

Signs

OF THE
TIMES



DELINQUENT YOUTH?
or DELINQUENT PARENTS?

(See Page 12)

DECEMBER, 1959

REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. MELBOURNE FOR
TRANSMISSION BY POST AS A NEWSPAPER



I KNOW NOT HOW...

HARRY WEBB TARRINGTON

I know not how that Bethlehem's Babe
Could in the Godhead be;
I only know the manger Child
Has brought God's life to me.

I know not how that Calvary's cross
A world from sin could free;
I only know its matchless love
Has brought God's love to me.

I know not how that Joseph's tomb
Could solve death's mystery;
I only know the living Christ,
Our immortality.

Signs OF THE TIMES

A family magazine dedicated to promoting evangelical Christianity, upholding Jesus Christ as man's only Saviour and soon-returning King, and presenting the Bible as the inspired Word of God and our only rule of faith.

IN THIS ISSUE

Already well-known to a large number of *Signs* readers, L. C. Naden in this issue brings us a timely and topical Christmas message, "When Men Heard the Angels Sing." Avoiding the sugary sentimentality which surrounds much writing regarding Christmas, he here presents us with a challenge. See page 2.

Walter E. Battye, who writes so lucidly on page 8 regarding the many evidences in the natural world around us of the creative power of God, is a man of considerable experience. Now officially on the retired list, he has conducted evangelistic campaigns in most Australian and New Zealand cities. He is still remembered for his earlier radio sessions conducted from Sydney, and more lately for his administrative work for his denomination.

One of the most urgent problems facing society today is that of youthful delinquency. On page 12, George W. Rollo puts his finger on the prime cause of this problem. Currently serving as Chaplain to one of Sydney's largest Private Hospitals, the Sydney Sanitarium and Hospital, Pastor Rollo in this article stresses the Christian and psychological implications of this pressing problem.

There are quite a number of medical men who have demonstrated equal skill with the surgeon's scalpel and also with the author's pen. Doctor J. De Witt Fox is one of these, and you will not want to miss the sound counsel he brings you on page 24 where he advises, "It's Your Life, So Make the Best of It!"

OUR COVER PICTURE

For this month's front cover we are indebted to one of the world's leading artists and illustrators, Harry Anderson. But Mr. Anderson is more than an artist; he is also an active Christian. His favourite medium is the illustration in modern idiom of Biblical themes. Here he pictures the prodigal's return.

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Page One

WHEN MEN HEARD

The Angels Sing

L. C. NADEN

WE are reminded again at this season of the year of that day in the long ago, when men heard the angels sing. The message of that thrilling song, which echoed around those old Judean hills and plains, re-echoes again in countless hearts today.

I am so glad that the words of the angels' song have been preserved, for they come like a benediction from heaven upon us who live in these anxious, uncertain times. "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOODWILL TOWARD MEN." These immortal words are a sweet expression of divine love, and convey hope and peace and goodwill to the children of men. What could be more fitting than that we, as Christians, should offer praise to God; that we should receive from Him the peace of Heaven, which passeth all understanding; and that we enjoy in this life's experience goodwill toward men?

Praise to God lifts us above earthly things. Peace in our hearts lifts us above the rude clamour of earthly strife, and goodwill lifts us above the jealousies of a sinful world.

For four thousand years the world waited for just such a message as this. Why it had to wait so long we do not know. The Scripture simply says that when



the fullness of time was come God sent forth His Son made of a woman (Galatians 4:4). What a thrilling message, therefore, the angels' song contained for those who were earnestly praying and looking for the birth of the Messiah! At long last the Prince of Peace had come to a world that was dark through misapprehension of God.

We are told that, "Sin at that time was a science; faith had grown dim and hope had well-nigh ceased to illuminate the future. Men sat unsolaced, and with longing hearts they looked for a Deliverer." Just when the hour was darkest the angels brought their glorious message in song, and the Saviour came.

Prior to His advent men had often wondered about the unknown world above. They mused in their hearts—if there is a God, does He know when we are in trouble? Does He care when our loved ones die? Does He ever think about us at all? What a delightful surprise was theirs when Jesus descended from the skies and told of the mansions above, of a place where everything is glorious and nobody does wrong. How their



★ "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. . . . And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:8-14.

hearts warmed to the message of peace and goodwill which He proclaimed.

He assured them that all heaven was interested in them. He told them that God loved them so much that He sent His only Son to die for them; that it was His plan and purpose to restore the redeemed to the paradise that was lost. He assured them that God was their friend and that they should not be afraid of Him except when they did wrong. He encouraged them to address God by the endearing term of "Father," and assured them that His love for and interest in them was greater than that of an earthly parent for his child. He illustrated the goodwill of heaven toward the sinner by the parable of the prodigal son—how God is always in a hurry to meet the sinner and bestow upon him His pardoning love. That is what the angels' song foreshadowed. No wonder we are told to rejoice. What a glorious prospect is ours, through our blessed Lord!

Once again at this year end the thought of God's unspeakable love is flashing across the world's horizon. Once again we hear the message of the angels in sermon and song. We need its encouragement even more urgently today, for not since Christ was born in Bethlehem have the stars looked down upon a world more eaten up with inner fears than at the present hour.

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST" comes as a great challenge to our souls in this materialistic age. It is, as it were, God saying to us, "Take time, O son of man, to turn your mind from earth to heaven; to raise your head heavenward and see by faith an angel waiting to place a crown of immortality upon your head."

"ON EARTH PEACE." We are reminded here that peace, personal, national and international, that elusive thing for which we have so long hoped and prayed, is to be found only in Him whom the Scriptures describe as The Prince of Peace, the One whose birth the angels announced on that wonderful night in the long ago.

Since that unhappy day when the cherubim stood with a flaming sword guarding the gates of paradise,

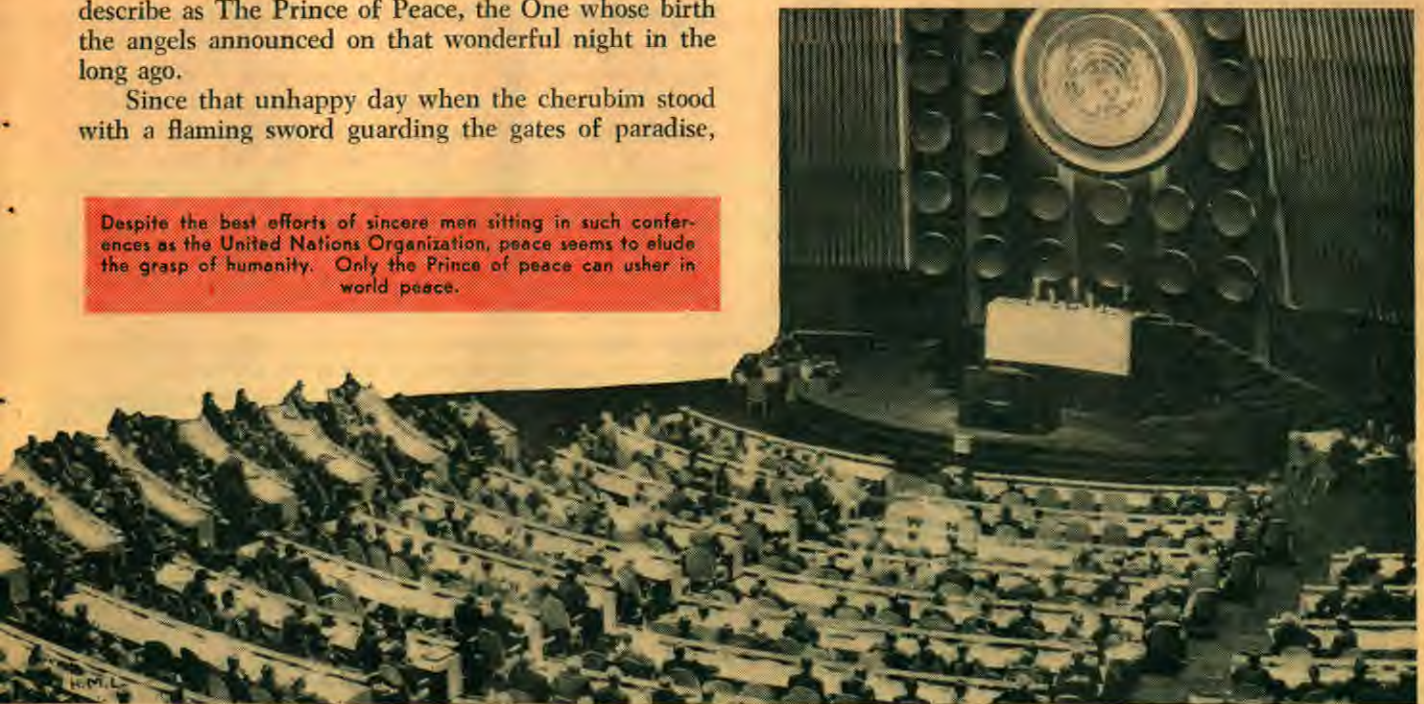
Despite the best efforts of sincere men sitting in such conferences as the United Nations Organization, peace seems to elude the grasp of humanity. Only the Prince of peace can usher in world peace.

God has been looking down upon a world trying desperately to manage its affairs without Him. He knew that man could not run this world alone, but man thought he could. The sorrow-laden, blood-filled pages of six thousand years of history witness how miserably he has failed.

What the world needs is Jesus. Without Him there can be no lasting peace for the nations and no personal peace for individuals. Men who are at war with God cannot possibly be at peace with one another or with themselves. Jesus alone can give meaning to those words the angels proclaimed at His first advent. He says to you and to me again today, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27.

"GOODWILL TOWARD MEN." Many years ago following World War I, I was listening to a returned soldier describing Christmas Day on the battlefields of France. He told how on Christmas morning the guns ceased fire and the boys of the opposing armies, their hearts softened by the spirit of the season, ceased hurling missiles of destruction at one another and threw presents and messages of goodwill and cheer instead.

We need more of that spirit of goodwill in our family life, and in our national and international gatherings. The spirit that enables enemies suddenly to become friends; that makes us considerate and thoughtful of the needs of others. The spirit that unites our hearts and makes us all one, no matter what our race, colour, or creed, is one of the urgent needs of this our day and generation. This challenge we hear again in the song which men heard the angels sing.





Drive Like Christians

JOSEPH STALIN is credited with stating, "The death of one person is a tragedy—the death of a million is a statistic." We tend to deal so much in statistics these days that we lose sight of the personal tragedies which lie behind stark road fatality figures.

With the approach of the holiday season, when our already inadequate highways will be choked to saturation point with pleasure-bent motorists, we can witness the sickening repetition of the grim spectre of death striding across the country, or we can drive like responsible Christians and largely end this toll of the road. The choice is ours.

In the year ended June 30, 1959, an all-time record of 2,242 people were killed on Australian roads. A careful analysis of this total reveals that 90 per cent of these fatalities were caused by the human factor, only 6 per cent by vehicle defects, 3 per cent by road conditions, and 1 per cent due to weather conditions. Commenting on this one prominent religious leader has stated: "The problem has its roots in the hearts and minds of men, and it is there that we must look for the answer."

The Chairman of the Australian Road Safety Council has well said, "There is no religion in this country that does not put God first, others second, and self last. Apply these basic tenets to our daily use of the highway . . . and the abstract ideas of democracy and brotherhood can be translated into a functioning reality."

During this holiday season let us all drive like responsible, disciplined Christians. If we could apply to our driving the basic principle of "in honour preferring one another," instead of primarily considering our own selfish rights, we could do something about the alarming road toll. *Why don't we drive like Christians?*

R. C. P.

(Top) Australia's successful entry into the guided missile field has been hailed as a result of the performance of the Malkara, here seen in flight. Substantial overseas orders for this missile have been received. (Centre) Looking like sinister space-age weapons, these are merely innocent guards placed over growing vines to prevent damage by frost. (Bottom) Proving a big attraction at the London Zoo are these two Syrian Bear cubs "Pasha" and "Rashid." With the mother "Winnie" they take a walk in the sun.

