

JUNE 8, 1980

*Awake!*

**WILL MANKIND  
DESTROY ITSELF?**

## FEATURE ARTICLES

Recently, world conditions have become more threatening. In view of the tremendous destructive capacity that the nations now have, could it be that we are nearing a nuclear holocaust in which mankind will finally destroy itself? Since the Bible talks about an "end of the world," it is of great interest to see what it says about this vital matter

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## WHY THIS MAGAZINE IS PUBLISHED

"Awake!" is for the enlightenment of the entire family. It reports the news, tells about people in many lands, examines religion and science. But it does more. It probes beneath the surface and points to the real meaning behind current events, yet it stays politically neutral and does not exalt one race above another. It also shows how to cope with today's problems. Most importantly, "Awake!" builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new order within our generation.

The Bible translation used in "Awake!" is the modern-language "New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures," unless otherwise indicated.

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have you ever wondered...

## IS FAITH IN GOD **REALISTIC** IN OUR MODERN WORLD?

TEN thousand persons in 60 nations were asked: "How important to you are your religious beliefs?" Only three out of 10, on an average, said, "Very important."

This poll well illustrates that real faith in God is no longer an important factor in the lives of many people. But . . .

### WHY IS RELIGION LESS IMPORTANT TO MANY TODAY?

For the majority, it is not that they no longer believe in a Supreme Being. But one needs money to survive in today's world, and times are getting harder. Most persons feel that, when all is said and done, money (or the things it can buy) will do more for them than faith in God. 'We are a practical people. We believe in what we can see and use to our benefit,' said one person. Many agree. For instance, in Japan a recent poll indicated that 60 percent of those interviewed agreed with the statement that "money is almighty."

Perhaps you do not feel this way, but have you not seen persons become so absorbed with their job, getting money and buying things, that they have little time for anything else? Many look at the uncertain conditions in the world today



and honestly feel that what really matters is getting some good things out of life right now. They substitute this quest for material things for true faith. However . . .

### IS LIFE WITHOUT REAL FAITH BETTER?

Have you noticed how quickly people tire of new possessions? Also, don't a surprising number of "successful" people become involved in divorces or crimes, some even committing suicide? Many have realized that material things alone fail to bring lasting satisfaction.

This is nothing new. A wise king once stated: "A mere lover of silver will not be satisfied with silver, neither any lover of wealth with income. This too is vanity." That down-to-earth truth was stated by King Solomon, and was written down in a very realistic book, the Bible.—Eccl. 5:10.

Building one's life around material things simply doesn't bring real happiness or satisfaction. Those who pursue such a life often are quite unhappy because they have to struggle so hard to get and keep what they have. The Bible confirms that the love of material things can cause people to be 'stabbed all over with many pains.'—1 Tim. 6:9, 10.

So, many people have come to realize that man needs something more than material things to be happy. Yet, because we live in a modern scientific age some feel that faith in God is old-fashioned and unrealistic.

## ARE THERE SOUND REASONS FOR BELIEVING IN GOD?

Well, which is more unrealistic or unscientific—to believe that our highly organized universe and this beautiful earth came about by mere chance, by accident, or that they had an intelligent builder? The Bible states realistically: "Of course, every house is constructed by someone, but he that constructed all things is God."—Heb. 3:4.

As a watch shows the existence of a watchmaker, and a house shows the existence of a housebuilder, in like manner the magnificent things God has created are proof of his existence. So persons who believe in God are certainly in harmony with sound, logical thinking. But . . .

## CAN GENUINE FAITH BRING BENEFITS NOW?

**HELP FOR EVERYDAY PROBLEMS.** Though providing some comfort, material things offer little assistance in coping with daily problems. For instance, one wealthy woman wrote: "My marriage was painful and unfulfilling and though there was plenty of money it was unbearable. I have no desire to be rich again."

However, God says to us in the Bible: "If you listen to me, you will know what is right, just, and fair. You will know what you should do. You will become wise, and your knowledge will give you pleasure. Your insight and understanding will protect you and prevent you from doing the wrong thing."—Prov. 2:9-12, Good News Bible.

Yes, faith in God will "prevent you

from doing the wrong thing." It will help you to do what is in your best interest in marriage, family life, work and many other areas. Why so? Because God, the author of the Bible, created us. He knows what will bring us genuine happiness. He gives counsel in the Bible on every major aspect of life. It really works when sincerely applied.—See Colossians 3:12-14, 18-22.

**PEACE OF MIND.** "I have met many very rich men," said one newspaper editor, "and I have never known one of them whose millions brought him inner peace and happiness." Yet, real faith brings "the peace of God that excels all thought." (Phil. 4:6, 7) But why? Well, one with confidence in God knows of his promises to provide life's necessities, and from personal experience such a person comes to realize that God fulfills his word. (Matt. 6:32, 33) This keeps him from being overly worried. His mind and heart can be at rest.

**GENUINE HOPE.** In view of worsening world conditions, how greatly needed is a realistic hope for the future! The Bible provides this, revealing God's purpose soon to rid this earth of all unjust, immoral persons. Yet he will preserve alive those who obey him. In fact, he offers them a wonderful future—everlasting life right here on earth, amid paradise conditions! We read: "For the upright are the ones that will reside in the earth, and the blameless are the ones that will be left over in it. As regards the wicked, they will be cut off from the very earth."—Prov. 2:21, 22.

So the benefits from faith in God are worthwhile. To enjoy them requires learning about God and his purposes. Jehovah's Witnesses will be happy to help you free of charge to do this and to build a genuine faith. Such faith truly is a realistic help in our modern world.



## WILL MANKIND DESTROY ITSELF?

IT WAS clear and sunny over the Japanese city of Hiroshima on that fateful day—August 6, 1945. As the city awakened, no one in his wildest imagination could have foreseen the devastation that broke out at 8:15 that morning.

What happened was described as a "rain of ruin from the air, the like of which has never been seen on earth." Mankind had now entered a new age of warfare, opening a door to awesome means of mass destruction.

Did this development have anything to do with someday bringing about what the Bible calls the "end of the world"? Before answering, let us consider just why what happened that day in August was such a dreadful milestone.

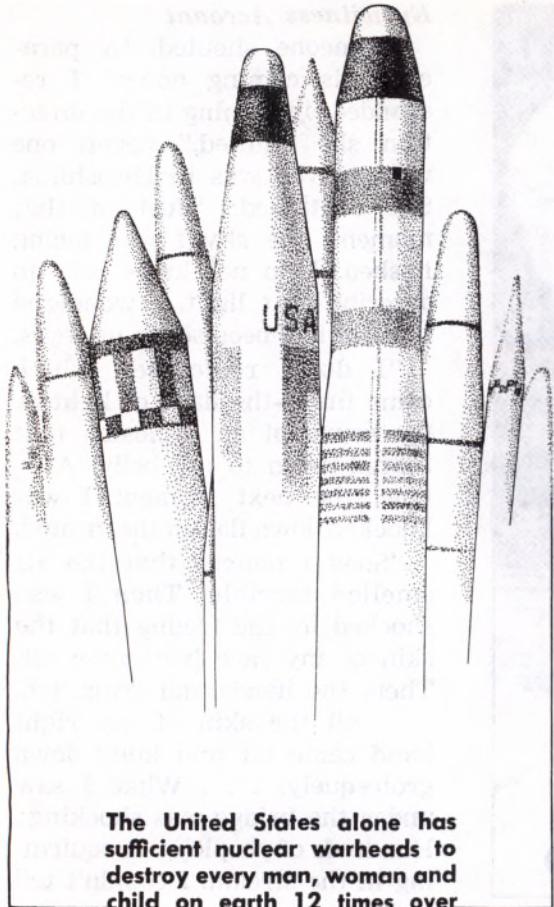
### Eyewitness Account

"Someone shouted, 'A parachute is coming down!' I responded by turning in the direction she pointed," began one woman who was in Hiroshima. She continued: "Just at that moment, the sky I was facing flashed. I do not know how to describe that light. I wondered if a fire had been set in my eyes.

"I don't remember which came first—the flash of light or the sound of an explosion that roared down to my belly. Anyhow, the next moment I was knocked down flat on the ground.

"Soon I noticed that the air smelled terrible. Then I was shocked by the feeling that the skin of my face had come off. Then, the hands and arms, too. . . . all the skin of my right hand came off and hung down grotesquely. . . . What I saw under the bridge was shocking: Hundreds of people were squirming in the stream. I couldn't tell if they were men or women. They looked all alike. Their faces were swollen and gray, their hair was standing up. Holding their hands high, groaning, people were rushing to the river."

This woman saw the first use in warfare of what newspapers called "the most terrifying engine of destruction ever devised by man"—the atomic bomb. Though tens of thousands were killed instantly, many perhaps completely vaporized, those who survived the initial blast grasped the real horror of nuclear warfare. Because of exposure to lethal doses of atomic radiation, they soon became incapacitated



The United States alone has sufficient nuclear warheads to destroy every man, woman and child on earth 12 times over

with nausea. This led to vomiting blood, a high fever, extreme diarrhea, bleeding from the bowels and an agonizing death within 10 days. The final toll was estimated at nearly 140,000 deaths—all from one bomb!

It has been 35 years since that new era dawned. Only one nation then possessed the bomb. But what has happened since?

### ***The Age of Overkill***

Soon other nations developed atomic weapons, and as international tensions grew, the nuclear arms race was on. More and bigger bombs were developed. The one dropped on Hiroshima, nicknamed "Little

Boy," carried a punch equal to 13 thousand tons of TNT. Yet this was truly like a "little boy" compared to today's bombs. Some already tested are equal to 60 million tons of TNT!

Tens of thousands of these bombs of various sizes are stockpiled in many arsenals. The United States alone has sufficient atomic warheads to kill every man, woman and child on earth 12 times over. But firepower is only one alarming development.

You may still feel somewhat secure, knowing you are thousands of miles from an unfriendly country. Today, however, there are systems equipped to deliver atomic warheads whose accuracy defies imagination. Missiles carrying up to eight separate atomic warheads are now capable of traveling 6,000 miles (9,656 km) and hitting within 492 yards (450 m) of the target. Soon they will be able to strike within a few yards! Clearly, no one on earth can really feel safe or "out of range."

To add to the overkill, some nations have armed themselves with chemical and biological (germ) weapons. "New death sprays," reports one authority, "are being manufactured, the most minute droplets of which can cause heart attacks." A top scientist who has devoted much time to studying the subject warned: "BW [Biological warfare] still is an enormous threat to the world."

