? Yet these people called themselves by the name of Christ—"Christian."

It seems that nearly all Western religions, philosophies and sects persist in applying the name of Christ to their ideas, teachings and practices, however far removed from the teachings of Christ they may be. In ancient times, the pagans at least openly acknowledged the idols they worshiped.

He Would See His Name Misused

Since the life, death and resurrection of the Son of God, Christ's name has been placed on every type of pagan, perverted philosophy of man that has come along! The fact that many doctrines, ideas and practices of men are called "Christian" proves absolutely nothing!

Did Christ start these ideas and institutions? Do they follow His teaching and His example? How would He look at today's divided, competitive "Christianity"?

The only authoritative answer is found in the inspired record of what Jesus did teach and in the example He set for us to follow. Your own Bible contains this inspired record.

His Teaching Rejected

At the beginning of His ministry, "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:14-15).

The word *kingdom* refers to "government." Jesus was talking about the coming government of God over this earth. He commanded: "Repent ye, and believe the gospel!"

To "repent" means to be so sorry that you are not only willing to quit living in what theologians call "sin"—but, that you are also willing to turn around and go the other way. But what is sin? God answers, "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4).

So we must repent of disobeying God's government—of breaking His law!

Again, notice Jesus' own

inspired words on this subject: "Think not [although many do want to think this] that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil" (Matthew 5:17). Greek scholars acknowledge that the word translated "fulfil" means not only "to do or perform," but also to "fill to the full." In other words, Jesus, in His own life, filled to the full and perfectly performed the spiritual intent and purpose of God's law—to love God with all your might and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Why did He do this? To do away with God's law by this means? That's what men will try to tell you!

The ultimate criterion for right and wrong, many church leaders say, is not divine command, but the individual's subjective perception of what is good for himself. "We are delivered from the law," they expostulate. But let God answer. In a prophecy about the coming Messiah, Isaiah wrote: "The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable" (Isaiah 42:21).

Jesus Magnified God's Law

To magnify does not mean to destroy, but to show forth and enlarge to the fullest possible extent. Jesus perfectly fulfilled and magnified God's law to show us its fullest spiritual application and also to set us an example that we should follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).

Jesus continued in the same discourse: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven; but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19). So according to Jesus' teaching, you have to both do and teach even the least of God's commandments if you are to become great in His Kingdom. This is just the opposite of the common teaching of "Christianity" today: Probably, you were

taught to believe Jesus did away with the law of God.

Jesus showed that even to hate a brother—involving as it does the spirit of murder—brings one into judgment before the spiritual law of God (Matthew 5:21-26). He vividly illustrated how one can commit adultery not just by performing the act, but by even lustful after a woman in his heart (verses 27-28).

Read these examples in your own Bible. Think about them. In every case, they do not do away with God's law, but rather make it all the more binding!

Matthew's fifth chapter ends with Jesus' instruction: "Be ye [“become ye” is the literal, original Greek] therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (verse 48).

Obedience to God and His law is the keynote of the entire Sermon on the Mount. Jesus declared: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

Later during His ministry, a young man came and interviewed Him saying, "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God; but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:16-17).

Then Jesus proceeded to name some of the Ten Commandments (verses 18-19). In this brief interview, Jesus again emphasized the principle of obedience.

God's Government Has Law

God's Kingdom or government is connected with God's law. Speaking about the good news of the government of God that He preached, Jesus stated: "The law and the prophets were until John; since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail" (Luke 16:16-17). Here, Jesus showed that God's spiritual law will

endure even beyond the duration of the physical universe. In fact, that law would never fail! Then He went on to show what law He was talking about, (verse 18) by commenting on the commandment concerning adultery—one of the Ten Commandments!

So the good news of God's government—which is not understood or preached by the mainstream of today's Christianity—is related to the law of God as contained in the Ten Commandments. Jesus always magnified and kept this law during His lifetime. He said, "I have kept my Father's commandments" (John 15:10).

After Christ's resurrection, when He was commissioning His disciples to preach His message to all nations, He commanded: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe ALL THINGS whatsoever. I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Here, Jesus is clearly and plainly telling His apostles to go out to all nations, preaching exactly the same message of obedience to God's law and His government as He Himself had taught them. And yet, many theologians and religious leaders today stray from teaching obedience to God's commandments. They claim, "The Ten Commandments are out of date!"

As the African student mentioned in the beginning of this article, noticed, modern Christianity has strayed far from the simple teachings of Jesus!

Jesus Set an Example

A Christian is one who literally follows the example of Jesus Christ! Jesus was the "light" that God sent into the world to show man how he ought to live. "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (John 1:9).

Peter was inspired to record that Jesus Christ lived and walked, leaving us an example,

that we should *follow His steps* (I Peter 2:21). Jesus obeyed God. He did not sin—sin is the “transgression of the law.” He obeyed God and set an example for us to follow.

The apostle John was inspired to write: “He that saith he abideth in him [Christ] ought himself also so to walk [to live], even as he walked” (I John 2:6).

The New English Bible translation renders this in more modern English: “Here is the test by which we can make sure that we are in him: whoever claims to be dwelling in him, binds himself to live as Christ himself lived.”

Jesus lived a life of giving and serving. How many “Christians” really believe this?

Paul was inspired to write that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Christ has not changed. He will guide you to live the same kind of life today that He lived in His own human body 1,900 years ago. Jesus “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).

How will Jesus guide you to escape temptation? The apostle Paul put it this way, describing his own experience: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Here we see that Christ comes to live His life in the true Christian. He does this through His Spirit (Romans 8:9). The Holy Spirit imparts to the individual the very faith of Jesus Christ—the same faith that guided and motivated Jesus when He dwelled in mortal flesh.

Through the Holy Spirit you receive the very nature and power of Christ to obey the commandments and laws of Almighty God. The Holy Spirit imparts the power to keep God’s spiritual law. It is His righteousness operating in your mind and body, a body that you willingly yield to Him as His instrument. What percentage of “Christians” do that today?

How the Holy Spirit Functions

But how does one receive God’s Holy Spirit? Peter addressed a large audience of people in his day, saying, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). This same principle applies to our day.

Your old self must be figuratively buried—baptized for the remission of sin. You must first repent of sin. That means to repent of breaking God’s law! Then after, truly repenting and accepting, through faith, Christ’s shed blood as payment for your past sins, you must be baptized to receive the gift of God’s Holy Spirit.

Baptism—immersion in a watery grave—is an outward acknowledgment of the death penalty you have brought upon yourself by disobeying the law of your Creator and is an acknowledgment of your willingness to let your old self figuratively die.

The Love of God

Then, through His Spirit, Christ places His nature within you—His love, His faith, His strength to overcome your own nature and the temptations of Satan and of this world. (See Galatians 5:22-23.)

The love you receive through God’s Spirit is not mere human love, but the very love of God, which “is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us” (Romans 5:5).

Now how does this love operate? Christ’s Word gives the answer: “For this is the love of God, that we *keep his commandments*; and his commandments are not grievous” (I John 5:3).

It is through God’s love placed in us by His Spirit that we are able to keep His Commandments! Through Bible study, earnest prayer and consistent spiritual overcoming and growth, you can yield to let God fashion you in His spiritual image, so that you can be born of Him in the resurrection as His own son—having His very nature.

This is, in fact, the very purpose of your existence.

Identity of True Christians

Down through history, God has always set apart those who truly serve Him by keeping His commandments and His laws. The apostle John was inspired to write, “He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (I John 2:4).

A person who isn’t keeping God’s commandments does not grasp the kind of character and personality that the true God is. He is not truly “acquainted” with God! He is simply manufacturing his own religion out of his own imagination.

God doesn’t hear our prayers unless we become submissive and willing to keep His commandments! “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight” (I John 3:22). How many professing Christians believe this?

Today, as the African student perceived, millions of deceived people worship a sentimental, manufactured “god” who requires no obedience. They have been deceived by a clever devil.

God states: “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ [the very teachings of Jesus Himself], hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds” (I John 9-11).

Those are strong words! The matter of obedience to the true God and His law is of paramount importance!

Obedience to God’s Word will bring you happiness and fill your life with real inner joy. This obedience is what sets real Christians apart from the millions who assume that they are Christians but who have strayed far from the simple truths taught by Jesus Christ. □

UNMARRIED SEX

(Continued from page 20)

are not totally committed to each other."

The fact is, because of this lack of ultimate commitment the rate of living-together breakups is high, much higher than the divorce rate of married couples. The emotional impact of those breakups is just as mentally stressing. Living together couples have the very same problems married couples have, but with the added disadvantage of lack of full commitment, financially, sexually, and every other way.

Married couples are more likely to want to solve their problems. Living-together couples are less likely to be able to.

Dr. Nancy Clatworthy's conclusion is that a couple is "better off marrying." Concerning living together, she says:

"Knowing that something is temporary affects the degree of commitment to it. If you are going to make the identical investments in living together that you would make in marriage—investments of time, money, emotion, and social relationships—knowing the situation is temporary but hoping that it is not, you are bound to be disappointed."