Slavery — Today

TWO hundred years after the birth of William Wilberforce, the great emancipator of slaves in the British Empire, and forerunner of the movement that freed all slaves in civilized countries, the loathsome traffic still flourishes. In the desert region of Arabia and the Sahara men and women are still bought and sold like cattle, despite the fact that slavery is illegal in all French or British possessions or protectorates.

Lord Maughan, author and former British Army Intelligence officer, disturbed by reports of widespread slavery in the Sahara Desert, went himself to investigate, spending two months in French West Africa, with Timbuctoo, one thousand miles inland, as his headquarters.

He spoke personally with more than one hundred slaves, learning from them the conditions under which they are held. Although he felt a strong revulsion against the transaction, he himself bought a slave for £37 10s., hoping that the photographic record of the deal might stir powerful forces into action against slavery. Counterbalancing the pleasure he felt in immediately giving the slave his freedom, and noting the growing joy as he comprehended the meaning of liberty, Lord Maughan felt disgust, almost guilt, as he thought that he had bought a human being with less ceremony than he could have bought a prime bullock in an English cattle market; thought, too, that this same type of purchase was going on all over the Sahara despite all efforts to stop it.

"Slavery is as cruel as hunger, as savage as a raw wound, as deep-rooted as a malignant growth. Men, women, and children are owned body and soul by masters who have robbed them of every human right."

Puzzled as to why the slaves continued in slavery when they were bigger, stronger, and more numerous than their masters, he sought an answer to the riddle. He found two answers, both of which are alarming.

First, minds are enslaved as well as bodies. This wicked system has existed for centuries. It is part of their lives, like pain and heat, thirst and disease. Second, there is fear, not merely of blows, or even of torture, but of their master's magic power, which they believe can strike them down and kill them wherever they may be. The power is known as the "gri-gri."

Thus, the problem of setting the slaves at liberty is more than giving them their physical freedom. Inherited attitudes, and patterns of thought must be changed.

We turn with revulsion from the thought of human slavery, and the degradation of personality that it brings about. But let us remember that in his natural, unregenerate state, mankind is caught in a bondage more cruel, more widespread, more hopeless than that imposed by slave-holders of this earth. It is the bondage of sin.

From this slavery there is only one escape, only one Emancipator—our Lord Jesus. Through His own death, He destroyed "him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;" and delivered them "who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Hebrews 2:14, 15.

Through His life of victory and His death as our substitute, mankind and the whole creation "shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." Romans 8:21.

The freedom that Jesus gives is freedom from every debasing thought and defiling habit, from every influence that would hold us down. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36.

M. M. H.

The Pursuit of Peace

NOW almost a forgotten man, the late H. G. Wells in his heyday did more to shape public opinion than most of his contemporaries. His field of writing ranged from science fiction through to the international scene. Always one to concern himself with the future, he was prepared to venture boldly into the prophetic field, where lesser men would have hesitated to enter. In this generation we can see where he was right and where he was wrong.

In the scientific field he possibly scored his greatest successes. He wrote at length about aeroplanes and submarines before they were invented. But in one matter he was tragically wrong. In 1914 he foretold the development of the atomic bomb, and then went on to describe how the nations, in the face of the stark terror

Looking like an artist's nightmare is this recent interesting British development in the field of aviation. A cross between an airliner and a helicopter, this aircraft can take-off vertically.



of this horror-weapon, banded together and abolished war as a means of settling international differences.

Looking back to August 6, 1945, when the first such bomb was exploded over an enemy city, we realize how wrong Wells was. While many people of good faith have protested against the criminality and futility of war in the light of such weapons, there has been no outlawing of war itself.

It is true that we live today in an era of unprecedented peace moves. Leaders of political thought declare that they want peace. The man in the street agitates for peace. Churchmen draw up impressive resolutions calling for peace. And then someone comes up with the seemingly conclusive argument, that the other side will not dare start hostilities so long as we have in our arsenals the latest in atomic missiles.

The fallacy of such reasoning should be apparent when it is recalled that ever since the crossbow was introduced, each new weapon of destruction has been hailed as the ultimate doom of war itself. But men still go on killing one another. The holding of the balance of terror can never cause war to cease.

Much more realistic is the viewpoint of Thomas E. Murray of America's Atomic Energy Commission. Said

he: "It is by no means clear that a balance of terror furnishes an assurance that aggression even on a limited scale will not be undertaken, and that it is in this sense a protection of total peace. A balance of terror is too easily upset. It is at the mercy of miscalculation."

Speaking of the universal desire for peace which would be evidenced in the very closing days of this world's history, Ezekiel accurately described current conditions. "When anguish comes, they shall seek peace, and peace there shall be none. Disaster on disaster, rumour upon rumour! The prophet is deprived of vision, the priest is bereft of instruction, and aged counsellors have not a word to say; the authorities shall be wrapt in dismay, and the common folk shall be a-tremble." Ezekiel 7:25-27. Moffatt's translation.

But our message is not one of despair. God declares that at the very time when these conditions prevail, Christ, the Prince of peace, will again intervene in the affairs of men. When He came the first time as Bethlehem's Babe, the angels' message was "Peace on earth." When He comes the second time it will be to usher in that endless era of peace for which humanity today longs.

R. C. P.

Security Through Discipline

MANY psychologists and child guidance counselors claim that a child should be left free to develop his natural tendencies without restraint or inhibition. Some parents have followed this advice against their better judgment; others have followed it because it seemed easier to indulge than to control or direct.

For those who have seen the danger in these permissive schools of thought, and have exercised firm and loving discipline there comes a word of approval from John F. Kenward, Child Psychiatrist in the Chicago University.

He contends that discipline is essential, and should begin in the home and in infancy. The child must learn obedience for his own good and the good of those around him. But it should be a wise discipline, aimed at teaching the child self-control.

Contrary to popular ideas, "the child who learns obedience to necessary and reasonable rules is a much happier and more secure child." Even the adolescent, who may rebel against parental restraint, is still much happier if parents exercise a wise and consistent authority.

Spanking still has its place, though it should be a last resort, used only when other methods fail.

It is not love but foolish sentimentalism which allows a child to grow up without the foundations of principle and the walls of authority. For his present happiness and security as well as his future welfare, a child should early be taught obedience, respect for authority, and firm self-discipline.

M. M. H.

Carrying his prayer wheel and loaded with his few possessions, a Tibetan arrives at an Indian border town after making the difficult journey over mountain passes in his flight from Communist aggression.





Me Bear False Witness?

OF COURSE NOT!

★ *The Implications of the Ninth Commandment Demand Our Earnest Consideration.*

Did I report my findings to Sally? I did! And to various other Pine Valley residents who were active circulators in our town!

The next afternoon while I was in my bedroom for my half hour of meditation, Bible reading, and prayer, I began repeating the Ten Commandments aloud. As I reached the one about bearing false witness, something happened. It was as though that commandment appeared in large letters on the wall.

Suddenly I thought of Sally. Is it only Sally? I asked myself. Were there others in our town, in any town, who would not for the world stand up in court under oath and "bear false witness," yet who were breaking God's commandment in less discernible ways? Was I ever guilty of breaking it?

Thoughtfully, prayerfully, I delved into the question, What is bearing false witness? Finally, with memo pad and pencil, I jotted down ideas. Here are some of the angles I tussled with:

Is it bearing false witness to keep silent when we should speak up? If we are in a group, for instance, where people are berating Bill, finding fault, wrongly interpreting what Bill has done, is it bearing false witness if we keep silent rather than speak up and bring justice to Bill by telling the real facts? Can silence be bearing false witness?

Is it bearing false witness to tell only part of the facts in a situation, carefully chosen parts that will paint a different picture from what the picture really is? Paint a picture that's deliberately meant to be different from the truth?

Is it bearing false witness if we "fudge a little," as an acquaintance of mine used to call it? "Oh, not that I'd ever really tell an untruth," he would add hastily, reporting on his policy of "fudging." "But I'm pretty good at using words," he would continue, grinning. The "fudging" consisted, I learned, of spreading it on thick!

And those golden opportunities for witnessing, when we could speak of Christ and His shoreless love and cleansing power—yet we remain silent or make some lukewarm comment! Let us pray humbly that we may not be guilty of this form of bearing false witness, that we may never say merely, "Oh, sure, I'm a Christian," and then deliberately detour to another topic rather than speak some splendid, glowing tribute to our Lord!

My hour of heart and soul searching about what it means to bear false witness was unforgettable, a mountaintop in my Christian experience. And as I left the room to go about daily tasks once more, I felt a sense of deep wonder at the implications of the Ten Commandments for every facet of present-day living.

GRACE V. WATKINS

OVER our back-yard fence Sally looked at me with a too-bright smile, toyed with the chipping paint, and asked, "Have you heard about Mary?"

With a mental picture of the pretty dark-haired girl who was one of the best teachers we had had in Pine Valley in many a day, I answered, "No, what about Mary?"

Sally sobered, paused to give a full drama to what she was about to tell me, then answered, "Mary gave up her Bible class this week. It seems she's going to be out of town week-ends from now on."

"Well," I said, "it's too bad she had to give up her class; but there's probably some good reason for it, and for her going out of town week-ends."

Sally gave a short humph. "You always try to cover up for people."

I smiled a smile that was pretty much of an effort. "Shouldn't we give Mary the benefit of the doubt until we know the facts?"

Sally reached a hand across the fence and patted mine. "Have it your way," she said. "But I say that when a girl as pretty as Mary suddenly decides to go out of town every week-end, and gives up teaching her class, well —" Sally set her lips in a firm line—"ten to one she has a man on the string."

"And if she does?" I asked gently. "Mary's a lovely, attractive girl. It's natural for her to think of getting married one of these days."

Sally frowned. "But going out of town!" she exclaimed.

After Sally had flounced back inside, obviously irritated by my remarks, I thought about Mary—what a fine Christian she was, what fine service she was giving to the school and to the church. And, knowing Sally, I was sure her suspicions would be broadcast around town in a matter of hours.

So I moved quickly. That evening, after dinner, as Mary and I sat in my living-room, I told her how sorry I was that she had to give up the class.

"I'm sorry, too," she said, "I love those youngsters; but my Auntie Elsie, who brought me up after my parents died, had an operation two weeks ago and is seriously ill. She lives in Blue Junction. One of the teachers there rooms with Auntie Elsie and keeps an eye on her during the week, but this girl goes to her home town at week-ends to help her parents. So I feel I must spend the week-ends caring for Auntie Elsie."

10 FACTS WHICH CONVINC ME THAT GOD EXISTS AND THAT THIS WORLD WAS

Created



California Institute of Technology.

by Divine Act

WALTER E. BATTYE

IN a statement appearing in the *Sydney Morning Herald* a noted scientist recently declared: "Belief in God will soon be as impossible for the educated man as thinking that the earth is flat." Very well then. Let us accept this dictum for the moment, and follow its conclusions. The first fact this would force us to accept is that the universe came into existence by chance, and that life in this world is the result of an accident.

Picture this great universe rushing on timelessly, with a thousand million suns and their attendant train of planets, whirling through space at a maddening pace without a hand to guide them. There are no signals on this line, no engineer has laid the rails, no driver is on the footplate, no guard to apply the brakes. A universe without mind. Emptied of God. Since there is no God, there is no Lawgiver, and hence no law. But there is law. Ever since the days of the astronomer Kepler, who is called the "legislator of the heavens," there has been a constantly expanding field of knowledge in physical science. All nature from the minutest

atoms with their electrons, protons, neutrons—miniature solar systems—to the starry farflung galaxy of the milky way, all are governed by law.

