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# **Men and Women— the difference**

**F**OR about six thousand years, men and women have shared the planet Earth. They have raised families, worked, enjoyed good times and endured hardships together. Yet, in most places and at most times in history, women have been treated differently from men. Sometimes they have been cared for and protected. More often, they have been viewed as mere possessions or despised as inferiors. Why is this?

Charles Darwin theorized that women were intellectually inferior to men. His contemporary, Gustave Le Bon, viewed them as "the most inferior forms of human evolution." Few today would admit to such opinions. Nevertheless, women and men *are* different. In what ways? And does this mean that one is inferior to the other?

## **Physical Differences**

Some of the physical differences between men and women are evident. Women are designed to be mothers, men to be fathers, and the structures of their bodies reflect this fact. But there are other differences.

- In almost every country, women live to an older age than men. At the very beginning of life, 130 boys are conceived for every 100 girls. Nine months later, more male embryos than

come to be born as females. They are often better at memorizing and imitative learning. Girls also often learn faster and earlier than boys. This gives them a better prospect in school and business to find work, although women deserve less opportunity.

Hence, if seen first physically, women have failed to survive, so that 106 boys are born for every 100 girls. By the time they grow to be teenagers, girls come to outnumber boys.

- Men athletes have larger and more muscular shoulders and arms. They also have bigger and stronger legs, and bigger hearts and lungs. Thus, in most events men outperform women. Yet women athletes have abdominal muscles that can be as strong as those of men.



Although women perspire less copiously, their sweat glands are better distributed and their perspiration is more efficient—a help for endurance. Stored body fat gives them a greater buoyancy in water and greater endurance, so that women dominate the sport of long-distance swimming.

Hence, it seems that, physically, men have the edge in strength, while women have the edge in endurance. What about other differences?

### **Other Differences**

Do men and women think differently? This is a sensitive subject, since many feel that wrong ideas in this area have led to women's being oppressed. Nevertheless, many researchers feel that there are differences.



- Girls usually become more skillful with their hands than do boys. They speak earlier and more fluently and



come to be better at languages. They are often better at memorizing and intuitive thinking. Women often handle detailed and routine work more efficiently than do men.

- Boys grow up to be better at mathematics, mechanics and analytical thinking. They are also better at spatial organization and perception.

- Many women feel they cannot control their emotions as well as men—although some deny this.

Of course, these differences are not rigid. There are men who are good at languages, and there are women who excel at mathematics. Anyone who has watched a nurse during a medical emergency knows that women are not *entirely* controlled by their emotions. Many work coolly and efficiently under pressure. And how many men are always cool, logical and self-controlled?

What causes the differences? Many feel we are made differently inside as well as outside. They say that male or female hormones make a person's brain—not only the body—function in a manly or a womanly way. Others insist that differences between men and women are caused by the way boys and girls

are brought up. Still others see an interplay between the two: the different ways in which boys and girls are treated reinforce the effect that hormones have on the brain. Whatever the reason, differences do exist.

Consequently, women have not always been treated well. They have often been exploited, and their freedom has been greatly limited. Let us consider some examples.

# **Women— second-class people?**

**N**O T long ago a man appeared in court in an Asian country that has legal equality between men and women. He was accused of killing his adulterous wife and found guilty. The punishment? A suspended sentence. Almost immediately afterward, a housewife appeared in the same court before the same judge. She was accused of killing her husband because he had been chasing after other women. She was found guilty and sentenced—to 15 years in prison!

Many women complain that often they are viewed as second-class citizens, without the same rights, protections or considerations that men receive. The sad truth is that in many lands women are not valued or appreciated as much as men are. The above was one example of this. There are many others.

Among some Bedouins, when a new baby is born someone has the job of telling the father. If the baby is a boy, the father will be hailed with a word meaning "good tidings." He will usually give a small gift to the news bearer and sacrifice a sheep or give a feast if he can afford it. But if it is a girl, there will be no "good tidings," no reward and no feast. At mealtimes, in this tribe, the older men eat first, then the younger men and boys, and last of all the women and the girls.

There are countries where women may not drive automobiles. They may not travel without the consent of their hus-

bands or guardians and then only in the company of relatives. Neither can they appear in mixed company on social occasions or hold a job that brings them in contact with men. And although they have the task of caring for young children, they have no opportunities to get an education.

Consider, too, this sad report. In India, the second-most populous country in the world, "it is not uncommon today to hear of abandoned babies in city drains, in a jungle or outside a temple or foundling home. For every baby boy abandoned, there are five baby girls. Experienced nurses in public hospitals report that the desire to get rid of girl babies is so strong that some mothers have to be forced to feed them. Sometimes it even drives parents to commit infanticide on female babies."—*India Today*, August 1-15, 1980.

Reportedly, in that country girls are viewed as an economic liability, hence the dismay when they are born. Marrying them off costs a lot of money, and once married, they are at the mercy



of their in-laws. That this can lead to great unhappiness was shown by a recent newspaper headline: "Women suicide assumes alarming rate in India."

Of course, women are not oppressed everywhere. There are countries where they have a lot of influence and seem close to equality with men. And even where not equal, their rights are often protected. However, millions of women live under great disadvantages. Sometimes they are weighed down by sheer hard work.

### **Who Does More Work?**

For one thing, in many of the world's poorer countries, most of the work in-

volved in food production is performed by women. A United Nations study of one African region found that the men there worked an average of 1,800 hours a year in agriculture, and then their work was more or less finished. The women, on the other hand, worked an average of 2,600 hours a year in the fields, and then their work had only begun. In addition they had to do their regular chores at home.

Thus, the women there work an average of eight hours a day, almost every day, 52 weeks a year, before they can start their cooking, washing, cleaning and other household chores—for which, of course, they usually have no modern conveniences. In Africa women do 60 to 80 percent of all agricultural work, plus 50 percent of animal husbandry, and 100 percent of the needed food processing. A study of an Asian village revealed an average working day of 16 hours for women. In the case of younger women, this work load was combined with frequent pregnancy, childbirth and breast feeding—jobs that are tiring enough by themselves.

Seemingly, much of the outside help directed to poor countries only adds to this problem, since it is often directed to the jobs traditionally done by men. A certain African country, for example, imported 100 tractors but only one mechanical weeder. The result? The plowing time—a man's job—was drastically reduced, while the sowing and weeding time—the woman's job—was correspondingly increased. It seems that many women need all that built-in endurance just to survive!

Of course, in poorer countries everyone's life is hard. There is much abject poverty, malnutrition, horrible sickness and deep ignorance. Often, both men

*Does the Bible teach that women are of inferior nature, as compared with men?*

No. Adam called Eve "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh." (Genesis 2:23) Eve was Adam's "complement." —Genesis 2:18.

Women referred to in the Bible did many things requiring intellectual capacity. Huldah served as a prophetess to King Josiah. (2 Chronicles 34:22) Deborah both prophesied and judged for the Israelites. (Judges 4:4, 5) Abigail counseled David, when he was king-designate, and saved him from blood-guilt. (1 Samuel 25:23-35) A "capable wife" is described as being skilled in purchasing. She organizes and controls a large household, budgets and plans for the future, engages in trade, buys property and organizes successful farming ventures. She possesses the quality of wisdom.—Proverbs 31:10-31.

Also, women were to receive holy spirit and prophesy in the last days. (Joel 2:28) They were among the first members of the Christian congregation, and were to play a prominent part in the telling of the "good news."—Acts 1:14; 2:4; Psalm 68:11.

and women are trapped by oppressive traditions that keep them from acting in a more humane and reasonable way toward one another. But it must be admitted that in many cases women have

the greater burdens to bear. Just to keep going under such hardships is an achievement in itself.

What, though, about lands where the situation of women is easier?

## Women in wealthier lands

**I**N EUROPE and America, during the last century, most men seemed to agree with Charles Darwin that women were inferior, and their freedoms were thus limited. Women received only a limited education and were not allowed to vote. Once they were married, their husbands controlled any wealth they possessed, and most trades and professions were barred to them (although poor women worked long hours in factories, for a smaller wage than men). Morally, they were expected to be innocent and pure—although this was not always expected of their menfolk.

Then women rebelled. After years of struggle, they were finally allowed to vote. Following that, other barriers crumbled. They were given additional educational opportunities and were accepted into professions and trades that formerly were for men only. Today, women are politicians, judges, doctors, lawyers, mechanics, athletes, scientists, company presidents, soldiers and policewomen. The permissive society also allows them to be as "impure" as men, if they wish.

