

# **Awake!**

May 22, 1993

LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR  
RE: Abortion  
by John W.  
Hartman

## **ABORTION**

**The Making  
and the  
Taking of a Life**



Cover photo and above, four-month-old fetus: S. J. Allen/Int'l Stock Photo Ltd.

Below: Taken from *Giordano Bruno and Galilei* (German edition)



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# **THE ABORTION DILEMMA**

## **Are 60 Million Killings the Solution?**

**C**ONFUSED, frightened, tearful, a 15-year-old girl watches her boyfriend walk away in disgust. He called her stupid for getting pregnant. She thought they were in love.

A woman is filled with despair when she realizes that she is expecting her sixth child. Her husband is out of work, and the little ones go to bed hungry every night. How can they possibly care for another child?

"It couldn't have come at a worse time," explains a smartly dressed woman to her doctor. She has finally earned her engineering degree and is about to begin her new career. Her husband is completely absorbed in his law practice. Where would they find time for a baby?

These people live worlds apart and face different dilemmas, but they choose the same solution: abortion.

Abortion is one of the most explosive issues of the decade, igniting raging debates in political, social, medical, and theological fields. In the United States, pro-lifers march for the rights of the unborn. The pro-choice camp stands on the grounds of freedom and a woman's right to decide. Crusaders battle freedom fighters in elections, in courtrooms, in churches, even in the streets.

Millions are caught in a tug-of-war, torn

by the impassioned arguments of each side. The very terms "pro-choice" and "pro-life" were carefully chosen to woo the undecided. In this age where freedom is idolized, who wouldn't favor choice? But then again, who wouldn't be for life? Pro-choice groups brandish coat hangers to dramatize the deaths of oppressed women who undergo unsafe illegal abortions. Pro-life advocates wield jars of aborted fetuses as a grim reminder of millions of unborn dead.

This whole death-dealing tragedy is aptly described in Laurence H. Tribe's book *Abortion: The Clash of Absolutes*. "Many who can readily envision the concrete humanity of a fetus, who hold its picture high and weep, barely see the woman who carries it and her human plight. . . . Many others, who can readily envision the woman and her body, who cry out for her right to control her destiny, barely envision the fetus within that woman and do not imagine as real the life it might have been allowed to lead."

While this moral war rages on, from 50 million to 60 million unborn casualties will this year fall on the battlefield of rights.

Where do you stand on this emotional issue? How would you answer these key questions: Is it a woman's fundamental right to decide? Is an abortion justified under any circumstances? When does life begin? And the

ultimate, though seldom-asked, question: How does the Creator of life and childbearing view abortion?

Abortion has a long history. In ancient Greece and Rome, abortion was a common practice. In Europe during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, it was considered allowable until quickening, that is, when the mother would feel life in the womb. With the sexual revolution came the consequence—millions of unwanted pregnancies.

The 1960's marked the rise of the women's movement, of which so-called reproductive right is a foundation stone. Some clamor for abortion rights for pregnant victims of rape or incest or when the mother's health is at risk. Medical technology has opened a window on the womb to spot possible birth defects and the baby's gender. Pregnancies are ended on the strength of a doctor's pessimistic prognosis. Women over 40 years of age may be anxious about deformities.

In poverty-stricken lands, many women who have limited access to contraception feel they cannot provide for more children. And stretching the definition of pro-choice to its limit, some pregnant women choose to abort a fetus because they feel that the timing of the pregnancy just isn't right or because they learn the sex of the unborn child and simply do not want it.

Many volleys fired in this conflict deal with the question of when life begins. Few will ar-

gue the point that the fertilized egg cell is living. The question is, living as what? Mere tissue? Or is it human? Is an acorn an oak tree? Then, is a fetus a person? Does it have civil rights? The wrangling over words is endless. How ironic that in one and the same hospital, doctors may work valiantly to save the life of a premature baby and yet end the life of a fetus of the same age! The law may allow them to kill a baby inside the womb, but it's murder if the baby is outside the womb.

## Mother: "It's my body!"

## Baby: "No! It's my body!"

The loudest demands for legal abortion come from "liberated" moderns who have unlimited access to contraception methods to prevent pregnancy in the first place. They vehemently lay claim to something called reproductive rights, when in actuality they've already exercised their capacity to conceive and reproduce. What they really want is the right to undo that reproduction. The justification? "It's my body!" But is it really?

*Abortion—A Citizens' Guide to the Issues* states that in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, "the tiny amount of tissue in a gelatinous state is very easy to remove." Can abortion

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rightly be regarded as "removing a blob of tissue" or "terminating the product of conception"? Or are these sugarcoated terms designed to make the bitter truth palatable and put troubled consciences to rest?

That unwanted piece of tissue is a growing, thriving life, complete with its own set of chromosomes. Like a prophetic autobiography, it tells the detailed story of a unique individual in the making. Renowned research professor of fetology A. W. Liley explains: "Biologically, at no stage can we subscribe to the view that the foetus is a mere appendage of the mother. Genetically, mother and baby are separate individuals from conception."

### **Irresponsible Behavior**

Nevertheless, with free access to abortion, many have felt no pressing need to guard against unwanted conception. They prefer to use abortion as a safety net to do away with any "accidents" that come along.

Statistics show that the age of puberty has dropped in this century. Hence, younger children are capable of childbearing. Are they taught the weighty responsibility that accompanies that privilege? The average American loses his or her virginity by age 16, and 1 out of 5 before 13 years of age. One third of married men and women are carrying on an affair or have done so in the past. Abortion finds ready clients among the promiscuous. Much like the occasional call to legalize pros-

titution in order to stem the spread of AIDS, the legalizing of abortion may have made the practice somewhat safer medically, but it has done more to create a fertile environment in which moral disease can and does flourish.

### **Victims of Violence or of Circumstance?**

Interestingly, studies show that pregnancy from rape is extremely rare. One survey of 3,500 consecutive victims of rape in Minneapolis, U.S.A., yielded not a single case of pregnancy. Of 86,000 abortions in the former Czechoslovakia, only 22 were for rape. Thus, only a tiny portion of those seeking abortions do so for these reasons.