What God Says

The penalties of sex outside of marriage are far reaching, often permanently scarring, physically and mentally. More than that, sex outside the boundaries of marriage is absolutely contrary to the higher laws of Almighty God.

God loves human beings. God did not create humans to act like animals, mating here and there, with any and everybody. God ordained sexual relationships to be marriage relationships, family relationships. Sex is for marriage only!

In the beginning God brought the first man and woman together and unequivocally gave this command: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife; and

they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

One of the Ten Commandments protects sex in marriage (Exodus 20:14). Sin includes the transgression of that point of God's law. Sin brings heartaches and sorrows. But keeping God's law brings happiness.

Jesus even magnified that law: "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery; but I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28).

Thankfully, you as an individual can be forgiven any mistakes or sins you've made, if your attitude is right and sincere: "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). And again, verse 9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

But read for yourself the stern warning to those who continue to indulge in unmarried sex: "Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers... shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Most people do not heed God's warnings. Thunders God: "How shall I pardon thee for this? Thy children have forsaken me... when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife. Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" (Jeremiah 5:7-9).

Why Sex?

God created sex to be a private, loving, binding, relationship between a husband and a wife, its purpose manifold. When each partner's main motivation and concern is an attitude of giving to the other, sex is one of the most enjoy-

able physical, mental and spiritual fulfillments one can have. It becomes a unifying force, cementing and coupling marital partners together—mutually shared, mutually enjoyed, something totally unique only between them.

Sex also gives us the opportunity to have children and rear other human beings, giving them human existence, and the ultimate opportunity to share existence with God.

Remember, this world's heartaches are real. Determine that you'll not make the same mistakes others have made. If you already have, ask God's forgiveness, and start over, determined not to make any more.

Young men and women, stand up for what is right. Don't be ashamed of virginity. It's something to be honored.

Sex is worth saving for your future mate. Maintain your integrity. Don't compromise your standards. Don't give in. You'll live to appreciate it and you'll never regret it.

Avoid going steady until you are ready for marriage. Going steady leads to having sex before you should. Little by little those who go steady give in until they've given in all the way.

Young men—be leaders. Don't take advantage of girls. Have respect for them. Take the lead in proper conduct, in not compromising. Women shouldn't necessarily be the ones to say no.

Young women—don't give in. Don't allow yourselves to become romantically entangled at too early an age. There's time for romance at the proper time. Don't compromise.

Parents—teach your children early what they need to know about sex so that they won't have to learn about it in the streets and by experimentation. Answer their questions openly and without embarrassment. Admonish them to remain virgin until marriage. Be warm and loving to your own mate, an example for your children to see.

Take these admonitions seriously to heart. You'll be thankful later. □

THE NEW SILENT EPIDEMIC

Promiscuity's Latest Penalty

by Donald D. Schroeder

More than 20—not just two—sexually transmissible diseases are out of control. You can't afford to be uninformed if you want to protect yourself, your children or your loved ones!

Why are millions hush-hush or ignorant about the *number one* serious communicable disease problem of our age?

Suddenly—in just the past few years—public health officials in many nations have come to realize syphilis and gonorrhea are not always the most frequent, or always the most serious, of sexually transmissible diseases.

Here is what they are finding—and why!

New Plagues

One of the newest and most devastating of the new plagues is *herpes*. "Herpes—the new sexual leprosy—infects millions with disease and despair," reported an international weekly news magazine recently. "I regard myself as a carrier of an invisible, incurable



PAINFUL LESIONS of herpes are usually type 1, but now venereal herpes, type 2, are proliferating with more serious consequences.

disease," lamented one victim quoted in this article: "I have a guilt trip that won't go away."

Said another victim, "I've had this rotten, cursed thing for two years and can't shake it. My marriage has been ruined, my confidence shaken and I'm afraid to establish a new relationship."

Another couple laments, "We want to start a family, but the doctor says we'll be taking a chance."

In the United States alone, more than half a million individu-

als this year will develop the disconcerting if not painful blisters of genital herpes. These mentally and physically tormented thousands will add to an estimated five to fifteen million Americans who already have the incurable disease.

Yes, incurable. Like many other virus-caused diseases, symptoms of herpes infections can be treated and sometimes alleviated. But once you

have *this* virus you have it for the rest of your life. And you suffer periodic infectious outbreaks of the painful blisters. "It ruins much of one's social life," say many victims.

Reported *Time* magazine on this problem: "With the sexual revolution of the 1960s, herpes broke out of its confines as a venereal disease that was thought (incorrectly) to afflict only the 'licentious' lower classes. Suddenly, 'viruses of love' infected entire college dormitories and rode the

Photo courtesy Los Angeles County Health Department

waves of rising divorce and crumbling monogamy" (July 28, 1980).

But how can it be called "love" to give someone, because of ignorance, unconcern or sexual carelessness, a disease that could cause brain damage, blindness, heart trouble, sterility, birth defects to babies, or a long list of other possible health problems, including death?

Sexual Wilderness

Millions are lost in a modern "sexual wilderness." Promiscuity, homosexuality and a parade of new and bizarre sex activities are more and more widely glamorized by various media or groups.

Millions fail to realize that the prophets of permissiveness—whoever they are—obviously are not telling all of the ugly side effects of such "liberating" lifestyles.

Humans today are reaping tragedy and suffering because it has become chic and popular to scorn, ridicule and reject God's laws on proper family relations, on sex, marriage and personal hygiene. In the end, God's laws are not mocked. The first chapter of Romans describes the horrible consequences—physical, mental, emotional and spiritual—that happen to human beings when they forsake the sensible, God-revealed ways of life for ignorance, human lust and rebellion.

NGU Epidemic

The three *Ps*—the pill, promiscuity and permissiveness—have been instrumental in spreading another little-known disease to unprecedented heights. We call it *NGU* for short.

"Almost unheard of only a few years ago, a venereal disease called nongonococcal urethritis (*NGU*) has become our most common sexually transmitted disease, outranking gonorrhea," reported *Parade* magazine, February 24, 1980.

This year an estimated three million Americans in every seg-

ment of society will be plagued with this disease, which is caused by several different organisms.

In addition to these little-known diseases suddenly being found or recognized, the old ancient plagues—syphilis and gonorrhea—have not become more easily cured as some had assumed.

Syphilis, the scourge of humankind for centuries, far from being cured with a shot or two, takes up to two years of treatment to erase all signs of the disease.

"The venereal infection called gonorrhea is the most common bacterial disease of humans on earth. There are an estimated 100 million cases each year throughout the world. The numbers have been rising each year" (New York Times January 23, 1977).

But here's what really worries health officials! Cases of "super-gonorrhea," which are resistant to all penicillin and most other antibiotics, are rapidly increasing in more and more nations.

"Super Gonorrhea"

Dr. Ronald K. St. John of the U.S. Communicable Disease Center's Venereal Disease Control Division said new mutated types of gonorrhea are resistant to all antibiotics but one. Drug resistance by gonococcus organisms has been developing in all nations.

The superresistant strains were first detected in the Philippines where 20 percent to 40 percent of prostitutes were found to have them. Prostitutes, knowing they have a high chance of VD infections, often treat themselves with improper doses of antibiotics. Doctors using improper antibiotics have also been responsible. Improper treatment only rapidly produces stronger strains of resistant organisms. Dr. St. John says such strains are now "rapidly galloping forward" in more and more nations.

Dr. R.D. Catterall of London, president of the International Union Against Venereal Diseases, said 130 strains of penicillin-

resistant gonorrhea were identified in the United Kingdom in 1979 and that 40 more were found in the first few months in 1980. "What is worse," he said, "is that now we have found 30 strains of gonorrhea totally resistant to penicillin and relatively resistant to other antibiotics."

Spectinomycin, a relatively expensive antibiotic, is now the last drug effective against the "super strains" of gonorrhea. If the germ develops resistance to this drug—and gonorrhea organisms have eventually overcome all drugs used against them in the past—doctors will be helpless to control the disease.

"All our steel-capped bullets have turned into rubber," laments one health official.

Too Embarrassing?

Too many are too embarrassed to learn about sexually communicated diseases and to teach their children the chief reason for their epidemic spread. They sit back and hope the schools will do their job for them. But many schools don't teach anything about some of the newer diseases. And many schools don't teach the most important information youths need to prevent these crippling diseases. Right moral and spiritual values need to be taught to prevent these epidemics. Prevention—not treatment—is the answer. That means living a right life-style.

Youths are a big reservoir of venereal infection. Venereal diseases strike 12 percent of adolescents aged 15 to 19 in the United States. That's one out of eight teenagers.

"There are a lot of diseases out there that can hurt you if you're sexually active," warns one public health official. He meant you are taking chances with sex partners, or when you have sexual or intimate relations with anyone who may have picked up a sexually transmissible disease from others at some time.

Many have heard about syphilis and gonorrhea. But how many have



Photos courtesy Los Angeles County Health Department

HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS, type 2, magnified, and tragic consequences to a newborn baby (right). Half of babies passing through infected birth canal become infected; one quarter die or are brain damaged.

heard about herpes simplex type 2, or chancroid or lymphogranuloma venereum? Then there is granuloma inguinale, hepatitis-B and cytomegalovirus. But the list of new sexually transmissible plagues does not stop here. Add to our list monilia, trichomoniasis, giardiasis, shigella dysentery, amebic dysentery, pubic lice and scabies!