"A weapon even more awesome than the nuclear one" is how Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev described recent developments in armaments. He urged "banning the creation of new types of weapons of mass destruction." Many feel that he was talking about "weather warfare," the making of environmental changes to destroy an enemy. The Soviet journal *Red Star* warned of "the exceptional danger of the whole world" as a result of tampering with the environment "for destructive military

purposes." It is feared that one country could cause floods, droughts, earthquakes, tornadoes, even hurricanes to happen in enemy territory. When you consider that one hurricane packs the power of 1 billion tons of TNT, 16 times stronger than the largest nuclear bomb, such weather warfare could be enormously destructive.

Obviously man already has at his dis-

posal the means to destroy himself and leave this earth a radioactive waste. Yet, since 1945 nuclear weapons have not been used in warfare. For this reason many feel safe, thinking the world will never see an all-out atomic war, which, according to one who helped develop the bomb, Albert Einstein, would mean "annihilation of all life on earth."

## THE UNTHINKABLE— COULD IT HAPPEN?

Because of the awesome reprisals, it was considered unthinkable for a nation to start a nuclear war. However, recent developments in armaments have shown that this "balance of terror" or "deterrence" is no real basis for confidence.

As mentioned before, the *accuracy* of intercontinental missiles has dramatically improved in the last several years. The magazine *Nation* tells why this has frightening implications:

"Moreover, the type of weapons the United States is now developing hints at something other than simple 'deterrence.' The cruise missile, when deployed, will hit within 15 to 30 yards of a target 2,000 miles away. . . . The point is that weapons that accurate are not necessary for a 'second strike' retaliatory attack on cities and populations. A bomb that can come within a half mile or so of its target is more than adequate for simple 'deterrence.' Accuracy becomes important, however, when a nation plans a surprise first strike that will deprive the adversary of his response. The greater the accuracy the fewer bombs needed to demolish enemy missile silos hardened by thousands of tons of steel and concrete."

—May 27, 1978.

Also an increasing number of nations are developing nuclear weapons. The obvious danger is noted in *The Bulletin of*

*the Atomic Scientists*: "It is widely believed that the more nuclear weapon powers there are, the greater the probability of a nuclear war. . . . The technology of nuclear weapons is now so widely known that the current concern is that terrorist groups will construct nuclear explosives, let alone governments."—September 1979.

When you see nations that possess such hideous arsenals become embroiled in conflicts where their vital interests are seriously jeopardized, do you not have the uneasy feeling that one of these will use nuclear firepower, regardless of the consequences? You would not be alone in your feeling.

### *Alarming Conferences*

For several days in May 1978, 30 scientists, military men and government advisers from 10 nations met in closed sessions in Toronto, Canada, to consider seriously the theme "The Danger of Nuclear War by the Year 2000." "The most striking thing about this conference," stated chairman John Polanyi, "was the sense of agreement that the danger of nuclear war is increasing." Since then, other gatherings of experts, including "the first nu-

clear war conference," held in the United States with over 300 participants, have reached the same conclusion.

Even a "close confidant" of Soviet President Brezhnev revealed a concern over the near future by reporting: "Opinion in the Soviet Union is that there is a need for urgent measures, *otherwise war might come.*" (Emphasis added)

From a completely different quarter

come a surprising number of religious persons who likewise believe nuclear war is near. However, they say that their conclusions are based on the Bible. For example, one religious professor, commenting on a Bible verse that says the 'earth would be destroyed by fire,' stated: "The present stockpile of Atomic devices gives a touch of realism to this passage."

—2 Pet. 3:7.

## A NUCLEAR DOOMSDAY— DOES THE BIBLE PREDICT IT?

Absolutely not! To the contrary the Bible says that God "has founded the earth upon its established places; it will not be made to totter to time indefinite, or forever," and, "The earth abideth for ever." —Ps. 104:5; Eccl. 1:4, *Authorized Version*. See also Psalm 119:90.

"But doesn't the Bible speak of the "end of the world" and say that the earth will be destroyed by "fire"?" ask some who point to Matthew 24:3 (AV) and 2 Peter 3:7. Jesus, in the same chapter where he mentions the "end of the world," shows what this will mean. He associates the "end of the world" with his return and says: "Just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be. . . . [The people] took no note until the flood came and swept them all away, so the presence of the Son of man will be." —Matt. 24:37, 39.

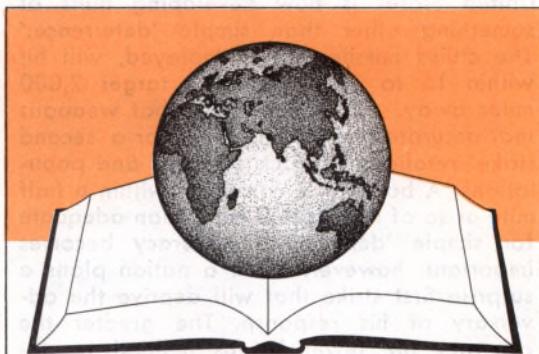
### What the Bible Means

The "end of the world," according to the Bible, will therefore conclude a period of time similar to the days leading up to and including the worldwide flood of Noah's day. When that period ended, what was destroyed? The Bible tells us: "[God]

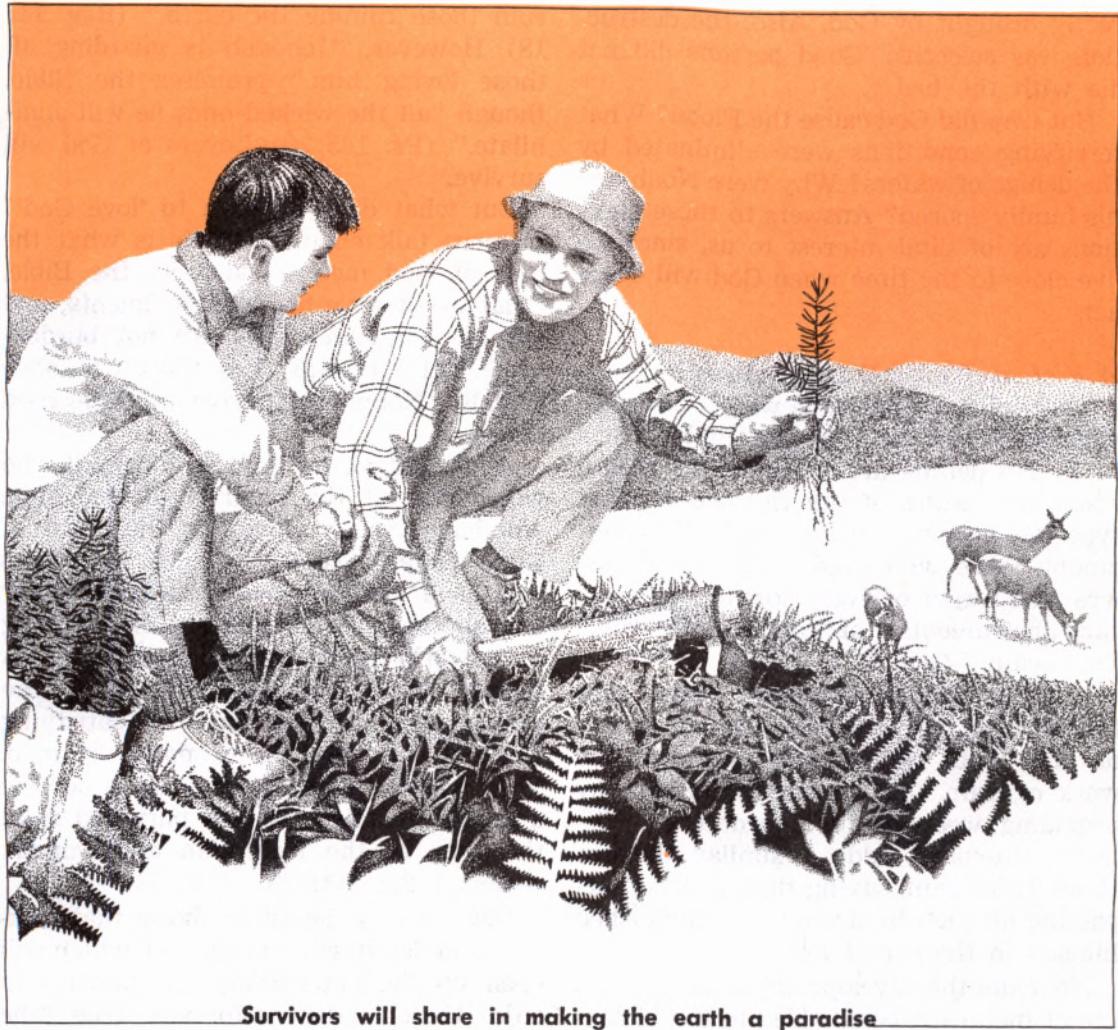
brought a deluge upon a *world of ungodly people.*" —2 Pet. 2:5.

Yes, a violent system of things halted when that "world of ungodly people" was drowned. But obviously the literal earth was not destroyed. We are still standing on it. So in our day it is a wicked "system of things" that God will bring to its end by destroying "ungodly persons."

What, though, about the verse that says



The "end of the world" means  
the end of a wicked system,  
not the end of our earth



**Survivors will share in making the earth a paradise**

the "earth . . . shall be burned up"? (2 Pet. 3:10, AV) Does "earth" as used in the Bible always mean the ground? No. For instance it says: "The whole *earth* was of one language," and, "Sing unto the LORD, all the *earth*." (Gen. 11:1; Ps. 96:1, AV) Who is it that has "language" and "sings"? Is it not people?

So when the Bible speaks of the "earth" as being destroyed, it is talking about the end of a society of wicked *people*. Notice how clear the apostle Peter makes this point: "The heavens and the earth that are now are stored up for fire and are be-

ing reserved to the day of judgment and of *destruction of the ungodly men.*" So "ungodly men," including the political authorities that rule over them like "heavens," face "destruction."—2 Pet. 3:7.

#### **Destruction from God or Men?**

The flood of Noah's day, which has been established as a historical fact,\* did not happen by mere chance. Nor was it the result of human efforts. It was an act di-

\* For scientific evidence see the chapter "Was There an Earth-wide Flood" in the book *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?* published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

rectly brought by God. Also, the destruction was *selective*. Good persons did not die with the bad.

But *why* did God cause the Flood? What terrifying conditions were eliminated by the deluge of waters? Why were Noah and his family spared? Answers to these questions are of vital interest to us, since we live close to the time when God will again act.

### **A Violent World Washed Away**

The world of that time was "filled with violence," according to the Bible. (Gen. 6:11) No details are given in the record about the nature of the violence or what type of weapons were used. However, among those who lived before the Flood was "the forger of every sort of tool [cutting instruments] of copper and iron," Tubal-cain.—Gen. 4:22.