What of those frightening predictions of terribly deformed babies with irreversible birth defects? At the first sign of trouble, some doctors are quick to urge abortion. Can they be absolutely sure of the diagnosis? Many parents can attest that such dire prophecies may be unfounded, and they have happy, healthy children to prove it. Others with children considered handicapped are just as happy to be parents. Indeed, a mere 1 percent of those seeking abortion in the United States do so because they are told of some possible defect in the fetus.

Nevertheless, in the time it has taken you to read this article, unborn babies have died by the hundreds. Where is it happening? And how are the lives of those involved affected?

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# ABORTION'S TRAGIC TOLL

**F**ROM 50 million to 60 million unborn babies perish each year by abortion. Can you comprehend that number? It would be like sweeping the entire population of the Hawaiian Islands off the map every week!

Exact figures are difficult to gather because most governments do not keep careful records of abortions. And where abortion is restricted or illegal, experts can only hazard a guess. But the global abortion profile looks something like this:

In the United States, abortion is the second most common surgical procedure, next to tonsillectomy. Annually, over 1.5 million abortions are performed. The clear majority of the women are unmarried—4 out of 5. Single women terminated their pregnancies twice as often as they gave birth, while, on an average, married women gave birth ten times as often as they had an abortion.

In Central and South America—largely Catholic—abortion laws are the most restrictive in the world. Nevertheless, illegal abortion abounds, presenting serious health hazards to women. Brazilian women, for example, underwent about four million abortions last year. Upwards of 400,000 of them had to seek medical treatment due to complications. In Latin America about one fourth of all pregnancies are terminated.

Across the Atlantic on the continent of Africa, the laws are also stringent. Injuries and deaths are common, especially among poor women who seek the aid of illegal practitioners.

Throughout the Middle East, many countries have strict laws on the books, but abor-

tions are still widely sought and obtained by those women able to afford the high fees.

Most of Western Europe permits some abortions, Scandinavia being the most liberal. Britain's National Health Service has kept track of abortions ever since the procedure was legalized in 1967. It observed a doubling of the number of abortions along with an increase in illegitimate births, sexually transmitted diseases, prostitution, and a host of reproductive disorders.

Eastern Europe is currently in a state of flux, and so are abortion laws there. In what was the Soviet Union, abortions are estimated at 11 million annually, among the highest number worldwide. With contraceptives scarce and economic conditions poor, an average woman in that region may undergo from six to nine abortions in her lifetime.

Throughout Eastern Europe the trend is generally toward liberalization. A dramatic example is Romania, where the former regime actively proscribed abortion and banned contraception in order to encourage population increase. Women were compelled to bear a quota of at least four children, and by 1988, Romanian orphanages were overflowing with abandoned youngsters. Thus, since the revolutionary government of 1989 dropped these restrictions on abortion, 3 babies of every 4 are aborted, Europe's highest ratio.

Asia accounts for the largest number of abortions. The People's Republic of China, with its one-child policy and compulsory abortions, leads the list, reporting 14 million

per year. In Japan women decorate tiny statues with bibs and toys in memory of their aborted children. The public has high anxiety about birth-control pills, and abortion is the primary method of family planning.

Throughout Asia, and particularly in India, medical technology has created an awkward predicament for female-rights activists. Such techniques as amniocentesis and ultrasound can be used to determine the gender of a baby at earlier and earlier stages of pregnancy. Oriental culture has long valued sons over daughters. So where both sex-determination procedures and abortion are easily available, female fetuses are being aborted in large numbers, unbalancing male/female birth ratios. The feminist movement is now in the paradoxical position of, in effect, demanding the female's right to abort her female fetus.

### **What a Mother Feels**

As with other medical procedures, abortion carries with it a measure of risk and pain. During pregnancy the mouth of the womb, or cervix, is tightly closed to keep the baby safe. Dilation and insertion of instruments can be painful and traumatic. The suction abortion may take 30 minutes or so, during which some women may experience moderate to intense pain and cramping. With saline abortion, premature labor is in-

duced, sometimes with the aid of prostaglandin, a substance that initiates labor. The contractions may last hours or even days and may be painful and emotionally draining.

Immediate complications from abortion include hemorrhage, damage or tears to the cervix, puncture of the uterus, blood clots, anesthesia reaction, convulsions, fever, chills, and vomiting. Danger of infection is especially high if parts of the infant or placenta remain in the womb. Incomplete abortion is commonplace, and surgery may then be necessary to remove decaying tissue left behind or even the uterus itself. Government studies in the United States, Britain, and the former Czechoslovakia suggest that abortion greatly increases the later chances of infertility, tubal pregnancy, miscarriages, premature birth, and birth defects.

Former U.S. surgeon general C. Everett Koop observed that no one had done "a study on the emotional reaction or the guilt of the woman who has had an abortion and now desperately wants a baby that she cannot have."

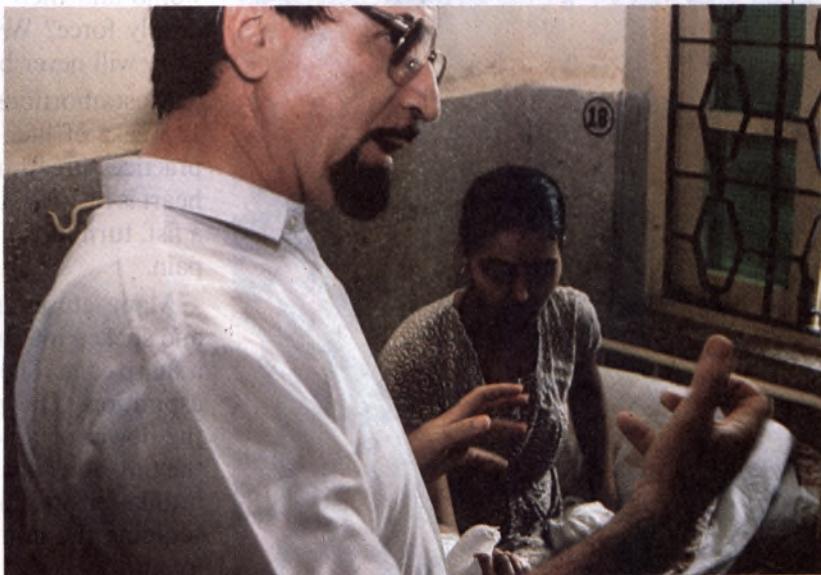


Photo: Jean-Luc Bitton/Sipa Press

**In Asia, where male children are preferred, doctors abort thousands of female fetuses**

**News reporter at antiabortion demonstration photographing 20-week fetus legally aborted**

**Proabortion demonstration in Washington, D.C., U.S.A.**



Photo: Rose Marston/Sipa Press



*Studies of abortion should have included in their control groups chaste young Christians who remain virgins out of respect for life and God's laws. Such studies would have found that these enjoy healthier relationships, greater self-esteem, and lasting peace of mind.*