All of these diseases or infestations (and others suspected but not yet absolutely proven) can be transmitted sexually or by close intimate contact with infected persons.

STD Defined

Medical and health officials have shifted away from discussing these diseases by the term venereal disease. The term coming into use now is sexually transmitted disease (STD). Some health officials, however, point out that the term sexually transmissible disease is an even more accurate description. The reason is because not all STDs are exclusively transmitted by sex-related contact.

Statements about the causes for the spread of STDs must not be oversimplified. Not all STD infections are always avoidable, even by the most moral or faithful of persons.

While some of the diseases are almost entirely spread by sexual contact with infected persons—syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes simplex type 2, for instance—some are also capable of being picked up by nonsexual contact. (And in a few very rare cases, even syphilis, gonorrhea or genital herpes can be picked up by nonsexual means.)

Virgin men and women and faithful mates have gotten some cases of monilia, urethritis (NGU), trichomoniasis or venereal warts. Scabies, caused by a mite, and pubic lice are infestations that can be picked up not only by sexual relations, but by close body contact with infected persons or infected bedding or clothing.

Monilia is the result of an overblooming yeast organism that normally lives harmlessly in the "flora" of the genital region, especially in women. If the natural microbiotic balance is upset by some means—stress, drugs, pregnancy or tight clothing, for instance—the yeast organism may rapidly overgrow creating a discomforting infection that can be easily transmitted sexually.

Since the disease called non-gonococcal urethritis is caused by

different organisms (some known, some unknown) these infections may be caused and spread in similar manners.

The microorganism causing trichomoniasis may live harmlessly in the genital flora of some person, but not others. Or it may suddenly flare up for some reason or be spread in infected clothing or water. This infection is estimated to occur in about three million Americans each year.

Could it be possible that some new STDs are being generated because so many millions are upsetting the natural microbiotic balances of their bodies with ever more powerful drugs, wrong diets or improper ways of living? Health officials admit there is much yet to be learned about many newer, or at least newly recognized, STDs. Yet, the fact still remains. If there wasn't so much sexual promiscuity, the spread of such types of diseases would be much more limited.

High Chances

While individual cases of STDs have nothing to do with immoral behavior or faithlessness between marriage partners, much of the "silent epidemic" is caused by irre-

sponsible, careless or freewheeling sexual or intimate contact.

Health authorities estimate at least 20 percent of the high risk population of sexually active people are infected at any time with one or more of the serious STDs.

Dr. Paul Wiesener, director of the VD division at Atlanta's (Georgia) Center for Disease Control estimates as many as 30 percent of the sexually active U.S. population have been exposed to genital herpes, while not in all cases developing symptoms. Doctors were talking of only 5 percent less than a decade ago.

There are no precise figures of infection for some of the newer STDs. Even today these diseases are not required to be reported, like syphilis and gonorrhea, usually are. In some cases, these diseases have only lately been individually recognized. In the past many doctors thought victims had only some minor genital infection or something that would pass if given a general antibiotic.

Private doctors still do not report many of these infections in order to protect their patients' privacy. This practice stymies the critical necessity of tracing down all contacts for testing and/or treatment. After the fact partial treatment of victims perpetuates a vicious cycle of spreading the disease as untreated persons keep re-infecting others.

One of the most unfortunate facts about sexually transmissible diseases is that not only are sexually promiscuous persons often hurt, but also innocent bystanders—faithful mates, babies and young children. Many miscarriages, stillbirths, congenitally deformed children and cases of blindness, deafness and other serious health problems have been caused by syphilis, gonorrhea, genital herpes or other STDs and passed along to such individuals in some unfortunate manner.

Symptomless Crises

Today grocery stores and public libraries carry magazines or

books that can honestly only be called pornographic. Magazine covers offer such titles as, "How Wicked Are You?" "New Ways to Turn You On," "The Artful Pickup—How to Attract a Partner Anywhere," "A Sensual Sampler."

Every kind of sex practice is suggested by various media for you to experiment with. A few give some advice if things go wrong. "... You have the good luck to be having a sex life when medical science is able to knock out venereal disease in rapid order. ... If you do get a sore or a discharge or the feeling that something is wrong ... run to your gynecologist and get fixed up" (*The Sensuous Woman*, by "J").

There's one outstanding problem with "J"'s advice to lovesick young women/swingers—that advice is totally wrong for many infections of STDs.

An STD infection may well NOT be easily treated. There may be no cure at all! An STD infection may not be a "feeling that something is wrong." It may not be a noticeable sore or discharge, as in about 80 percent of females infected with gonorrhea and large numbers of symptomless men with this serious disease. In vast numbers of victims, symptoms may not show up for weeks or even years. It may not be noticeable or painful until irreversible damage has been done.

Not until a child is born blind or syphilitic—or not born at all due to sterility—will many women or their mates know they have a serious STD. Not until after one marries, settles down after a life of "sowing wild oats," may a person's STD infection rekindle and infect a faithful mate.

Too often these facts about STDs have been played down in modern society's play-now-fix-the-results-later philosophy.

It's time to speak out clearly on the devastating consequences of wrong lifestyles and sex practices that violate the laws of the living God!

If cigarette companies are

required to warn that their product is "dangerous to your health," then it is only fair that publishers and promoters of indecent lifestyles and practices be required to carry notices with their promotions saying:

"WARNING: The immoral sexual acts advocated, stimulated or encouraged by these ideas, pictures or words may result in a painful and permanent disease for which there is no cure. Or in mental trauma, ruined marriages, deformed children or suicide."

Debilitating Herpes

"Genital herpes is the disease which keeps many venereal disease specialists monogamous," says one health specialist. "Ten years ago it was an uncommon event to see a patient with genital herpes," said another dermatologist in the San Francisco area. "Today, there are days when I see up to 10 patients a day with it."

"It's the venereal disease of the new morality," says another specialist dealing with the problem. Most medical officials directly indict sexual promiscuity as the major cause of the venereal herpes epidemic.

But you must understand some important differences in the herpes problem. Many herpes simplex infections have nothing to do with sexual behavior.

A decade ago it was thought ulcerative sores in the genital area were caused by the same virus producing similar sores above the waist, particularly on the mouth and lips. Only in 1966 were two separate herpes simplex viruses found to be involved in human infections.

Type 1 (herpes simplex virus type 1) causes common cold sores and fever blisters above the waist. It is usually passed on to others through kissing, intimate contact or using the same eating utensils during an active lesion. The type 1 virus may be in as much as half or even more of a population group.

Type 2 (herpes simplex virus type 2) is passed from human to

human almost exclusively by sexual contact. However, oral-genital sex practices can spread either herpes virus to reverse areas. And hand contact with infected areas can spread either virus to other mucous membrane areas during infectious periods. It is very dangerous to pass such an infection to the eyes.

In infected persons, either virus can be triggered to develop infectious sores or blisters after some physical or emotional stress—emotional upset, drug therapy, too much sunlight or heat or health problems for instance. The body after a time knocks the virus down enough to force it into remission, but the virus is not destroyed. It remains dormant in the body until some stress reactivates it again.

Though frequently painful and emotionally disturbing, genital herpes sores really present the greatest physical threat to newborn babies of infected mothers. Half of babies passing through an infected birth canal will become infected and one quarter of them will die or receive serious brain damage. The type 2 virus also has been found to have a high correlation with cancer of the cervix in women, although this virus has not been absolutely identified as the cause.

Because of the sudden seriousness of the herpes problem, the American Social Health Organization has established a program called HELP to give advice to herpes sufferers on various methods that may reduce their mental and physical complications. Their address is: HELP, 260 Sheridan Avenue, Suite 307, Palo Alto, California, 94306. Phone: (415) 321-5134.

All Sex Not Equal

Pressure groups regularly demonstrate for legalization and total social acceptance of almost any sexual activity by consenting persons in private—even acts that used to be understood, and correctly so, as damaging to stable family life and social cohesiveness.

In England, a government

appointed committee of judges and lawyers recently suggested relaxing the laws on incest to make it legal for members of a family above a certain age to engage in sex with each other if they want to.

This is a sign of sick leadership in our times! Don't these men understand the well-documented mental and emotional trauma, and ruined later marriages, produced by incest? Why have these men blinded their eyes to the more and more cases of venereal diseases being reported in the young incest victims?

"Two, four, six, eight. Gay is just as good as straight!" shout homosexual activists in parades and marches for social acceptance. But not all sex is equal! Each variety of misused sex produces serious problems. And whenever an STD is introduced into a promiscuous group it eventually proliferates.

The promiscuous sexual contacts of the majority of male homosexuals has produced a VD rate (particularly syphilis and hepatitis-B) many times greater (some health officials estimate 10 or even more times greater) than for heterosexual men and women. Intestinal diseases such as dysenteries are also much more frequently passed between homosexual men because of the nature of homosexual practices. Now studies indicate more heterosexuals are engaging in these practices.