Ancient Jewish comments claim that he did make weapons. Rabbi Rashi relates of him: "He refined and improved the work of Cain [his violent forefather] by providing weapons for murderers." Historian Josephus adds a similar thought about Tubal-cain, saying that he was "surpassing all men in strength, distinguished himself in the *art of war*."

No doubt the development and continued use of metal weapons added to the violent conditions. By the time of the Flood the Bible reports: "God saw the earth and, look! it was ruined, because all flesh had ruined its way on the earth." (Gen. 6:12) But God acted and removed those warlike persons who were "ruining" the earth. Yet at the same time he protected those who obeyed him. He enabled Noah and his family to survive and continue worshiping him on a cleansed earth. But what about us today?

### **How Can We Survive God's Action?**

The Bible assures us that God will again act in our day by saying he will "bring to

ruin those ruining the earth." (Rev. 11:18) However, "Jehovah is guarding all those loving him," promises the Bible, though "all the wicked ones he will annihilate." (Ps. 145:20) Lovers of God will survive.

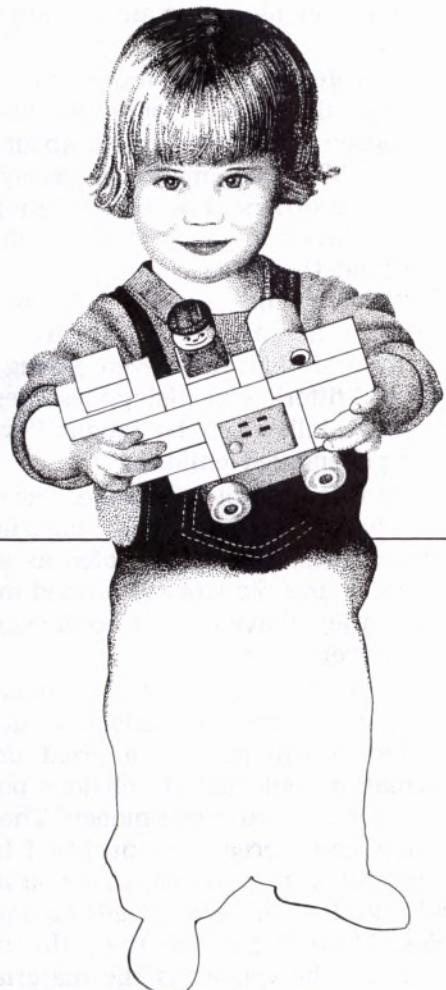
But what does it mean to 'love God'? Is mere talk enough? "This is what the love of God means," answers the Bible, "that we observe his commandments; and yet his commandments are not burdensome." (1 John 5:3) Yes, those who *obey* God, like Noah, will survive into a cleansed earth.

And what an earth it will be! All who would disrupt the security of that time will have been removed by the "fire" of God's anger. (Zeph. 3:8) The survivors will have genuine love for God and for one another. Would you not enjoy living in a world where everyone would be a trusted friend? Instead of ruining the earth, these ones will have the satisfying work of restoring places spoiled by man. They will delight to see the earth become a global paradise, as God purposed from the time of the first man and woman.—Gen. 1:28; 2:18-25.

Beyond this the Bible shows that sickness and death will be removed, which will open up the opportunity for persons to enjoy these conditions forever. True, "the world is passing away," since it will soon be destroyed by God, but 'those that do the will of God will remain forever.'—1 John 2:17; Rev. 21:3, 4; 2 Pet. 3:13.

Such blessings are very near, especially when you consider that only in our generation has man developed the power to destroy our earth completely, and is threatening to do so. To prevent a totally ruined earth, God must soon act. Jehovah's Witnesses will be happy to assist you free of charge to know just what God's will is and to do it obediently, as well as telling you of other delightful features of this comforting hope.

# "MOMMY, BUY ME THIS!"



**TEACHING CHILDREN  
THE WISE USE OF MONEY**

**"M**OMMY, buy me this!" How often we have heard those words! As children we probably used them ourselves. Sometimes our mother would say "Yes," sometimes "No." Occasionally she had the time to explain why, but usually we just learned that there were some things she

would buy, and some that she would not.

That's the way most children learn to use money—from example. In fact, surveys have shown that many parents do not have any planned way of teaching their children how to make wise use of money.

You may think you really teach your children what to buy and when, how to compare prices and judge quality, and how to stay free of modern materialism. But it might be good to ask yourself: "When was the last time I really made a *conscious effort* to do that?" It could be longer ago than you thought.

Whether you have been making that effort or not, principles and suggestions in this article could be of value to you.

This is important because there are people who are making a conscious effort to teach your children principles that may be different from ones you want them to follow. These people have spent their lives learning how to persuade, and their opinions on the importance of material things may differ from yours. Who are they? Let us let them speak for themselves:

### ***Mind Molders***

Some years ago an advertising firm that appealed to children ran an ad that told merchants and advertisers: "Eager minds can be molded to want your products! . . . Here is a vast market for your products. Sell these children on your brand name and they will insist that their parents buy no other. Many farsighted advertisers are cashing in today . . . and building for tomorrow . . . by molding eager minds."

From a very young age children are the target of advertising designed to make them want more material things. Highly skilled people study how to appeal to your child's "inner needs," and to create a "demand" for their product.

In countries where television is used to

advertise children's products, this is a main medium used to persuade the young. It begins to work even before they are old enough to read. In *The Hidden Persuaders* Vance Packard quotes an ad that alerted manufacturers to television's extraordinary ability. It said: "Where else on earth is brand consciousness fixed so firmly in the minds of four-year-old tots? . . . What is it worth to a manufacturer who can close in on this juvenile audience and continue to sell it under controlled conditions year after year, right up to its attainment of adulthood and full-fledged buyer status?"

Three college professors in the United States surveyed children between the ages of five and 12 years, and found that they were exposed to an average of nearly 400 television commercials a week—some 20,000 a year! These professors commented: "The ability of children to . . . avoid being 'misled' or deceived is an issue of considerable current interest, particularly in the light of this high exposure children—even very young ones—have to commercials."

They found that 56 percent of the kindergarten children had low awareness of

"why commercials are on TV," and that about half thought "commercials always tell the truth." These children are very young, but advertisers spend great sums of money to reach them because they believe that lifelong habits already are being formed.

The professors also found that only about half the mothers of these five-year-old children talked with them about commercials. They commented: "Many kindergarten mothers appeared to be missing an opportunity to teach their children to understand the intent of commercials, an understanding that can help them to begin to function as effective consumers." However, they found that even young children can "filter" advertising messages, and that this ability can be taught "even to kindergarten-aged children."\*

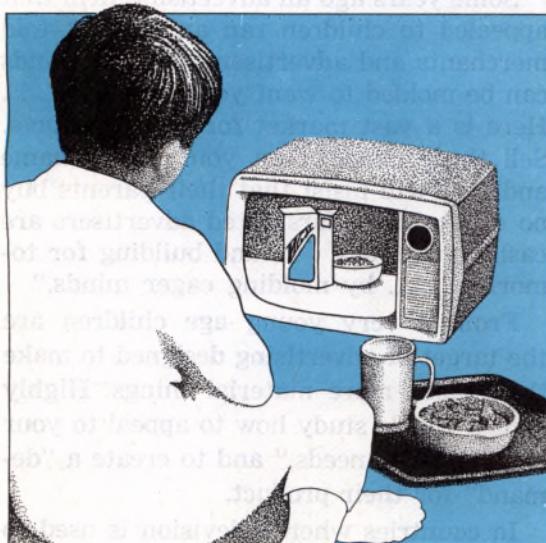
Often this has not been done. The editor of *Seventeen*, an American magazine for teen-age girls, has been quoted as saying that his young readers are a good market because they "have not yet become cynical about advertising."

It is good to take the initiative. Talk with your children about advertising. Point out that it can provide a great deal of information, but that its obvious purpose is to get people to spend money. The businessman can increase his profits if he can get you to want products that you do not really need, such as new gadgets and new styles. More important than the money that might be wasted is the materialistic viewpoint this can teach—the idea that *buying* leads to happiness.

#### Active Training

How can you teach your children right attitudes toward money and how to use it wisely? One way is to take them with you when you shop, and to talk about things you buy. If encouraged, many

\* *How Children Learn to Buy* by Scott Ward, Daniel B. Wackman and Ellen Wartella.



youngsters will make a game of knowing prices. You will think you almost have a walking computer, as they remind you that the price was lower in another store.

The next step is to teach about quality. You might ask: "Why do you think this sweater is cheaper?" "Is that one worth the extra cost?" "How long do you think the red one would last?" The child learns how to weigh cost and recognize quality—abilities that will stand him in good stead as the years go by.

Young people have a harder time judging between well-made products and "junk," simply because they have not had as much experience as you have with products that did turn out to be junk. Thus, you do them a service when you point out why you picked one item over another, and explain why you think one would last while the other might not.

You can teach many things in this way. A father, about to buy a new car, turned to his small daughter and asked which color she wanted. She answered: "Black." He commented: "Black shows dust easily—do you want to wash it?" She answered: "No, maybe we should get a lighter color." Later, a woman who had been standing nearby said: "Imagine, letting a child pick the color!" But the child had not chosen the color. The father had simply taken a moment to teach his daughter something about choices. How much wiser many decisions would be if more parents took time to teach their children!

What about deciding whether you can afford something? When you see a dress or a tool that tempts you, you probably weigh whether you can spare the money from what you will need for groceries, the rent or the mortgage, and other obligations you have this month. However, the child does not know that you weighed those various factors. Why not explain, as you are walking through the store, what you took into consideration, and why

you decided the way you did? Your youngster does not have these obligations, and thus may be more impulsive in how he uses his money. But it is good for him to know, even now, how such decisions are made.

Probably you decide very quickly whether an advertised sale seems worth while or not. Why not point out to your youngster why you decided the way you did? This takes time, but it can pay off in the child's attitude now, and in his capabilities when grown.

Remember that loving instruction and a good example can be far more effective than criticism. Show your child *how* to make decisions and you will be happier with the decisions he makes!

### ***True Contentment***

Another very important matter is whether your youngsters will realize that there is more to life than just *owning* things. Or will they be convinced by manufacturers, advertisers, stores—and even by their friends—that happiness comes from things they buy?

In earlier generations people felt good about themselves because of things they *produced*. A man was an excellent cabinet-maker. A woman baked marvelous pies, or made beautiful quilts. A boy built a radio set, or raised a prize calf.

Today we make fewer things. Most of what we have is produced by machine. Manufacturers and sellers know this, and encourage you to fill the gap by consuming. They suggest you can "be somebody," not through developing a good personality or an upright character, but through things you buy.