However, some professions are still hard for women to penetrate, while the wages of women remain, on an aver-

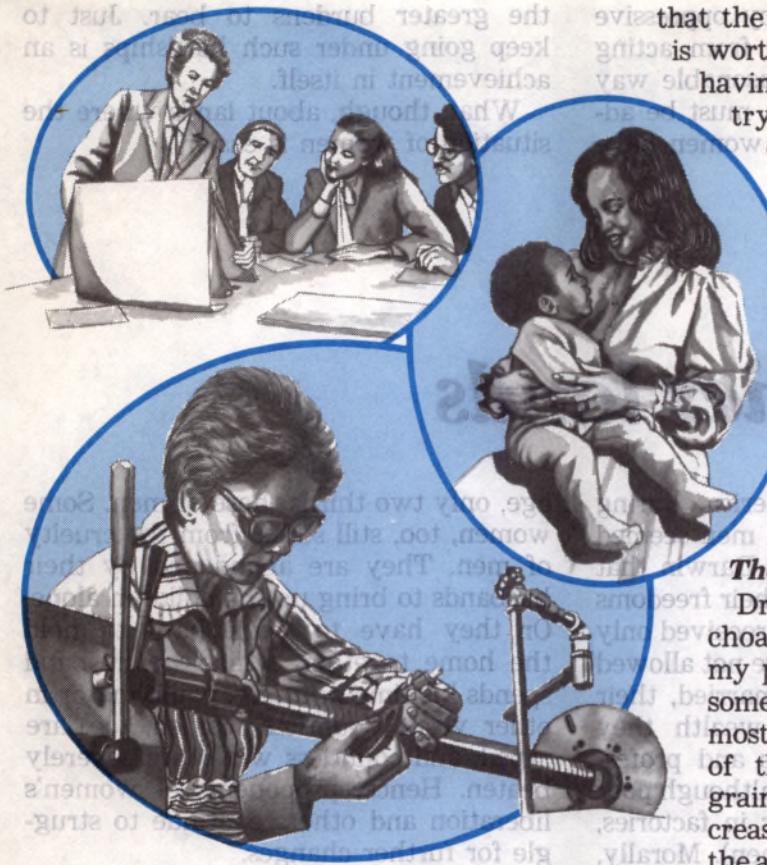
age, only two thirds those of men. Some women, too, still suffer from the cruelty of men. They are abandoned by their husbands to bring up the children alone. Or they have to work hard to hold the home together, while the husband spends his time drinking, gambling or in other vices. Countless women, too, are raped, and countless wives are severely beaten. Hence, proponents of women's liberation and others continue to struggle for further changes.

Despite the ongoing struggle, it is undeniable that women now have a lot of opportunities in what used to be a "man's world." This is partly because, for the first time in history, married women can control to some extent the size of their families. Hence, they can even choose not to have children, but to devote their lives to a career.

Many appreciate these greater freedoms. But these freedoms have also brought new problems for the 20th-century woman.

### **How Can You Know . . . ?**

A girl who is a freshman at Princeton University said: "Motherhood is important to me. A career is important too. It's



not a pleasant choice." Another girl put it this way: "It's almost harder now because you do have a choice. You want to do the right thing. You want to be happy. But how do you know what makes you happy?"—*New York Times*.

How do women solve this problem? Many sacrifice their careers, stay at home and rear families. One said: "My children are still my first priority. I have put off advancing a career because they are, in my view, the most important contributions I can make to society." However, some who have made this choice report feeling unhappy at being viewed as "only a housewife." Others go the other way. They feel

that the career they have in mind is worthwhile, and they sacrifice having a family. Others, again, try both—a family and a career. How is that possible? A woman president of a public relations firm answers: "You can have it all, but be prepared to be *always* tired."

The choice is not easy. But even if a woman opts for an interesting career, her problems do not stop there.

### ***They Pay a Price***

Dr. Ruth Moulton, a psychoanalyst, said: "Several of my patients have peptic ulcers, something which was formerly mostly confined to males. More of them complain about migraines. And I've seen a big increase in allergies, particularly the asthmatic and bronchial kind where the coughing and wheezing are aggravated by anxiety."

Dr. Hans Selye, an endocrinologist, said that the more women assume jobs formerly delegated to men, "the more women are subject to so-called male diseases, such as cardiac infarctions, gastric ulcers and hypertension. They get the same satisfactions, but at a price."—*Sunday News Magazine* (New York).

Thus, as women share men's prospects, they share his diseases too.

### ***Is This Really Freedom?***

The new freedoms also victimize women in hidden ways. The permissive society encourages them to abandon "old-

fashioned" morality and be more lax. Modern methods of contraception have removed (to an extent) the threat of unwanted pregnancies, while modern medicine can handle venereal disease (to a degree). Yet young women have found other problems with immorality. There is an emotional toll too.

A woman columnist commented perceptively: "I don't think it is suited to women to sleep around when they are young because I think that young women are nice, idealistic, warm-hearted creatures who should be developed as people, and not exploited." She goes on: "Women need to feel valued for themselves and not just for their sexuality . . . Promiscuity, in the end, makes women feel nothing."—*Sunday Telegraph* (London).

Sexual harassment is another hazard faced by women as they move into the work force. In the United States, "50 percent or slightly more of the women [in one government department] . . . reported incidents of sexual harassment," ranging from a leer to rape.—*New York Times*.

And here are two more problems. The first: when a successful woman comes to earn more money than her husband, the husband is likely to feel challenged and insecure—which can cause severe strains on the marriage. One woman agreed to give up a successful career in real estate because of this.

The second? "Women continue to bear the brunt of domestic and child care responsibilities, even when they are in full time employment and, despite rhetoric to the contrary, there is little difference among social classes. It can in fact be suggested that women have less freedom now than 40 years ago."—*The Guardian* (London).

Many women would probably prefer

to stay at home. But if they have to help with paying household expenses and then do all the housework, too, they have a heavy burden.

### **Who Is to Blame?**

Hence, while from some points of view the situation of women is better than it used to be, problems remain. Why is that?

Men, of course, share much of the blame. It is men manifesting the "works of the flesh" who harass girls at work or violently rape them. (Galatians 5:19) It is husbands who are "lovers of themselves . . . having no natural affection" who selfishly take advantage of their wives or beat them. (2 Timothy 3:2, 3) Other men are thoughtless, perhaps not realizing that housework is hard, physical labor and that a wife would often welcome some help.

However, tradition and culture are often to blame too. There is a traditional idea that some jobs are "men's work" and others "women's work." Hence, many men are too embarrassed to help out in the home or to do some of the "women's work" in the fields, for fear of being laughed at.

Additionally, the modern world has to take its share of the blame. It is the modern world that produces the pressures that cause businesswomen (and men) to get ulcers. The modern world produced the "sexual freedom" that victimizes those young girls who are afraid to say No, and winks its eye at harassment on the job. And the modern world produces the situation where a woman has to choose between two very strong desires.

Is there any help with these problems? Yes, there is. Let us introduce you to some women who are able to handle them successfully.

# Problems and prospects of 20<sup>th</sup> century women

**C**ONSUELO is from Puerto Rico and has been married for nine years. Regarding the problems faced by a modern woman, she believes that the world has yet to come up with better advice than what is found in the Bible.

For example, on the subject of equal wages, she says: "Probably wages should be equal when a man's and a woman's qualifications are similar and they both work hard at their jobs. I can understand why some women feel bitter. But I look at things differently.

"To me, the wages I earn are not the most important thing in life. I can see working for one of two reasons: either I need the money, or I am doing something I feel is worthwhile. In the first case, if I was earning enough for my needs, then I would be satisfied. The Bible warns: 'Those who are determined to be rich fall into temptation and a snare.' —1 Timothy 6:9.)

"If you compare yourself with others, you will always find someone better off than you are. In many cases, men do earn more than women. But then, American women earn more than both men and women in most other lands. It makes for a peaceful mind if you compare yourself with those worse off than you, rather than with those better off." On the other hand, if I were to do a job I thought was worthwhile in it-

self, then money would not be so very important."

## **Don't Be a Victim**

Regarding the so-called sexual revolution, Christian women realize that, in truth, this victimizes women. Popular entertainment and other propaganda lead men to think that women want to be immoral, and these cause women to feel that they have to be immoral in order to appear normal.

But a Christian knows the boundaries. The Bible tells us: "This is what God wills . . . that you abstain from fornication." (1 Thessalonians 4:3) A woman following this advice may have to learn to say No. But she will avoid the heartbreaking problems caused by promiscuity. And she will be pleasing God.

What about the problem of sexual harassment at a work? Often, Christian conduct can make a difference here, as Connie found out.

Connie is a young woman, married for five years, who used to work in a large office. But she avoided the problem of sexual harassment, and she explains how: "A lot has to do with the way you carry yourself. If you keep your relationship with the men on a business level—having a sense of humor, perhaps, but not for *that* kind of joke—most of them will respect you."