**What an Unborn Baby Feels**

How does it feel to an unborn baby to be nestled securely in the warmth of its mother's womb and then suddenly be assaulted with deadly force? We can only imagine, for the story will never be told firsthand.

Most abortions are performed in the first 12 weeks of life. By this stage the tiny fetus practices breathing and swallowing, and its heart is beating. It can curl its tiny toes, make a fist, turn flips in its watery world—and feel pain.

Many fetuses are wrenched from the womb and sucked into a jar by a vacuum tube with a sharp edge. The procedure is called vacuum aspiration. The powerful suction (29 times the power of a home vacuum cleaner) tears the tiny body apart. Other babies are aborted by dilation and curettage, a loop-shaped knife scraping the lining of the womb, slicing the infant to pieces.

Fetuses older than 16 weeks may die by the saline abortion, or salt poisoning, method. A long needle pierces the bag of waters, withdraws some of the amniotic fluid, and replaces it with a concentrated salt solution. As the baby swallows and breathes, filling its delicate lungs with the toxic solution, it struggles and convulses. The caustic effect of the poison burns away the top layer of skin, leaving it raw and shriveled. Its brain may begin to hemorrhage. A painful death may come in hours, though occasionally when labor begins a day or so later, a live but dying baby is delivered.

If the baby is too developed to be killed by these or similar methods, one option remains—hysterotomy, a cesarean section with a twist, ending life instead of saving it. The mother's abdomen is opened surgically, and almost always a live baby is pulled out. It may even cry. But it must be left to die. Some are deliberately killed by smothering, drowning, and in other ways.

#### **What a Doctor Feels**

For centuries physicians have embraced the values expressed in the venerated Hippocratic oath, which says in part: "To none will I give a deadly drug, even if solicited, nor offer counsel to such an end, and no woman will I give a destructive suppository [to produce abortion], but guiltless and hallowed will I keep my art."

What ethical wrestlings confront doctors who terminate life in the womb? Dr. George



***In the United States, 4 out of 5 women seeking abortions are unmarried***

Flesh describes it this way: "My first abortions, as an intern and resident, caused me no emotional distress.... My discontent began after many hundreds of abortions.... Why did I change? Early in my practice, a married couple came to me and requested an abortion. Because the patient's cervix was rigid, I was unable to dilate it to perform the procedure. I asked her to return in a week, when the cervix would be softer. The couple returned and told me that they had changed their minds. I delivered their

baby seven months later.

"Years later, I played with little Jeffrey in the pool at the tennis club where his parents and I were members. He was happy and beautiful. I was horrified to think that only a technical obstacle had prevented me from terminating Jeffrey's potential life.... I believe that tearing a developed fetus apart, limb from limb, simply at the mother's request, is an act of depravity that society should not permit."

A nurse who stopped assisting with abortions told about her job in an abortion clinic: "One of our jobs was to count the parts.... If the girl goes home with pieces of the baby still in her uterus, there can be serious problems. I'd take the parts and go through them to make sure there were two arms, two legs, a torso, a head.... I have four children.... There was a huge conflict between my professional life and my personal life that I couldn't reconcile.... Abortion is a hard business."

# LIFE

## A Gift to Be Cherished



**W**HEN Jehovah God bestowed the privilege of childbearing on the human family, what a gift it was! A beautiful baby would arrive to be received by the waiting arms of a happy couple who loved each other and were ready to cherish and care for this little product of their marital union. Only joy would await the family as the child's life unfolded.

But the sin of Adam and Eve brought tragic consequences to the babies born into the human race. As a result of sin, our first mother was cursed with distress and physical pain as she brought forth children. And the sinful environment into which their offspring came made childrearing a formidable challenge. Hence, in today's complex world, it is not surprising that the conception of a child is often met with anything but joy. Yet, what is the

Creator's view of the unborn? Has it shifted with the changing tides of morality? Surely not. His view of and concern for the unborn children of the world remains constant.

The Scriptures make it clear that within the mother a unique individual human is developing. Life begins at conception. Birth into the world only reveals to man the child that God has already seen. Ezekiel speaks of "every child opening the womb." (Ezekiel 20:26) Job describes "the doors of my mother's belly," and calls miscarriages "children that have seen no light."—Job 3:10, 16.

Note Jehovah God's tender regard for the delicate life as it grows in the womb. He said to Jeremiah: "Before I was forming you in the belly I knew you, and before you proceeded to come forth from the womb I sanctified you." (Jeremiah 1:5) David said: "My bones were

not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was woven in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw even the embryo of me." (Psalm 139:15, 16) Job calls God "the One making me in the belly," who proceeded to "prepare us in the womb."—Job 31:15.

But what of God's concern for the despairing expectant mother who does not want the child? Of all persons, the Creator realizes the heavy responsibilities of parenthood. If an expectant mother, though in difficult circumstances, chose to keep her baby out of respect for godly requirements, would he not bless her decision? A parent could and should rightly pray for his help in rearing a happy child. In the pages of his Word, God has already given the finest advice available on raising children. Applying Bible principles in family life will yield blessed results. The joys and rewards of raising godly children outweigh any sacrifices made along the way, as any proud parent can testify.

Does Jehovah view matters any differently if the baby was the product of rape or incestuous relations? Though the act against the mother was criminal, the baby is not to blame. Terminating its life would only counter one act of violence with another. Certainly Jehovah realizes the emotional trauma such victims experience and can help mother and child to cope with the aftermath in a balanced way.