In their book *Supershopper* David and Marymae Klein say that "it's not surprising that many young people try to distinguish themselves by being the first on their block or the first in their group to buy a new record, electric guitar, surfboard, or walkie-talkie—all of which rep-

resent consumption, not production. And even more young people flock to buy these things not because they genuinely enjoy them but simply because 'all the other kids have one.' This gives them a certain sense of equality—but it can also be brutally expensive, because it depends on continuous buying in order to keep it up."

How can young people be helped to see that "I am what I own" is not a valid basis for a happy life?

A great deal depends on the parents' attitude. As a parent, are you more concerned with *things* than with personal and spiritual development? Do you help your children realize that they are important because of what they *are*, not because of what they *have*? Do you make them feel good about *themselves*, rather than having to show off possessions?

Many children of Jehovah's Witnesses have a particular advantage in this regard. They are encouraged to comment in their congregation meetings. They can participate in their Theocratic School, where they learn to give talks in front of the congregation. Some of them volunteer for work around the Kingdom Hall. All can have a part in helping to spread the good news of God's incoming new order. Such children come to have a real goal in life.

In homes where Bible principles are applied, children are convinced of their parents' love. They know that others appreciate them because of the kind of people they are trying to be—people who demonstrate their love, and who try to do what is right. In the lives of such youths there is a basis for real joy and satisfaction from accomplishments, rather than the shallow feeling of temporary importance because of possessions.

It is important for us to set such things of real value before our young ones, whom we love so much, and who look to our example as they mold their own lives.

## NOT SPOILING GROWN CHILDREN

Giving young children everything they want may indeed spoil them and tend to make them more selfish. Older parents who continue to give adult "children" everything they want may cause them to view the parents mainly as a fountain of gifts, rather than as people who are due respect and affection.

This fact struck one disillusioned woman who wrote that she and her husband had been "giving and giving to both [our] children for years, on every possible occasion, and asking them not to spend any money for us." But the parents received a shock when, after offering the grown daughter an expensive statue, she said: "Don't bother. One day all this stuff will be mine, and then I'll sell it." The mother lamented: "I can't tell you how much this hurt me." Further hurt came later when both grown son and daughter began quizzing her about how much they could expect to inherit when she and her husband died. Sadly she said: "I never thought to hear such remarks from our own son and daughter."

Grown children who receive too much in a material way from their parents may not only be spoiled but also be prevented from learning the valuable lesson of how they can obtain joy by giving to their parents, or by doing things for them. Parents who do not give children too much often find that when they later do give an unexpected gift it is more likely to be appreciated. And the parents may be more appreciated for what they are, rather than for what they can give.

# REMARKABLE CRAFTSMEN IN THE BIRD WORLD

DID you know that some birds were masters of weaving, textile manufacture, tailoring and riveting long before the industrial revolution? And the homes they build are often exceedingly strong. But how did they learn these remarkable skills?

For example, is it strength you look for in a home? Then consider the hammerkop's work. This brown, storklike bird found in most of Africa works for six months to build a nest of enormous strength. It places sticks and reeds in a forked tree or on a rocky ledge to form floor, walls and a strong domed roof over the nesting chamber. The structure is further strengthened with mud plaster. The entrance is placed over a sheer drop, making it inaccessible to predators. These nests are about nine feet\* in diameter and are so strong that a man can jump on one without harming the nesting chamber below!

Other birds in all parts of the world use grass and sticks as building material, but some "manufacture" textile as well. The European penduline tit and the tiny Cape penduline tit are master builders who use fine, woolly substances from plants and animals to make a tough, felt-like cloth for nest building. It is reported that the European species builds its nest so well that some peasants in parts of Eastern Europe use them for children's slippers.

The tailorbird of Asia knows how to stitch leaves together. It may choose a single leaf large enough to be folded over and stitched together, or a number

of leaves that can be joined together. With its sharp bill it punches holes around the edge of the leaf, then uses its bill and claws to maneuver fine grass or vegetable fibers through the holes. When sewn, the leaves form a pouch or purse into which the female places a lining of soft downy matter. She is now ready to lay her eggs in this snug little tailor-made home.

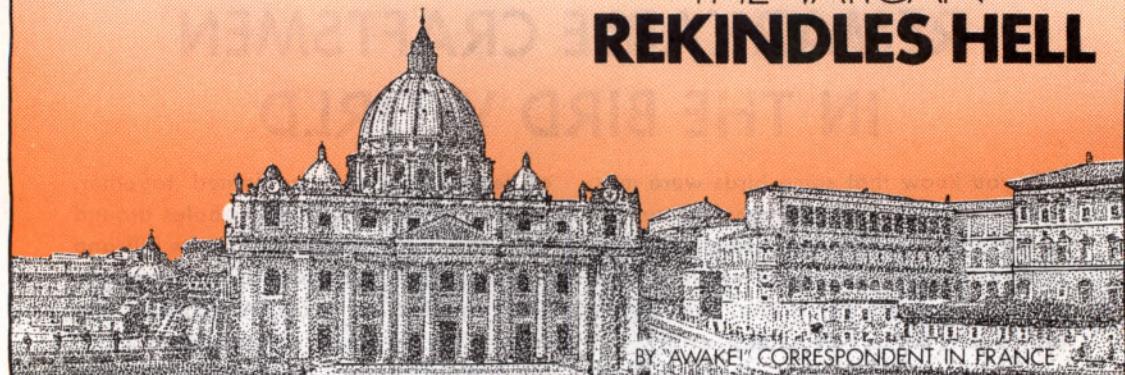
The barred warbler of southern Africa uses a slightly different method. It joins a cluster of leaves together with vegetable down or cobwebs. How? By "riveting" them. The bird punches the thread through the leaf and then teases it out at each end, forming a 'rivet head' to prevent the leaves from slipping off the thread.

Weaver birds of Africa know how to tie knots. With one foot they hold down one end of a piece of grass to a branch, then use their beaks to wrap and tie the grass around the branch. From this, a woven ring of grass is suspended as the basis of the nest. As many as 300 strands are then woven into a hollow ball. Some species have a vertical entrance tunnel projecting several inches below the nesting chamber. To prevent the eggs from rolling out they build a little ridge between the nesting chamber and the entrance tunnel.

Remarkable craftsmen indeed! But who taught them their weaving, textile manufacturing, tailoring, riveting and engineering skills that take humans years of schooling and practice to develop? How apparent it is that such instinctive wisdom has been implanted in them by their Creator.

\* One foot = .3 meter.

# THE VATICAN REKINDLES HELL



BY "AWAKE!" CORRESPONDENT IN FRANCE

**"FIRM** Reminder from Vatican." "Hell Revisited." "Has Hell Misfired?" "The Teachings of the Church on the Hereafter Must Be Safeguarded—Christians Distressed."

Those are just a few of the newspaper and magazine headlines that greeted the letter relating to hell published last year by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. It was duly approved by Pope John Paul II.

This official letter reminded all Catholic prelates and theologians of the "need for perfect faithfulness to the fundamental truths of the faith." Among these it included the survival after death of the "soul," "bliss for the just" and "punishment for the damned" in "hell" throughout eternity.

Commenting on this pope-approved Vatican document, the Paris daily *Le Monde* wrote: "Concerning hell, the Roman Congregation gives a reminder that such punishment is real and that it lasts 'forever.' This dogma is undoubtedly the one that raises the most problems in the modern mind. . . . It is the most depressing and improbable of all dogmas. The Roman Congregation that has replaced the Holy Office has brutally reminded us of it, with no commentary and without the slightest effort to explain it."

## "Cool Hell" of Recent Years

This brutal reminder of the 'reality of hell' was all the more surprising and distressing to sincere Catholics. Why? Because for some years now the Catholic clergy have been soft-pedaling the hellfire theme. French newsweekly *L'Express* highlighted this when it wrote:

"Hell has come back into the news after having been more or less purposely forgotten for many years. . . . It is practically virgin material. Thirty years have gone by since hell was preached in the churches. Heaven and purgatory fared no better. The new generation of Catholics have received little or no education about life everlasting."

The Catholic clergy has been blown along by the winds of change. The advance of science and technology, the end of old-time colonialism, the development of human rights, and education for the masses—all of this made it expedient for priests to preach more about the here and now than about the hereafter, particularly hell.

It became fashionable in such Catholic countries as France for priests and educated Catholics to "cool down" hell. They explained it away by saying that nobody still believes that God torments people forever in a literal fire. Instead, it was said that the damned bring eternal suffering upon themselves by depriving themselves everlasting of God's presence.

This "cool" concept of hell is reflected in Catholic reference works published in recent years. For example, *A Catholic Dictionary* states:

"Theologians divide the punishments of the damned into that of loss and that of sense. The former of these is indicated in our Lord's words 'Depart from me, ye cursed,' and consists in the deprivation of the vision of God. . . . It is from the knowledge of the bliss which they have forfeited that the chief suffering of the lost arises."

However, Pope Paul VI had already begun to heat up this "cool" hell back in 1968. Then, in his "Profession of Faith," he asserted that sinners who continue to reject God's love "will go into inextinguishable fire." And now this more recent letter, approved by Pope John Paul II, further reminds Catholics that hell is still a place very much to be feared.

#### *Middle-Ages Scarecrow or Current Dogma?*

"All hope abandon, ye who enter here." Such was the inscription placed over the gates of hell in Dante's *Inferno*. This 14th-century poem depicts hell as a deep pit divided into nine circles going down to the

center of the earth where Satan dwells. Each circle represented a greater degree of suffering and punishment.

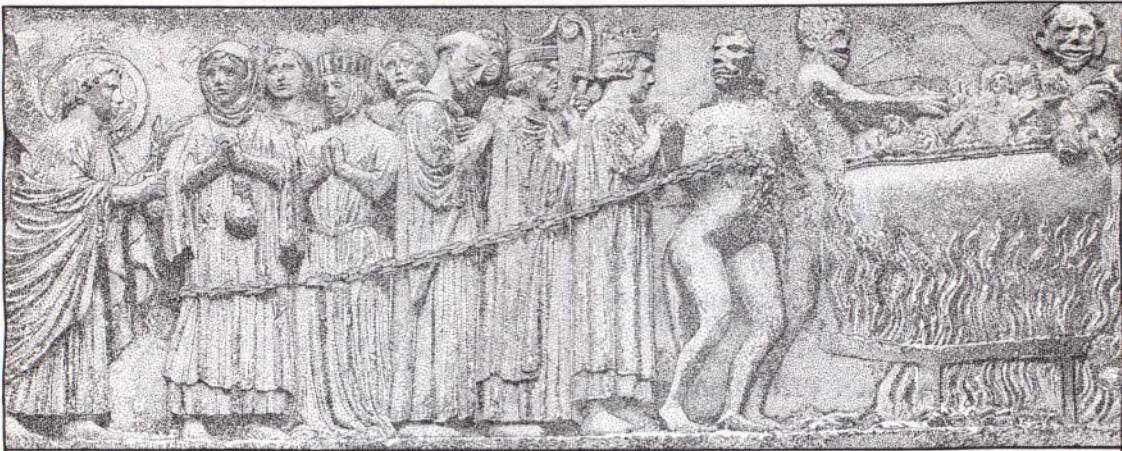
That medieval Italian poet made an imaginary word picture of what was then current Catholic dogma and had been ever since earliest times of the Roman Church. The horrible sufferings of hell have also been depicted over the centuries by artists. "Last judgment" paintings are to be seen in many Catholic churches and in museums all over the world. The most famous one likely is Michelangelo's huge fresco in the Vatican's Sistine chapel, said to have scared the wits out of Paul III, one of the popes who had commissioned the painting.