This is true not only in the physical, but also in the moral realm. The Bible is essentially a book of morality. In the New Testament we read, "By the law is the knowledge of sin." "Where no law is there is no transgression." "Sin is not imputed when there is no law." The Bible also says that Adam was the first man, and that he sinned. 1 Corinthians 15:45, Romans 5:14. Here is a moral breach. The moral law has been broken that defines sin and makes sin known. Therefore, this law existed before sin, or before the first man. Who had the authority to impose such a law? How shall we answer? If not God, who then? The Apostle Paul goes further and states that the principles of this law are contained in that ancient code, the Ten Commandments, which has not yet become obsolete, nor out of date. Romans 7:7.

Several years ago, a group of geologists were digging through several layers of deposits, which they

believed had taken some millions of years to form, when they discovered a child's old shoe. Just as that old shoe was proof that at some period there was a shoe-last, and behind the shoe-last a shoe-maker, so these laws in the physical and moral spheres indicate that behind these laws there was the work of a law Maker. They did not come by chance.

There is a law in mathematics known as the law of compound probability, or the law of chance. It operates in this way. The greater the number of supporting facts to any proposition, the more it multiplies itself enormously against the possibility of the product of chance. To illustrate. There are nine major planets in our solar system, and many minor ones, called asteroids. We now know that these planets are all moving in one direction with a slight inclination of the planes of their orbits. For a convenient figure, we shall limit the number to ten. On this basis if chance had determined that the earth should incline its plane, it would be one in ten. If it was by chance that both earth and Mars inclined their planes, then the ratio multiplies itself by the base figure, ten times ten, or one hundred to one. If the earth, Mars, and Mercury each inclined their planes, it would be ten times one hundred or 1,000 to one. But if it were discovered that they all inclined their planes, moving in one direction, it would be ten thousand million to one that this came about by chance. This figure is fantastic and the evidence overwhelming that there is intelligent purpose and design in this great universe.

However, this movement of the planets is but one factor. Let us apply the law of chance to ten essential conditions necessary to come into operation at one time to make life possible in our world. There are many more, but again we will limit them to ten. How is it that there is life in this world, and not on Mercury or the moon? Mercury is about 36 million miles away from the sun, and is seven times hotter than our earth. It turns only one face to the sun and its revolutionary day is the same as its year, consisting of eighty-eight of our days. One side of Mercury is appallingly hot, the other frigidly cold. Life as we know it would be impossible on Mercury.

The moon is 2,160 miles in diameter and we see but one side of its face. Like Mercury, its axis and its orbit are the same, so that its day consists of twenty-eight of ours. One writer says, "The moon's long day and long night changes from blazing heat to unspeakable cold, and . . . are said to range between some 450 degrees." There are no seas, lakes or, rivers on the moon. As far as can be ascertained there is no evidence of condensation, vapours, clouds, and little evidence of atmosphere. Astronomy holds no prospect that life would be endurable on the moon. Why then do we have life on this world? From the many reasons which could be quoted we consider but ten.

1. The Earth's Stability. The earth travels at 1,100 miles a minute, 66,600 miles an hour in its orbit around the sun. Yet it is phenomenally stable.

It never loses a minute in a millennium or a second in a century. Star time is the most reliable time known to science. It is said that the Elgin Clock Company of America sets its clocks by star time. Who times the stars? This amazing fact alone presupposes design, and is evidence of Divine purpose.

2. The Earth's Bulk. The earth is 7,918 miles in diameter and weighs more than six trillion tons. Its distance is 93 million miles from the sun. If the earth had greater or less bulk to any appreciable degree, the whole balance would be upset, and life for us would cease. Yet its weight, its bulk, its distance are all so correctly adjusted and determined so accurately, that we may live in comfort. How could these factors have been so well organized without a guiding Hand?

3. The Earth's Rotation. The Scriptures state concerning the earth that God "formed it to be inhabited." Isaiah 45:18. It was Copernicus in the fifteenth century who discovered that the earth was round and rotated upon its axis once in twenty-four hours, travelling at 1,000 miles an hour. But supposing it was like the moon and rotated once in twenty-eight days. Our days would then be fourteen times longer than now, and the sun would scorch up plant life under the continuous, terrific heat. The cold through the long night would be intense. How is it that the earth's rotation is just the right period for life to exist and so controlled to meet our needs?

4. Centrifugal Force. Why does the earth move upon its axis at about 1,000 miles per hour and not like Jupiter at 28,000 miles per hour? There is a law of centrifugal force where all particles of matter tend to move to the extremities when circling around a centre. This is the principle used in spin-drying washing machines, and in trick motor-cycle riding around a perpendicular tank. Here the law of centrifugal force overcomes the law of gravitation. The earth is slightly flattened at the poles, and bulges at the equator by some twenty-six miles. Thus the downward pull of gravitation and the outward thrust of centrifugal force at this point destroy each other and the earth is kept in perfect equilibrium. If this world moved as fast as Jupiter, the law of gravitation would be overcome, and consequently the earth's surface at the equator would be heaped up and shapeless, so as to destroy the earth's balance, and possibly render it uninhabitable. One astronomer says: "Divine wisdom alone could have framed so admirable a system."—"Orbs of Heaven," page 100.

5. The Earth's Temperature. The sun has a surface temperature of at least 10,000 degrees of heat. We are far enough away to be nicely warmed, and the temperature variations of between fifty or sixty degrees are such that life is able to survive. If it varied as much as on the moon, or even 150 degrees, vegetation would be destroyed unless protected by some artificial means. Human life would become a burden and ultimately cease. Who made the sun, directed its distance

from the earth, and blended its rays through our atmosphere, thus enabling life to continue?

6. The Earth's Speed. The earth travels around the sun at eighteen and a half miles per second. There are great variations on other planets. Mercury travels at thirty-five miles per second, almost twice as fast, while Neptune moves slowly at three miles a second. If the earth travelled at three miles or thirty-five miles a second, it would be either too far away or too close to the sun for comfort. We would be either too hot or too cold. Who gave the earth this perfect adjustment? How did it happen? Was it determined by chance?

7. The Sun's Radiation. The question was asked Job: "By what way is the light parted?" How is the light distributed? We cannot tell. How is it that light travels over 93 million miles of space in an unvarying straight line but may be deflected by a flaw in a window pane and fall obliquely to the floor? If the sun gave only half of its radiation we would be frozen, or if it gave forth as much again we would be ashes. Why is it so well accommodated to our way of life? Does it not reveal the fact that behind the sun is a controlling Mind?

8. The Moon's Attraction. The moon is approximately 240,000 miles away, and we all know its reaction on our ocean tides twice a day. In some places the tides rise as high as sixty feet. What vast power there is in the pull of the moon that lifts the ocean out of its bed. Yet if the moon's placid face were much nearer, life itself could be imperilled. Why is the moon 240,000 miles away and not 40,000? Mars has

two small moons under 15,000 miles distant. If our moon was 40,000 miles away, great tidal waves 300 feet high would sweep over the earth eroding the mountains, and causing great hurricanes to sweep across the world. Who so poised the moon in the heavens that it sheds its peaceful light in blessing upon the world? By chance you say?

9. The Air's Adjustment. It was Galileo who committed to his pupil Torricelli the commission to discover if the air had weight. Yet 3,500 years ago the Bible affirmed it. "God understandeth the way thereof to make the weight for the winds [or the air]." The air is comprised of 78 per cent nitrogen and 21 per cent oxygen, and exerts a pressure of fifteen pounds to the square inch. There are some fourteen tons pressure on the human body, yet we feel no discomfort. There are constant poisonous gases and pollutions arising daily out of the earth in the atmosphere yet the air is kept comparatively pure. What would happen if the ratio of elements were reversed? Why not? If we had 78 per cent oxygen instead of 21 per cent the very air would almost ignite. Who gave this perfect combination? Remove the atmosphere from the earth, as from the moon, and the world would be empty of life.

10. The Uniformity of the Elements. Out of the ninety elements of the soil how does nature hold so tenaciously to only nineteen of them? How did these elements appear in the right proportions to preserve and promote life? Why do animals and vegetables require the same minerals? The vegetable chooses the iron, magnesium, sulphur, calcium, etc., so essential to the life of the creature, out of the ninety elements available. Who made this selection? Was it by chance or by accident?

Very briefly we have considered ten factors making life possible on this earth. While there are many others, according to the law of compound probability, the odds against these highly complex factors just happening are 10,000,000,000 to one. How much more feasible it is to believe that these provisions for man's comfort were provided according to a divine plan and an intelligent design.

No wonder Darwin said: "The impossibility of conceiving that this grand and wondrous universe with our conscious selves arose through chance seems to me the chief argument for the existence of God." What more should we say? God, therefore, must be rational seeing the universe is constructed in terms of law and reason. God must be moral because He had given us moral laws and endowed human beings with conscience. God must be personal seeing He has given man personality. He would never bequeath to His creatures that which He Himself did not possess. God must be spiritual because He bestows spiritual impulses. With the psalmist we would say, "O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all: the earth is full of Thy glory." Let us therefore worship God as the Creator and the Sustainer of our lives.



GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

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OUR

Changing World



AMERICA'S INCREASED CRIME RATE

The Federal Bureau of Investigation states that 1958 was the worst year in history for crime in the United States, during which period the crime rate increased 11 per cent. The largest increase was in robberies, which were up 18 per cent. Rape increased 13 per cent and burglaries 14 per cent. Murders increased 3 per cent.

BUSY BIBLE SOCIETY

Two new languages were added in 1958 to those in which the British and Foreign Bible Society has published Scriptures. They are Guerze for French Guinea, and Teop for the Solomon Islands. This brings the total number of languages to 853. Shipments of the Scriptures from London last year weighed 1,525 tons. The world distribution of Scriptures for which the society was responsible amounted to over 7 million copies.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS FOR ALL AGES

In an endeavour to "teach grownups how to live in a modern world as Christians," the Methodist Church in Australia is encouraging its membership to attend adult-style Sunday school classes. Dr. C. J. Wright, one of the denomination's youth leaders recently stated, "Methodist Sunday schools in Australia will no longer be regarded as only for the children." Seventh-day Adventists have operated these adult Sabbath schools since their inception as a denomination.

CHINA'S "SUPREME GOD"

China's leader, Mao Tse-Tung, is being hailed as that country's "Supreme God" in a song which is being taught to all school children, Peiping radio recently announced. A free translation of portion of the song's lyric runs: "No supreme God is in heaven; no dragon god under the earth. I am the supreme god, and the dragon god. Tell the mountains and the cliffs to make way, for I am coming."

FREEDOM IN ITALY

Italy's Constitutional Court recently handed down a decision upholding the right of all religious communities to open and operate houses of worship without obtaining prior police authorization. Protestant leaders in Italy consider the ruling an important victory in their fight for full freedom of religion. This right was already granted by Italy's eleven-year-old republican Constitution, but had not been implemented.

POLAND CHOOSES

A poll conducted among Polish radio listeners discloses that the majority of those questioned prefer to bring up their children according to religious principles and not Communist or socialist ethics. The parents, according to a broadcast over the Polish network, gave as a reason for their preferring religious training the fact that it rendered their children less likely to become juvenile delinquents, engage in immoral conduct, or become drunkards.

NIGERIA REASSURES MISSIONARIES

The Moslem Premier of Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Ahmadu, recently gave assurances in Lagos that the work of Christian missionaries will not be curtailed when his country becomes independent in October, 1960. When making this voluntary statement, the Premier paid tribute to the work of the missionaries and said they would continue to be welcomed in his country.

IN BRIEF

Woollen materials were known and used by the ancient Egyptians, according to findings from recent tomb excavations. . . . Lightning is seldom seen in the polar regions. . . . Australia's optical tracking station at Woomera, has successfully photographed America's Vanguard 1 earth satellite at the apogee of its orbit nearly 2,500 miles from the earth. No other object as small as this six-inch sphere has been photographed from such a distance. . . . Americans bought more new books in 1958 than the whole human race owned before this century. . . . The amount of fuel transferred in one minute during an aerial refuelling operation would operate an average motor-car for one year. . . . Light from the sun makes the 93-million-mile journey to the earth in eight minutes. . . . Ultrasonic waves can stimulate gastric secretion for as long as three days. Ultrasound increases both the amount and the acidity of gastric juice. . . . Nuclear power may supply the key to distillation as a method of getting fresh water from the sea.