"I found that some of the girls in the



office would be overfamiliar with the men, would share off-color jokes and look at magazines of questionable taste. While the men appeared to enjoy the familiarity, they would lose their respect for these girls.

Myself, whenever I heard unclean jokes or bad language, I would walk away. After a while, they seemed to respect me for the stand I made, and did not bother me."

What Connie was doing, in effect, was applying the Bible's counsel: "Let fornication and uncleanness . . . not even be mentioned among you, just as it befits holy people." (Ephesians 5:3) And it was a protection to her. Of course, this will not deter the most determined of the harassers. Consuelo knew one girl who had to leave a firm because of the way one of the men was acting toward her. This was a wise move, following the Bible counsel: "Flee from fornication."—1 Corinthians 6:18.

### **Husbands and Housework**

On the matter of the husband's helping in the home, Gladys, who has raised a family, feels this is often a matter of training. Before the war, when many women did not go out to work, in many homes it seemed only natural for women to do all the housework. Their sons grew up to expect this, and that is probably why a lot of men today feel strange doing housework. But the situation has changed. "It certainly would be nice," says Gladys, "when both husband and wife work, for men to do their share in the home. I suppose that it is up to mothers now to train their sons to work in the

home just as they train their daughters. I think a young couple should be able to talk about this problem and work things out properly. Surely, a mature man who loves his wife as he does himself could not conscientiously relax in an armchair while his already tired wife was working around the house—unless she preferred it that way."—Ephesians 5:33.

### **The Problem of Happiness**

Regarding the question of career or family, Gladys feels that Christian principles can help here too. She has pursued a career *and* raised a daughter, and she says: "It is a matter of balance. I made sure my daughter did not suffer because of my career, but, equally, I felt that what I was doing was important. So I had the motivation to keep on with my career." "One thing I will say," she goes on, "each person has to make her own decision about this. She has to answer the question: 'What do I really want to do with my life?' The desire for motherhood is strong in most women, and it is a beautiful and essential part of our humanity. If a girl sacrifices her opportunity for this, it should be for a good reason."

The Bible shows that a woman, or a man, must be accomplishing something constructive in order to be truly happy. (Acts 20:35; Ecclesiastes 2:8, 10, 11) Parenthood can satisfy that need. And so can some careers. Consuelo says: "My career is in the Christian ministry and I feel I am truly accomplishing something. Girls who choose such a 'giving' career instead

of motherhood find many rewards that more than compensate. But each one should choose for herself. And if she has chosen for the right reasons, she will not be disturbed by what others say."

### To Improve the Situation

Hence, by applying Bible principles, many of the problems women have to face today can be handled. But is it enough just to "handle" the problems? Isn't there something more that women should do about them?

Connie commented: "I don't believe that what is happening on earth today is God's will for mankind. I feel it is God's will that women should be treated better than they often are. But God has shown that *his* way to deal with the problem is by means of his kingdom. That is why we pray: 'Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth.' (Matthew 6:9) I feel that the best way a Christian woman can help is by using her energy in working toward the fulfillment of that prayer.

"One way to do this is by educating people about God's will. I know that Jehovah's Witnesses are preaching about God's kingdom all around the world, and they are teaching men that their wives are not inferior creatures. Because of this, traditional ideas that lead to women's being oppressed are being corrected in many families."

Gladys agrees: "Yes, men are being trained to treat their wives in a Christian way. Truly Christian men do not abandon their families. Nor do they gamble and drink their money away or refuse to help in 'woman's work' when necessary. Men learn this when they respond to the educational work of Jehovah's Witnesses."

While individuals may change, how-

ever, we cannot force radical change on the world—much as we may wish we could. The problems are too deeply rooted. Nevertheless, the Bible says: "The world is passing away and so is its desire." (1 John 2:17) And with it will pass away all its prejudices and injustices.

Also, the Bible offers a more lasting solution: "There are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell." (2 Peter 3:13) This new system is very close. And hundreds of thousands of women realize that it is the true solution to women's problems in this 20th century.

In the following article, we would like to tell you the experiences of just one of those hundreds of thousands of women.

#### Does the Bible work against the interests of women?

Some people think so because the Bible teaches the headship of man over the woman, particularly in the family and congregation arrangement. However, consider what else it says:

- "Husbands continue loving your wives, just as the Christ also loved the congregation." (Ephesians 5:25)
- "Husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies." (Ephesians 5:28)
- "You husbands, continue dwelling in like manner with [your wives] according to knowledge, assigning them honor." (1 Peter 3:7)
- "The form of worship that is clean and undefiled from the standpoint of our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their tribulation." (James 1:27)

# **Does God 'care about women'?**

**A**FEW years ago I had come to a point in my life where I felt I really needed God's help. But could I go to him with confidence that he would care enough about me to help? I must admit that I had my doubts. Why? Because I am a woman, and I had bitterly decided that God didn't really care that much about women. What gave me such a negative view of God? My experiences as I grew up led me to feel that way.

"You may know that, at one time Mormonism, the prominent religion in Utah, U.S.A., encouraged the practice of polygamy. Then, in 1890, the policy was changed, and polygamy was no longer permitted for mainstream Mormons. However, not everyone went along with the change in policy. Some fundamentalists began to organize their own sects, secretly continuing the practice of taking many wives.

"Thus, when I was a very young girl, my father decided to investigate some of these fundamentalist sects to see if they had the truth. Following his investigation, he decided that polygamy was indeed God's will for mankind.

"That was quite a decision! My mother had already borne him four children and was expecting a fifth. She was confused and bitter. She argued and wept, and when she went into a hospital to have her fifth child she wanted to die.

**'Yes!' answers  
the writer of  
this real-life  
experience**

In fact, she almost did die, but finally rallied. Eventually, she came to believe that perhaps polygamy was God's will, but she never felt that my father was the right man to live this 'high law of God.'

"As my father became more and more involved in polygamy, he was constantly reminding us that he was doing 'God's will.' Those words 'God's will' stuck in my mind whenever I watched him prepare for a courting date, 'righteously' doing his duty by going out with women other than my mother. Whenever I would wake up at night and see my mother in bed alone because my father was with another woman, I could not forget the words 'God's will.' I began to feel that God was very unfair to women. "Yes, I blamed God for our unhappy family situation. Of course, I know now that it is not God's will for a man to take

several wives. God's will is that men should be 'husbands of one wife,' and that 'husbands ought to be loving their wives as their own bodies,' not causing them grief and insecurity. (1 Timothy 3:12; Ephesians 5:28) However, at that time I did not know these truths. My

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### **"Are women merely possessions of men so that they can bear children for them?"**

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father's misrepresentation of God sowed seeds of bitterness in my heart.

"My mother knew the whole thing bothered me, so she tried to console me. She reasoned: 'After all, polygamy is much better than adultery, and men are natural-born polygamists who cannot stay with just one woman. That seems to be the way God made them.' However, these words merely gave me a sense of hopelessness. 'Why did God make men this way?' I wondered. 'Why must a woman share her husband with other women? Are women merely possessions of men so that they can bear children for them?' I believed in God. But I accepted my father's teachings and began to feel very disadvantaged because I was a girl.

#### ***An Effort to Break Away***

"In my father's sect it was the custom for girls to be married off at an early age. However, when I became a teenager I could not face giving myself to any man to become just one of his wives. I felt it would be better to marry someone with no beliefs at all. My father was busy with his other wives, or with trying to obtain other wives, so I was free to go my own way. I kept as separate as I

could from the members of my father's religion, and my life became more and more ungodly. I got involved in the hippie life-style, and eventually married a young man involved in the same way of life. But my problems were not solved.

"I discovered that men can mistreat women even without doing 'God's will.' It seemed to me that women were disadvantaged without religion as well as with it. My new husband did not give up his free-living ways after our marriage. I figured men were not only natural-born polygamists, but were natural-born adulterers. Almost every man I knew was cheating on his wife, so I felt it was something every woman had to put up with sooner or later. Additionally, I discovered more about the physical problems of being a woman. A painful miscarriage, among other things, made me feel that men had all the enjoyment out of living together while women had all the problems.

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### **"God does not consent to the oppression of women by men"**

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"I went for a while to meetings of a group interested in the Women's Liberation movement. I learned from this group more reasons to be resentful at the plight of women, but soon stopped attending when the group did not seem to accomplish anything of real value to me. I continued to blame God for being unfair to women. Yet soon I found out that I was the one who was being unfair. I was judging on insufficient evidence. Before long I learned of another side of the picture.