Frightening too are the sculptured portals of many Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals in Europe. For example, millions of tourists visiting Paris feel a shudder when they gaze at the terrifying "last judgment" scenes carved into the stonework above the central doorway of Notre Dame Cathedral. There is no gainsaying that what is depicted in these various works of art is excruciating physical torment of a literal kind.

"Oh, yes," the modern educated Catho-

A section of Michelangelo's Last Judgment inside the Sistine Chapel





Last Judgment sculpture, Rheims Cathedral, France

lic will reply, "but these artistic representations merely show that the hellfire dogma was used in the Middle Ages to scare 'simple souls' into serving God. These days, enlightened Catholics know that these 'last judgment' scenes symbolize the mental anguish of the damned who are deprived of being in God's presence."

But this loophole places the Catholic Church in a dilemma. If all these artistic works depicting hell are a misrepresentation, why was the most famous of them, located right in the Vatican, commissioned by two popes (Clement VII and Paul III)? If, on the other hand, they give a true picture of official Church dogma, then why have Catholic priests been allowed to soft-pedal such a vital doctrine for so long? Sincere Catholics are wondering.

### ***Is "Mental Torment"***

#### ***Any Improvement?***

Another thing many sincere Catholics are wondering about is whether even the "cool" version of hell, limiting the suffering to mental anguish at being everlasting-ly separated from God, is reconcilable with God's love. Thus French religious writer Henri Fesquet wrote in *Le Monde*: "Is the God worshiped by Christians a torturer? . . . Is God sadistic, putting the pleasure

of being obeyed above the suffering of his wayward creatures?"

*L'Express* made the following interesting comments: "No more caldrons. But hell continues. It is said to be 'a state in which man places himself through refusing God.' Hell is isolation. . . . Even in earthly prisons sensory isolation is considered to be the worst torture." "Hell, as explained by modern theologians, is just as fearsome as the hell depicted by medi- eval artists."

A *Catholic Dictionary* quotes Catholic "Saint" Augustine as saying that the pain of loss is "so great a punishment that no torments known to us can be compared to it."

So is it any improvement over the classic "fire-and-brimstone" hell to say that unrepentant sinners will be punished everlastingly by unremitting mental anguish? Many sincere Catholics will readily agree that, morally, it is just as fiendish to torment someone mentally as physically. Both forms of punishment are incompatible with the Scriptural concept of a God of justice and love.

The above-quoted article in *L'Express* put the question: "How could a kind God have his creatures suffer eternally?" That is a fundamental problem. Theologians re-

ply that paradoxically hell is the ultimate consequence of God's love for man's freedom." Does that sound logical?

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

Interestingly, in his article "Has Hell Misfired?" published in *Le Monde* after the Vatican reaffirmed the hell dogma, H. Fesquet also stated: "To believe hell exists and is not empty, many obstacles have to be overcome, obviously the first one being survival after death." Yes, if there is no immaterial soul that survives man's death, such "hereafter" doctrines as limbo, purgatory and hell collapse for want of souls to inhabit them.

What says the Bible? Let the answer come from Catholic scholars:

"A distinction between the body and the soul is nowhere clearly stated in the Scriptures."—*Dictionnaire de la Bible*, edited by F. Vigouroux.

"The concept of 'soul,' meaning a purely spiritual, immaterial reality, separate from the 'body,' . . . does not exist in the Bible."—Georges Auzou, Professor of Sacred Scripture, Rouen Seminary, France.

The Bible clearly states: "The soul that sinneth, the same shall die." (Ezek. 18:4, 20, Catholic *Douay* Bible) Not only does this show that the human soul is not inherently immortal, but it also shows that the punishment for unremitting sin is not

torment (whether physical or mental), but death. The Bible further says: "The wage paid by sin is death; the present given by God is eternal life." (Rom. 6:23, Catholic *Jerusalem Bible*) Everlasting life or everlasting death—such is the choice God sets before his creatures.—John 3:16, 36; Deut. 30:19, 20.

The Hebrew and Greek words mistranslated "hell" in some versions of the Bible mean either the common grave of dead mankind (Heb., *sheol*; Gr., *hades*), from which there will be a resurrection, or everlasting destruction (Gr., *ge'enna*).\* A careful reading of the Bible will convince any honest person that the "everlasting fire" prepared for the Devil, his angels and wicked men (Matt. 25:41, 46) is symbolic of destruction, "the second death," from which there will be no resurrection.—Apoc. or Rev. 20:9, 10; 21:8.

"God is love." (1 John 4:8) The dogma of eternal torment in hell is a gross misrepresentation of the just and loving God whom true Christians worship. The motivating factor in true worship is love, not morbid fear. (1 John 4:16-19) By rekindling the idea of the non-Biblical hell, the Vatican is certainly dishonoring God.

\* For further details and Scriptural proof, see the book *Is This Life All There Is?*, published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

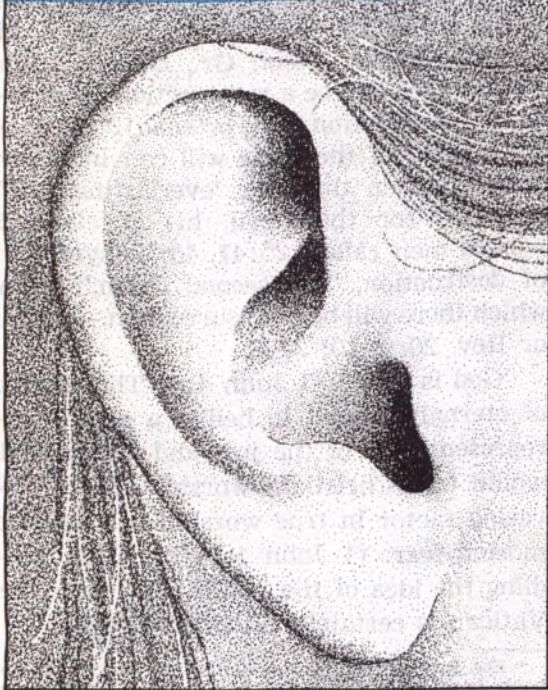
## **CHURCH DECLINE "UNPRECEDENTED"**

In an article in "Theology Today," Dean R. Hoge, a member of the Sociology Department of the Catholic University of America, writes about the decline of the churches. "The recent downturns in membership in many denominations are unprecedented in American history, indicating that something basic is happening in the churches and American society," he says. "Whatever is causing present-day membership loss in mainline Protestantism is something new, and it was not present in American society in the 1940s and 1950s."

Going into the matter further, he states: "From church data and nationwide survey data, it became clear that the decline in membership is . . . disproportionately a phenomenon of youth and young adults. In short, young adults are not coming into the churches in as fast a rate as in the 1950s. . . . The problem is a deep one, and it will continue."

Could it be that the churches are not giving young people the kind of spiritual food and guidance from God's Word, the Bible, that they need in these critical times?

# LEARNING TO ADJUST TO HEARING PROBLEMS



THE normal ear is designed to hear. This organ enables one to enjoy the sound of the chirping bird, the rush of a waterfall and the rustle of leaves in the wind—all delightful sounds that enhance appreciation for being alive.

Because of its ability to gather sound and to transmit this to the brain, the ear is indeed a marvel. But it does much more than just permit one to pick up sound. Its full use is experienced when a person listens to and engages in conversation. His hearing ability enables him to detect the interchange of feelings, concerns and emo-

tions. However, when the sense of hearing is lost, feelings of helplessness, frustration and even anger may result.

To illustrate: What if the words "make," "rake" and "lake" all sounded the same to you? What if the only way you could tell what was being said would be by seeing the speaker pronounce the word? How would you feel? Needless to say, there would be some frustration.

To ascertain the effect of a hearing problem, read the following sentence out loud: Jo—ua —aw the —mo— on to— of Mount Sinai. Do you have to read the sentence several times to get the sense of it by supplying the missing letters or sounds? Truly, those missing sounds are needed to understand what is meant. The sentence is, "Joshua saw the smoke on top of Mount Sinai."

The foregoing illustrates the usual problem experienced when a person loses his hearing ability. Seldom does he lose *all* sense of hearing. The most common problem comes from not being able to hear all the sounds adequately. Hence, what is heard sounds distorted and confused. A victim of this type of hearing loss observed:

"We think we have understood but have not. For example, when I was courting my wife, I heard her ask me, 'Do you like people?'—a type of pretentious gambit I am chronically loath to answer. I replied vaguely and was probably a little abrupt. She looked surprised. What she had actually said, as I learned a few minutes later, was much more promising: 'Do you like pizza?'

"The result of such mishearings—and they are perennial with us—is often robust laughter, good-natured ribbing and a dinner-table anecdote. But the result can also be a serious miscommunication, an inaccurate appearance of slow-wittedness or indifference and the end of friendships."

Drawing on his own experience, a deaf author relates the following about this handicap:

"In group discussions where you alone

are deaf, you do not exist. Because you cannot present your ideas through a medium everyone is accustomed to, you are not expected, much less asked, to contribute to them. Because you are deaf, they turn deaf. Just do what your parents, friends, fellow workers—who can hear—tell you . . . While everyone is talking or laughing, you are as far away as a lone Arab on a desert that stretches along every horizon. Everyone and everything is a mirage; you see them but you cannot touch or become part of them. You suffocate inside but you cannot tell anyone of this horrible feeling. You do not know how to. You get the impression nobody understands or cares."

### **What About a Hearing Aid?**

A person without a hearing problem may be inclined to think that a hearing aid would certainly be the obvious solution to the problem. Although a hearing aid can be helpful, it has limitations.

An expert in the field, Hayes Newby, writes: "Hearing aids are expensive instruments, and it might be expected that once a patient had invested in one he would force himself to learn to operate and adjust to it." But will he? "A large proportion of hearing aids," he continues, "end up in the proverbial dresser drawer."