GEORGE W. ROLLO

THE first delinquents were not youths. They were adults. In these days of advanced scientific research one is apt to imagine that the words "juvenile" and "delinquent" are to be found on the same line in the dictionary. The words are neither casually nor essentially related and one has a faint suspicion that shocked and incapable adults use the combination as a convenient protection against a charge of irresponsibility.

The first parents were adults with their every need supplied. The Creator did not disturb the Edenic beauty with a pair of frustrated neurotics. They were wholesome in every part. God left nothing out physically, mentally, or spiritually. Delinquency did not start with Him.

Amidst all the things that were good there was one thing that was not good. Genesis 2:18: "It is not good that man should be *alone*." To live as intended, man was made a dependent organism. He was made in three parts—physical, mental, and spiritual. If for any reason at all he separated himself from the environment natural to his three-fold existence he would sense a loneliness, feel insecure and make moves either to restore the loss or hide his awareness of it.

Let us use the word "delinquency" in a precise manner and examine the effects of a man's placing himself out of harmony with the natural state—in each of the three fields.

Physical

Man knows it is not good to be alone and separated from his physical environment. Created to live in an atmospheric pressure of fifteen pounds per square inch and a temperature of 60°-80° F., man takes measures to relieve his discomfort if there is any marked variation. For example, he is happy to stand beside a wall as protection from a wind.

Mental

What has been said of physical environment is just as true in the world of facts and figures. Man is ever seeking to come into harmony with the unknown. At times separated from the truth, man becomes as fearful and uncertain mentally, as he does physically in a de-oxygenated atmosphere, and we may even excuse his violent struggles to escape to his natural surroundings.

School teachers recognize the problem of the slow child in an advanced class or the advanced child in a slow class. Most people can imagine the feeling of the man who arrives at the formal dinner in informal garb. This isolation can cause extreme mental distress, and of course extends itself to all forms of social life.

The point we wish to stress in both of these fields is that the human cannot stand being *left out*. This delinquency—causes him to fight for his breath and his company with equal concern. He struggles to get home.

Spiritual

While men are busy examining themselves for physical and mental faults, they overlook what is unquestionably the primary cause of all their problems. Man cannot live alone spiritually any more than he can stop breathing, or become a social recluse with impunity.

In the beginning man was created physically and mentally perfect and was set up in a world of God's presence. He was friendly with God. As in all friendships, there was an exchange of thought and an intense pleasure in companionship. This fellowship with the Creator sent a radiation of strength through the mind and body of the first man and he felt happy and secure.

This security was dependent on his constant recognition of God and His love. In such a state he had no concern for himself—he belonged, and nothing had been left out.

Delinquency Begins

Any separation from one's natural environment focuses interest on oneself. A frightened, insecure man has little interest in his neighbour.

The Bible tells us that Lucifer separated from the angelic host because he felt God had left something out. It is evident that he became grossly self-centred. He declared: "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne . . . I will sit also upon the mount . . . I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Isaiah 14:13, 14.

It is interesting to note that after man is tempted with the same thought, that God has left out something to be desired in creating him, he, too, becomes self-centred. Said Adam: "I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." Genesis 3:10.

Both of these creatures—the first angel and the first man—by their actions accuse God of delinquency in leaving out something in His work—and as a result both suffer isolation. Having left out the love of God

—they experience the opposite emotion of fear and become egocentric in their philosophy and life.

It is thus that the human inherits a basic loneliness. Every child of Adam is born spiritually detached from the love of God. The Bible calls it being born in sin.

Sin is separation from God. Isaiah 59: 2.

Man is born desperately in need of love. He is born to die. But the only way he can find real peace and life is to find God and get into complete harmony with his spiritual environment. The effect of such a reunion is nothing short of miraculous. It is in truth the answer to all so-called delinquency.

Deception!

However, man has led himself to believe that if he develops the physical and the mental side of his make-up he can get back this peace and security. And so he deceives himself into thinking that the latest model car, a bank account, athletic skill, or just mere pugnacity and aggression is sufficient covering for his naked self. And for a time it may suffice. He may on the other hand seek for academic advancement and in so doing surpass other minds, resting secure in his unchallengeable superiority.

So long as he can make-believe he is wanted or belongs somewhere in the great cosmos, even if only by a handful of cronies at the corner saloon, he feels secure. But not for long.

Social clubs and various group activities may then serve to hide his awareness of the nakedness of his natural self. But wherever he goes the voice still follows, telling him he is alone and insecure and has not found true love.

The exhaustion of the body and mind, the sense of complete frustration and hopeless inadequacy affects men in various ways. But from this cause comes a major percentage of the accidents, illnesses, and deaths that blight our world. This is not taking into consideration the problems of marriage and divorce, crime and destitution which are secondary results from the primary cause of separation from God.

There is but one solution. We must leave the symptoms and get after the cause. When man finds God—he finds peace and security. Whatever he was



**COMING
NEXT
MONTH**

WHAT IS GRACE? *Walter R. L. Scragg*
GOD REVEALED OUTSIDE THE BIBLE: *Rex D. Edwards*
THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS AFTER
TWELVE YEARS: *Siegfried H. Horn*

DIGESTIVE TROUBLES IN
CHILDREN: *Dr. Clifford R. Anderson*
GOD'S GREAT POWER: *W. A. Townend*
I BELIEVE IN THE SABBATH: *Russell H. Argent*
DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY: *Robert H. Parr*

doing to substitute for this, or to opiate his sensibility to it, will fall away as of no use.

He will become at one with the world and his whole body, mind, and spirit now restored will embark on a voyage of happiness and recovery.

Delinquency and Youth

Having observed that original delinquency was a failure in duty by the first parents, it may be worthwhile to consider modern youth problems in the light of this situation.

It is nothing short of a tragedy when young children, with all their innate loneliness, are deprived of



the love of parents in early youth. This parental love and security is the only thing that keeps them from being fully and savagely aware of man's awful state naturally. It is a merciful provision that the infant human can have such protection until he is old enough to stand as an adult and face the adult problem. For remember delinquency is an adult problem, and God expects adults to meet it. But in our world adults have so failed in their duty, that in wanton self-seeking they have left youth out of their reckoning and made them fend for themselves.

Quarrelsome parents deprive a child of the atmosphere of love which is vitally necessary for emotional growth. There need not be overt warfare in the home to accomplish this devastation. Homes that profess Christianity may be the worst offenders because they are too morally respectable to have an open feud. But love dies—and fear-ridden, bewildered youth who cannot understand or explain, start a life-long search outside the home for what they might have so easily found within.

At its best parental love is a substitute for, or an introduction to the love of God—and happy the youth who finds God through his parents. For him there is no delinquency. When adolescence comes, while still feeling mother and father are old-fashioned, he retains his confidence in their God for he has experienced His love for himself.

He now scorns his physical and mental infancy, as

he enters adulthood, but the spiritual has become part of his own soul. Later he returns to a deeper appreciation of his parents, whose God is his own. But from the broken love-less home comes the youth who stands fearful before adulthood. He, too, scorns physical and mental infancy, but has no love of God. Insecure at heart, he by-passes moral standards, and endures all manner of hardship so long as he can feel he belongs somewhere. So he joins crazy gangs. Garish dress gets him the attention he has lacked. And so he has built up the elements of love—security and sense of belonging—in an artificial world.

Basically his search is a spiritual one. He is looking for the love of God which was taken from him by his self-seeking parents.

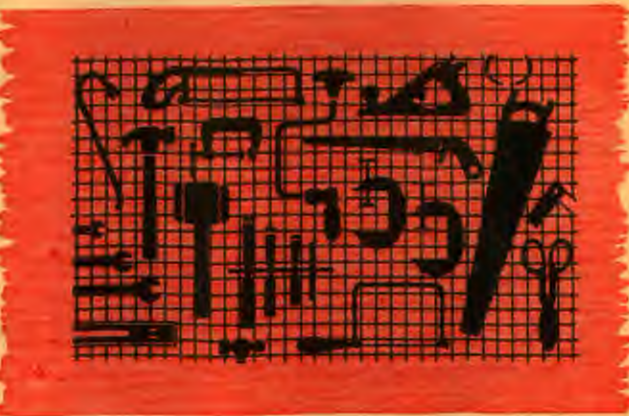
A father suffering from a nervous collapse blamed his sixteen-year-old boy. An only child, the boy had graduated from a respectable home to a street gang. The father was the more hostile because he had spent hundreds of pounds on tools, boats, and sports equipment for the son who was now disgracing his name.

He was asked, "Sir, did you ever sail in the boat with your boy?" "No, I never had time for that sort of thing." Again, "Did you ever play sports with your boy?" "Where would I get time for sports!" And again, "Did you ever use the tools and work with him?" "No, I have my own industry. And to think I have done all this for him—and now look at him."

The father had made one great mistake. It was a matter of prepositions. He had done things *for* his son but nothing *with* him.

The young lad would have done well on a quarter of the goods with a father's love added. The way he saw it, his father was buying him out of his life. He was two hundred pounds' worth of nuisance, and knew it. The street gang was not very comfortable, but he belonged and was wanted. Maybe it couldn't be called love—but it felt like it.

Let modern parents wake up to a modern need. Find God, and then let the youth sense your love and security. Perhaps you will still be an old-fashioned square, but old-fashioned security with love as its third dimension is solid enough in the eyes of any modern youth. Try it!



I DO NOT
WANT---

FREEDOM from

FEAR

DECLARES *Robert H. Parr*



WHEN Roosevelt and Churchill enunciated their Four Freedoms, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to work, and freedom from fear, the world hailed the Atlantic Charter, which contained these sentiments, as one of the great documents of all time. It was right that people should recognize such basic principles as these four freedoms, for they are the foundation stones of the edifice of human rights.

But it is that last one, freedom from fear, that has me a little concerned this morning, and causes me to brush the dust off my typewriter, for I feel that this "freedom," precious though it be, needs qualification.

Not for one moment would I suggest that this fourth freedom, should be expunged from the Charter. It is a fine and noble thing that mankind sees this sentiment in this light; it is good to know that men everywhere have the right to be loosed from the bonds of fear of political enemies, of insecurity, of misery and want, of privation and starvation, of pest and plague and hardship. It brings a sense of well-being to know that mankind has the right to be free from all these fears.

There are, on the other hand, things we ought to fear. Some fear is healthy. An element of fear in the make-up is most salutary. We teach our children to

fear the fire; we encourage them to fear the roaring traffic that hurtles along our highways; we inculcate in them a fear of dangerous places. Personally, I have a well-developed fear of enraged bulls, and nothing would persuade me to enter the pen of such an animal no matter what the pretext. Doubtless, you have the same attitude.

Most of us would admit to a certain fear of death, and it is right that we should, otherwise, we would allow ourselves to drift into all manner of dangerous, not to say impossible, places and situations. Most of us, but not all. As I write, there languishes in an American prison, a young man who has been living in the Death Cell for nearly twelve years. His name is Caryl Chessman. Time and again, the date of his execution has been set, but some stay of proceedings has enabled him to cheat the death chamber. On one occasion, it seemed that nothing could save him. The days were fast running out, and hours only remained. Mrs. Freeman, a newspaper woman, interviewing him for what they both supposed to be the last time, asked him this pointed and poignant question: "Tell me, Caryl, are you afraid?"

I shall not attempt to describe how I would feel under such circumstances. I do not possess the vocabulary, nor the power to convey one tithe of my emotions, were I in that condition. How did Chessman feel? Let him speak for himself.

"I considered her question for a moment, and then I shook my head slowly from side to side. 'No,' I replied quietly, 'I'm not afraid.'"