God made the human body. The Creator instructed humans in its proper use. Mouths are made for communication, eating and chewing food. The intestinal tract was made for eliminating human wastes, toxins and diseases. The male and female sex organs were made to be united in faithful, holy wedlock and love; they are not for lust, perversion or promiscuity. These words have to be said because almost nobody else is saying them!

Protect Yourself.

Today it takes vision and courage to swim against the tide of mod-

ern permissiveness and adhere to high moral, sexual and physical health standards.

God's laws and ways show us how to avoid most of these diseases, or at least cut down to a minimum one's chances of contracting them.

God's way is for men and women not to engage in sexual relations—much less perverted sexual relationships—with others before marriage. God's way is not engaging in indiscriminate fondling or kissing of other human beings. If a person has any kind of sore, discharge or communicable disease (or something they are not sure of), it is not God's way to be running around kissing or closely contacting others.

Face the world of reality. Very frequently what's passing for "having fun," or a "love-in" at a park, a party or the back seat of a car is resulting in a disease that threatens many men and women, young and old, with nerve or brain damage, sterility, heart trouble, late developing health problems or worse—death!

Isn't it time you learned essential knowledge about these diseases and taught your children, at appropriate ages, about them? Isn't it time you told them that love, sex and marriage used God's way can be a thing of great beauty and security, not a thing to be feared or scorned?

This article can only touch the highlights of what you need to know about STDs. Our free booklet entitled *The Silent Epidemic* contains added information on most of these diseases. It contains charts, diagrams, information explaining common misconceptions about venereal disease, unusual modes of transmissions, VD's tragic role in history, and VD phone hotlines for many major U.S. cities.

As never before in human history, you can't afford not to understand these diseases. You can't afford not to live by the way of life that will prevent the "silent epidemic" from ruining your life! □

CHILDREN

(Continued from page 14)

They act as if pregnancy is a nine-month disease that needs their help to be resolved." The words of a spokesman for the California Medical Association on why his organization opposes home birth are revealing: "Our position is that there are so many things which can go wrong that the procedure should take place in accredited facilities."

"The procedure"! A *mechanical* word for a *natural* event, reflecting the mentality of orthodox obstetrics! As California State Senator Barry Keene has noted, some doctors believe "that childbirth is a medical event and not a natural event that's been going on for thousands of years."

Backlash

The movement toward natural childbirth gained growing *popular* support throughout the 1970s. Yet sometime in the late 1970s (or early 1980s depending with whom you speak), "alternative" childbirth began to come under severe attack from the "establishment" in obstetrical medicine.

The challenge to alternative birth is not merely an American trend, though it is centered in the United States. Medical statistician David Stewart declares the medical backlash is "global," noting that physician attendance at a home birth has been labeled "unbecoming conduct" in Canada.

The International Association of Parents and Professionals for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth (NAPSAC) cites an estimate that at least 90 percent of physicians who support homebirth or other nonstandardized childbirth are currently facing some sort of trouble—investigation by medical boards, revocation of hospital privileges, cancellation of insurance, or, most drastic, suspension of their licenses.

Recently, statistician Stewart, who is head of NAPSAC, noted in early 1981 that "in the last two months, ten doctors in ten states lost their licenses or were threatened with malpractice insurance cancellations or loss of their hospital privileges because they do home births" (quoted in *Los Angeles Times*, February 27, 1981).

In California, where the attack is in full swing, Ginny Cassidy-

Brinn of the Los Angeles Feminist Women's Health Center observes that "everybody who attends home births around the state is being harassed."

The harassment in some cases seems particularly mean spirited, directed at any doctor, nurse or midwife who has anything to do with home or alternative birth *regardless of any instance of supposed negligence or incompetence.* Thus *NAPSAC News* (Spring 81) reports that one Chicago M.D., who doesn't even do out-of-hospital births, has been harassed because he does serve as a back-up for physicians who do engage in home births!

In San Diego, California, the local medical society, according to the Association for Childbirth at Home, International (ACHI), has denied membership to doctors attending home births.

ACHI also reports that a number of doctors and hospitals *deliberately deny prenatal care to women planning home births.* One ACHI survey in Houston, Texas, in 1978 found 20 obstetricians who refused prenatal care to such women. ACHI also reports that a local obstetrical society in Franklin

Moving Childbirth From Delivery Room to Operating Room

Cesarean sections have become increasingly likely in standardized hospital births. In the last decade there has been a virtual explosion of cesarean operations.

Once such operations were rare, considered a last-ditch measure to save the mother's life. Now some hospitals have cesarean rates as high as 40 percent! (*New York Post*, December 28, 1977.) Overall, since 1970, the cesarean rate has tripled at most hospitals.

Many hospital doctors seem to feel that God made

a mistake when He didn't put a zipper in a woman's belly," charges Dr. Robert Mendelsohn, a physician prominent in the alternative birth movement.

Besides subjecting mothers to all the hazards of a major operation, cesareans carry other drawbacks. Babies delivered through cesareans run a greater risk of breathing problems. "Labor itself seems to do something for the baby: uterine contractions help expel fluid in the baby's lungs and stomach. In a cesarean, the baby often has difficulty in breath-

ing," states Dr. Ralph Gause, trustee of the American Foundation for Maternal and Child Health (quoted in *Ms* magazine, October, 1978).

Probably the greatest force pushing cesarean operations is a doctor's fear of malpractice suits. Many doctors fear that if they deliver a "less than perfect" baby, they will be sued, and rather than take that chance, subject the mother to a major, though now common, operation. Yet ironically, Dr. Helen Mareskind, the Seattle physician who found in a 1980

study that a doctor faces a higher risk of a suit over cesarean than vaginal deliveries. Besides malpractice, there are other, little-admitted reasons for the explosion in cesareans: the doctor's convenience and money.

In a study of 120 births, sociologist Susan G. Doering of Johns Hopkins University found that 16 out of 20 (80 percent) "emergency" cesareans were at certain hours of the day, even though the births were all spread randomly. She also noted a large Blue Cross study that showed that a woman's chances of having a cesarean rose in direct proportion to what her insurance would pay for the operation! (*New York Post*, November 28, 1977.)

Who Is the Medical Childbirth "Establishment"?

The primary opposition to home and alternative childbirth stems from several professional organizations: the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and, of course, the American Medical Association (AMA). Not surprisingly, such groups seem committed to the standardized approach to childbirth, regardless of how *dehumanizing* it makes what should be a joyous and triumphant event.

In some cases, such professional organizations make absolutely ridiculous statements to back up their resistance to home birth. The most famous is Warren H. Pearce's statement made in the ACOG Newsletter of July, 1977: "Home delivery is maternal trauma—home delivery is child abuse!" (quoted in *Reason*, February, 1980).

Alternative birth proponents pinpoint ACOG as the prime mover behind the backlash. ACHI notes a 1975 ACOG policy statement on home birth:

"The College supports those actions that provide the mother and her infant with accepted standards of safety available only in hospitals.

The key, of course, is that word *only*. It assumes that every pregnancy, no matter how unlikely to suffer complications, requires the whole artillery of medical technology available in hospitals, including "forceps deliveries."

Of course, the *availability* of a hospital in case of "unforeseen" complications is desirable. As such, the move on the part of some hospitals to *deny their facilities* to women choosing home births or to doctors attending such births represents nothing less than absolute criminal (in a moral sense) hypocrisy. Not to mention doctors who say *all* births should be in hospitals, yet seek to deny hospital facilities in certain cases where they are *genuinely needed*!

The statements of the medical association also have a certain vague, lofty pomposity about them. "We support . . . accepted stan-

dards of safety available only in hospitals"; the "potential hazards" of childbirth "require standards of safety which are provided in the hospital setting and cannot be matched in the home situation"; "The health team necessary to provide optimal maternity care must be directed by a qualified obstetrician-gynecologist."

The exasperating aspect of such statements is that they *assume* the doctors have already won the argument! They assume no reasonable person could believe that their precious (and sometimes brutal) standardized hospital childbirth is anything less than a heaven-sent boon to all mankind. And, of course, "qualified" by *definition* only includes physicians who subscribe to the "hospital only" philosophy.

(It is fascinating that, on the subject of evolution, scientists are forever protesting that science is not a "monolith," meaning it is open to new discoveries. But organized medicine, which deals with the most complex "scientific" system in the universe—the human body—rather arrogantly as-

sumes that all new knowledge outside of a *certain preset pattern* must be disregarded!)

Even some doctors associated with ACOG admit that there is at least a reasonable case to make in favor of alternative birth. Dr. Saul Lerner, a participant in a 1979 ACOG round table discussion on hospital versus home delivery, was candid about orthodox medicine's *prejudice* against home birth:

"I did a survey for a debate on the home vs. hospital delivery issue and came across a major public health problem. I came up with a book of horrendous home births. *But if I'd been assigned the other side*, I could have called hospitals and come up with horrendous home births that would *make us look sick*" (*Reason*, February, 1980, emphasis added). Another doctor, at the same symposium, while still saying that embracing home birth is "unacceptable," admitted that orthodox medicine had an "arrogant opposition to home birth" (*id*).