"My father told me that one example he was following was that of Abraham. Abraham had children by two women, his wife Sarah, and a slave girl named Hagar. However, the reason for this was that God had promised the childless Abraham that his offspring would become a great nation. When Abraham's wife, Sarah, became too old to have children, she gave him the slave girl Hagar, thinking that perhaps the promised child would be born through this one. Notice that it was Sarah who gave the girl to Abraham. Abraham was not multiplying wives for himself. And, as it turned out, this was not God's way to fulfill his promise. Later Jehovah miraculously restored Sarah's childbearing ability, and the promised son was born through her.

—Genesis 12:1-3; 16:1-4; 21:1-5."

### A New View of Matters

"I badly needed help. But where could I go? I started to read the Bible on my own and to pray to God. Would God answer my prayer, even though I was 'only a woman'?

"Soon two young Christian women visited me. They offered me the latest issues of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines, two publications that discuss the meaning of the Bible and the reasons for the problems we face in this world. I had no money, but they gave me the magazines anyway. I did not read them, or the succeeding issues that the young women returned with. But eventually I agreed to study the Bible with one of the young women.

"At first I was not very interested.

Soon, however, my interest grew. I started to view in another light the stories from the Bible that my father had told me in order to justify his actions. I saw the reason why people—both men and women—suffer. I learned God's viewpoint, that he does not consent to the oppression of women by men. It is not 'God's will' for men to multiply wives, or to do other things that cause them pain and suffering. I found that, in truth, 'God is love,' and I began to warm to his love.—1 John 4:8.

"However, fragments of doubt remained about how, really, God views women. I prayed for more help.

### A Deeper Understanding

"One day I read the history of Jacob in the book of Genesis. Previously, I had always avoided this account because it involved polygamy. However, I now got down to reading it.

"Jacob was in love with Rachel, and he had worked for seven years in order to be able to marry her. However, he was tricked into marrying her older sister, Leah. The father of the two girls, Laban, claimed that he had deceived Jacob because it was the custom that the eldest girl in the family should be married first. Seven days later Jacob married the

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**"M**y heart was moved as I read of Jehovah's kindness"

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girl he really loved, Rachel—although he had to work another seven years to pay the bride price for her. Now Leah began to feel the pain of being a wife who was not loved.—Genesis 29:16-30.

"As I read this story to myself, it be-

gan to take on a new meaning. It was not God who caused Jacob to take two wives. A man, Laban, tricked him into it. And it certainly was not God who made Leah to be an unwanted wife. In fact, Jehovah was the only one who comforted her in her sorrow. Time and again Leah acknowledged Jehovah's help. Not only that, but when Rachel became unhappy, Jehovah helped her too.—Genesis 29:31-35; 30:22-24.

"My heart was moved as I read of Jehovah's kindness and concern for both of these women. He did not treat their problems as insignificant or 'just feminine emotion,' and therefore not really important. He truly cared.

**T**he best refuge for women who feel oppressed in this system of things is with God.

**"As far as salvation is concerned, Jehovah is an 'equal opportunity' God"**

"After that I found many other accounts in the Bible that showed beyond doubt that Jehovah God cares for women. I became confident that, just as God listened to the prayers of Leah and Rachel as they endured a situation that was far from ideal, God would listen to my earnest prayers too.

"Moreover, the account of the creation of Eve showed me the value of and the need for womankind on the earthly scene. (Genesis 2:18) Woman was a complement of man. Hence, her different qualities enriched the human race. I devoured the advice and encouragement that the Bible contains especially for women.—Proverbs 31:10-31; 1 Peter 3:1-6; Matthew 26:6-13."

"I noted that, while showing that 'the head of a woman is the man,' the Bible counsels men to deal with women respectfully and with consideration. (1 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Peter 3:7; Proverbs 5:18-21; Ephesians 5:28-33) And I was particularly touched by the way Jehovah remembered widows, who in earlier days—and often today, too—were poor and helpless.—James 1:27.

"Once I had felt that men have all the fun and women all the suffering in matters of sex. But through having three children, I came to see childbearing as a great blessing given to women by God. Even through the pain, many women will agree that it is one of the most exciting things that can ever happen, a joy that men can only wonder at but never really know.

"That is not to say that one sex is better or more important than the other. The apostle Paul sums up the matter very nicely: 'Besides, in connection with the Lord neither is woman without man nor man without woman. For just as the woman is out of the man, so also the man is through the woman; but all things are out of God.'—1 Corinthians 11:11, 12.

"Thus I came to realize that God does care about women. And the best refuge for women who feel oppressed in this system of things is with him. I would like to invite everyone to investigate the Bible and its unprejudiced God, Jehovah. As far as salvation is concerned, he is an 'equal opportunity' God. We can all love—and be loved by—Jehovah." —Contributed.

**The publishers of this magazine would be delighted to help you to respond to this person's invitation.**

What's happening in the schools? By "Awake!" correspondent in Canada

# What's happening in the schools?

By "Awake!" correspondent  
in Canada



**I**F YOU live in North America or Europe you likely pay a substantial tax to provide education for your children. In some areas there are new school buildings, an impressive array of modern equipment in classrooms and plenty of courses on contemporary subjects. But does all of this mean that children going to school now are better educated than those in the past? Not necessarily. The fact is that in North America there are many students in their last year of high school (grade 12) who can read no better than those in fifth grade. It is equally true that some students cannot comprehend much of what they read. A surprising number do not have a readable handwriting. As a result, the likelihood of their becoming productive members of society is greatly limited.

Why the poor results? What is happening to child education?

## What Is Happening

One reason why taxpaying parents and others find it hard to grasp what is going on is that they assume that schools are

just as they were when the parents attended years ago. But conditions have changed drastically. The average parent would be shocked at what is daily behavior nowadays.

No, we are not referring to somewhat harmless schoolboy pranks. We are talking about drug dealing and drug abuse, the drinking of alcoholic beverages, promiscuous behavior—even fornication—on school grounds. We are talking about fights, knifings—including attacks on teachers and principals—right in school buildings. We are talking about shameless, senseless destruction of costly school property.

Nor is that all. In some classrooms the days are filled with battles between teachers and disrespectful youths. Conscientious teachers try to keep classes going for the benefit of those who want to learn, but rebellious students interrupt, challenge authority and create upheaval. There is a tendency for others to be led along to imitate the lawless ones, so that an entire class can in time turn on the teacher. (In one instance all the students

lined up facing the wall and refused to communicate with the teacher.) By the end of the day teachers are frustrated, ill, striving to maintain sanity and self-respect. Thus, opportunity, talent and money—your money—are wasted.

If you add to the above a flabby credit system and a grading of exams at such a level that just about anyone can pass, what you get is an atmosphere where there is little incentive to learn or apply oneself. Worse yet, students trying to do well are bullied, threatened, beaten and ridiculed. The pressures are tremendous to conform to unruliness and promiscuity.

Think of the plight of one young person in his first year of high school whose student identification card was stolen by other students who wrote the word "GAY" in heavy ink across the front of his picture. Why? Because he refused to engage in fornication. Students also telephoned the parents of this particular youth, and, pretending they thought they were talking to the boy, explained they had his order of marijuana ready—this to undermine parental trust and create problems for the boy at home. At times they also destroyed his schoolwork, his books and electronics projects and even physically attacked him in school hallways. How many will stand up under that for long?

'You're describing some extreme situations at ghetto schools,' you may say, 'but that's not the case where my children attend.' Are you sure? 'Well, they've never said anything like that,' you may reply. Have you asked? Of course, we hope your children's situation is not that bad, but they may be too embarrassed to mention what is going on, or they may have been intimidated by others. 'But where are the teachers when these things happen?' you may ask.

### **What About the Teachers?**

That is an understandable question for parents and other concerned adults to ask. Happily, most teachers are still dedicated, responsible people. Why don't you talk with the ones at your children's school? If they have these problems, let these teachers know that you do not approve of rebelliousness and interference with their sincere efforts to serve well. In any case, let them know what your standards are for your own family and what you expect of your children in their care. They may thus be encouraged to continue to resist the emotional strain and physical attacks.

Teachers need your encouragement. Consider their frustration when they see that troublemakers are let go with verbal reprimands or a few days' suspension from classes. One teacher who was interviewed said: "On one occasion I went into the boys' washroom at school and caught three boys dividing up marijuana into plastic bags. I took them to the office and gave the evidence to the vice-principal. . . . Next day I went to the vice-principal and asked what was done to these students. He said they were sent home for three days."

Does this affect the attitude of students as to what they think they can get away with? It definitely does! As one juvenile offender said to a psychologist about a felony charge: "Big deal. All they're going to do is take me to court and lecture me for a few minutes." Thus some youths hold the whole system of authority and justice in contempt. Their attitudes, in turn, increase the peer pressure. Expelled students use their time off from classes to hang around the school grounds and entice others to wrongdoing. They become heroes!