"And that, I'm convinced, is the most terrible thing that can happen to any man, for it means that you are

afraid of nothing because you believe in nothing. It means that you have found life worthless, and death, consequently, meaningless. It means that you have traded fear for guile and hate and angry, furious contempt, and that you have turned yourself against all that is warm and human. It means that you are completely alone, securely sealed off from the reach of other men and God."—"Cell 2455, Death Row," page 293.

Those, you will agree, are dramatic and frightening words. Here is a young man who admits, as he faces the gas chamber, that he is not afraid because he believes in nothing. That is the most tragic aspect of it all. If only someone had been able to infuse a little fear into the boy Chessman, while yet his mind was plastic and impressionable. If only someone had been able to burn into his soul the principle that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," of happiness, of life itself, what marvellous vistas might have opened before this talented young man. If only someone could have taken him aside and etched upon the tables of his mind, something of that wholesome fear the Master spoke of when He said, "But rather fear Him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell." Matthew 10:28.

Yes, unashamedly, I admit to you that there are some things I fear beyond description. I fear those things that may destroy my soul, whatever those things be. It could be godless associates; it may be a conformity to the world; it may be a weak and compromising attitude to matters of principle; it may be a carelessness in my attitude to God's requirements; it could be a lax attitude toward "the sin which doth so easily beset us;" it could be a thousand things. I fear them all, as I fear anything that might separate me from God's proffered gift of eternal life.

The cynic who reads this may say, "Poor, fear-ridden fellow! What miseries he must suffer! Every day must be a torment, every hour he must be living on the edge of a precipice. What an existence!"

I wonder whether it is worth trying to explain such things to the cynic? How can he understand the mysteries and the wonders of such texts as John 10:28, 29? "And I give unto them eternal life; . . . neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand . . . and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand."

With such confident promises, why then do I fear? That modicum of fear may well be my salvation, for it is fear that this arm of flesh may fail, fear lest my own limited resources sink under the battering weight of adversity, fear lest my own strength be weak and unavailing. It is such fear, I say, that comes to the Christian's aid, for it sends him fleeing to the arms of Omnipotence for protection, and from those arms, no man, nor devil either, is able to pluck him out. And it is only while here that I need know no fear, for "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear." 1 John 4:18.

If Man Should Reach the Moon

WALTER H. HUNTLEY

I'm sure you've heard or read about
The satellites in space
Now Russia and United States
Are in a rocket race.
To hear them talk it won't be long
Till space they conquer soon
And then what next will man attempt
If man should reach the moon?

If man should ever reach the moon
There's one thing that is clear
He'll ruin everything up there
Just as he has down here.
With sin and crime, with lust and greed
He's got enough to do
To clean the mess he's made on earth
And you know that is true.

The sickness and the want, the fear
The broken hearts and shame
The cry of hungry millions
And man is all to blame.
I think we'd better set our sights
Above the moon and space
So let's explore eternity
While there is time and grace.

It's not the moon we need to reach
It's God—who put it there
The One who went to Calvary
A rugged cross to bear.
For sins of men with wicked hearts
He died one day at noon
With faith in Him you'll have no fear
If man should reach the moon.



MAN--GOD--and Outer Space

★ IS MAN'S VENTURE INTO
OUTER SPACE BUT ANOTHER
INTRUSION INTO FORBIDDEN
TERRITORY?

Ross C. Piper

EVER SINCE the seventeenth century when Sir Isaac Newton first propounded his law of gravitation, man has had it instilled into him that whatever goes up must come down. About the only apparent exception to this inflexible rule has been the cost of living. When, however, on October 4, 1957, Russian scientists blasted their first sputnik into orbit around the earth, they not only made most text books on physics obsolete, but they also launched bewildered mankind with breath-taking suddenness into the Space Age.

Science fiction has been dealing with the theme of man's conquest of space from time immemorial. Jules Verne, the noted French author of the nineteenth century, wrote a most convincing piece about a trip to the moon, but until a few years ago people looked on this type of story as but a figment of the author's imagination. Not so any longer. Today serious-minded scientists, capable journalists, and hard-headed business men treat the fantastic topic of the conquest of space very seriously indeed.

In one country three hundred people have already volunteered for the first trip of a manned rocket to the moon. Elsewhere, not wishing to be left out of the race, 1,400 people have already registered as passengers on the first space ship to the moon. Going one better still, Japan has an organization which sells land on Mars, and names the Japanese emperor's son, and Egypt's President Nasser as being two of its many customers!

The unquestioned technological triumphs of this Space Age have been so numerous that we have almost lost the capacity to be amazed. Just consider some of the difficulties overcome by the Russians in their successful moon shoot. It is not just a simple matter of firing a rocket from one fixed point and hitting another. This earth, the launching platform, spins on its axis at about 1,000 miles per hour. Added to this is the fact that the earth itself is a vast rocket hurtling through space on its orbit around the sun at a speed of 68,000 miles per hour, travelling some million and a half miles per day. Then, too, the moon does not stay put in any one location. It travels at 2,300 miles per hour on its elliptical orbit around the earth, so that sometimes it is 26,000 miles nearer to us than at other times. To accurately compute the position of this elusive target only one fiftieth the size of this earth in itself is no mean feat, let alone to guide a rocket to a pre-determined area on its surface! Yes, man in this space age is accomplishing some almost unbelievable feats.

Unfortunately, however, not many stop to consider as to whether there might be problems other than scientific ones which man needs to pause and ponder as he reaches out for the stars. Where is man headed? What are the implications involved? Is he venturing into forbidden territory? Will anything stop man from personally invading the vast ocean of space which surrounds us?

Somehow we cannot dismiss from our thinking a happening in the dateless past when pride was born in the heart of a brilliant being then called Lucifer. In his sinful pride this mighty creature declared that he would ascend into heaven, even "above the heights of the clouds," not merely to change his physical location, but to usurp God's absolute authority. His ill-fated attempt had but one end. Lucifer, the "son of the morning," became Satan, the arch-enemy of God, and the originator of sin and death. The final chapter in this drama is yet to be written, but the end result of this rebellion will be seen in the consuming fires of God's judgment.

Then we recall that dramatic incident which transpired in the world after the great Flood of Noah's day. Speaking a common language, united in planning and action, earth's inhabitants determined that never again would they face the perils of a universal flood. God had instructed them to scatter abroad upon the face of the earth, but in pride and rebellion they determined to build a vast city, the central feature of which would be a gigantic tower, "whose top may reach unto heaven." Their determination was to "make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." Genesis 11:4.

The irony of this situation was that while man was toiling up toward the heavens, God came down to see what was transpiring, and He came down in judgment. "And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this thing they begin

to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." Verse 6. Amid the lightning flashes of God's judgment the work on the Tower of Babel was halted and was never completed.

Once again we have come to a time when the ruling philosophy seems to be "What man can imagine, man can do." It would almost seem that there is nothing too hard for the human race to accomplish if it is unified in its endeavours. But man is not content to be master of earth alone. He is now reaching out through space to the heavens beyond. And it is more than a change of physical location that is in man's thinking. There is much in the current scientific planning which could be construed as a challenge to God's absolute authority.

While somewhat superficially viewing a science programme on TV the other evening we were jolted into full consciousness when the feature concluded with the proud boast, "When space is but another highway, man will proudly tread the skies looking like a god!" Lest we dismiss this as just a piece of Hollywood romancing, we could place alongside it this statement recently made by a leading man in the literary world: "It seems to me that we are witnessing a race between education and war. If education wins, the human race will then be standing upon the earth as upon a footstool, and will stretch out its dominion amid the stars."

That modern space exploration is considered by some as a challenge to God was recently stressed in a Russian publication called *Science and Life*. The editor announced that man-made satellites and rockets cast doubt on the existence of God. He based his amazing conclusion on two assertions: first that none of the complicated electronic devices sent into outer space had recorded any encounter with either an angel or God; and second, that the very existence of these satellites is a denial of the religious dogma that man cannot reach the heavens. We refrain from commenting on the appalling logic of this statement and leave you to form your own judgment as to its intended import.

God has placed man within certain clearly defined bounds, spiritually, physically, and environmentally, and beyond these bounds He has erected "No Trespassing" signs. He says to sinful man, as He does to the waves of the ocean, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further." It seems clear that in laying claim to outer space man could well be ignoring one of these warning signs. As it was with the case of Lucifer, as it was at the Tower of Babel when God said, "Go to, let us go down," so too, this Space Age could end in divine judgment.

As to whether there is intelligent life on other worlds in God's vast universe has long been a matter of conjecture. To us it poses no problem. In fact, it would seem like the crowning height of human conceit to go out of doors on a clear night, and while viewing the innumerable host of twinkling stars to believe that

this glittering canopy had been placed there merely as a scenic attraction for the inhabitants of this insignificant little world.

The limited knowledge we have of the other planets in our own solar system would indicate that human life as we know it might be difficult or impossible on some of them. Yet despite this, eminent modern astronomers such as Dr. R. T. Crawford, director of America's Berkley Observatory, believe there is intelligent life in outer space. Said he: "Not only do I believe that other planets in our solar system are inhabited, but I firmly believe that the worlds of other solar systems are likewise inhabited."

God has declared that "the nations [that is, the nations of this world] are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance." Isaiah 40:15. This earth with its nations, is only a very infinitesimal part of God's great creation—the smallest



CRITICISM

*If it is untrue, disregard it;
If it is unfair, keep from irritation;
If it is ignorant, smile at it;
If it is justified, learn from it.*

drop of water from an overflowing bucket, or the tiniest grain of sand in a vast desert—in comparison with the innumerable hosts all about us.

And yet this world is the centre of interest of the whole universe. Paul declares that we are "compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses." Hebrews 12:1. He further states that we are a spectacle to angels and to men. Why should this be? Because this is the only world into which sin has entered. Of God's universe we read: "Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone; Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, . . . and the host of heaven worshippeth Thee." Nehemiah 9:6.

Unfortunately, not all the hosts on earth now worship God, but this is true of the other worlds. This

earth is the only sheep in all of God's great flock which wandered away. The ninety and nine others spoken of in Christ's parable are safely in the fold, but at the present this world is lost. It was to this world alone that God's Son came to die to redeem fallen mankind.

When sin entered, man was confined to this world over which originally he had been given dominion. He is now isolated from the rest of the unfallen universe lest the contagion spread. When, however, the curse of sin has been for ever eradicated from this planet, then, and then only will this strict quarantine be lifted.

One thing is doubly sure; man will travel into the outer fringes of space only so far as God allows him. Hung as a warning sign in the sky for all to read is the clear declaration: "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth hath He given to the children of men." Psalm 115:16. If we accept the Word of God as our final authority, this should put the issue beyond doubt. The Scripture uses the word "heavens" for "space." On and beyond the atmospheric heavens which blanket this earth are the vast starry heavens into which man is now preparing to venture. Still further into the infinity of space is the heaven of heavens, the dwelling place of God. The God of the universe tells mortal man he can occupy the earth, but that He has reserved the heavens for Himself.

Back in 1869, the famous scientists of that day met in Paris for a dinner. They discussed their concept of the possible achievements of science one hundred years from then. Many things which must have seemed fantastic to them, you and I now witness, but one of those present at that gathering gave this warning: "We have the feeling that when this time comes to science, God . . . will come down to earth swinging a bunch of keys, and will say to humanity, the way they say at five o'clock at the saloon: 'Closing time, gentlemen.'"

Coming events could well prove this scientist of yesteryear to be correct. God's Word clearly reveals that it is when "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased," that our Lord shall come down in judgment on an impenitent world. "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, . . . and then shall all the tribes of earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matthew 24:29, 30.

While Christ comes in judgment on those who have made no preparation to meet Him, He comes with everlasting salvation to all who greet Him as their Saviour. Then will commence one of the greatest space migrations of all time as the redeemed of God wing their tireless flight to be with God where He is. Your acceptance or rejection of the message of Christ's salvation here and now will determine which group you will be numbered with in that tremendous day. May your choice be the right one.