Probably you know someone who has purchased a hearing aid. Perhaps the person is as close to you as your marriage partner. It may well be that he is not wearing his hearing aid. This may cause frustration for those whose hearing is not impaired. They may say, "If only he would wear his aid, we could communicate much better."

Still, there must be a reason for his not using the aid. Commenting on the problem, Hayes Newby states: "Too many patients expect that the hearing aid will be the answer to all their hearing problems, and that once they start wearing the aid they will be able to hear just as well as they did when their hearing was normal. Unfortunately, this is not true . . . a hearing

aid is an amplifier system, and not a very high-fidelity one. It can serve to make speech louder for the individual, but it cannot make it any clearer."

So the first problem is with the hearing aid itself. It is limited as to the variety of sounds it can reproduce. While to some extent selectively featuring certain sounds and dampening others, the hearing aid cannot amplify these without a measure of distortion. At best, the quality of the amplification is much more like the sound of a telephone than that of a high-fidelity recording.

A second problem is that persons with hearing problems are all different. No two ears are alike; nor do they hear exactly the same. Hence, an amplification that seems too loud for one person is comfortable for someone else.

This can be illustrated in the case of individuals with "normal" hearing. Some young people may turn up the volume of a record player or radio and appear to be totally comfortable while listening. The parent, meanwhile, is stating emphatically that the music is too loud. Both parent and children may hear the same loudness, but they have different tolerance levels.

Since the hearing aid tends to amplify all sounds, what the wearer can tolerate plays a large part in the effectiveness of the aid. If he uses it at the "comfort" level rather than the "listening" level, he will not be taking full advantage of the instrument's ability to amplify sound. The hearing aid may be "on" but not "up" high enough to help him to understand speech.

### **What Can the User Do?**

In view of these factors, what can the user of a hearing aid do? First, he must give himself time and discipline himself to get used to his "new ear," not expecting more from his aid than it is capable of giving. The initial discomfort is similar to that

experienced when one gets false teeth or bifocal glasses. Eventually the discomfort decreases as the one using the aid adjusts to the new perceptions of sound.

Obviously, if a person has not heard certain sounds for a long time, he becomes used to *not* hearing. Even the chirping of a bird or the rustle of leaves can be disturbing if one has not heard these sounds for some time. The hearing-aid wearer may, therefore, feel that he is perceiving too much noise, and refuse to continue using the device. But this will not help him to hear better. The only solution is for him to learn to accept the noise, ignore the undesirable noises and concentrate on those sounds that he wants to hear.

To avoid discouragement, a hearing-aid user also needs to keep in mind that there are occasions when even those with normal hearing miss much of what is being said. Hence, he, too, can expect to obtain poor results at times.

If a hearing-aid wearer appreciates these limitations and does not allow himself to be discouraged by them, he may well reap fine benefits. Certainly, it takes self-discipline to become a successful hearing-aid user.

### ***Being Helpful***

Those associating with a person who is hard of hearing can assist him by being understanding. They do well to remember

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## ***In Future Issues***

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- ***Can Young Folks Find Security Today?***
  - ***Rape—How Can You Protect Yourself?***
  - ***Devotion to Mary Makes a Comeback***
- 

that one learning to wear a hearing aid is experiencing problems and discomfort.

While it may be a trying experience to speak with one suffering from hearing loss, conversation should not be discontinued. Talking with one's regular voice and with the usual volume is most helpful. Speaking louder may cause distortion for the hearing-aid user. It is best to get his attention and to speak with him face to face so that he can see your lips and face, and visually "read" the lips and facial expressions for clues as to what is being stated. If he does not understand something, rephrasing may be more helpful than just repeating. For example, if the expression, "Do you want to go uptown?" is not readily understood, more clues could be given. Perhaps one could say: "We are going shopping uptown. Would you like to go uptown with us?"

### ***Safeguarding One's Hearing Ability***

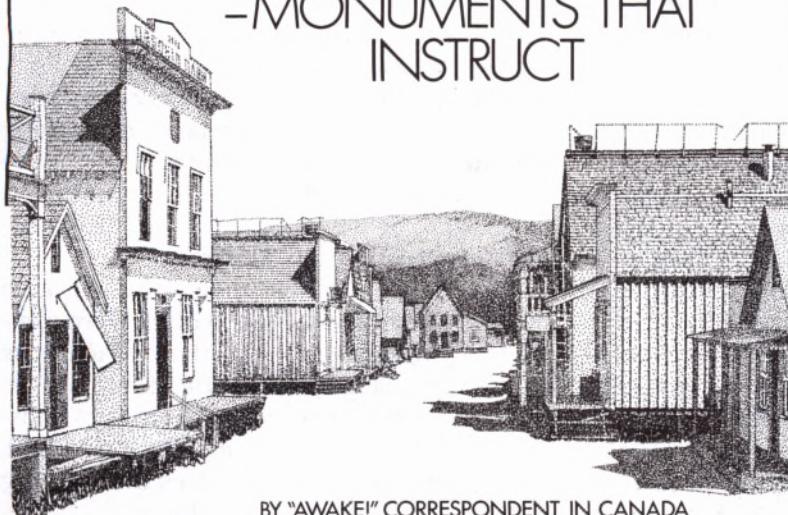
Individually, we may not have a hearing problem. Nevertheless, there is wisdom in doing what we can to retain our hearing ability in a noisy industrialized society.

It is generally agreed that exposure to loud noise for extended periods can injure the hearing mechanism. This kind of hearing loss cannot be restored. If a person works in a setting where the noise is very loud (any environment where conversation cannot be carried on at a normal level), he should have his hearing checked at regular intervals to see if the noise is affecting his hearing. It is far better to make needed changes so as to prevent hearing loss than to try to correct it by means of a hearing aid. And, in the case of disease, one should not unduly delay treatment.

Truly, hearing is precious—a gift from the Creator. Our appreciating its value should move us to be understanding toward those with hearing problems, and to put forth reasonable effort to protect the hearing we may presently enjoy.

# "GHOST TOWNS"

## -MONUMENTS THAT INSTRUCT



BY "AWAKE!" CORRESPONDENT IN CANADA

**T**HREE they stood—wooden grave markers of a bygone age. It was still easy to read those epitaphs:

"In memory of William Hugill, Late of Fullerton, Canada West. Who died Aug. 31, 1863, aged 23 Years."

"Sacred to the memory of Peter Gibson of Vankleek Hill, County of Prescott, Canada West. Who died July 24, 1863, aged 31 Years."

There were more like them. Many of the deceased were in their 20's and 30's, a few in their 40's. They had died young and, as their epitaphs often bore witness, they had come here from many parts of the earth.

Interestingly, these grave markers were in the shadow of a much larger monument, Barkerville, a town born in 1862 and that died in 1868—well, *almost*. In 1868 Barkerville burned to the ground. But it was "resurrected" when inhabitants started rebuilding it the very next day. Then it almost died again, this time due to people's leaving. It became a "ghost town."\*

\* "Ghost town": "A once-flourishing town wholly or nearly deserted usu[ally] as a result of the exhaustion of some natural resource (as gold)."—Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary.

But in the late 1950's the provincial government of British Columbia started to restore Barkerville. Now thousands of visitors are able to recapture some memories of this town that once boasted the largest population on the North American continent west of Chicago and north of San Francisco.

But how did Barkerville come into existence in the first place, and nearly overnight at that? Why

did it flourish and then almost die? The answers lie in the ground on which it stood. It was built on *gold*. Yes, this was a gold-rush town, one of many in the 19th century.

But what can we learn from Barkerville? What epitaph can you write on the markers of such towns that have been born because of an unrelenting search for gold? Briefly relive the birth and life of Barkerville and see what you would inscribe on this monument of the past.

### *Barkerville Is Born*

Barkerville is snuggled in a mountainous wilderness of British Columbia, Canada's far western province. It is about 500 miles (800 km) from where the Fraser River empties into the sea near the Canada-United States border at Vancouver. A little farther west is Vancouver Island. On its southern tip is Victoria, one of the oldest communities in British Columbia.

Before Billy Barker (after whom Barkerville was named) left his sailing ship and got caught in the gold fever of the 1860's, Victoria had about 400 inhabitants.

Imagine their surprise one Sunday when a ship appeared in the harbor with 450 men on board! Why such an influx?

Well, word had leaked out that there was gold along the Fraser River. A small party of miners had set out from San Francisco to have a look. They found gold in sufficient quantity to encourage them, and sent word back to San Francisco. As a result, in April 1858, that ship containing the 450 men docked at Victoria. In the next three months, about 23,000 more came by sea and another 8,000 by land! But some 25,000 of those returned home. In the face of great hardships, only the strong and determined stayed.

During the next year, the remaining stouthearted ones pushed northward up the Fraser and eventually on to its tributaries into an area called Cariboo. Here gold was discovered by the ton! It was there in 1862 that Billy Barker and his party staked a very rich claim. Barkerville then was named and its growth was rapid. Soon miners, and those daring to become such, were making their way to the Cariboo from all over North America, indeed, from all over the world.

Barkerville was just one of the instant towns then born of necessity rather than planning. It was an array of log shanties, stores and saloons built on stilts to protect it from flash floods. At its peak, the town reached an estimated population of 10,000. However, while the lure of gold beckoned thousands, only a few would be rewarded. By far the majority caved in under the unimaginable hardships.

### **Dangerous Travel**

The Fraser River was the most formidable obstacle the miners encountered in their trek to the goldfields. One report estimated that in 1858 about one quarter of the canoes attempting the trip were lost. One man who knew the dangers was Simon Fraser, after whom the river is named. He

and a handful of voyagers had ventured through its treacherous gorges and rapids in 1808.

But why not take the overland route? Fraser wrote: "As for the road by land, we could scarcely make our way even with (only) our guns. I have been for a long period in the Rocky Mountains, but have never seen anything like this country. It is so wild that I cannot find words to describe our situation at times."

Miners who made their way through Fraser Canyon and beyond often were completely discouraged by the treacherous trails they had to follow. Besides that, the perils included mud, snow, hordes of mosquitoes and vicious flies, extreme cold, monotonous food, high prices and, during the earlier days, Indian attacks.

Once on the mining claims, factors causing further discouragement were ever present. Long, hard hours of work were coupled with extreme weather conditions. Mining accidents were common. Exposure, alcoholism and malnutrition also took their toll.

Travel conditions improved when a wagon road was finally built to the goldfields. Up through Fraser Canyon, the road was clawed from mountain walls, and it hung over canyon cliffs. It was such a mammoth achievement that some called it the eighth wonder of the world. A 300-mile (480-km) section was completed in 1863, and soon the road was pushed through to Barkerville.

### **What Kind of People?**

Gold rushes produce and attract all kinds of persons—the greedy, the lawless, the foolhardy, the gambler, the woman of questionable virtue, the adventurer, as well as the honest businessman and miner desirous of bettering their lot in life.