Perhaps some day organized medicine will realize that those problems that on occasion *do* happen with home birth are the result of poverty or lack of preparation or proper prenatal care, and *not* necessarily part of home birth *itself*.

County, Ohio, passed a resolution to "advise any physician in Franklin County from *participating in prenatal care* or delivery of any patient planning home delivery" (emphasis added).

At least in some instances, it would appear that "establishment" doctors are less concerned with the health of living mothers and their unborn babies—even to the point of denying prenatal care!—than they are with upholding the standardized, overly interventionist way of childbirth

employed in many hospitals!

Midwives have also come under attack. They are increasingly being prosecuted for various "crimes" associated with attending a home birth, mostly practicing medicine without a license.

The attacks on those involved in alternative births seem to stem from the deliberate efforts of more orthodox doctors and *not* from disgruntled patients.

NAPSAC reports that in Iowa, one doctor engaged in a home birth had heard, unofficially, that

state medical authorities were "out to do away with home births." It also reports that an Alaska home birth physician was told by local doctors that they intended to "get him."

And Dr. Hai Abdul, a natural childbirth physician facing similar pressures in California, notes that the California Medical Association in its January, 1981, bulletin, made its "#1 priority an all-out attack on home birth and the practice of Midwifery." (You would think their number one

priority should be an attack on disease!)

The Double Standard

Obstetricians are 10 times more likely to be sued than other kinds of doctors, according to the study by Seattle physician Helen Marieskind. Moreover, over the course of time of an obstetrician's practice, whether hospital or alternative, there is a tremendous statistical probability of some small number of tragedies, whether they be still births, crippling or some other terrible consequence. When such occur to a doctor following standard hospital practice, there is a good chance that medical licensing authorities will choose not to investigate. Yet when tragedies occur to a doctor practicing home deliveries, there is a far greater likelihood that the doctor will be investigated.

ACHE argues that "home births are disproportionately investigated. Home births are investigated even when outcomes are good, while hospital mistakes are rarely questioned." NAPSAC makes a similar statement: "What would merely be a cause of mild reprimand with a hospital obstetrician is grounds for suspension of the right to practice for a home-birth doctor."

Probably the worst example of the double standard is revealed in the murder charge brought against midwife Rosalie Tarpenting of Madera County, California. She was put on trial for murder because of the death of a baby. At trial, however, it was revealed that the baby died, not because of anything she did or didn't do, but because the hospital to which the baby was taken blew out the infant's lungs by pumping oxygen in at too high a pressure!

The Biggest Story in Medicine

Dr. Mendelsohn claims the alternative birth controversy "is going to be the biggest story in medicine in the 1980s." As of the moment, the outcome is in doubt, though both sides are mobilizing for what seems to be a particularly hardfought conflict. One

natural childbirth physician has already vowed he will "go underground" if state medical authorities try to stop his practice.

Of course, in a better world, say the world after Jesus Christ returns, the natural childbirth people will have won hands down. In that world, mothers will be healthy and there will be no need for hospitals. Childbirth will be a peaceful, family-oriented, love-filled event reflecting, as it does, a part of God's own plan for man. It will not be the terror-filled nightmare that it can be in many hospitals today.

For the here and now, thousands of parents have already experienced, firsthand, the general superiority of natural childbirth. As it so happens, the world's most beautiful, intelligent and well-disposed baby, Katherine Anne Calkins (my daughter!), was born in an alternative birth center, and she (as well as her mother) profited immensely from the experience.

Later, her mother, outraged

that state medical authorities would seek, by a pattern of harassment against alternative birth physicians, to deny her next child the same experience, dashed off the following message to her physician who attended her first birth, the eloquence of which speaks for itself:

"How can a mother describe to others the beauty of the marvelous, golden moments of childbirth. And then the triumphant feeling of holding, touching and loving the newborn after birth. I was not to be cheated out of this. I truly appreciated you and your staff in allowing me to go my full term and delivery without drugs or being tied down. Also having the father there was a great help to me and a wonderful experience for him. A bond of family love was formed. My delivery was quicker and easier by far than the average. And my baby is very healthy and happy. Dr. Abdul, your methods must be given proper credit." □



IS SEX SIN?

In an age of so many differing sexual "values" where do you find real guidance? What does the Bible say about sexual involvement—and lasting fulfillment? Not one person in a thousand understands the complete God-ordained purpose for sex. Do you?

Send for the free booklet *Is Sex Sin?* today! Mail your request to The Plain Truth office nearest you (see inside front cover for address). Or use the handy request card in this issue.

DRUG PROBLEMS

(Continued from page 6)

resulted in the infamous "Opium War" of 1839 to 1842.

The results of the Opium War were twofold. First, the Chinese had to pay the victorious British millions in war indemnity. Second, it broke the back of any effective resistance by the Chinese government to the importation of the drug. Opium continued to flow in and silver out of China, and in 1856, another war was fought with the British. The results were the same. The Chinese were forced to legalize the import of opium.

All effective opposition to Britain's control of the trade relations with China was ended.

China Grows Its Own

Finally, the Chinese decided that if they couldn't beat them, then they should join them. A small tax was levied on imported opium and domestic production encouraged. Poppy soon became a valuable cash crop for the peasants as it brought two to four times as much as wheat grown on the same amount of land.

The territory most suited for the growing of the opium poppy was the provinces of Szechwan and Yunnan, which bordered the Southeast Asian states of Tonkin (Vietnam), Laos and Burma.

This mountainous region had a high enough elevation for the growth of the delicate poppy. In addition it has traditionally been the home of scattered hill tribes ethnically distinct from both the Han Chinese to the north and the lowland races of Southeast Asia. These nomadic hill peoples harbored no consideration for border demarcations. So the growing of the opium poppy soon spilled over into Southeast Asia, chiefly into the Shan states of Burma and the mountains of northern Laos, Vietnam and Thailand.

Eventually, missionaries and a growing group of people concerned with the spread of opium smoking to Europe brought pressure to bear on the English gov-

ernment. In 1915 the exportation of British opium to China was effectively banned. But not before multiple millions in profits had been made at the expense of the lives of so many Chinese. And not before the seeds of a future plague of opium had been planted in the remote highlands of Southeast Asia's Golden Triangle.

France Waters

The victorious communist government in postwar China effectively stopped the cultivation of the opium poppy throughout the country, even as far as its remote southern borders. The one nation that was delivered to opium has delivered itself from it!

Today the People's Republic of China is no longer a factor in international narcotics traffic. But enough seeds had been planted long before in the remote mountains of Southeast Asia to allow this area eventually to more than fill any gap left by China in supplying heroin to the European and American markets. By the end of the 1950s, Burma, Laos and Thailand together had become the source of more than half of the world's illicit supply of opium and opium products.

How did this transformation occur? Once again the governments of the West, having failed to come to grips and punish greedy pushers, must bear a significant portion of the responsibility.

While the British had been colonizing India and Burma and forcing the opium trade on China, France was busy bringing Indochina (modern Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam) under her political domination.

France began the conquest of Indochina by annexing Saigon in 1862. Then Cambodia became a protectorate in 1863 and later central Vietnam (1883), Tonkin (1884) and Laos (1893) followed.

To finance the conquest of these areas and to underwrite the heavy expenses of colonial rule, France turned to that most lucrative and readily available source of income—opium. Indochina

already had a large opium-smoking population—primarily of the Chinese merchant class—and imported opium from China.

France followed the time-honored traditions of the governments of the Orient. She created several government-licensed opium monopolies that imported the drug from India, paid the colonial government a tax and then sold it to the populations of Indochina.

Later, factories were built to refine raw Indian opium resin into smokable opium and the different drug interests were consolidated and reorganized under a single government-administrated opium monopoly.

Profits soared. By 1900, opium accounted for more than half of French Indochina's colonial revenues. France did not succumb to the same moralistic pressures against the drug that ended Britain's participation in the China trade. The governors of Indochina continued to control the lucrative and destructive trade until the advent of World War II.

World War II

During World War II, French Indochina was occupied by the Japanese. As the Vichy French were nominally allied with Japan against the Allies, the French retained administration of Indochina.

Battle lines effectively disrupted Indochina's opium supply routes from India and forced the opium monopoly to develop a new source of supply in order to continue this very lucrative trade.

That new source was readily available in the mountains of northwestern Vietnam and northern Laos.

The opium poppy had long been grown in this remote region in small quantities by Hmong and Yao tribesmen who had migrated from Yunnan, bringing with them the knowledge of opium cultivation. Their new home in Indochina was well suited to the growing of poppies. Large expanses of mountain rain forests provided virgin territory for the nomadic hilltribes' slash-and-burn techniques of agriculture.

Also much of the area is above the 3,000-foot elevation mark, providing cool temperatures for ideal cultivation.

The French opium monopoly began a campaign of inducing these Hmong and Yao tribesmen to expand areas of cultivation and to increase production. French colonial agents were sent out to contact tribal leaders and negotiate contracts for increased production. In return for new quantities of raw opium, French authorities gave political support to aggressive tribal leaders.