WHAT

Your BIBLE Says

ABOUT

THE BLESSINGS OF The Babe of Bethlehem

ALFRED S. JORGENSEN

"HE CAME A TINY INFANT THING
THAT MADE A WOMAN CRY."

No one, other than God, would have arranged for Jesus to come the way He did. Think of the pomp and pageantry, the shouting and the long processional train, if Alexander or Cæsar had been assigned the task of managing His affairs! Only the infinite wisdom of God could have conceived of a plan at once so simple, so startling, so significant, as that by which the Babe of Bethlehem was ushered into the world.

Christmastide is with us, and once again the familiar story of His coming will be told. But His story is more than the theme of a carol or the motivation of a gift. It is the thrilling evangel of Immanuel—"God with us"! For in the self-giving of God in the Person of His Son there has come to us a plenitude of blessings that embrace every area of Christian faith and experience. Even the richest and most radiant words of our Christian vocabulary barely hint at the wealth and wonder of the achievements of the Word made flesh.



★ REDEMPTION

Why was it necessary for the Son of God to assume the limitations of our humanity?

"But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." Galatians 4:4, 5, R.S.V.

"Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4) and "the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23. By becoming our Substitute—and He could do this only by becoming human—Christ, "who knew no sin," was "made . . . sin for us," "that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5:21.

How do the Bible writers emphasize the cost of our redemption?

"Truly no man can ransom himself, or give to God the price of his life, for the ransom of his life is costly." Psalm 49:7, 8, R.S.V.

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation [manner of life] received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Peter 1:18, 19.

I am redeemed, oh, praise the Lord,
My soul, from bondage free,
Has found at last a resting-place
In Him who died for me.

I looked, and lo, from Calvary's cross,
A healing fountain streamed:
It cleansed my heart, and now I sing,
Praise God, I am redeemed.

And when I reach that world more bright
Than mortal ever dreamed,
I'll cast my cross at Jesus' feet
And cry, Redeemed, redeemed!

—Julia Sterling.

★ RECONCILIATION

What is the condition of man in his natural state and what is his attitude to God?

"At that time ye were without Christ, . . . having no hope, and without God in the world." Ephesians 2:12.

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind." Colossians 1:21.

How was this gulf of enmity, created by sin, bridged by our Lord Jesus Christ?

"When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son." Romans 5:10. See also Ephesians 3:13; Colossians 1:21, 22.

In order that He might become the "one Mediator between God and men," it was necessary that our Lord become "the man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:5. The Incarnation provided the situation for our reconciliation with God.

As a result of the "peace" which He made in reconciling "both [Jew and Gentile] unto God in one body by the cross," what access do we now have to the eternal God?

"Through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." Ephesians 2:18.

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16.

★ REGENERATION

When a sinner, who is by nature a "child of wrath," becomes a son of God, what essential change takes place in his nature?

"Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17, R.S.V.

The application of moral principles will result in the outward conformity of a life to an ethical ideal. But such a renovation of character never solves the basic problem of sin's defilement, for "though you wash yourself with lye and use much soap, the stain of your guilt is still before Me, says the Lord God." Jeremiah 2:22, R.S.V. What the sinner needs is, not renovation, but regeneration—"a new creation."

How is this change in the life produced?

"According to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour." Titus 3:5, 6.

How did our Lord, in His conversation with Nicodemus, stress the importance of this experience?

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he CANNOT enter into the kingdom of God. That which

is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3: 5, 6.

Regeneration is not simply a luxury in the Christian life; it is the very beginning of it. Without regeneration there can be no genuine Christian experience. The tragedy of so many professing Christians is that they are endeavouring to live like Christians before they have actually been born into the family of God!

By what magnificent declaration on another occasion did Christ indicate the link between His Incarnation and our regeneration?

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10.

Regeneration, the new birth, is essentially the implantation within a man of the principle of a new life. This life is in Christ (John 1:4), and apart from His Incarnation there would have been no means whereby He could have mediated it to us.

★ RESTORATION

Is God satisfied with the present state of affairs in our world?

"That which is, already has been; that which is to be has already been; and God seeks what has been driven away." Ecclesiastes 3:15, R.S.V.

This final clause is reminiscent of Genesis 3:24: "So He drove out the man." Our present world is not the perfect masterpiece that rejoiced its Maker's heart when it came from His creative hand before the advent of sin. And God will not be content until that which has been "driven away" is restored as at the beginning.

What plan for the restoration of the lost dominion was announced by the prophet Micah?

"And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto Thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem." Micah 4:8.

Through whom is this prophecy to be fulfilled?

"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son, and shalt call His name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David; and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:30-33.

(Concluded on page 23)



Signs

COUNSEL CORNER

Conducted by
Pastor WILLIAM A. FAGAL
Director, "Faith for Today"

Viewed every Sunday, Sydney, TCN 9, 2.30 p.m.; Melbourne, HSV 7, 1.30 p.m.



PROBATION OFFICER'S PROBLEM

In my role as a probation officer in a children's court, I am prohibited from bringing the gospel to children termed "emotionally disturbed." The therapists insist that religion would further confuse the children and lead to irreparable damage. What is your opinion?

I find it impossible to believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ could ever damage anyone. The Apostle Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." Romans 1:16. A knowledge of sins forgiven and faith in Jesus Christ have been the means of restoring sanity to many who were disturbed emotionally.

On the other hand, I cannot counsel you to go contrary to the orders of your superiors, even though I disagree with the reasons which they have given you. Perhaps they feel that danger may not come so much from the gospel itself, but from the way in which it may be offered to a child. If for the time being your tongue must remain silent concerning your faith in Christ, your actions need not do so. You can show the loving spirit of Jesus Christ so effectively as you deal with these unfortunate children that they will realize there is something different about you. Perhaps later your chance will come to really tell them the reasons why you are able to offer them the love and kindness of Christ.

"MOTHER-IN-LAW" TROUBLE

I have what is frequently called "mother-in-law" trouble. I have never been used to being in a house with someone and at the same time not speaking to that person. My mother-in-law lives with us, and unfortunately she has meddled in our affairs and in how our money should be spent. My husband drinks, and my mother-in-law blames me for it, which I think is most unfair. She has had trouble with her other sons and daughters, and our home is the only place where she can live. I have been trying to treat her as if she were my own mother, but this seems to give her much bet-

ter chance to say mean things to me and about me. Rather than have an argument, I say nothing to her. However, this bothers me. Am I doing the right thing?

Probably not, since it has not solved your problem. Usually, our first impulse is to give to others what they give to us. This is a great mistake. I think you would be justified in having a frank talk with your mother-in-law about the unpleasantness which has developed in your home. However, your frankness should be coupled with tact and understanding. You and she have a mutual problem in your husband's drinking. You are both concerned about this. Rather than either of you putting the blame on the other, try to get her to feel your concern and your understanding. Human beings respond to love and trust. These are positive virtues that draw out the best in others. Try to offer these to your mother-in-law in a tactful way, and perhaps some new basis for understanding may come into your relationship.

BEREAVED HUSBAND

After almost thirty years of marriage my wife passed away recently. She was an earnest Christian, and I feel sure that she will be saved. I do not belong to the church, but now I say a prayer for her five or six times a day. Do you think this is foolish?

While the Bible does not ask us to pray for those who have passed away, yet I am sure that God understands the real meaning in your heart. In your grief you think of your wife frequently and your heart turns to God as you ask Him to remember her as well. God understands this prayer of yours and you may be confident that He will not forget your dear one. On the resurrection morning He will call her forth to life eternal. It is good for you to pray frequently. God can give you comfort in your grief and discouragement.

Since your wife was an earnest Christian and you know she will be saved, wouldn't her dearest wish be fulfilled if, on the resurrection morning, you were there to greet her? I am sure she will be looking for you. While you pray for her, pray also that Jesus Christ might come into your heart and give you the joy which your wife had in full surrender to Him. Study the Bible as she did, putting your past and your future completely in the Saviour's hands. As you do this, you can have the assurance of salvation and of meeting your dear one in the life to come.

BURDENED WITH DEBT

Our great problem is debt. It seems as though we will never get out of debt. The money we make goes out as fast as it comes in, and we never know what it is to have a few pounds on hand. We have five children and it is all we can do to take care of them. We have clothes, but we don't seem to have the money to buy the right kind of food. Half the time we can't go to church because we don't have money for petrol. We have a farm; so we have all the milk we need, but our problem of indebtedness worries us terribly. We cannot seem to find a way to give the tithe to the Lord. Do you think this has anything to do with our problem?

I have no doubt in my mind but that your unfaithfulness with the tithe is directly related to your inability to get out of debt. There is no more specific promise in the Bible than the one found in Malachi 3 where God says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, . . . and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." I know from experience that God keeps this promise.

You need God's blessings even more than most families since you are so heavily in debt. Faithfulness in returning the tithe to the Lord is the only way that I know of for you to obtain those blessings. Don't think that you should wait until you are out of debt before beginning to tithe. Probably the only way you can ever get out of debt is to secure the blessing of the Lord in this way. Even though it will be a real test of your faith, start right now to take out God's portion first. Couple this act of faith with earnest prayer for the promised blessing.

THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

(Concluded from page 21)

In this kingdom over which the incarnate Son of God will reign all things will be made new. Revelation 21:5. Through Christ all that was lost in the fall will be restored. The Babe of Bethlehem, therefore, is the world's only hope. As the late Field-Marshal Jan Christian Smuts declared: "In the twilight of today I see on that horizon, not the man of Moscow, not the man of Munich, not the man of Rome, but the MAN of Galilee. . . . The Man of Galilee is, and remains, our one and only leader."

SIGNS OF THE TIMES :: December, 1959

*"When the proud empires of the world have crumbled,
Sharing oblivion with the lost and dead;
When the small vanities of men are humbled,
And over all forgetfulness has spread—*

*"We shall behold a nobler empire rising,
Vaster than any mortal eyes have seen;
Throned in what state, above man's vain despising,
Shall we behold the lowly Nazarene!"*

—Commissioner Albert Orsborn.

Redemption from our sins! Reconciliation with God! The regeneration of our degenerate natures! And the thrilling prospect of a new earth in which righteousness dwells, restored by the recreative activity of God! These are the blessings that crown our faith in the Babe of Bethlehem.

"Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!"

2 Corinthians 9:15.



OUR LIFE is like the dial of a clock.

The hands are God's hands passing over and over again. The short hand, the hand of discipline; the long hand, the hand of mercy. Slowly and surely the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each stroke; but over and over passes the hand of mercy, showering down sixty-fold of blessing for each stroke of discipline or trial, and both hands are fastened to one secure pivot, the great unchanging heart of a God of love."

—NORMAN B. HARRISON.

A Christian Doctor Advises---

It's Your LIFE



WHETHER you are six or sixty, the life ahead of you should seem sweet and valuable. For whether you are young in body or young in spirit, at the beginning of life or near the end, God intended for you to be healthy and happy.

We all should remember that life is a balance. Even as your body and its nervous system, and every organ, is balanced, even so joy is balanced with sorrow; for every amount of work, there should be an equal amount of play. Hours of activity should be balanced with hours of relaxation and rest. Our love for and our devotion to man should be balanced with our love and our worship of God. In short, life in all its aspects should be in balance.

The man who follows the Good Book's advice, "Be ye temperate in all things," is usually the man who stretches life to the full. By balancing his daily activities by living the healthful life, he gets a bonus, a bargain of more limber legs, brighter eyes, and a springier step than his brother who dashes pell-mell through life, not taking time to live, not taking thought for his body and its needs.

In my private practice of medicine I have counselled many patients. And one of my favourite illustrations regarding life and its potentials is this: Life is like an accordion. We can stretch it out or we can com-

***So Make the
BEST of It!***

J. De WITT FOX, M.D.

press it, as we choose. God made us free moral agents to live as we see fit. But He also gave us certain basic rules of health, which, if we abide by them, would help us to live a long and useful and happy life. However, if we neglect these basic rules, and choose to compress our life into a capsule, we can shorten our life to a fraction of what it should be.