What if a doctor informs a pregnant woman that carrying her child full term may put her life in danger? Dr. Alan Guttmacher stated: "Today it is possible for almost any patient to be brought through pregnancy alive, unless she suffers from a fatal illness such as cancer or leukemia, and if so, abortion would be unlikely to prolong, much less save life." *The Encyclopedia Americana* states: "Since most women can be brought safely through pregnancy even with serious medical problems,

## Viewing Abortion God's Way

WHAT of the young girl who conceives a child out of wedlock and is completely unprepared for motherhood? Should she be allowed to bring a baby into the world? God's feelings toward the baby have not changed just because its mother acted in an unwise and immoral way. The birth of a baby may indeed help its mother to realize the natural results of her immorality and thus impress upon her the wisdom of God's laws. Putting away the consequence of her illicit sex act may leave her with the pain of guilt, or it may embolden her to further acts of immorality.

If there is no father to share the load, rearing the child won't be easy. But a strong relationship with our heavenly Father can provide a mother with the moral and emotional strength, support, and guidance to do so. He has also provided the Christian congregation to help ease the burden of single parents.

few abortions need to be performed to protect the mother's health. Most abortions are sought to avoid having a child." So such situations are quite rare. However, if it does occur at the time of delivery, then the parents must make a choice between the life of the mother and that of the child. It is their decision.

Is it any wonder that the Creator of life has placed clear guidelines on the use of our procreative powers? In his eyes, making a life that one does not intend to care for is sin, just as taking a life is sin.

To be sure, the debate will continue till this system's end. But as for the Creator of life, Jehovah God, as well as those who cherish his laws, there is no question at all. Life is precious—a gift to be nurtured and cherished from its very beginning.

# Do These Religions Have the Answer?

IN A moral quandary over the abortion question, many seek the guidance of their spiritual leaders. How do these respond?

The Catholic Church takes a staunch position against abortion, teaching that life begins at conception. Some priests are politically involved and call on the pope to excommunicate Catholic politicians who cast pro-abortion votes. Nevertheless, many Catholics are for abortion and call for liberalization.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reports that 46 percent of pastors "do not believe the Bible teaches that abortion is wrong." The church's official stand is pro-abortion.

The 16th General Synod of the United Church of Christ resolved that it "upholds the right of men and women to have adequate family planning services and to safe legal abortion as one option."

The Evangelical Lutheran Church policy states that abortion "ought to be an option only of last resort"; yet it refused to call abortion a "sin" or to say that "life begins at conception."

The Southern Baptist Convention is strongly antiabortion.



But the American Baptist Church states: "We are divided as to the proper witness of the church to the state regarding abortion. Consequently, we acknowledge the freedom of each individual to advocate for a public policy on abortion that reflects his or her beliefs."

Judaism is divided, the Orthodox branch taking a largely antiabortion stand, while Reform and Conservative Jews largely favor abortion.

Islam allows abortion for any reason for the first 40 days of life but only for a threat to the mother's life thereafter. The Hadith says that the fetus is "40 days in the form of a seed, then he is a clot of blood for a like period, then a morsel of flesh for a like period, then . . . there is sent to him the angel who blows the breath of life into him."

Shintoism holds no official position and leaves abortion to personal choice.

Hindus, Buddhists, and Sikhs teach a general respect for life. But they are not embroiled in debate on the abortion issue, since they believe in reincarnation; abortion merely sends the unborn baby on to another life.



# Revival of Science by Revolution

TURBULENCE struck the world during the second half of the 18th century as revolutions changed the political landscape, first in America, then in France. Meanwhile, in England a different kind of revolution began, the industrial revolution. It had much to do with another kind of revolution, a scientific one.

Some date the rebirth of science from the 1540's, when Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus and Belgian anatomist Andreas Vesalius published books that profoundly affected scientific thinking. Others place the change earlier, in 1452, when Leonardo da Vinci was born. An incessant experimenter who made numerous scientific contributions, Leonardo developed ideas that were in some cases the seeds of inventions perfected centuries later, such as the airplane, the military tank, and the parachute.

But science as we now know it, says Ernest Nagel, professor emeritus at Columbia University, "did not become firmly established as a continuing institution in Western society until the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries." Once it did, a major turning point in human history had been reached. Notes the book *The Scientist*: "Between roughly 1590 and 1690 a host of geniuses . . . produced a flowering of research scarcely equalled in any other 100-year period."

## Villains Darken the Path

Pseudosciences also flourished, like villains whose incorrect theories stood in the way of genuine scientific advancement. The phlogiston theory was one of these. "Phlogiston," from the Greek, means "burned." It was introduced in 1702 by George Ernst Stahl, who held that phlogiston was released when combustible materials burned. He thought of it as a principle rather than as a real substance, but the belief that it was an actual substance grew over the years. Not until between 1770 and 1790 was Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier able to discredit this theory.

*The Book of Popular Science* admits that while the phlogiston theory "was utterly wrong, yet for a time it provided a working hypothesis that apparently explained many natural phenomena. It was simply one of many scientific hypotheses that have been tried in the balance and that have been found wanting in the course of the years."

Alchemy was another villain. *Harrap's Illustrated Dictionary of Science* defines it as "a blend of philosophy, mysticism and chemical technology, originating before the Christian era, seeking variously the conversion of base metals into gold, the prolongation of life and the secret of immortality." Before being rejected, alchemy helped lay the foundation for

modern chemistry, a transformation that was completed by the end of the 17th century.

So although villains, the phlogiston theory and alchemy were not without redeeming value. Not so, however, the human villains who because of religious persuasion fostered antiscientific attitudes. Rivalry between science and theology—both professing to be the sole authority on questions of the universe—has often led to outright confrontation.

For example, in the second century C.E., the renowned astronomer Ptolemy devised the geocentric theory, meaning that while the planets revolve in a circle, the center of the circle, called the epicycle, also moves on the circumference of another circle. It was mathematical ingenuity at its best and was an explanation of the apparent movement in the sky of the sun, moon, planets, and stars that was widely accepted until the 16th century.