Billy Barker was one of the "legends" of the Cariboo. With his party, he staked out land that turned him into a rich man.

However, he spent his money as fast as he made it, and died a pauper in a home for the aged.

"Cariboo" Cameron came from Ontario. He traveled by sea the 12,000 miles (19,000 km) around the tip of South America, with his wife and small child. Unfortunately, the baby got sick and died. His wife also fell ill and died. She had disliked the hardship of the goldfield and had asked that at her death she be buried back home in Ontario. So Cameron temporarily buried her in a tin coffin enclosed in a wooden box. Shortly after, his group struck gold, the second richest claim in the Cariboo. But he felt all the more grieved now that his wife and child were dead. Cameron vowed to carry out his wife's wish. Thus, in sub-zero midwinter temperature, with several feet of snow on the ground, he set out for Victoria with his wife's body.

After a rigorous trip through the wilderness, Cameron's group reached Victoria over a month later, where he temporarily buried his wife once again. Cameron then returned to the goldfields and that autumn was back in Victoria a few hundred thousand dollars richer. That easily financed his sailing ship passage to the east coast. He proceeded to Cornwall, Ontario, where, for the third time, he buried his wife. Today, Barkerville has a grave marker for "Cariboo" Cameron, who died there a penniless man!

Not all who became rich in the Cariboo ended up "broke." Some handled their fortune well. They made it and left the Cariboo, returning home or going elsewhere

to enjoy the material fruits of their efforts. Others stayed on and helped to stabilize the region's future development.

### **Barkerville and Lessons for Today**

Barkerville is still a monument. To preserve its history, concerned people have acted to restore Barkerville from "ghost town" status.

What is in the minds of some as they walk Barkerville's streets today? Pondering the past, they might with benefit envision epitaphs with lessons for today.

One of these might read: "Craving Material Riches Can Distort Your Sense of Values." The craving for wealth can push a man to do things that destroy his own family. Will he be happy? Remember "Cariboo" Cameron, who struck it rich, but about whom it is said: 'The gold did little to ease Cameron's conscience. He felt the loss of his wife and daughter more deeply now that he had money but was unable to share it with them. He never fully recovered from his tragedy.'—1 Tim. 6:8-10.

And another epitaph: "You Have to Exert Yourself to Get Anything that Is Really Worthwhile." What is most important to you? Is it gaining the approval of God? Should it not be? It holds promise of a prize far more precious than gold—eternal life under the rule of God's kingdom.—Luke 13:24.

Indeed, when you think about it, there are lessons to be learned from monuments of the past if we are willing to search for them.

## **LIFE OR PRINCIPLE?**

American religious-news columnist George R. Plagenz recently considered the refusal of Jehovah's Witnesses to accept blood transfusions. He observed: "If we mean it when we say, 'There are some things more pre-

cious than life itself' (which we hear during wartime), why are we so shocked and upset when another person says he will die rather than betray his beliefs?"—"Cleveland Press," September 24, 1979.

# ENGLISH CHANNEL

## PLAGUED BY TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

BY "AWAKE!" CORRESPONDENT  
IN THE BRITISH ISLES

**I**N AN early morning mist a line of cars creeps slowly forward along the wide apron leading into the Dover Car Ferry Terminal. They are preparing to cross the Strait of Dover, in the English Channel, by boat to France.

It is pleasant standing on deck to look back at the slowly receding white cliffs of Dover. There are intermittent patches of sea fog, but the sea appears calm and empty. Suddenly a supertanker looms out of a patch of fog hardly big enough to cover it! Obviously ours is not the only ship out here, but, thanks to radar observations, our captain has already taken evasive action.

### Hazards of Congestion

Each day an average of 300 ships travel through this 21-mile (34-km)-wide bottleneck at the eastern end of the English Channel. Supertankers, freighters and warships are the heavy traffic, and ferries, fishing vessels and pleasure boats constantly cut across their paths.

Some years ago a British television news company collected radar charts showing one day's shipping movements in the Strait of Dover. A subsequent movie, made up of the charts in time sequence, showed the flow in less than one minute. The result looked like a swarm of angry bees rushing about in panic with no defined lines of traffic. Admittedly, things have improved since. Southbound tanker traffic now travels on the English side and northbound traffic on the French side. Nevertheless, the hazard still remains as long as there is a 'go as you please' central lane and continual cross-Channel traffic.

Serious shipping accidents in the Channel continue to happen, with massive oil spillage and the tragic aftermath of beach and sea-life pollution. Frequent near-misses are often averted only by the skill and vigilance of ships' officers.

A foretaste of major disaster involving loss of life did happen, however, in February 1979. A cross-Channel ferry collided with a bulk tanker. The casualty list was considered light. But it still lingers in the minds of people who wonder if the next collision will involve perhaps a thousand lives on a crowded ferry.

Admittedly, a relatively safe alternative does exist: the cross-Channel airways. And its safety record is admirable. Not everyone, however, can afford the high fares; and many others would not fly even if their flight were free.

### The Tunnel Project

In 1964 the British and French governments, after lengthy negotiations, decided to join forces to build a tunnel. In 1973 Phase One was completed at a cost of £4.85 million (\$10.5 million, U.S.). But Phase Two ran into difficulties. In 1974 the Channel Tunnel Bill in the British Parliament lapsed because of a general election, and in the following year the whole project was cancelled.

Nothing further happened until 1978, when British Rail came up with an alternative idea. They proposed to complete the tunnel with private enterprise backing, then to build a single rail line through it to link London-Paris-Brussels. The government liked the idea and accepted it in principle. Money for the scheme would be raised from private financial institutions in Common Market countries.

### A Channel Bridge?

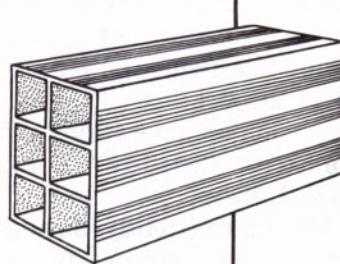
Ronald Taylor, an engineer, suggests a 25-mile (40-km) tubular steel bridge to span the sea from Hythe on the Kent coast to Cap-Gris-Nez in France. The bridge would rise 250 feet (76 m) above the sea lanes, leaving ample room for the largest tankers to pass between its 24 spans. It would provide for road, rail and even pedestrian traffic, with refreshment stopovers at intervals.

Doubts, however, still linger in officials' minds. They ask: Will a tunnel be absolutely free from fire risk that could convert it into a 32-mile (51-km) coffin? Or, if a bridge is chosen, will traffic be entirely safe from the vicious gales that sweep in suddenly from both ends of the Strait of Dover? Will it even be strong enough to withstand a direct blow against one of its supports from a supertanker in a thick fog?

It may be that one day someone will take a calculated risk and go ahead. Until then, great care must still be exercised in the world's most congested waterway.

# BRICKS

## -ANCIENT BUILDING BLOCKS AT MODERN MAN'S SERVICE



BY "AWAKE!" CORRESPONDENT IN PORTUGAL

**W**HAT is your house built of? Wood? Stone? Or perhaps straw?

Here in Portugal practically all homes use bricks as a basic building material. Approximately 600 brick factories throughout the country produce more than two hundred million units annually. But such use of bricks is not new.

### *From Early Times*

Did you know that bricks were employed in ancient world empires, such as Assyria, Babylon and Egypt? (Ex. 5:6-18) When post-Flood city building was first begun, the humble brick was there.

In the third millennium before our common era, builders in the land of Shinar determined to construct a city with a monument huge enough to leave their mark on history. "And they began to say, each one to the other: 'Come on! Let us make bricks and bake them with a burning process.' So brick served as stone for them, but bitumen served as mortar for them." —Gen. 11:3, 4.

Excavations in Ur of Chaldea reveal that bricks were used extensively in Mesopotamia for construction, due to the lack of stone or forested areas. The rich alluvial plain built up by silt from the flooding Euphrates and Tigris Rivers provided the natural material needed.

If you had lived in Babylon in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, you would be very familiar with the brick walls flanking both

sides of the main boulevard, Procession Street. This street displayed a long row of snarling lions, all rendered in molded, strongly colored enamel bricks. At the end of Procession Street was Ishtar Gate, next to the brick palace of Nebuchadnezzar, and on the gate were reliefs of bulls sculptured in glazed brick.

### *Manufacture*

In ancient times, brickmaking was a very simple process. Mud clay was placed in handmade wooden molds and left in the sun to dry. Straw was often mixed in with the clay to give added strength. Such sun-dried bricks are today called adobe, and are still used in some countries with dry climates. In time, another process was added, that of kiln-drying (oven-drying), giving more durability to the brick.

The modern production of bricks involves the following basic steps. Raw or burned clay and water are mixed, with other mineral matter such as sand, limestone, dolomite and substances containing compounds of iron and other metals being added. The soft-mud process involves the molding of each brick individually to shape and size. In the modern stiff-mud process, the clay mixture is molded into shape as it is extruded under pressure through a die to form a continuous column of clay, and is then cut by wires to the desired brick length. Our bricks are now ready for two final processes: drying and firing.

The first, the drying process, may be done by natural means or artificially. The second, the firing, or baking, requires the use of large kilns or ovens. Here in Portugal, smaller operations may use the intermittent "beehive" kiln. Bricks are stacked inside by hand, then fired and cooled intermittently during five to seven days. Many larger factories use the Hoffman-type kiln, a long, narrow oven, inside of which are stacked the bricks, and the firing system moves progressively from one end to the other.

A more modern system is called the continuous-car tunnel system. In this method, as soon as the raw bricks are cut to size, they are stacked on flatcars, slowly passed through long, heated tunnels and after from 8 to 72 hours (depending on the type of brick) they are dry. Now they are moved slowly through a long fire-brick tunnel, where they are heated and cooled in from 36 hours to four days, also depending on the type of brick. One of Portugal's largest brick factories, located outside Lisbon, has a modern continuous-car tunnel oven 180 m (590 feet) long!

### **Standardization**

When bricks were manufactured manually, their form and dimensions varied widely from region to region, adapting themselves to the local necessities. However, even the Assyrians recognized the need to standardize the dimensions of the most widely used bricks of their time.

In Portugal, the National Civil Engineering Laboratory made an inquiry of the principal factories as to the forms and dimensions of bricks produced. The 44 factories that answered the inquiry produced 330 different models!

This great diversity caused many inconveniences, for manufacturer and consumer alike. As bricks occupy a very important

role in construction here in Portugal, standardization would be very beneficial, not only as to quality, but also as to dimensions and materials. With the results of this inquiry at hand, it was now necessary to determine how to limit the existing types. Ninety-nine different factories and 36 of the larger consumers collaborated in this study.