Production boomed and, consequently, the opium monopoly filled the vacuum created by the war. At the same time an entirely new chapter opened in the saga of the opium poppy that would prove to have far-reaching effects on the whole world.

First Indochina War

The First Indochina War proved to be a costly and bitter lesson to the French. French professional soldiers considered it a war to be fought in the traditional style.

Their Viet Minh communist opponents saw it as an entirely different kind of war, a political war for the control of the hearts and minds of the people themselves.

Slowly, the French began to realize that traditional tactics would not work in this kind of war. France knew it needed allies among the people. They turned to the ethnic minorities and religious factions to find these allies. Among them were the opium-producing Hmong of the highlands of Indochina.

These hearty hillpeople proved effective allies of the French in their fight with the Viet Minh. At the height of the First Indochina War, as many as 40,000 mercenary tribesmen were ambushing Viet Minh supply lines and providing intelligence. There was one catch: for the French to ensure the loyalty and livelihood of their mountain allies, they had to see that the Laos and Tonkin hill tribes' major cash crop, opium, was purchased, delivered and sold to the ready market through Hanoi, Saigon and on to the outside world.

This proved to be a mutually profitable agreement. The French had a highly effective counter-insurgency unit operating under the military's direct control. The Hmong and Yao had a secure market for their lucrative cash crop. As well, profits from the sale of the opium and heroin could be used by the French military commanders to finance their mercenary units.

Dien Bien Phu brought an end to this profitable arrangement. But the pattern of cooperation in the opium trade between a Western army operating in Indochina and their hill-tribe mercenary forces was soon to be repeated—with even more devastating consequences.

Second Indochina War—the Vietnam War

In the late 1950s, Americans gradually replaced the French as advisers to the then-fledgling government of the Republic of Vietnam, popularly known as South Vietnam. This involvement continued the overall U.S. policy of halting the spread of communism in Southeast Asia.

America became more and more embroiled in the Vietnam conflict. Relationships with the ethnic and religious minority groups in both Vietnam and Laos followed the pattern already established by their French forerunners.

U.S. Special Force teams (Green Berets) were given the responsibility of recruiting, supplying and training hill-tribe mercenary units to fight the communist Viet Cong, just as the Red Berets of the French had done before them.

Soon the Americans discovered that any viable relationship with the Hmong and Yao hill tribes was always tied to the opium trade.

The hearty Hmong hill man was the ideal guerrilla in what would once again prove to be a guerrilla war. He lived simply, led a spartan life, knew the terrain and was a good fighter.

U.S. Special Forces personnel soon learned respect and appreciation for the several abilities of

these simple mountain folk. The basic problem was they needed to eat too, and opium was traditionally their chief cash crop. Consequently, the Americans replaced the French in assuming the responsibility of purchasing and transporting the deadly product of their mountain allies to the markets of Southeast Asia's capitals. Opium from as far away as the Shan states in Burma found its way by way of American transport to drug trafficking centers and heroin factories.

What is the legacy of this arrangement? Appalling.

Northern Thailand became a center for opium smuggling and heroin production. Motivated by the get principle, corrupt officials in all the countries involved in the war grew fat from the profits of the illicit narcotics trade. New and highly lucrative smuggling routes or connections sprang up everywhere.

Saigon became one of the major centers of the trafficking of drugs in Southeast Asia. Heroin, morphine and opium were readily available at inexpensive prices. This had a spinoff effect (aside from increased flow of heroin to the United States) that has had a far-reaching and powerful impact on the attitudes of American youths toward the sale and use of illicit narcotic drugs.

American GIs in Vietnam discovered that the heroin and related products so readily available for a nominal fee on Saigon's streets were a quick way to find solace and relief from the pains of conscience and the horrors of an unpopular war.

With drugs so readily available, traditional taboos against the use of drugs were broken. Drug abuse, especially the use of heroin, became commonplace among American GIs serving in Vietnam.

This new attitude toward drug use and the sale of drugs was not left behind when the involved GIs returned home.

Having broken the traditional taboos against the use of drugs, the floodgates opened. Habits formed in Vietnam were carried back to

the United States by returning soldiers. Even more damaging, however, was the new freer attitude toward the entire drug scene. Coupled with the moral decay of society and subsequent pressures on our youths, this attitude has led to a life filled with escapism through the use of drugs.

Many of the "hard drug" users of the sixties have switched to so-called soft drugs, supposedly less harmful. But the demand for hard drugs is on the increase among youths of the new generation. Where will it all end?

There can be only one answer to that question. Man, by himself, cannot solve the problems he has created. Only the People's Republic of China has paid the price to overcome the maelstrom of drug usage. What other nations are willing to pay the same price in centralized authority and re-education? The plain truth is that only in the soon-coming Kingdom of God to this earth, will the vicious cycle be broken. In tomorrow's world under the government of God; there will be no misery to cause a desire for escapism—the root cause of the drug problem today. That is the good news that *The Plain Truth* magazine is privileged to announce in advance.

The government of Jesus Christ of Nazareth will exercise authority. It will not be one based on lust for power and greed. It will reeducate the nations so no one will be interested in sponsoring policies that lead to enriching some at the expense of multiple millions of other human beings. It will teach the way of give instead of get.

Drug abuse in the World Tomorrow will disappear through the exercise of divine force and total reeducation. In the meantime, the nations at fault—Britain, France and the United States—must contend with an explosive epidemic of drug abuse among youths that reaches out and touches all nations of the Free World. □

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the previous issue, in the article "The Real Value of Britain's Royal Family," King Henry III of England should have been contemporary of Llewelyn ap Gruffydd.

August, 1981

CHILE

(Continued from page 4)

visited scores of heads of state and government around the world, had been invited to Chile by President Allende.

Because of the turmoil in the country, the president had to leave the capital the day of his expected meeting with Mr. Armstrong. He asked that his chief of protocol represent him by proxy instead. Three weeks later, Allende lay dead in the very room where Mr. Armstrong had been received.

Unlikely Martyr

In death, Allende became an instant martyr for Communists and Communist sympathizers around the world. The coup proved, they said, that a freely elected Marxist could never legally last out a full term of office.

Overlooked—purposely ignored in many cases—were the ruinous results of the Chilean Marxist experiment. Also conveniently ignored was the fact that Allende had been trying to stay in power by unconstitutional means, specifically through creating his own private army and by encouraging ongoing illegal seizures of property.

A German businessman living in Chile at the time of the overthrow perhaps explained the revolution best: "This was not a coup organized by ambitious generals." It was the "last and only chance," he said, to prevent Communists from seizing power entirely.

Subsequent reports of involvement in the *golpe* (coup) by America's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) were exaggerated. Impartial observers feel the CIA exerted very little influence. The rage of the middle classes in Chile against the government had become so intense by 1973 that the coup would no doubt have occurred with or without help from Washington.

Enter the "New Economics"

The overthrow initially changed only the political course of the coun-

try. Economically, Chile lay prostrate. For a short while afterward, inflation zoomed to a phenomenal 1,000 percent annual rate.

Searching for a way out of the mess, the leaders of the military junta entrusted the task of reversing the country's economic fortunes to a group of young Chilean economists, who came to be known as the Chicago Boys. All had done their postgraduate studies at the University of Chicago under Professor Milton Friedman, whose expertise had earned him a Nobel Prize for economics in 1976.

Before the economists could get far, however, the nearly prostrate economy was dealt two more blows—this time not of Chile's own doing. In 1974, world oil prices soared as the OPEC oil cartel took charge. At the same time, because of the worldwide recession, the price of copper, Chile's leading export, plummeted.

In 1974, Chile's economy hit bottom when its gross national product plunged an alarming 12.9 percent.

In Chile's darkest hours, the economists went to work, even though the initial effects of their reforms temporarily added to the problem. They started pruning back the suffocating bureaucracy, returning the bulk of production to private hands. They began to chop down the nearly unscalable tariff walls that had virtually shut Chile off from the world economy.

The overall economic game plan aimed at increasing national wealth by maximizing national growth—in other words, increasing the "size of the pie" instead of redistributing the poverty. With economic growth, it was hoped that the lot of the productive middle class would be improved, while at the same time generating a surplus to assist the extremely poor.

Yet another goal was to encourage the full utilization of the resources for which Chile had a natural advantage, resources such as timber reserves, which had been sorely neglected. In

addition, the economists took particular aim at Chile's 40-year-old policy of import substitution, perhaps the single most important barrier impeding the country's future progress. Under the rules of import substitution, high tariff walls kept out nearly all foreign products except food items and capital machinery.

Intended to protect domestic industry and jobs, this policy only fueled greater inflation since Chile provided simply too small a market for the country to produce everything itself. The result was that Chile's consumers had been forced to accept higher-cost, often inferior domestic goods in place of better-made, less expensive foreign-made merchandise.

The economists have now brought tariffs down in stages from an average of 100 percent in 1973 to a uniform 10 percent. A Chilean can buy an automobile for \$6,500 that under Allende would have cost \$20,000.