Copernicus (1473-1543) developed an alternative theory. He believed that whereas the planets, including the earth, revolve around the sun, the sun is at rest. This idea—a moving earth no longer the center of the universe—if true, would have far-reaching consequences. Less than a hundred years later, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei through telescopes made

### At the Pull of a Plug

AS RECENTLY as the early 19th century, electricity was considered an interesting phenomenon but with little practical use. Men from different countries and various backgrounds, including H. C. Ørsted (1777-1851), M. Faraday (1791-1867), A. Ampère (1775-1836), and B. Franklin (1706-90), made important discoveries, however, that proved otherwise, thereby laying the foundation for today's world of electricity—the world that at the pull of a plug stops dead in its tracks.

observations that convinced him that the Copernican hypothesis of an earth revolving around the sun was indeed true. But the Catholic Church rejected Galileo's views as heretical and forced him to recant.

Religious errors had caused church theologians to deny scientific truth. Not until almost 360 years later did the church clear Galileo. *L'Osservatore Romano*, in its weekly edition of November 4, 1992, acknowledged "subjective error of judgement" in the case against Galileo.

### Villains Still Exist

Likewise, in this 20th century, the religions of Christendom display a similar disrespect for truth. This they do by giving preference to unproved scientific theories in the face of truth, both scientific and religious. The best example is the unprovable theory of evolution, basically the illegitimate offspring of seriously flawed scientific "knowledge" and false religious teachings.\*

Charles Darwin published his book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* on November 24, 1859. But the idea of evolution actually stems from pre-Christian times. For example, Greek philosopher Aristotle pictured man at the top of a line evolving from lower animal life. At first, clergymen rejected Darwin's theory, but *The Book of Popular Science* notes: "Evolution [later] became something more than a scientific theory . . . It became a battle cry and even a philosophy." The idea of survival of the fittest appealed to people striving to get to the top of the ladder.

Clergy resistance soon withered. *The Encyclopedia of Religion* says that "Darwin's theory of evolution achieved not merely acceptance but resounding acclaim," and that "by the time

\* One such teaching is the Fundamentalist idea that the creation "week" mentioned in Genesis is a series of literal 24-hour days. The Bible indicates they were in reality periods amounting to many thousands of years.

of his death in [1882], most thoughtful and articulate clergy had worked their way to the conclusion that evolution was wholly compatible with an enlightened understanding of scripture."

This despite the following admission by *The Book of Popular Science*: "Even the firmest supporters of the doctrine of organic evolution had to concede that there were glaring inaccuracies and gaps in Darwin's original theory." Saying that "much of Darwin's original theory has been revamped or discarded," the book nevertheless says that evolution's "influence upon almost every field of human activity has been very great. History, archaeology and ethnology have undergone profound changes because of the theory."

Today, many thoughtful scientists seriously question the theory of evolution. Sir Fred Hoyle, founder of the Cambridge Institute of Theoretical Astronomy and associate member of the American National Academy of Sciences, wrote some ten years ago: "Personally, I have little doubt that scientific historians of the future will find it mysterious that a theory which could be seen to be unworkable came to be so widely believed."

Striking as it does at the very basis of human existence, evolution robs the Creator of his due. It also belies its claim to be scientific and does no credit to mankind's ongoing search for scientific truth. Karl Marx was glad to embrace evolution and 'survival of the fit-

test' to bolster the rise of Communism. But evolution is a villain of the vilest kind.

### Who Are the Victims?

Anyone misled into believing pseudoscientific theories becomes a victim. But even believing scientific truths poses a danger. The spectacular scientific advances resulting from the scientific revolution deceived many into believing that now nothing was beyond reach.

This belief was intensified as scientific progress continued to erode the antiscientific attitude false religion had once fostered. Commerce and politics began recognizing science as a powerful tool to be used in achieving their goals, be it monetary reward or consolidation of political power.

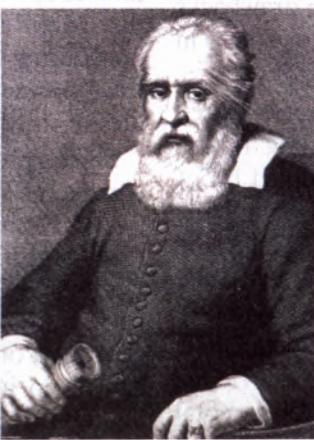
Clearly stated, science was slowly developing into a god, giving rise to scientism. *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* defines this as "an exaggerated trust in the efficacy of the methods of natural science applied to all areas of investigation."

As the 19th century drew to a close, people wondered what the 20th century would bring. Would science establish the

"veritable heaven on earth" many thought it capable of producing? Or would its villains continue to strew the revolution's battlefield with the tangled bodies of additional victims? "Working 20th-Century 'Magic,'" appearing in our next issue, will answer.



**Nicolaus Copernicus**



**Galileo Galilei**

# "Quality Time" Doled Out in Limited Quantities

**F**EW parents take enough time for their children these days. Many are single and are struggling to provide for their offspring without the help of a spouse. And because of the deteriorating economic climate, more married parents are finding that both father and mother must work outside the home in order for the family to stay afloat financially. Little surprise, then, that the notion of quality time has flourished.

As it is generally understood, quality time usually involves scheduling some time to spend with a child, often with a specific activity in mind—a special outing, for instance, such as a trip to the zoo. Clearly, the notion has merit. Children need any special attention they can get. However, the popular concept of quality time has some drawbacks that are becoming more obvious to experts in child care.

Apparently, many busy, career-oriented parents have adopted the beguiling notion that spending a structured, scheduled bit of time with a child will take care of all the child's needs for parental attention. Thus, the New York *Daily News* quotes Dr. Lee Salk, a professor at Cornell University Medical School in the United States, as saying: "The concept of quality time is nonsense." He explains: "The term has grown out of parental guilt. People were giving themselves permission to spend less time with their children."

But doesn't the quality of the time, with the parent's undivided attention focused on the child, make up for the lack of quantity? No, for a simple reason—parents teach their children most powerfully by example. The dark side of this truism was grimly illustrated by a

recent study of inner-city youths. Those who had family members in jail while growing up were twice as likely to end up in jail themselves. Similarly, those growing up under the care of alcohol or drug abusers were nearly twice as likely to take up those deadly habits.