### **Other Adverse Conditions**

What has been mentioned so far is enough to indicate why children can go to school and still not learn well, whether they are directly involved in the misbehavior or not. For so many, school is just a meeting place for drink, drugs and sex. But there are other situations that can stand in the way of your children's getting a better education.

Sad to say, some teachers are known by their students to be drug users and persons who lead a promiscuous life. That does little to inspire young students in the right direction. Consider the influence on a 16-year-old pupil when a teacher in her 20's sits on his desk and asks: "How come you haven't been by to see me like the other boys in this class?" More frequent, perhaps, is the "hassle" some female students report they suffer from male teachers who make advances as they assure passing grades to the girls.

Then there are those few teachers who seem to feel that they are on some sort of "special mission" to acquaint the young with "other life-styles." They may invite prostitutes and homosexuals to school to talk to students about their way of life. Or they may insist on students' reading or viewing pornography as necessary to a person's education. In some Canadian schools it is termed "required reading." If those promoting such reading are asked about it, they will assure the inquirer that no one is forced to read such books. But is that so?

One girl in Ontario a few years ago refused to read a novel that highlights the experiences of a youth introduced to various forms of sexual perversion by a prostitute. The student's father backed her decision. But her teacher insisted the girl had to read the book—and the principal agreed with the teacher! Finally

there was a compromise: The girl was now required to read two other books of her own choice. Actually she was penalized for having an opinion and a conscience!

### **What Can Parents Do?**

Now that you know to some extent what things are like at school for your children and their teachers, what will you do? What can you do? Remember, children are born to parents and within families. They are not products of the state or of any institutions of government. Whatever governments may supply in the way of education should always be viewed as supplementary and never as an excuse for parents to abandon their own responsibilities. The children are yours. Hence, you have a voice (and should have an interest) in what they are taught and how they are taught. This being so, how do you proceed?

First, sit down with your children and have an open discussion about what is going on in their school(s). What are their needs and problems? Parents who are concerned with Christian principles will want to find out what their offspring are being taught or what they are expected to read that may be at variance



**Have a discussion with your child about what's going on at school**

with such principles. Other parents will be concerned, understandably, with the preservation of certain cultural and ethnic concepts that are dear to them.

If you have had good communication with your children all along, the above recommendation will not be a serious problem. If, however, this has been somewhat neglected in the past, it will take time and patience to bridge the gap and improve communication. Remember, you have strong family ties that give you the advantage. Your children love you and will be warmed by your genuine interest. Eventually they will be more communicative. So you may have some fence-mending to do, but it is well worth the time and effort.

However, one such session will not suffice. It must be a steady, continuing interest that you show in them. Regularly, perhaps at the family's evening meal or at some other appropriate occasion, inquire as to how things went at school that day. What did they learn? When they reply, *listen carefully*. Do not interrupt needlessly. Should you detect anything objectionable in what they were taught, don't panic. Don't over-react or bawl them out. That will silence them. Ask them what *they* think about what they were told. Find out why they accepted it or rejected it. You may be pleasantly surprised at how well they handled the matter. If so, commend!

On the other hand, if you see that what you wish for your children has been in any way adversely affected, it is your right and duty to discuss this with them. It is easier to root out any wrong ideas at this early stage before resulting misconduct brings grief to the family. Reason with your children as to the long-range effects of what was taught. Do the ideas harmonize with established

truth? Point out the dangers in quickly accepting what is temporarily popular as opposed to sticking to time-tested wisdom that has survived those cultures that rejected it.

Next, to see for yourself what things are like at school, make a visit there. Spend a few hours or a day, if you can. Teachers won't mind. In fact, most will welcome it. If there is a meeting soon where parents and teachers can talk, attend it. In both instances really talk with the teachers to see what things are like with your children. Listen when the teacher talks to you. Don't form opinions too soon. Communicate intelligently as to what you want for your children. If you have religious, cultural or ethnic concerns, make them known. Most teachers are quite tolerant these days, but they can't guess about these matters. For example, they might conclude that your child's reluctance to engage in some school program or exercise is merely a childish whim.

Each year a visit to the new teachers of your children affords the opportunity to assure these teachers as to your expectations about your children's education. This also gives time for examining textbooks and discussing what your preferences are there. This will help the teacher and your young ones.

So, while you are not going to visit with the idea of getting involved in a confrontation, or with ideas of altering the entire system of education, there is much you can do to assure that your children are benefited by going to school. Just paying your taxes is not enough. Neither can any teacher substitute for caring parents. Most of what your children need for a better education is available. But what is needed most in the program is YOU.

# Breathing —the bird and the insect ways

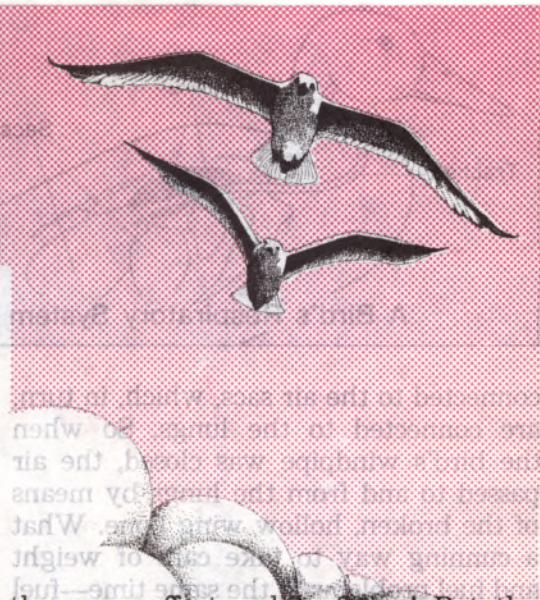
**Y**OU do it about 23,040 times each day and yet you are hardly aware of it. What is it? Breathing. Your respiratory system is so well designed and operates so efficiently that you hardly notice that you are taking a breath at this very moment.

Of course, if you were on top of a mountain, where the air is very thin, it wouldn't be so easy to breathe, would it? Or if you were swimming under water for any length of time you would soon become very much aware of the need to take a breath. Yet birds can fly at high altitudes and have no difficulty in breathing. And there are some insects that, although dependent upon the atmosphere for oxygen, can breathe under water. How do they do it? A close look at how birds and insects breathe reveals truly remarkable intelligence and design.

## **Bird Breathing**

Anyone who has ever flown in an airplane is aware of two important factors necessary for flight—a light frame and plenty of fuel. The design of the bird's respiratory system takes care of both needs.

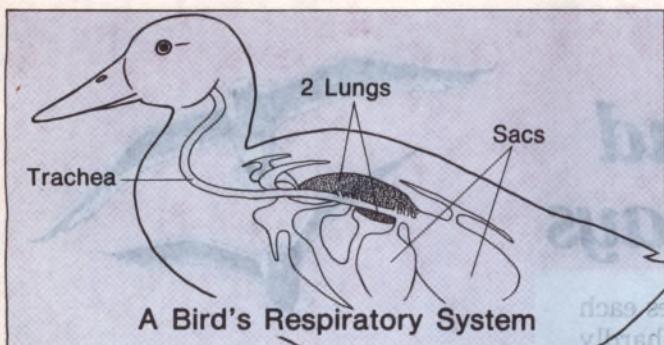
High-energy activity burns up oxygen very quickly. A human makes up his oxygen deficiency by breathing deeper and faster. At high altitudes man has to slow down and rest frequently to give his system time to make up his blood oxygen level. Just imagine if a bird suffered



the same effects while flying! But the respiratory system of the bird saves him this embarrassment so that even if you encounter him at 20,000 feet (6,100 m), he shows no sign of difficulty. His eyes do not bulge, his face is not pale and he is not even puffing. How does he do it?

Well, his breathing apparatus is designed to absorb oxygen so much more efficiently. Human lungs are bags or bellows that fill and empty. Not so with birds' lungs. They are unique. Air goes into the lung, as normal, through the front end. But then the air passes right on through the lung and out into various thin-walled air sacs, which are located in the chest and abdominal cavity. (See illustration.) Back in 1758 a man named John Hunter discovered something truly surprising. He found that a bird with a blocked windpipe and a broken wing bone could still breathe. How was this possible?

The bones of birds do not contain marrow; they are hollow, containing air. The hollow air spaces in the bones are



connected to the air sacs, which, in turn, are connected to the lungs. So when the bird's windpipe was closed, the air passed to and from the lungs by means of the broken, hollow wing bone. What a cunning way to take care of weight and fuel problems at the same time—fuel tanks distributed through the framing! But what about fuel storage?