Some previously protected industries have gone under, or have been forced to shape up to meet the new market. But Chile's businessmen have so far proved to be remarkably resilient.

And the stores in downtown Santiago, chock-full with affordable imported merchandise from around the world, attest to the country's remarkable turnaround.

Exports Up, Unemployment Down

Money and effort have been diverted into developing new industries. Success has been attained, for example, in diversifying exports. Copper sales now provide less than half of export earnings.

Chile's abundant fruit harvests have carved out a respected role in markets around the world. The forestry industry has shot up from nowhere to become the leading export sector after copper. (One particular variety of pine tree grows at a rate six to ten times as fast as in the Northern Hemisphere.)

Naturally, such a radical transformation of an entire nation's

economy was not accomplished without transitional problems.

A particularly difficult challenge has been unemployment, which shot up to 20 percent in March, 1976, and hovered in the 12 to 15 percent range for years afterward.

Under Allende, unemployment was low, as little as 3 percent in 1971. But the figure was a facade. For political reasons, the government hired nearly everyone wanting a job into state-run enterprises whether the enterprises needed the help or not. "Intervened" banks and businesses were grossly overstaffed by "politically qualified personnel." A shake-out was inevitable.

Significantly, as of March of this year, unemployment dipped to 8.3 percent, the last major negative economic indicator, aside from inflation, to show real improvement.

Social Services Overhaul

The broad-spectrum reforms, contrary to charges levied by politically motivated critics, have not been carried out "on the backs of the poor." But neither is welfarism encouraged.

The government now spends more on education and social services than the Allende government did, since resources no longer have to be diverted into subsidizing unprofitable nationalized industries. (Chile is still a "mixed economy" however, with the 10 largest companies state-owned. These are generally profitable, however—even the railroads!)

The latest reform that has raised eyebrows around the world is the institution of a privately funded social security system. As in the United States, the government's social security fund is essentially insolvent.

Finally, a new climate of trade unionism has been created. As in other segments of Chilean society, the labor federations have been decentralized and depoliticized. Contract negotiations are now permitted on the enterprise level only, not industrywide. This way, crippling national strikes are avoided. Unions also cannot

impose settlements above the inflation rate.

The upshot of the thoroughgoing economic reforms program has been success in giving more to all the people, especially opportunities. Chilean citizens, for example, are free to enter any line of business they please without a government permit.

The foreign investor enjoys the same rights and obligations as a Chilean investor—putting into practice the biblical principle of treating the stranger as one's self. There are virtually no restrictions on remitting either capital or earnings. This policy, quite naturally, has led to a remarkable upsurge in foreign investment.

Chile is, of course, not a perfect society—no government of this world is, regardless of its philosophy or ideology. But the statistics bear out that Chile is doing a few things right in a world generally going haywire. A country should be judged not by its ideology, but by the fruits produced by and for its citizens.

Breathing Spell From Politics

By 1973, Chile had become a liberal democracy that had exhausted its institutions. Over a 50-year period, the entire society—political parties, business, labor unions, education—had become so divided into self-serving interest groups that the country finally collapsed in on itself.

Because of this experience, politics has simply been put on hold while the transitional leadership attempts to inculcate new ways of thinking on the part of the public and its future leadership.

The public as a whole approves of this breathing spell from the feverish world of politics as usual. The mood of the majority of Chileans is perhaps best expressed by a young educated *chilena*, incensed by criticism of her country: "What we Chileans want is peace and tranquility and order. We've had it with politics."

Gallup polls reveal that the government, headed by General (and President) Augusto Pinochet, enjoys wide popular favor. A fairly common assessment is

this: One third of the people genuinely support the government and another third fear the alternative, considering the Allende nightmare.

In a plebiscite last September, the voters of Chile approved a new constitution that went into effect March 11, 1981.

By a 67 percent margin (confirming the two-thirds support factor) voters approved of General Pinochet retaining power, as president, for another eight years. Foreign observers and diplomats feel the vote was an accurate reflection of public desire, and was by no means rigged.

During this transitional period President Pinochet intends to gradually restore political activity, including parliamentary elections, under carefully controlled conditions. But parties advocating "class struggle" will be banned.

The President will be monitoring the country's progress closely. ("I am here to complete my mission," President Pinochet once said.) If the political climate is considered ripe, presidential elections will take place in 1989. If not, there will be another appointed president for a second eight-year period, to keep the country on course.

Julio Dittborn, an official of *Odeplan*, the state economic-planning agency, and a Chicago Boy himself, told me last year in Santiago of the importance of President Pinochet's role. "Every interest, every group dreams of being a monopoly," he said. "The only wall against them is a determined president" who sees the big picture, the overall national interest.

Will future elected leaders have the same "big picture"? Not likely, but Chile's leaders today hope that whenever elected politicians inherit power again they will find a prosperous and depoliticized society firmly set in place. The revamped structure of Chilean society, they hope, will reduce the ability of the elected leaders to buy votes; to seduce and play off one segment of the population against the others, or to spend (steal) the wealth of the

country to perpetuate themselves in office.

The government aims, says a cabinet official, to "create a new generation [of political leaders] capable of acting purely for the nation and not as demagogues."

Given the pulls of human nature and its desire to "get" rather than to "give"—Chile's political and economic experiment is indeed an ambitious one.

Needed—New Leaders for the Whole World

In his inaugural address March 11, President Pinochet spoke out, predictably, against the self-seeking political ways of the past. He said the old constitution "failed because the old politicians had failed."

The lessons that the readers of *The Plain Truth* should learn from this observation and Chile's experience is that the politics and the politicians of the *entire world* have failed—and have failed with few exceptions down through history.

Plain Truth Editor in Chief, Herbert W. Armstrong has written: "Governments promise peace—but bring wars. They promise benefits for the people, and then extract from the people the cost of the benefits plus excessive costs of government. Government promises are empty. The people are the pawns who fork over the money, in order to get a part of it back. We fail to find in human government any knowledge of life's purpose, or dissemination of the true values."

Very soon now, there will be, instead of the old politics of this world, a totally new and completely just and honest government—not of men, but of God, administered by a returned Jesus Christ, assisted by those training now to have a part in this new government.

This is the very core of the message of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God that Jesus preached—and was put to death for doing so. But Christ is alive and will return to set up that Kingdom. In the booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like* (write for

your free copy) Mr. Armstrong writes:

"The new World Government ... will *not* be so-called Democracy. It will *not* be Socialism. It will *not* be Communism or Nazism. It will *not* be human Monarchy, Oligarchy, or Plutocracy. It will *not* be MAN'S government over man. Man has *proven* his utter incapability of ruling himself!

"It will be DIVINE Government—the Government of God. It will *not* be government from the bottom up. The people will have NO VOTES. It will *not* be government of or by the people—but it will be government FOR the people! It will be government from the TOP (God Almighty) down!

"There will be no dirty political campaigns, where each candidate attempts to put himself forward in the most favorable light, defaming, denouncing, discrediting his opponents. No time will be wasted in mudslinging campaigns in the lust for power. ... All officials will be APPOINTED—and by the divine CHRIST, who reads and knows men's hearts—their inner character, and abilities or lack of ability."

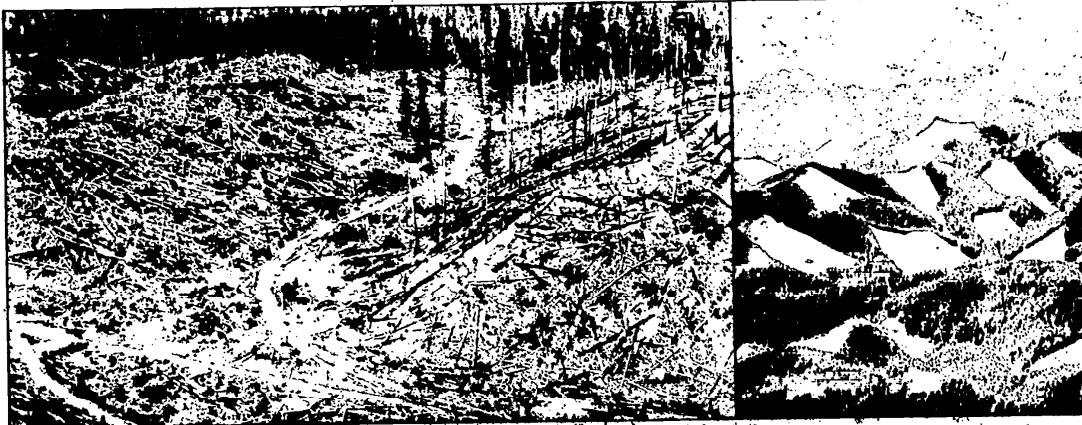
The government of God—a divine dictatorship if you please—will rule with outgoing concern, or love—for those ruled. It will be rule for the highest good of the people.

Men and women everywhere in all nations will be taught *the way* to achieve peace and prosperity. This way, simply put, is the way of *give*, expressed as love toward God first and love toward neighbor equal to one's self.

The soon-coming God-administered utopia will be the governmental and economic "experiment" that finally works. It will put to shame the competitive, antagonistic, crafty and often dishonest old politics of this world.