Good parental example can be just as powerful. The problem is that setting a good example takes *time*, long stretches of it, not just tidy little packets of quality time. As the New York *Daily News* put it: "The problem with the quality-time concept is that the key moments between a parent and child—the conversations and decisions that instill security, values and self-esteem—are spontaneous." No one can schedule a spontaneous moment. A parent may set aside 15 minutes of quality time to spend with a child, but who is to say that parent and child will reach a good rapport during that time? And how will the child learn by example if those are the only minutes in the day spent with a parent?

Since parents have so little time to spare, what is the solution? There are no simple answers. Nothing can change the reality that this world has made child rearing a very difficult task. Some parents may be able to pull back on the career front. One author of a recent book on child care urges any parent who can to do just that—stay at home with the children. But for many parents, there is no such option. And even those with a flexible work schedule or those who hold no paying job still find it hard to spend enough time with their children.

Some experts urge parents to look at the work they do around the home, such as cleaning, cooking, maintenance, auto care, laundry, and shopping, to see whether they could



**Family busy at home, children involved**

**Serving  
Jehovah together**



do some of these tasks with their children. Working together on even the most mundane chores, or just relaxing together, may offer parents the time they need to keep open the lines of communication and provide a positive example. Christian parents have other work that they will want to do with their children at their sides. Christian meetings, the ministry, family Bible study, association with fellow believers—all of these provide parents crucial time to be with their children.

Interestingly, the Law to the nation of Israel made a similar point some 3,000 years ago. At Deuteronomy 6:6, 7, we read: “These words that I am commanding you today must prove to be on your heart; and you must in-

culcate them in your son and speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up.” Life was not necessarily easier in ancient times. Think of all the time required just to attend to the very business of survival—how much work it took for a father to provide for his family, or how much labor went into such tasks as cooking or laundry! But parents who loved Jehovah did as much as they could with their children at their sides and so found many moments in the day to inculcate God’s Law into their young hearts.

Christian parents today need to do the same. When it comes to spending time with their children, they must resist easy answers. The old saying, “It’s not the quantity, it’s the quality,” does not apply in child rearing. Especially during their formative years, children need not only special time but also just “together” time.

**Young  
People  
Ask...**



# Why Do I Have to Suffer With a Disability?

**“**I WAS five years old,” Becky recalls. “A friend was giving me a ride on his bike when a car came around the corner and hit us.” The result? “I suffered a broken leg and extensive head injuries. The doctors didn’t expect me to live.” Becky did live, however, and today she is a cheerful 16-year-old. Nevertheless, the accident left its mark. “It left me very weak,” she says.

A young man named Craig is also disabled, the result of a disease known as CP (cerebral palsy). “CP affects my muscles and nervous

system,” explains Craig. “My muscles don’t react properly to the messages my brain sends them. Therefore, I have trouble walking, speaking, and keeping my balance. I can do all those things but just not very smoothly.”

Do you likewise have some sort of physical disability? Statistics show that by the year 2000, the number of young people with disabilities will reach about 59 million worldwide. (*World Health*, January/February 1985) However, the fact that so many have the same problem you do gives little comfort when you want to run, jump, and play like other youths but cannot.

## The Problems of the Disabled

Physical disabilities are nothing new. In Bible times some had to deal with lameness (2 Samuel 4:4; 9:13), blindness (Mark 8:22), and deformities (Matthew 12:10). Such disabled ones often had difficulty in carrying out the most basic tasks of life.—Compare Deuteronomy 28:29; Proverbs 26:7.

You may have a similar battle with the limits placed upon you. Getting dressed, eating, or going to school may require enormous amounts of effort—and considerable help from others. “I can’t do any fine motor movements on my right side,” says Becky. “So I had to learn to write with my left hand. Walking has also been difficult. I walk pretty normally now, but some days I have a bad limp.” Or consider the problems faced by one young boy afflicted with dwarfism. He says, and not without a sense of humor: “Reaching light switches on the wall is another real pain . . . Houses are definitely designed for tall people.”—*How It Feels to Live With a Physical Disability*, by Jill Krementz.

You may find, though, that your most distressing problems are not physical in nature. Explains *Parents* magazine: “Teens are very sensitive to the reactions of others, making

life especially difficult for young people with special needs. . . . They wonder what other people think of their appearance and often distrust expressions of friendship, interpreting these well-meant gestures as unwelcome expressions of pity." It's only natural to want to be liked and accepted by others. Yet, you may feel alienated. As young Michelle put it: "All my life I have been different from everyone else. The reason is that I'm missing my left hand."

Being different may also subject you to endless teasing. "I had specialized schooling until the fifth grade," recalls Craig. "But in the fifth grade, I began going to a regular school. I didn't really have too many problems until one day some boys began laughing at me. It was because of the way I walked." Becky also has painful memories of cruel treatment by her schoolmates. Because earlier surgery damaged her vocal chords, her voice has a slightly raspy quality to it. "The kids in school used to call me monster voice," she says.

Adults may likewise display unfair preju-

dices. Some may avoid making eye contact with you. Others may avoid talking to you at all, directing their remarks to your parents or companions—as if you were invisible or mentally defective. Most irritating of all may be the well-wishers who constantly lavish you with pity, reinforcing the feeling that you are damaged goods.

### **God's View of the Matter**

How, though, does God feel about you? Is your disability some sort of sign of his disapproval? Note what Jesus said when he encountered "a man blind from birth." His disciples asked: "Who sinned, this man or his parents, so that he was born blind?" Jesus answered: "Neither this man sinned nor his parents." (John 9:1-3) No, the blindness was not the result of some specific sin on the part of the blind man or his parents. Rather, it was the result of the imperfection all of us have inherited from Adam. Explains the apostle Paul: "Through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned."—Romans 5:12.

Physical disabilities, then, are not the result of divine intervention or punishment. Some are the product of carelessness. Yet others are simply due to "time and unforeseen occurrence." (Ecclesiastes 9:11) And there are youths who suffer physically because of abuse or neglect on the part of their parents.