So it's your life, live it to the full . . . but balance it, treasure it, and make it a useful and happy one for yourself and others. And the balance of your life should be a satisfying experience.

What are the laws of life that will make it longer?

Probably the best way to find out would be to look at some of the oldsters who have lived successfully and outlived their fellows. A doctor recently conducted a

survey among octogenarians. What he learned was not that some magic mixture went into the breakfast food of these healthy oldsters. There was no vitamin cocktail to which they attributed their good health. No waistline-twisting exercise. Nothing unique about the climate in which they lived. Oddly enough the doctor could uncover only one common denominator. Each lived in moderation.

These were not intense, hard-driving, heavy-smoking, heavy-drinking, overworking people. Oh, no. That variety of fellow had long since passed off the scene of action. Rather, these were easygoing, limber, pleasant old fellows. They worked every day, not with a vengeance, but with a relaxed, happy mental attitude. They also took time to play. They got outdoors each day for a bit of body-building exercise. They ate three well-balanced but moderate meals, kept a clear conscience, prayed through their problems with an abiding faith in God, and slept as soundly as a baby. The common denominator in each life, however, was moderation—temperance in all things. Each treated his body as a temple, not a tavern. Each outlived many of his friends, each lived a full and active life, many still playing golf each week, all of them enjoying companionship and an active mental state long past their Biblically allotted threescore and ten years.

Health is really a gift God gives to nearly everyone at birth. What one does with his body from then on largely depends on parental guidance and on one's conscience and intelligence. With the increased knowledge regarding the body and how it operates and the advances of modern medicine, everyone should live longer today. But whether you do or not boils down to the basic fact that it's your life, and you alone can take care of it.

Sadly enough, during our youth, health is so abundant that we seldom take thought of it. Our tremendous reserves and our abounding energies seem limitless. But come the middle years and the reserves grow increasingly narrow. The sunset side of the hill seems to find life much more precious, yet with dwindling powers of performance. We have more ideas than we have physical energy to accomplish. We have more to do, less time to do it. Tensions mount as we are caught in the vise of time that takes its toll on our limited reserves.

It would do little good to tell the youthful reader of this article, "Conserve your health. Take care of your body while you are young, so you will have extra reserves when you grow older." For every boy and girl must live his life to the full, and he just can't envision ever being sick or tired or old. But if we can protect our youngsters from some of the damaging effects of modern life, we could actually add years to their life.

For the boy or girl who does not smoke or drink; who gets plenty of sleep and eats well-balanced meals, shy of sweets, fats, and starchy foods; who keeps his body strong and clean, is inevitably going to be a healthier boy or girl. For everyone is what he eats and

drinks and thinks. And if the ingredients of the life are good—the life is bound to be good, too. It's that simple.

So, mother and dad, do the best guidance job you can with that boy or girl. At the same time, set the perfect example with good health habits in the home. Then one thing will be certain—yours will be a healthier and happier family.

It's your life—make the most of it!



H. A. ROBERTS

ARE YOU DRIVING THROUGH LIFE
WITH AN

ACCELERATOR, BUT NO BRAKES!

★ Merlin L. Neff

EXPERIMENTATION has spread from the laboratory and classroom into every phase of life. "Why must I accept what old folks believe?" asked one sceptical lad. "I will live my own life and make the rules as I please." To this I replied that it might be well to accept some laws that had been discovered by his predecessors. "It seems silly if I do," he commented after a pause.

"Oh, I wouldn't feel that it was," I assured him. "Just suppose you said you wouldn't accept the law of gravitation without first jumping off the top of a twenty-storey building to prove it. Would you call that good sense?"

"I should say I wouldn't."

"That is something of a parallel with what youth is attempting to do when they experiment with their morals, their character, and their faith. You may do it once, but the consequences may bring permanent ruin. It is strange how men are not satisfied to accept the code of morals which a hundred generations of Christians have found to be the bulwark of home, nation, and civilization."

Do you recall the story of a young Egyptian king, Mycerinus? This monarch was the best of rulers, but an oracle came to him declaring that he had but six years to reign, and in the seventh year he must die. His pagan mind rebelled against this verdict. Had he not lived a virtuous and honourable life? Bitter in heart he resolved to cast aside his kingly duties and go into the forest with friends to spend the last years in revelry and sensuous delight.

Modern paganism has accepted much of the same attitude toward life. The "new morality" calls for a renouncement of all restraints. "Do as you please," they say; "you have your life to live here and now. What care we for the future?"

But such an attitude can only bring chaos. We must maintain a faith in God and in a world to come; we must believe there are divine precepts, that right will finally triumph and wrong will be punished, or we are no better than pagan Mycerinus.

"This generation of ours is attempting to build a civilization without brakes. This sort of thing can only be overcome by the people who live with brakes, who believe in obedience

not only to the laws of the state but also to the laws of God. The moral and spiritual light of the world depends on how you and I reflect the light of the world. The world must be illumined—the blackout done away with." These words from a sermon by an Anglican rector are apropos for our discussion of devaluated moral standards.

An impetuous young ruler came running to Jesus Christ as He travelled in Judea. He was anxious to ask the Teacher a question.

This Jewish ruler believed that he was right in the sight of God. He was prosperous, and to the Jews wealth was a sign of divine favour. He desired to check his religion with the teachings of the Christ, however, and so he asked, "Master, what good deed must I do to obtain eternal life?"

In direct reply Jesus said, "If you want to enter that life, keep the commandments." The gold standard of character was set forth again in the words of the Son of God.

"I have obeyed all these commandments. What do I still lack?" came the eager reply and further query. Through the mind of the young ruler came memories of the long years of training in the law. He thought of his strict observance of every point. But the Master was speaking again.

"If you want to be perfect, go! Sell your property and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come back and be a follower of Mine."

With downcast countenance the rich youth went away, for he could not put his creed into action. Here is the final challenge concerning the law of God. It is insufficient to "keep the commandments." We may not kill, or steal, or commit adultery; but what have we done that demonstrates our love to God and to our neighbour? Notice the words that burned in the sentences of Jesus: "Go," "sell," "give," "come," "be a follower." These exemplify the law in action in the soul.

Gracious is the invitation of the Son of God, "Come unto Me." But with the invitation is the responsibility, "If you really love Me, you will observe My commands." The choice must be made by every youth: to follow Christ and keep the gold standard of divine precepts, or to follow self and devalue the moral code. We cannot serve two masters. Nothing short of the complete heart is acceptable to God.



LINES THAT LINGER

TAKE COMFORT

*Open your windows to the night and stars
And healing silence that is more than sound;
Beyond all wars, and rumours of all wars
Lies the still peace that wraps the spirit round.*

*This is God's hour of respite for the brave;
Give yourself now to silence, as to sleep—
A shining water rippled by no wave,
A lovely and illimitable sleep.*

Can we look long on night, can we look long
On the sure stars, and not grow sure of soul?
On the strong hills, and not ourselves grow strong?
Silence shall touch our wounds and make us whole.

*Whose are the glittering marchers of the skies?
Whose is the pulse that stirs the quickened sod?
Be comforted; our suffering world still lies
Safe in the hollow of the hand of God.*

—A. A. BROWN.
From I. Hardiman.

COURAGE

What care I for the blinding spray
Sent by the foam-tossed sea—
For the cold west wind, and the driving rain,
When I know my heart is free!

What care I for the rocks of fate
That wreck my fragile bark—
Cannot I hear new joy ahead?
Cannot I hear the lark?

Oh, it's great to have new hope, my friend,
New hope, and the pluck to begin—
To master the currents that drag you down,
To master yourself—and win!

—CLIFTON BOUANAS.
From Mrs. Alice M. Bitcon.

SONG FROM GITANJALI

This is my prayer to Thee, my Lord—
strike, strike at the root of penury
in my heart.

Give me the strength lightly to bear my
joys and sorrows.

Give me the strength to make my love
fruitful in service.

Give me the strength never to disown
the poor or bend my knees before in-
solent might.

Give me the strength to raise my mind
high above daily trifles.

And give me the strength to surrender
my strength to Thy will with love.

—RABINDRANATH TAGORE.
From Miss E. Austin.

A BREATH OF PRAYER

A breath of prayer in the morning
Means a day of blessing sure;
A breath of prayer in the evening
Means a night of rest secure;
A breath of prayer in our weakness
Means the clasp of a mighty hand;
A breath of prayer when we're weary
Brings a sight of the shining strand.

A breath of prayer in our doubtings
Assures us the Lord knows best;
A breath of prayer in our sorrows
Means comfort, and peace, and rest;
A breath of prayer in rejoicing
Gives joy an added delight,
For they that remember God's goodness
Go singing far into the night.

There's never a year nor a season
That prayer may not bless every hour;
And never a soul need be helpless
When linked with God's infinite power.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.
From Mrs. D. Bakker.

God is a zealous pruner
For He knows
Who, falsely tender, spares the knife
But spoils the rose.

—JOHN OXENHAM.
From Myra Fraser.

TE DEUM OF A LARK

The sun and the wind I praise, Lord God,
And the noon ways my feet have trod.
The nest at night and the mating time,
And the little feathery breasts on mine—
And the long flight to the brown south,
Wind under wing, spray on the mouth;
For the power to ease my heart of pain
In singing, and so find joy again.
And I ask no gift, Lord God, but this,
Grant me, Thy bird, a small bird's bliss.
Let me pierce the blue one-day as I sing,
And touch Thy golden feet with my wing.

—KATHERING TYNAN.
From Mr. and Mrs. W. Ellis.

Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do which must be done whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and forced to do your best will breed in you temperance, self-control, diligence, strength of will, and a thousand other virtues which the idle never know.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.
From Mrs. H. O'Hara.

What is your favourite quotation? Every month a selection will be made from readers' contributions.
No original matter, please. Include source, author, and your own name.



"Such As I Have"

NORMA NORRIS

TO THE CRIPPLED MAN, carried by his friends to the gate of the temple, it was just another day.

So many, many days had gone before, just like this one promised to be, when his very existence had hung on the few stray coins that came his way. From birth he had been afflicted, and through all the long years of childhood, the restless adolescent years, and the painful years of manhood that had followed, nothing very much had come along to break the monotony of his days, or to give him any hope.

Yet, as he lay there in the hot midday sun, helpless and inert, watching with lustreless eyes the approach of two men who walked together in the crowd, he had no foreknowledge that this day was to be vitally different from any of the others. The men were stopping—they were looking upon him with pity. He was used to that, and put forth a pleading hand. Surely they intended to give! But strangely enough they were shaking their heads in denial of the cupped hand.

"Silver and gold have I none," said Peter, and to the man the words spelled sad disappointment. To him, silver and gold meant existence. They meant bread for his body, and raiment for his limbs. He drew back his hand hopelessly. If they could not give him money, they might as well pass on.

"But —"

The man looked up quickly as the magical words came to his ears, and he saw that Peter was still looking at him. "But," said Peter, "such as I have give I thee." Quick as a thought the doubting question flashed across the man's mind. Would the gift that Peter was offering be worth more to him than the coins

he had expected in the first place? You know the story, as told in Acts 3:1-10, and you know what it was that Peter had to offer. "In the name of Jesus Christ," he said, "rise up and walk."

"Such as I have give I thee." What a wonderful gift that was! Power to walk, to leap, to run. Power to earn one's own bread in a decent manner. Power to be a man among men at last!

"Such as I have." What a wonderful thing it is that not one of us is so poor that he has nothing left in this world to give. Even though what we have may be of little monetary value, there are so many things we can give to others from day to day—if we will. The general trend in the world is so different. The prevailing attitude seems to be: "What I have, I hold. I have worked hard for what I have, so let others work for themselves." But the Christian must have open hands, loving hands, giving hands! The words engraved on his heart must be generous words: "Such as I have give I." And behind every Christian who makes this his rule of life, is the Father's treasure box filled to overflowing with love, hope, sympathy, and joy which only awaits transference through the Christian to the needy one.