Actual storage of fuel is minimal. The bird picks up fuel, or oxygen, en route—in midair! The air passing through all those sacs and passages comes in contact with a large area of tissue, allowing for greater absorption of oxygen before exhalation. However, flying at high altitudes is an energy-intensive business. Fuel ought to be used as efficiently as possible. So, built into the bird's respiration equipment is a system known as countercurrent flow. It enables the bird to extract oxygen from the air quickly and efficiently by means of a very simple principle.

In the bird's lung, air and blood approach each other from opposite directions. As the air flows through the lung, it gives up more and more oxygen to the blood, and the blood can continuously take up more and more oxygen. In other words, the "thirsty" venous blood first reaches air that is already deficient in oxygen and that has, as it were, only a

few "droplets" of oxygen left in it. The "thirsty" blood soaks it up and passes on to the "wetter" air, in which there is more oxygen. By now the blood is not so "thirsty," so it soaks up less and less oxygen. The end result of this remarkable process is the extremely efficient extraction of oxygen from the air. And that is precisely what the bird needs in order to fly at high altitudes!

### **Insect Breathing**

Have you ever considered the possibility of an ant the size of an elephant? Imagine the power it would have! An ant can carry twice its own weight. And small though insects are (the biggest, the Atlas moth, is only 10 to 12 inches [25 to 30 cm] from wingtip to wingtip) they have enormous appetites. Why, in North Dakota grasshoppers caused \$1,714,000 (U.S.) worth of crop and rangeland damage in just one year! What would the damage have been if grasshoppers were the size of horses?

Well, there is no cause for alarm. The insect's respiratory system keeps him in his place—sizewise. According to *Scientific American*, the insect's respiratory system, which the magazine called "a refinement of biological engineering almost past belief," has a built-in size-limiting factor! Furthermore, just as the bird's respiratory system is ideal for flying, the insect's is ideal for his way of life. How so?

Insects are energy factories. For their size, they carry out truly Herculean tasks. So their demand for oxygen is very high. However, insects do not have lungs. Nevertheless, it is indeed doubtful that you

will ever come across a breathless insect! Why? Because they have a respiratory system that is designed to cope with an unlimited demand.

During the embryonic stage, the skin of an insect pushes inward at many points to form hollow tubes, which open out to the atmosphere. As these tubes grow deeper and deeper into the insect's body, they branch many times, each branch becoming narrower and narrower. Finally, one or more of these tubes come in contact with each cell. Thus, *each cell* has a direct pipeline to the atmosphere, which means that oxygen is immediately available for use without its having to travel through a blood circulation system. And that is just what the insect needs to carry on his high-energy activity!

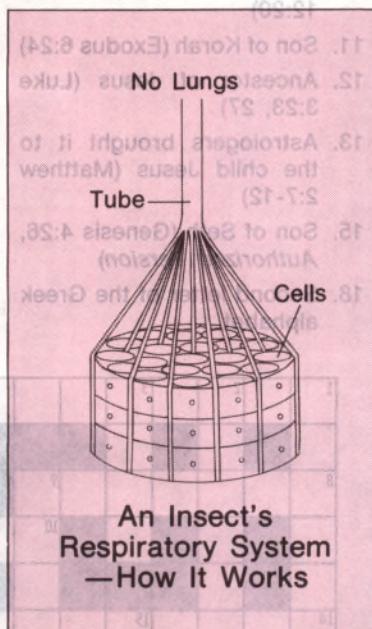
But the problem with a system of tubes to breathe through is that you need a two-way flow—oxygen going in and carbon dioxide going out. The tubes in the insect can bring oxygen in, but what happens to the carbon dioxide? Well, unlike oxygen, carbon dioxide diffuses more easily through tissue. So it doesn't try to get out back through the tubes. Rather, it passes out of the insect through its skin.

Although they are dependent upon the atmosphere for their supply of oxygen, some insect larvae live under water. How do they breathe there? Some send up a "snorkel" tube—at times equipped with a valve in case the water gets rough and threatens to get into the tube. Others

live in a "diving bell," that is, a bubble of air. Of course, as they use up oxygen in the bubble, it must be replaced. Researchers were long puzzled by the fact that the insect could stay under water long after it should have used up the supply of oxygen in the bubble. How was this possible?

The process of diffusion comes into play. As the oxygen pressure in the bubble drops below the oxygen pressure in the surrounding water, the oxygen in the water rushes into the bubble. (Remember, water is made up of two atoms of hydrogen and one of oxygen.) 'But why doesn't the bubble collapse?' you may be wondering. Well, there is nitrogen in the air of the bubble, and it does not diffuse into water; it prefers to stay in the bubble. So while the insect larva may not need nitrogen for his metabolism, his "life-support system" certainly is dependent upon it!

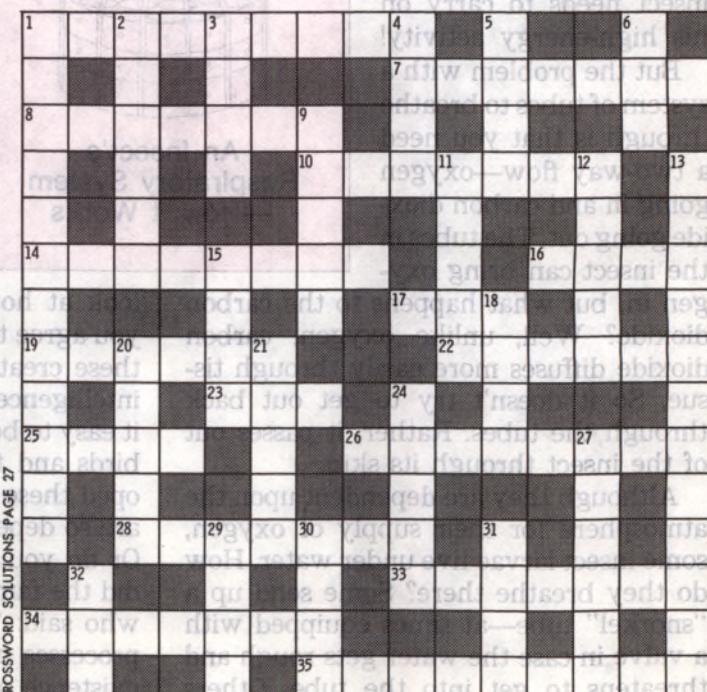
Surely, after taking a look at how birds and insects breathe, you agree that the respiratory systems of these creatures reflect truly remarkable intelligence and design. But do you find it easy to believe that blind chance or the birds and the insects themselves developed these systems of respiration, which are so dependent on scientific principles? Or do you draw the same conclusion as did the famous inventor Thomas Edison, who said: "After years of watching the processes of nature, I cannot doubt the existence of a Supreme Intelligence"?





### Clues Across

1. Work of the flesh involving communication with the dead (Galatians 5:20)
2. Jacob (Genesis 32:28)
3. Also called Iye-abarim (Numbers 33:44, 45)
4. Horses have one (Job 39:19)
5. Name of a man and of a copper pillar (Ruth 2:1; 1 Kings 7:15-21)
6. It means "My God" (Matthew 27:46)
7. Paul was one (Galatians 1:1)
8. A translation, as the King James -----
9. His son Jeroboam became a king (1 Kings 11:26; 12:20)
10. Faithful son of Aaron (Leviticus 10:1-7)
11. Son of Korah (Exodus 6:24)
12. Ancestor of Jesus (Luke 3:23, 27)
13. Astrologers brought it to the child Jesus (Matthew 2:7-12)
14. People who returned to Jerusalem from here could not prove their genealogy (Ezra 2:1, 59)
15. Son of Seth (Genesis 4:26, *Authorized Version*)
16. The gods of this city could not save it from the Assyrians (2 Kings 18:34)
17. Bone from which first woman was formed (Genesis 2:22)
18. Second letter of the Greek alphabet
19. Jehovah gave it to Solomon (2 Chronicles 1:10-12)
20. There is no knowledge or wisdom here (Ecclesiastes 9:10)
21. A Canaanite city, anagram of nomad (Joshua 11:1-12)
22. An expression or comment (Habakkuk 2:6)
23. "Though you never --- him, you love him." (1 Peter 1:8)
24. "By far the meekest of all the men who were upon the surface of the ground" (Numbers 12:3)
25. First garden (Genesis 2:8)
26. Loved David "as his own soul" (1 Samuel 18:1)
27. Mountain famous for its dew (Psalm 133:3)
28. Descendant of Libni (Numbers 3:18-21)
29. It will peacefully feed with the cow (Isaiah 11:6-9)
30. About 18 of them equals a cubit (Genesis 6:16, *New International Version*; compare *New World Translation*)
31. Den of a wild animal (Nahum 2:11)
32. This Levitical gatekeeper was among those who had married foreign wives (Ezra 10:10, 24)



CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS PAGE 27

### Clues Down

1. Time period of Messianic prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27) [2 words]

## Young People Ask...

## Honesty—is it really the best policy?

NOT long ago a poll was taken at an American university. In it, more than a third of the school's undergraduates said they had cheated on an examination at least once during college. Nor is cheating confined to students. A different study reported that professors may give students undeservedly high grades to protect their own popularity or budget.