The results of the study were presented in a seminar on productivity in the ceramic industry. Reasons for the proposal were given, and the discussion was opened to questions and observations to detect any other unknown factors that could alter the proposal. Final conclusions were reached and presented to the participants, together with reasons for the decisions.

In the following year, a final document was published and approved, reducing the number of different types of bricks to seven. The document was widely published, and manufacturers and builders alike recognized the advantages of it. Thus, they began to limit their activities to the new standards. Then the document was published officially as a standard for all of Portugal. While the changeover took time, today it enjoys almost total adherence.

The brick, an ancient building block, continues to enjoy very wide use in spite of the advances made in metallic and reinforced concrete construction. If your home is not built of brick, maybe the chimney is, or perhaps the fireplace, or the barbecue area in your backyard. Here in Portugal, as in many other countries around the world, the brick continues humbly to serve modern man because of its time-proven qualities.

# Watching the World



## Carrying Guns to Work

◆ A New York City school-teacher, while not willing to be identified, admitted to carrying an illegal gun to class every day. Why? She stated: "The things that go on in the streets don't stop at the school door. We have the same drug-pushers, sex abusers and emotionally unstable people in here. Teachers are robbed, beaten and threatened every day. I pray to God never to use the gun. But if I'm attacked and my life is in danger I am going to survive. I will worry about the consequences later." Why does she put up with the dangers? "I am a good teacher and have to work to live," she answered.

Also, it was reported that at least 10 New York City judges carry guns to court, concealed under judicial robes. When one was asked why, he replied: "Wherever you look there's violence."

## Huge "Leak" Plugged

◆ The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water. Located in the southern part of the Soviet Union, and bordering northern Iran, it has been losing water. Over the past 50 years, the water level has dropped seven feet (2 m), adversely affecting fishing and transportation. Part of the loss has come from a "leak" on the east side. There, water from the Caspian had

been pouring through a narrow strait into a lower natural gulf of about 7,000 square miles ( $18,000 \text{ km}^2$ ). The water entering this gulf, which was shallower, then evaporated faster in the heat. Soviet engineers recently plugged the strait by completing an 1,800-foot (550-m)-long dike, 250 feet (75 m) wide at its base and 20 feet (6 m) high. Now the flow of Caspian water into the gulf can be regulated by a series of locks.

## Nonsmokers' View Verified

◆ The *New England Journal of Medicine* says that new research has verified the fears of nonsmokers who are forced to inhale smoke from other people's cigarettes. The journal declares that the nonsmokers can suffer significant lung damage. It was found that people who worked in smoky areas had the same reduction in lung capacity as those who smoked up to 10 cigarettes a day. The journal stated that the evidence was the first solid proof that "passive smoking" can damage the respiratory system. The new results also confirm a previous study that showed reduced lung capacity in children whose parents smoked at home.

## Less Educated?

◆ Are students in American school systems more poorly

educated than in the past? Recently, there was a measure of evidence that they may be. Tests given to incoming freshmen at the University of Minnesota in 1928 and identical tests given in 1978 showed clearly that in defining words, in reading speed and in comprehension, the 1978 students scored significantly lower in each category. Also striking was the relatively poor showing by the more "gifted" students, the top one percent. Dr. Alvin C. Eurich of the Academy for Educational Development asks: "Can it be that we are placing less and less emphasis on the importance of reading and other more traditional modes of learning? Can it be that through our technological means of communication, we are becoming 'headline' learners, giving less and less attention to substance?" Many educators would answer, "Yes."

## Soccer in the News

◆ In Italy 27 soccer players were recently charged with accepting money to lose certain games. This shocked soccer fans, and at a game in Rome fans hurled insults and threats at two players. Declared one fan: "We have known about corrupt bankers and politicians, but this is really the bottom."

Soccer often inspires deep emotions, sometimes leading to violence. During a game in Rome some months ago, several teen-age fans fired a rocket into the stands reserved for fans of the other team. The rocket killed a man who was watching the game.

A riot erupted at the National soccer championship games in Verapaz stadium in Guatemala. Said the *Guatemala News*: "The crowd became unruly, throwing bottles, cans and stones at both players and referees." After the referee ended the game, "the hostile crowd then broke into full-scale riot, entering the playing field, forc-

ing the referees and several . . . players to literally run for their lives into a concrete tunnel. The crowd, now totally out of control, spilled into the area surrounding the stadium. The press reported women and children running and screaming in every direction." Four persons died from beatings and gunshot wounds. Police who tried to control the situation were themselves attacked by the crowd.

#### New Marijuana Report

◆ A new report released by the National Institute on Drug Abuse in the United States declared that marijuana poses even greater health risks than previously thought. It showed that daily marijuana smoking can lead to lung damage similar to that resulting from cigarette smoking, adding: "Extended use of marijuana over a period of years may eventually be shown to cause cancer in humans." Yet, regular use by high school students has almost doubled in four years, and a survey showed that at least 43 million Americans of all ages had tried marijuana.

#### Who Lives Longer?

◆ While heredity plays a major role in determining the life-span of an individual, there are other factors. Dr. Robert Samp notes the results of a University of Wisconsin study that reveals that "there is a definite personality type among people blessed with longer life." It was found that these were people with a moderate way of living and a positive outlook on life. Included were the following: (1) a willingness to adapt to the challenges and changes in life; (2) continuing to work after retirement, even if it meant taking volunteer jobs; (3) avoiding prolonged periods of stress, physical or mental; (4) eating and drinking moderately; (5) developing broad interests in life.

#### Unholy Alliance

◆ The *National Catholic Reporter* has revealed a previously unknown agreement between the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Philadelphia and the fund-raising charity United Way. It told of an unpublicized pact in 1975 between Cardinal John Krol and the then president of United Way in which United Way agreed not to give financial aid to any program or service that contradicted the "moral principles of the Catholic church." This amounted to Church veto power over publicly collected funds. The agreement came to light when a women's group was denied aid from United Way because of providing birth-control counseling.

Adverse reactions to the behind-the-scenes agreement came from many quarters. Some canceled United Way money pledges; others requested refunds. Members of the faculties and staffs of Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania, also employees of the city of Philadelphia, withdrew support of the annual United Way fund-raising campaign. And legal counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union said that it may raise constitutional questions about discrimination against women and questions of state support of a religious institution.

#### Sacrifices for "Immortality"

◆ Reporter Peter Niesewand in New Delhi, India, writes that an elderly swami (a Hindu religious teacher) accused of organizing human sacrifices died of a heart attack in the southern city of Bangalore. The swami was said by police to have made "blood offerings" to appease Kali, the "goddess of destruction." The investigation centered on the murders of five children, all under six years of age. They had been lured with sweets and biscuits by

paid murderers, who then cut the children's throat. Their blood was collected in bottles and taken to the swami, who used it in religious ceremonies. Police said that the swami believed he would attain immortality by this means.

#### Red Sea Imperiled

◆ Peril to the Biblically renowned Red Sea from pollution is reaching a critical level, according to a report issued by the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ALESCO). Marine life, said the report, may be damaged irreparably, unless immediate action is taken to control oil pollution. Besides oil contamination from tankers, pipelines and refineries, ALESCO identified three other types of pollution: domestic sewage in coastal areas; industrial wastes; and pollution caused by dredging in the waterways.

#### Disco Violence

◆ "Eight young people have been killed and countless others injured in bloody brawls in London's estimated 1,000 discos," reports *Parade* magazine. Weapons include knives, razors, clubs, bricks and Afro combs with sharpened teeth. City officials, alarmed at the spreading violence, issued new regulations to try to control it. One part of the new code states that those playing the music should "have the ability to read the floor, spot early signs of violence, and tone down the music to cool a potentially violent atmosphere."

#### Assaults in the Air

◆ An increasing number of airline flight attendants are being assaulted in various ways, such as being kicked, poked or shoved. Declared Del R. Mott, safety director of the Association of Flight Attendants: "It used to be verbal abuse. But now it's broken bones, the attendants being bitten, real horror sto-

ries." Sometimes flight attendants "are punched, grabbed physically, and sexually touched," says a U.S. Federal Aviation Administration inspector in San Francisco. An FAA attorney in Washington, D.C., observes that an assault is often the result of flight attendants' serving too much liquor to passengers.

#### **Motor Madness**

◆ Increasing numbers of American motorists are attacking one another in arguments over highway accidents, including minor ones. Mere discourtesies have been enough to trigger some assaults. "There's no question that this kind of thing is increasing," declares William E. Speir, former president of the Interna-

tional Association of Chiefs of Police. In some places highway police have begun to wear bulletproof vests because so many of them have been assaulted by motorists. A University of Utah study found that 40 percent of drivers said that they had lost their tempers at other drivers, and 12 percent said that they had actually chased other drivers who had annoyed them. And 18 percent of women drivers and 12 percent of men drivers revealed that at times they felt that they could "gladly kill another driver." Why the upsurge in assaults? Police and other authorities cite the following: more traffic congestion, alcohol abuse, personality disorders, and the tensions of the times. No

doubt, growing drug abuse is also a factor.

#### **Treating Mild Hypertension**

◆ Borderline high blood pressure is often regarded as "high normal" and left untreated. But the experience of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in the United States shows that with proper treatment the premature death rate among those with mild hypertension can be reduced by about 17 percent, meaning the prolonging of life for hundreds of thousands of people earth wide. In some cases, it was said that treatment may merely be dieting to reduce excess weight, or cutting salt intake, or getting proper exercise.

of some kind, offering "hope" for the future, and a call

to "unashamedly witness" God's Word and "boldly speak the truth" to the world. After the meeting, many participants reported that they had been strengthened by the study of God's Word, and that their hearts were more prepared to share their faith with others.

—J. R. M., Atlanta, Georgia

In light of religious freedom laws and other civil rights laws, it is often hard to know how to respond to those who do not believe in Jesus Christ. A knowledge of history, though, can help to answer the basic question that such people ask: Who is Jesus? In response to this question, we can point them to the New Testament, which records Jesus' life and ministry. We can also point them to the Old Testament, which records the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These promises include the promise of a Messiah who would come to save the world from sin. By pointing them to these promises, we can help them understand the importance of Jesus Christ in God's plan for salvation.

—D. C., Atlanta, Georgia

As a child, I used to go to my father's church every Sunday morning. My father was a Christian, but he did not know much about the Bible or the Christian faith. He would say things like, "I'm not a Christian, but I'm a good person." I would always feel bad for him because I knew he was a good person, but he didn't know it. Now, as an adult, I have learned more about the Christian faith and I am able to share it with others. I hope that one day my father will understand what it means to be a Christian.

—S. S., Atlanta, Georgia