The story is told of a little boy of five, newly started at school, who was just awakening to the fact that tomorrow was his mother's birthday. Never before had he been able to give her a present, but now that he was a schoolboy, he felt he wanted to do something about it. Going to his money-box, the little lad tipped it up and took out the one and only coin that it held—a penny. If he went into the sweet shop on his way home from school, he could buy a lovely stick of golden

honeycomb for a penny. He loved honeycomb, and he was sure his mother would love it as he did.

So off to school went the boy, clutching his precious penny, and dreaming happily of his mother's joy when she received her first present from him in the morning. But alas, his plans were doomed to failure, for the rain came down so heavily during the day that his mother arranged with a neighbour to call for him after school in a car, and he found himself whisked home by another route quite a distance from the sweet shop. What to do now? The little fellow felt very sad as he looked at his penny. There was no chance of spending it now, and mother's birthday was drawing nearer.

Next morning, when mother came to wake her young son, she found him already sitting up in bed. He flung his arms around her neck, and hid his hot little face in her neck. "Happy birthday, mummy," he said, and then shyly handed her a tiny package wrapped in a piece of red cellophane. "I wanted to buy you some honeycomb," he said, and a little sob caught in his throat, "but Mr. Jones brought me home too quickly in the car. So—so—"

Inside the paper lay the precious brown penny. Mother gathered up her little boy and kissed him joyfully. "It is the loveliest present," she told him. "Thank you so much, darling. I have never had a nicer present. After breakfast we shall both walk up to the sweet shop and buy some honeycomb. Won't that be fun?"

Such as he had, that little boy gave to his mother, and in the years to come she was to remember with tenderness that first small gift of real love that he had given to her. She spoke truly when she told him she had never had a nicer gift.

What have we to give to others! Why, there is so much! Happiness, cheer, good counsel, encouragement, love, kindness, helpfulness, sympathy—the list is endless.

H. V. Morton tells a story in one of his books on travel. He had been travelling all day over the roads of middle Turkey, and when he came at last to a small unpretentious inn as the day began to fade, he was very tired and hungry. The room given to him was small and barely furnished, but scrupulously clean. After inspecting his new quarters, he went to his evening meal prepared to do it full justice after the long travelling of the day. Imagine his surprise when there was placed before him by a smiling waiter

a dish on which reposed a strangely hacked-about scrap of meat, and potatoes dipped in oil. Looking up from this unappetizing spread, he encountered the eager faces of the waiter, the proprietor, and his wife waiting for his approval. Still puzzled, Mr. Morton began to eat, whereupon the waiter came forward eagerly, and with many smiles, and pointing to the plate, remarked in broken English the words: "Beef-roast!"

As Mr. Morton says in his own words, "Then I realized that in this far-off place, the pathetic sweetness of the human heart, that transcends all barriers of race, had devised a little compliment to England."

Of course, stories such as these are numerous—one could go on for a very long time telling of the times in which people have given out of the abundance of their hearts—from the classic example of Sir Philip Sidney giving his sole cup of water to another dying

(Please turn to page 31)



The Most Wonderful Baby in the World!

MYRTLE O'HARA

HOW LONG will we have to wait till mummie comes home?" Robin asked.

Janice looked at the clock. "She should be here in an hour now," she answered.

"That's a long time," Jill said. "What can we do while we are waiting?"

Janice thought for a moment. "I know! Go and get your crayons and I'll ask auntie for some cardboard."

"What will we do with them?"

"You'll see."

While Jill and Robin watched, Janice printed "WELCOME BABY BROTHER" in large letters on the cardboard. "Now we'll colour the letters with the crayons," she said. Three heads bent over the table and the children worked steadily. "Doesn't it look pretty!" Jill said as she coloured the last letter.

"We have fifteen minutes left," Janice said. "Let's make a border of flowers and leaves around it." Just as the children finished the border they heard daddy sounding the car horn so they propped the sign up on the table and ran outside.

They were so excited to have mother home again and to see their new baby brother, and they crowded around her chattering and asking questions. When she went into the kitchen her face broke into a happy smile as she saw their welcome to the little stranger.

"Do you like it?" Jill said. "We did it all by ourselves."

"I think it's lovely," mother said as she kissed them. She sat down in her easy chair and they stood by her looking at the baby. He was so nice in his pretty clothes. He opened his eyes and puckered up his little mouth and the children were sure they had never seen such a beautiful baby.

"Let me hold him," Jill said. "He's just like my big doll." So she sat in her small chair and mother placed the baby in her arms. Then Robin nursed him and Janice had her turn. As she looked at his dear little face and touched his tiny hands she said: "I think he's the most wonderful baby in all the world."

Mother laughed. "So do I," she said. "But every mother thinks that about her baby." She stood up and laid him in his cot. "All babies are wonderful," she said as she sat down again, "but once there was a baby who really *was* the most wonderful baby in the world. I can imagine how Mary, His mother, must have felt as she held Him close to her and looked at Him and thought about all the strange things that had happened since He was born.

"She remembered the time, long before He was born, when an angel came from heaven to tell her about the wonderful baby that God would give her. He said He would be God's own Son and that His name should be called Jesus. Mary felt that nothing would be too good for such a baby, but she and her husband, Joseph, were poor and they couldn't afford to buy pretty clothes or anything else for their baby. He didn't even have a nice bed," and mother looked at her baby lying in his dainty bed with its laces and ribbons and satin covers. "Jesus' bed," she said sadly, "was made only of straw."



"When Jesus came there was no one to welcome Him, but God sent angels from heaven to tell some good shepherds about Him. It was night time and the sky became bright and shining and the angels were so happy about the Baby they sang a beautiful song. The shepherds had never heard such music. Then they hurried to find Jesus and told everyone they met about Him and about the visit of the angels.

"No one gave Him any presents, either, but God sent a big, bright star to lead three wise men from a far country to Jesus, and they brought with them some very expensive presents.

"When Mary took Jesus to the church, a good man called Simeon, and a good woman called Anna were there, and they thanked God that He had allowed them to see the Baby. Simeon then took Jesus in his arms and prayed a wonderful prayer. All these things made Mary and Joseph quite sure that their Baby was indeed a very special Baby and they treasured Him and looked after Him very carefully.

"Do you think our baby is a very special baby?" Jill asked.

"He might be," mother said. "If we teach him to become a good man like Jesus was, then I am sure God will use him to do a special work for Him.

"God sent Jesus into the world," she continued, "to show people how much He loved them and to teach them how to be good so that some day He could take them to be with Him in heaven. After Jesus went back to His Father in heaven, people didn't want to forget His birthday, so they chose Christmas as the time to remember it, even though this is not the actual day of His birth. That is why Christmas time is such a happy time. While at this time we remember the most wonderful Baby in the world and thank God for the gift of His Son, we must also do as Jesus taught us and live a good life and do right," mother said.

Jill went over to the cot and looked at the new baby. "Although you're not the most wonderful baby in the world," she said, "I'm sure you're a very special baby. You're very, very beautiful and I'm glad God sent you to us and I love you." Then she bent and kissed him.

Such As I Have

(Concluded from page 29)

soldier beside him because he felt the other man needed it more than he did, to the humble mother giving of herself for the welfare of her children. We could speak of the heroism of Captain Oates during the Scott expedition to the South Pole, when he walked out into the blinding snow to his death so that others could have his share of the rations, and of young Booker T. Washington who was so willing to give his best service that he went over the same room ten times when told to dust it.

And the beauty of it all is that so often "such as I have" proves a greater blessing than the thing first asked for. To the cripple at the gate, health and strength were of greater value than the money he expected. To the mother, her little boy's one and only penny, wrapped with such care, and given with much love, was greater to her than any honeycomb. To Mr. Morton, expecting a satisfying meal, the love and kindness of his hosts gave him a story of unparalleled charm to remember where an ordinary meal served only for what he had to pay for it, would never have stayed in his memory for a day! It is almost always so when you give of your best!

What have we to give today? It may only be small, but as long as it is ours to give, we are called upon to share it.

Christ is our Example. "Such as I have, I give," was also His motto. And His wonderful gift opened to the world the wonder of salvation. He had no money,



no promise of riches and fame, but He gave Himself on the cross, and the world has been the richer ever since.

If you will but stay a moment and listen, you will hear the voice of Christ speaking to you today—and He also is asking for a gift. He sighs as He hears you saying, "I have no gift to give," for He knows the value of what you do have, far more than you know yourself. He is waiting patiently and lovingly to hear you say, as in the words of the hymn:

*"Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come."*

*"Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find
O Lamb of God, I come."*

Yes, He asks for your consecration, your life, your all. No matter how deeply you feel your lack—He asks you for yourself, just as you are. Why not give yourself to Him today? It is the very best gift you can ever give!



YOUR

Bible Questions ANSWERED

HEALING FROM GOD OR SATAN?

A friend told me that the cause of sickness was in the first place sin. Seeing that Satan caused sin, would it be reasonable to conclude that under certain circumstances Satan could cure sickness? How then could we be sure whether a case of healing came from God or Satan?

P. S.

The Scriptures clearly teach that Satan has the power to work miracles (Revelation 16:14, etc.) and it is logical to assume that apparent cases of healing could be included in this category. However, the only certain assurance that a healing has been accomplished by divine power, is when the Scriptural conditions for restoration have been fulfilled. "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:15, 16. Confession of sin is to precede healing, and true confession includes reformation of life and practice. For one to seek for healing without being willing to forsake cherished sins is to invite a counterfeit experience.

BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD

I have often been puzzled about the statement found in 1 Corinthians 15:29, about being baptized for the dead. Please explain what is meant by this.

E. A.

Many are the explanations that have been offered for this difficult

verse. The most likely is that Paul is speaking of baptism as a testimony to the faith of the church in the future resurrection of the dead.

The early Christian Chrysostom wrote as follows: "When we have instructed the catechumen in the divine mysteries of the gospel, and are about to baptize him, we command him to say, 'I believe in the resurrection of the body.' And he is baptized in this faith. For, after he has made confession of this article of the faith, he descends to the fountain of those sacred waters. This is what St. Paul recalls to their memory. If there is no resurrection of the body, why are you baptized for the dead? Why are you baptized in the profession that they will rise from the grave. . . . God raises you from the grave of sin by the 'laver of regeneration' in baptism; and thus gives you a pledge of the resurrection which you profess." (Quoted by Bishop C. Wordsworth in his Commentary on 1 Corinthians 15:29.) This statement of Chrysostom, while it does not in itself prove the interpretation suggested, does at least indicate how Paul's words were understood by early Christians.

OLD TESTAMENT FOR CHRISTIANS?

I have heard that there is a renaissance in Old Testament study. Why should the Old Testament be of any importance to New Testament Christians?

D. H.

The witness of the Dead Sea Scrolls to the textual authenticity of the Old Testament is one reason for this renaissance in some areas. However more important still is the fact that most Bible scholars today recognize the impossibility of under-

standing the New Testament apart from the Old. The very first verse of the New Testament refers the reader to the preceding sacred books by its mention of David and Abraham. There immediately ensues over two score references to the Old Testament in the rest of this first chapter of the New. Students of Scripture are familiar with the fact that Matthew quotes more from the Old Testament than the following books do. Evidently the Holy Spirit wished to indicate that the New Testament was vitally linked with the Old. Constantly we read the recurring refrain: "that it might be fulfilled which was written by the prophet." Every New Testament writer refers to the Old Testament and the final page of Holy Writ enshrines figures from the Jewish Canon, when it pictures Christ as the "root and offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." (See Isaiah 11:10; 53:2 and Numbers 24:17.)

The only Bible that Christ and the early Christians possessed was the Septuagint version of the Old Testament. To this Christ referred when He declared "the Scripture cannot be broken." Paul also had this book in mind when he wrote: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

Readers' questions should be addressed to PASTOR D. FORD, Signs Publishing Company, Warburton, Victoria.

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