In Japan someone sold copies of the entrance exam of a university—not to students, but to their parents, who were desperate to get their children into the school. The price of those exam papers? Ten million yen per child (\$40,000, U.S.)! Rather than face the police, a school administrator implicated in the case hurled himself under a Tokyo train.

It seems that neither parents, students nor teachers believe that 'honesty is the best policy' anymore. How do you feel about it?

Granted, cheating may be the easy way out of a tight spot, but what are the long-term effects? Does your school teach swimming? Suppose you cheat your way through class and never learn to swim. Are you going to feel smart next summer when everybody else is having fun in the water and you are stuck on land? If you are pushed into a pool, your cheating could cause you to drown!

Cheating at math or reading may not have such dramatic results, but it can

be just as bad. No piece of paper will allow you to keep a job for long if you don't have the skills for it. If you start to "sink" in the job market, a diploma or a degree that you got by cheating won't be much of a life preserver.

There is an even more important reason for you not to cheat—your relationship with God. Have you thought about that?

The Bible has a lot to say about the kind of people God likes and wants for his friends. In Psalm 15 it says: "O Jehovah, who will be a guest in your tent? Who will reside in your holy mountain?"—Verse 1.

The answer to that question is found in the next four verses of the psalm. Let's consider them.

"He who is walking faultlessly and practicing righteousness and speaking the truth in his heart." (Verse 2) Does that



Lots of students do it!



### **With your parents, have you ever pretended to be something you were not?**

sound like a shoplifter, or a cheater? Is it the description of someone who lies to his parents or 'plays the part,' pretending to be something he is not? To the contrary! If you want to be a friend of God you need to be honest, not only in your actions, but in your *heart* as well. You must have pure motives.

"He has not slandered with his tongue. To his companion he has done nothing bad, and no reproach has he taken up against his intimate acquaintance." (Verse 3) Cheating is not the only form of dishonesty. Have you ever allowed yourself to go along with a group of youths who were making unkind comments about someone else, 'cutting him down'? Generally, such comments are exaggerated and unfair—dishonest! If you develop strength of willpower to refuse to participate in such talk, it can favorably reflect on your relationship with God.

"In his eyes anyone contemptible is certainly rejected, but those fearing Jehovah he honors. He has sworn to what is bad for himself, and yet he does not alter." (Verse 4) Good association will help you to avoid dishonesty. If you make friends with youths who lie or cheat, they will

expect you to do the same things. Often such young people brag about their exploits, comparing notes, and daring one another to ever more brazen acts. While such people may seem clever and glamorous to one another, how do you think God views them?

Did you notice that Jehovah appreciates people who keep their word? That is an important part of honesty. Perhaps you promised to help out around the house this Saturday, but now you have been invited to a ball game for that afternoon. In effect, you have 'sworn to what seems to be bad for yourself.' Now, what are you going to do? Will you treat your word lightly, leaving your parents to do your chores while you go to the game, or will you keep your word?

Remember that Jehovah has always kept his promises to mankind, even at great cost to himself. Back in the garden of Eden he promised to supply a deliverer who would be 'bruised in the heel' but who would also redeem obedient mankind from their sinful condition. (Genesis 3:15) Jehovah kept that promise, even though it meant allowing his dearly beloved Son to die on a torture stake, something that no doubt pained God deeply.

## **In Our Next Issue**

● **Why the Violence in Sports?**

● **A Drug Smuggler's Search for Contentment**

● **Can I Really Find Love at First Sight?**



**But what about those  
that get away with it?**

(Romans 8:32) No wonder Jehovah appreciates people who keep their word!

"His money he has not given out on interest, and a bribe against the innocent one he has not taken. He that is doing these things will never be made to totter." (Verse 5) Isn't it true that greed is a major cause of cheating and dishonesty? Students who cheat on tests are greedy for grades that they have not studied hard enough to deserve. People who dishonestly take bribes value money ahead of justice. God doesn't want such people for his friends!

Of course, people will say, 'You have to be dishonest if you are going to get ahead in the world.' They can point to plenty of political and business leaders who bend rules to get their way. But how solid is the success of such persons? Overnight they can lose the influence and respect they have built up over a lifetime.

'But what of those dishonest persons who are never caught?' youths may ask. Really, though, what are they getting away with? They are not fooling God, are they? No, but they are fooling themselves. They don't realize just how brief

their "success" in life really is. "Do not show yourself heated up because of the evildoers," advises the Bible writer. "Do not be envious of those doing unrighteousness. For like grass they will speedily wither, and like green new grass they will fade away." (Psalm 37:1, 2) In comparison to everlasting life, what do a dishonest person's fleeting days of glory amount to?

In contrast, did you note the promise made to God's friends at the end of Psalm 15? They "will never be made to totter." Their eternal future is assured. Psalm 37 puts it this way: "Just a little while longer, and the wicked one will be no more; and you will certainly give attention to his place, and he will not be. But the meek ones themselves will possess the earth, and they will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace."—Verses 10, 11.

When you consider the eternal benefits of God's friendship, isn't it obvious that honesty IS the best policy, because honesty is right?

#### CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

S	P	E	R	H	I	N	D	R	A	N	C	E
A	R	A	M	A	I	I	O	S				
U	L	E	N	N	S	H	A	L	M	A	N	
S	L	I	B	B	N	I	T	E	L	R	E	
K	O	O	O	O	S	E	C					
E	D	E	N	D	J	O	N	A	T	H	A	N
Y	E	H	H	S	A	W	M	T	I	I		
V	E	L	M	E	L	A	S	H	E	N	A	
E	A	M	M	E	L	E	I	Z	A	R	F	
S	P	I	R	I	T	I	S	B	S	H	R	
E	S	R	Y	A	P	O	S	T	L	E		
E	V	E	R	S	I	O	N	N	A	I		

# From Our Readers

## Why Babies Deformed?

I just finished reading your article "Why Are Some Babies Born Deformed?" As a father of a handicapped child, let me say that it is not an easy chore to raise a handicapped child, but the rewards and joys even for the self-esteem that can be seen developing in your child far outweigh the pains. Please continue being conscious of those who are handicapped.

B. & J. B., California

As the mother of a profoundly retarded child I can't agree with those parents who seem so desperately to grasp at straws and try to make a "blessing" out of a tragedy. A dentist once said of my little boy, "Sometimes blessings come in disguises." I simply replied, "Nothing makes up for not having a normal child." I know he knows I love him, but in no way are his handicaps a blessing.

A mother

In your article "Why Are Some Babies Born Deformed?" you used the word "mongolism" twice. The correct term is "Down's Syndrome." Dr. Langdon Down first described this syndrome about 100 years ago and it bears his name. Because of a vague resemblance in the face of such a child to the Asian races, in times past he was described as a "mongol" and therefore the old terms "mongolism" and "mongoloid." However, it is incorrect to associate the condition with Asians, who could be offended by the term. It is consid-

ered demeaning to refer to a child as a "mongoloid."

J. H., California

*Thank you for your letter. The words in question are listed in Webster's latest dictionary as acceptable. However, we realize that attitudes toward certain expressions change over the years and we endeavor to show proper regard for the feelings of others. Where we can use expressions that are understandable and that do not offend the sensitivities of others we try to do that. Those who feel that terms describing certain handicaps are inappropriate may find that it takes many years before customary usage changes, if it does at all, to conform to their viewpoint. In the meantime they will be greatly aided if they take into account the attitude of the speaker or writer. They will often find that it is respectful and helpful, not at all demeaning.—ED.*

## From Our Readers

How I appreciate your page "From Our Readers." It certainly proves to me that your reporting is fair and honest—even to publishing and answering scathing criticism.

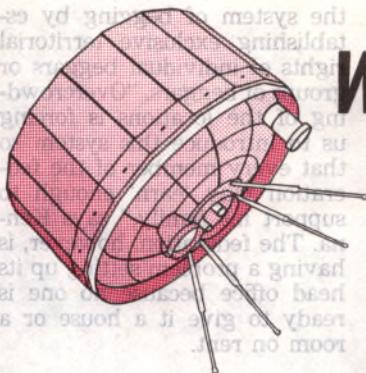
A. N., England

We enjoy the "From Our Readers" page. That you would print uncomplimentary letters shows your "broad-mindedness."