***Some find it helpful to explain their situation to those who seem curious***



Whatever the cause of your difficulties, you need not feel that God views you as damaged. On the contrary, he views you as precious and valuable, especially if you are God-fearing. (Luke 12:7) He "cares for you" in a very personal way and is pleased to use you in his service. (1 Peter 5:7) Why, one of the most outstanding servants of God of all time, the apostle Paul, evidently suffered a physical disability—"a thorn in the flesh." (2 Corinthians 12:7) How comforting it is to know that "mere man sees what appears to the eyes; but as for Jehovah, he sees what the heart is." (1 Samuel 16:7) He fully understands your potential and knows what you will be able to do when you are restored to perfection in his new world.—Revelation 21:3, 4.

### Coping With Others

Unfortunately, your schoolmates and others may not share God's lofty viewpoint. Indeed, people are sometimes just plain cruel. Do not be surprised, then, if some of your peers are equally merciless regarding your affliction. Usually, though, people do not really mean to hurt or embarrass; sometimes they are just curious. Ill at ease with your affliction or perhaps simply insensitive, they may say something foolish or hurtful.

What can you do? Sometimes you can head off embarrassing situations. You might, for example, try putting others at ease if you sense they seem to be tense or at a loss for words. Recognize that all of us tend to fear what we do not understand. Help others to look past your infirmity so that they can get to know the real you. When the situation seems to warrant it, you might try saying something like: "Are you wondering why I have to use a wheelchair?" According to *Parents* magazine, one teacher, an amputee, satisfies her students' curiosity by opening with: "I bet you're wondering what happened. Would you like to know?"

In spite of your best efforts, you may still be hurt from time to time. Says young Becky: "When I was younger, I really used to get upset when others teased me; I've been sensitive all my life. But now I don't let it upset me. Sometimes I'm even able to laugh at the situation." Yes, a sense of humor can go a long way in deflecting hurtful comments. There is "a time to laugh." (Ecclesiastes 3:4) King Solomon further gave this advice: "Do not give your heart to all the words that people may speak." (Ecclesiastes 7:21) Sometimes the best way to handle foolish talk is to ignore it. "Don't worry about what people say," says Becky.

### Hope Helps You Cope

Really, the whole human race is defective. "All creation keeps on groaning together and being in pain together until now," says the Bible. (Romans 8:22) But you can have a hope for the future. Take, for example, a young girl we'll call Carol. She was born virtually deaf. Then a bike accident resulted in her having a leg amputated. Carol wanted to die. But she began studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses and learned of a coming righteous new world in which "no resident will say: 'I am sick.'" (Isaiah 33:24) Indeed, she gained the hope that one day her disabilities will be cured—miraculously!—Isaiah 35:5, 6.

What effect has learning about God had on Carol's disposition? Some close Christian friends say about her: "She is always cheerful and never dwells on her handicap." Interestingly, though, they also say: "Many of her friends don't realize that she wears an artificial leg and has such profound hearing loss." Why? "She relies on lipreading and hearing aids." Obviously, Carol has done more than hope for the future. She has endeavored to reach her full potential now. How you can do the same will be the topic of our next article in this series.

# Horses Were My Life

Tiny hooves peeped through first, followed by a head resting on a pair of front legs. I had some difficulty with the shoulders, but the rest came out very quickly. Once the umbilical cord was severed, the mare jumped to her feet, whinnying for joy and impatient to see her foal.

THIS was just one of the many times I had to leave my bed during the night to help a "mother" in distress. I accepted this without complaint. You see, breeding purebred horses was my passion.

My love for horses began very early in my life. I started riding when I was six. Born at Roncq, in the north of France, I was brought up by Catholic parents, who sent me to a Catholic boarding school for my secondary education. Schools for horse breeding did not exist, so I decided to leave school and enter the world of horses. I started out with a trainer in Chantilly, a town north of Paris that is famous for its purebreds. There, I got an inside view of the demanding, austere world of racing. Why demanding? Racehorses may be compared with high-class athletes—they need constant attention.

## Training Racehorses

The delicate period of training and preparation usually starts in the fall when the horses are 18 months old. They have to get used to their new surroundings and learn to give up their former carefree play, buckling down to work. First, the trainer must introduce the horse to a bridle, which is no easy task.

Just girthing a horse can sometimes set off a rodeo! The colt must be trained to accept a saddle, and finally the time comes for the horse to be mounted for the first time. The first rider is usually chosen from among those training to be jockeys. Many of them thus get their first taste of licking the dust! Training horses requires much skill and patience, coupled with a sensitive approach. Indeed, if the animal is traumatized, its entire racing career could be endangered.

Early each morning, we took the horses out to teach them the different gaits—namely the walk, the trot, and the canter—all of which are part and parcel of training. When being trained, a horse must successively change gaits according to instructions. However, a brief gallop is allowed from time to time, giving the horses free rein over a short distance.

At the end of the morning, we returned to the stables for the horses to be meticulously groomed. All traces of perspiration were removed, and their hooves were also carefully cleaned.

If a horse makes good progress, it can start taking part in races for two-year-olds by the

end of winter. A purebred's career generally finishes at the end of its third or, at the latest, its fourth year. Trotters, however, continue racing up to eight years of age.

### **My Dreams Come True**

As I was particularly interested in breeding horses, I started training on a stud farm in Normandy, northwestern France—an excellent region for breeding racehorses because of its climate and lush pastures. Eighteen months later I became assistant director of the Bois-Roussel Stud Farm, the largest in Europe at the time, with 300 horses to care for and hundreds of acres of space.

At the Bois-Roussel Stud Farm, I met the woman who was to become my wife; she worked there as a secretary. I had no idea how much this was going to affect my life. You see, she was acquainted with Jehovah's Witnesses and started talking to me about them. At the time I was not interested.

When the director heard of our plans to get married in a few months, he asked if we would take charge of another stud farm for which he had joint ownership. Thus my fondest dreams came true. Here I was, director of an important stud farm at the age of 24! There are very few stud-farm directors in France; these posts are usually reserved for members of the exclusive racing-world circle. Smaller than Bois-Roussel, the La Louvière Breeding Farm was also located in Normandy and to me was a little 250-acre paradise, with about a hundred horses, counting stallions, mares, and foals.