God speed that day. □

The author visited Chile on an extensive fact-finding trip through South America last summer.



TWO METHODS of cutting forests. Complete logging off of mature forest, left, prior to replanting. Block cutting in old growth, and primary road development, right, with gradual reforestation. Tragically, many tropical forests are not being replanted as here.

FORESTS

(Continued from page 26)

sibly affecting forever the world's weather system" (*ibid.*).

It is estimated that the devestating activities of man and his domestic animals have already drastically altered 20 percent of the total area of the continents, with a resulting change in the heat and water budget. Combine the damage man has done to the environment down through the centuries with the current onslaught in the tropical forests and there is a real cause for alarm. The balance of nature depends partly on a certain percentage of the earth's surface being covered with trees. In a way, there is a parallel with the skin of a human being. A person can tolerate the loss of a certain percentage of his skin and survive. But let that critical point be surpassed and the whole life-system fails.

Likewise with the earth's forest covering. It plays an essential part in the global recycling of water, oxygen, carbon and nitrogen, as well as influencing the wind, temperature and humidity. Scientists studying the situation are divided in their predictions as to whether it will become warmer or colder as the result of deforestation, plus the smoke of slash-and-burn agri-

culture. A slight change, either way will be sufficient to upset the weather patterns as we have known them.

Out on a Limb with "Supertrees"?

Some see a note of optimism in what they hope can be achieved through the use of "supertrees," winged beans and other hardy, rapidly growing plants. So-called supertrees (most of them actually are large legumes) may reach a height of more than 20 feet in one year—and even the foliage is edible. Capable of slowing erosion and adding nutrients to the soil, they are a source of pulp, paper and firewood. Meanwhile the winged bean is a smaller plant almost entirely edible, including its roots. It is hoped such plants can be "farmed" where forests once stood.

But it costs money to put such plants where they are needed. And a lot of convincing has to be done all the way from the highest levels of various governments to the forest farmer whose set pattern of doing things is often hard to change. Besides, these fast-growing plants can never really replace a natural hardwood forest. It's not unlike tearing out a flower garden and sowing a fast-growing, edible weed instead. The weeds may prevent erosion, they may be prolific and even provide food. But the weeds are not flowers!

The Trunk of the Tree

A tree, whether part of a forest or standing alone on a city lot, ought not to be taken for granted. Of course there is a proper way and time to harvest timber and forest products. No one is saying there isn't. But the wholesale and indiscriminate destruction of forests and woodlands is wrong.

When God created the first man and woman He put them in an ideal environment—a garden with plenty of trees. Adam was told to dress and keep the garden (Genesis 2:9, 15). That meant responsible stewardship. That is exactly what is needed now over the forests and woodlands of the earth.

But who is going to decide what constitutes responsible stewardship? The lumber companies? Multinational corporations? Developers? Cattle ranchers? Poverty-stricken farmers? Scientists? Conservationists? Bureaucrats? Someone has to be in charge, but who?

Just as to the other problems plaguing mankind—there is only one real solution to the growing crisis concerning earth's forests: fair, responsible, incorruptible world government. The kind of government Jesus Christ is going to bring to this earth.

Ever since the days of Cain, there have been people who have tried to "force" the earth—attempting to wring more out of

Photos courtesy US Forest Service

it than it can give. Forgotten has been the fact that God has not blessed some portions of the earth to where they can sustain large numbers of people and animals. It is a mistake to try to surpass the limit of what the land can do.

The problems posed by the millions of forest farmers who themselves are victims of circumstance — those who need firewood in order to survive, those whose animals overgraze the land, the profit-hungry commercial and industrial interests and all others who, combined, are ravaging the world's forestlands and killing off the trees — these problems can only be fully resolved under the Government of God. Here's how it will occur.

At Last — Reforestation the Right Way!

One of the specific policies to be put into effect in the coming World Tomorrow, of which we speak, is a gigantic reforestation program. If one is needed now, there will really be a need for one by then. The reason is that one-third of all trees still remaining will be burned up in the cataclysmic military events bringing this age to a close (Revelation 8:7).

God revealed His reforestation program to the prophet Isaiah in these terms: "I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive; I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine together" (Isaiah 41:19, RSV).

•Notice that in God's reforestation program there will be a variety of trees planted together. He will not follow the "tree farm" approach where single species are planted over vast stretches with the quick-profit motive in mind. Nor will He rely on "super-trees."

The way of greed, which is really at the base of the present-day problem, originated with Satan, a great fallen archangel. Isaiah 14 speaks of this being, using the "king of Babylon" as a type. One of the characteristics of his rule is the indiscriminate cutting down of trees! The Bible pictures the trees as rejoicing when

Satan's rule is overthrown: "The cypresses rejoice at you, the cedars of Lebanon, saying, 'Since you were laid low [note the pun!], no hewer comes up against us.'" (verse 8, RSV).

This is not to say that in the World Tomorrow no trees will be cut down. To the contrary, Isaiah 60:13 and Ezekiel 41:22 show there will be a right use of beautiful woods. Material resources will be wisely employed. For one thing, there will not be a need for paper to print all the useless books and publications that are printed today. What is printed in the World Tomorrow will be worth printing. And when society is set up and run God's way, there may be many uses for wood that seem essential in today's world, which then just may be obsolete. There may be better ways of fulfilling these needs.

The Bible gives a remarkable description of portraying the peace that will prevail in the world soon to come. When all nations are at peace, "they shall

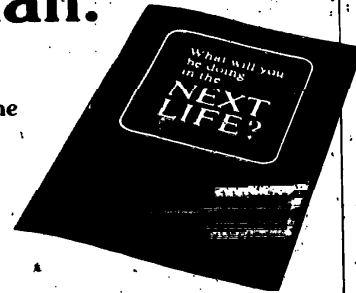
sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid" (Micah 4:4). If each household has its own fig tree, there is no reason to assume it may not also have other fruit- and nut-bearing trees, as well as trees for shade and beauty.

When God's government is ruling the world, there will be no more wasteful plundering of earth's natural resources. Instead there will be wise use, development and conservation combined. The Bible pictures the trees at that time as shouting for joy (Psalm 96:12-13; Isaiah 44:23). Then the hills will indeed be alive with the sound of music, for "the mountains and hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, and for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off" (Isaiah 55:12-13). □

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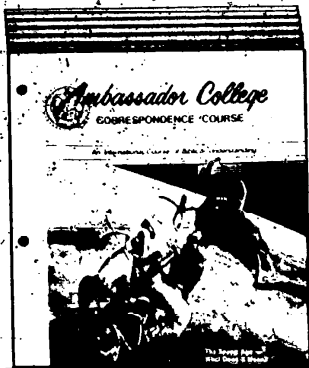
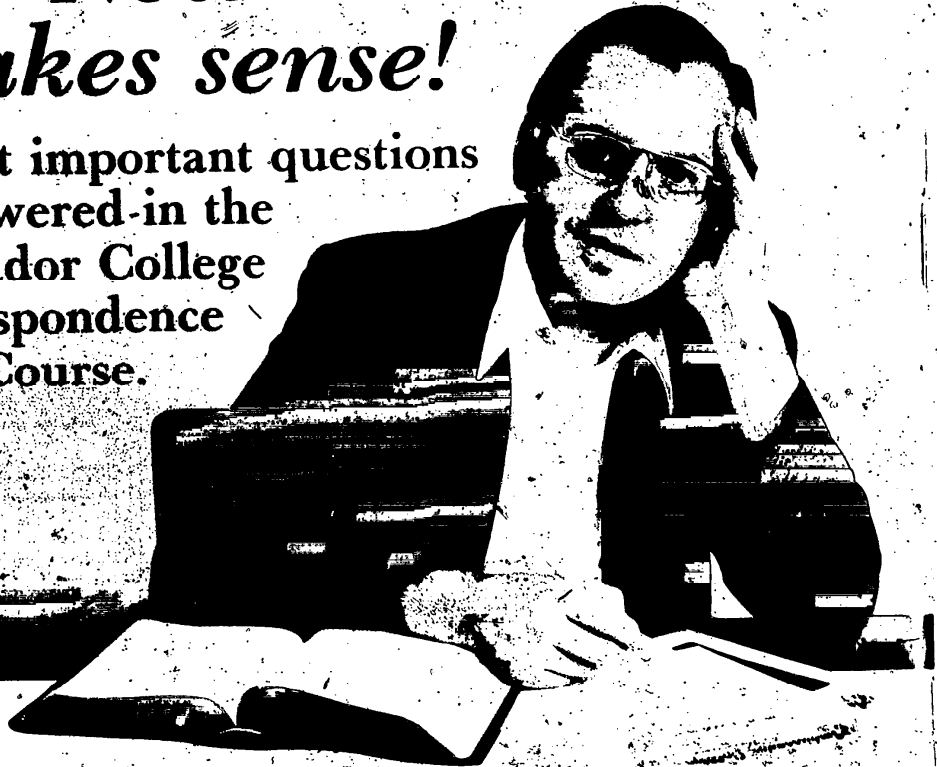
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