C. & I. A., New York

I find your magazine fascinating reading. You always present a well-balanced view. I admire your firm, honest and consistent stand on religious and moral issues. Keep up the good work!

O. L., Canada



# Watching the World



## Faith Without Basis

● "Americans revere the Bible but they do not read it," said George Gallup, Jr., executive director of Princeton Religion Research Center. Results of a 1981 survey by the Center indicate that only 12 percent of the people read something from the Bible daily, one out of four teenagers has never read it, and less than half the adults know four or more of the Ten Commandments. Although 86 percent of those surveyed said religion is important in their lives, only 40 percent of them attend any religious service in a given week. Most people still pray, the survey found, but their prayers are usually only petitions. "God for some is viewed as a 'divine Santa Claus.'" Thus, while religious belief is still widespread among Americans, they show "little evidence of having pondered a basis for this faith," said Gallup.

## 'Land of Widows and Orphans'

● The devastation resulting from man's cruelty to man is vividly illustrated in Uganda. Such was the extent of killing during the eight-year regime ending in 1979 that now, in a

population of 12.5 million, one person in eight is an orphan and one female in nineteen is a widow. Many feel, however, that these Ministry of Rehabilitation figures do not reflect the full picture. Why not? Because, according to Ugandan tradition, orphans are cared for by relatives, and widows remarry into the husband's household. Still, due to the shortage of menfolk, many young widows cannot find husbands. Uganda, once called an African "jewel," is now described as a "land of widows and orphans."

## Writing on the Wall

● Frustrated by the deliberations at the United Nations, Mayor Koch of New York city wanted to add to the so-called Isaiah Wall inscription something about "hypocrisy, immorality and cowardice." The wall is located across the street from the General Assembly Building and carries the famous quote from Isaiah about "swords into plowshares." Among possible texts considered were Isaiah 5:20, which says, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness," and Isaiah 10:1: "Woe to those who

decree iniquitous decrees, and the writers who keep writing oppression." (*Revised Standard Version*) The mayor, however, changed his mind later. "Silence sometimes is more effective than a shout," he said.

## A Colossal Debt

● "Total outstanding debt in the U.S. nearly tripled in the past decade. This year it will exceed 5 trillion dollars," says *U.S. News & World Report*. This colossal figure is the number five followed by twelve zeros. If this debt were divided among all adult Americans, it would amount to \$30,000 per person. About 39 percent of the current debt, or \$1,930,000 million, is owed by individuals through mortgages and credit buying. Debts of businesses amount to \$1,850,000 million, or 37 percent of the total. The rest, or \$1,170,000 million, is owed by federal, state and local governments. The total debt amounts to almost half the nation's net worth, and nearly 10 percent of the nation's total income is spent just to pay for the interest on this debt.

## Computerized Doctor's Aide

● The South-West Thames Regional Health Authority in England is developing a computer that will flash a warning when the test a doctor orders will interact with the medication that the patient is taking. Such interaction may cause the test to give erroneous results, leading to faulty diagnosis. Doctors simply do not have the time to check all the possibilities because the needed data for all the drugs being used in hospitals nowadays are scattered among thousands of medical journals and scientific papers. "We still have to check at least 24,000 more medical references to the way certain drugs inter-

fere with the interpretation of laboratory investigations," says Dr. Jack Salway, director of the government-financed program. At least four more years' work has to be done before the program will be completed.

### **Religious Mail Threatened**

● Due to budget cuts, the U.S. Congress has decided to eliminate postal subsidy for non-profit publications. Originally, the subsidy was to have been gradually phased out over a 16-year period ending in 1987. But Congress' decision now puts an immediate raise of up to 200 percent on the cost of mailing some types of religious material. "Many, many religious publications will simply go down the drain, knocked out of existence," said a United Church of Christ representative. The director of the Catholic Press Association felt the measure will certainly weaken and "in some cases silence the voice of the religious press." There are now more than 1,000 religious publications in the U.S.

### **Parents Forgotten**

● In Japan, where it has long been a tradition to honor one's parents, a recent poll showed that 38 percent of the respondents felt it is not the duty of children to look after their aged parents. Twenty years ago only 20 percent felt that way. The majority of such answers came from people in their thirties. One explanation given was that these people belong to the TV generation—they grew up with the television and their values have been molded by it. "This generation seems to mark a turning point; there have been subtle changes in people's consciousness in many areas of life," says the *Asahi Shimbun*, which took the poll.

### **Gum for Smokers**

● A type of chewing gum is being used in England to help smokers quit the habit. Use of the gum, which is available only by prescription, is said to eliminate the tar and carbon monoxide, which can cause lung cancer, bronchitis and heart diseases. However, it maintains the nicotine level, from which patients must be weaned later. A trial at Maudsley Hospital in London reported a 45-percent success rate, compared with only 20-percent success in all other methods combined. A four-month course using the gum costs up to £50 (\$92 U.S.); about 100,000 persons used it last year. Currently in Britain, one in ten men die from coronary heart diseases and 70 percent of the victims are smokers.

### **Church on Wheels**

● With many of the ancient churches in remote parishes of the Church of England falling into heavy debt and disrepair, an innovative clergyman has come up with the idea of putting his church on a bus. With the front seats removed to make room for an altar, the bus can be converted into a 32-seat chapel, quite adequate for the usual Sunday crowd. A new double-decker would cost about £50,000 (\$92,000 U.S.), a fraction of what it takes to restore an old church, and a good secondhand one would cost considerably less.

### **Beggars' Federation**

● "All the beggars of the world should unite!" That is the slogan of a newly formed beggars' federation in Jaipur, India. "Ours is the organisation of those who support their families by begging," explains the president, Kenna of Kerala. "This is a profession like any other profession and also as old." The federation's aim is to reform

the system of begging by establishing exclusive territorial rights of individual beggars or groups of beggars. "Overcrowding of the locations is forcing us to introduce this system so that every member of the federation may 'earn' enough to support his family," says Kenna. The federation, however, is having a problem setting up its head office because no one is ready to give it a house or a room on rent.

### **Risk for Drinking Women**

● Doctors are learning that women have twice the risk of developing cirrhosis of the liver from alcoholic drinks as do men. Writing in the journal of the London Council on Alcoholism, Dr. John Saunders of King's Cross Hospital said: "We know that women may develop cirrhosis if their daily alcohol intake exceeds 40 grams, while men are not at significant risk until their daily intake exceeds 80 grams." Women also develop the disease much faster than men—in an average of 13 years of excessive drinking against 22 years for men. The reason, the doctor explained, is that women's lower average body weight and higher level of body fat lead to a greater concentration of alcohol in the blood stream after drinking the same amount as men.

### **Religion in School**

● While the battle between evolutionists and creationists is still raging in the U.S., the government of Singapore is launching a program of compulsory religious classes in the schools to prevent the island state from becoming "a nation of thieves." Students will have a choice of studying Christianity, Islam, Buddhism or Hinduism in a variety of languages. Those with no preference will have to take a general study of world reli-

gions. Parents may appeal to the Education Ministry if they do not want any religious education for their children.

#### Petrol-sniffing Aborigines

● Petrol, or gasoline, sniffing is becoming such a serious problem among the aborigines of Australia's Northern Territory that local authorities have resorted to using a skunk-smell additive in an attempt to curb it. A government survey found that half the boys and a quarter of the girls between the ages of nine and fourteen are regular sniffers, and the habit is spreading among the adults. Harmful results include impaired speech, concentration and coordination. A government spokesman cited "lack of work on aboriginal settlements" as the cause. It is

hoped that the skunk smell will be more effective than fines or prohibition by law in deterring the habit.

#### Desperate Inmates

● A study by the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives found that the suicide rate of inmates in American prisons is at least 16 times as high as that of the general population. On an average day at least one inmate takes his own life. The study also found that those who were incarcerated for alcohol or drug abuse made up the largest portion of the suicide cases.

#### Auto Safety

● "American-made small cars are safer than Japanese small cars—but not safe enough," says a United Press International dis-

patch from Washington. The dispatch cites an insurance industry report that shows that out of 17 models rated worse than average in safety, 13 were made in Japan. Still, according to the report, crash victims are twice as likely to die in small cars as in full-size ones regardless of the make.

#### What Future for Polluted Rivers?

● England has waged a 20-year campaign to clean up its polluted rivers. But now "the present financial climate" is bringing the campaign to a halt, says the National Water Council. Their report explained that the outlook for future improvement for polluted rivers and estuaries remains "bleak"—at least until an economic recovery.

Waste Runtime for Pollution Rivers

The hospitalization of a person with schizophrenia may be more effective than that of the hospital.

Deserts futures