As the previous director would not be leaving for six weeks, the owner offered us a trip to the United States in the meantime. We visited large American stud farms to study their breeding methods and contacted several farms where we would later be sending our mares to be covered by their stallions.

### **Life on a Stud Farm**

Life on a stud farm is all absorbing but certainly not tiresome. Indeed, it brought us great satisfaction, for we were in constant contact with nature and had beautiful, healthy animals to look after. In the morning we awakened to the gentle sound of horses munching fresh grass. What music this was to my ears!

Work on the farm is divided into the mating and the birthing seasons, the weaning of the foals, and the selling of the young purebreds. Stallions are carefully selected on the basis of excellent racing records, as well as ancestry and pedigree. Each spring about 40 mares are covered, and as much as a hundred thousand dollars may be paid to have a purebred stallion with an outstanding record sire a foal. In view of such investments, it is not difficult to understand why so much care is taken during both gestation and birth periods.

Unfortunately, accidents do happen, and sometimes the little foal is an orphan from birth. In this case we are faced with the difficult task of persuading a brood mare to adopt it. The mare is held in curb by the stableboys, who relieve one another day and night for about 48 hours, when the little foal is brought near in order to feed. The mare has to be held to prevent her from kicking, as she could easily kill the orphan. One of the mare's front legs has to be held against her abdomen and a twitch tightened over her upper lip to restrain her.

Eventually the mare begins to tire, and success is assured when she finally accepts the foal. Often, the new mother becomes so protective that it is difficult even to get near the foal. The birth must be promptly declared to the French National Registry, where it is entered in the register for the particular breed.

### **Horses and Foals**

A few days after giving birth, the mares, followed by their foals, are led out to the pad-



docks. Like many young animals, foals immediately go wild, joyfully frolicking around their mothers and kicking in all directions. What a delight to watch them leaping, rearing, and rolling in the grass! They love water and enthusiastically splash themselves, stamping all the while.

Horses do not like being alone and easily become bored. However, stallions and training colts must be isolated. If a horse cannot bear solitude, a companion animal has to be found. We were obliged to supply one of our stallions with a sheep. They got along very well. In fact, the sheep refused to leave the horse day or night. One champion racehorse

called Allez France had a sheep companion that accompanied her even to racecourses—though not in the races themselves!

August brings weaning time, a sad period for mothers and foals. They must be separated and must not see or even hear each other. The foals demonstrate their grief by constant whinnying for several days, after which they get over it. On January 1 of the year following their birth, they are called yearlings. At the Deauville annual auctions, the price for a yearling can easily exceed a million dollars.

Some of the horses born and bred on our stud farm had successful careers. One such was High Echelon, who won the Prix

d'Amérique in 1979, as world champion in the trotter category. We also raised other purebreds that won a number of important classic races.

### Contacted by the Truth

Several months went by on the new farm without our being visited by Jehovah's Witnesses. So my wife suggested that I write to a nearby congregation to ask for someone to come. A few days later, a couple were at our door. Personally, I could not believe that the Bible accurately described our day. When my wife told me that God's Kingdom had been set up in 1914, I felt this was just the Witnesses' interpretation. I had never seen that date in the Bible.

We had a long discussion with the couple, who were full-time evangelizers, and their explanations—especially on the book of Daniel—aroused my interest, and I agreed to a Bible study. However, this was not easy to fit into my schedule, for I was wholly absorbed in my work.

The couple traveled 15 miles to visit us and would often return home without having conducted our Bible study because I had been obliged to stay with a sick horse or look after a mare giving birth. But as I grew in appreciation for the need to give first place to Kingdom interests and God's righteousness, I took steps to 'buy out the opportune time' for study.—Ephesians 5:16; Matthew 6:33.

### Faced With a Choice

We soon started attending meetings, and six months later I attended the 1975 "Divine Sovereignty" District Assembly in Annecy, southeastern France. During that convention, I started to realize that my work was not in harmony with the Bible. I came to understand the principle expressed in Isaiah 65:11, which clearly shows that "those setting in order a table for the god of Good Luck" cannot have God's approval. Since we were breeding

racehorses only, we were indirectly contributing to the gambling industry. Our consciences would not allow us to get baptized.

The time had come for a crucial decision. Would I continue with my beloved career or dedicate my life to Jehovah God? As God's will had become the most important thing in my life, I discussed the subject with the two owners and handed in my resignation. I had to remain one more year awaiting a replacement, but at the following circuit assembly, held in September 1976 in Gargenville (Paris area), my wife and I were baptized.

In the world of horse breeders, many people got to know about my decision. I particularly remember a hospital surgeon who came to visit the farm. He said that from a moral standpoint, he fully understood why I had made such a choice. Looking around, he was struck by the opulence of the horse-breeding farm—the colorful flower beds, the wood-paneled boxes, and the miles of clean white fencing. He confided that in contrast he had been unable to raise the necessary funds for the upkeep and decoration of his hospital.

I have never regretted my decision. My wife and I left France early in 1992 to serve in a French-speaking territory where the need for Kingdom proclaimers was greater. There, I have the privilege of serving as an elder in the congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. We share the apostle Paul's viewpoint expressed in Philippians 3:8: "I do indeed also consider all things to be loss on account of the excelling value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. On account of him I have taken the loss of all things and I consider them as a lot of refuse, that I may gain Christ."

My wife and I still love nature and animals, particularly horses. We look forward to the day when man's relationship with the animals will no longer be based on selfish gain.—*As told by Stephane Jesusprett*.

# *If That Figurine Could Talk!*



**“DO BE** careful!

I would hate to see her broken!" Jane usually says that as she shows me off to her friends, especially if any one of them dares to touch me.

Well, I am a prized possession. And I know that both John and Jane value me—they handle me so carefully. But if truth be told, I am not

that easily broken.

Looking out of my delicately painted eyes at people who admire me, I often chuckle to myself at the processes necessary to make me.

No human could possibly stand up to such a rigorous experience! It's an interesting story.

"Autumn Breeze," courtesy Royal Doulton



**The assembler connects the various pieces of the figurine in preparation for the kiln**



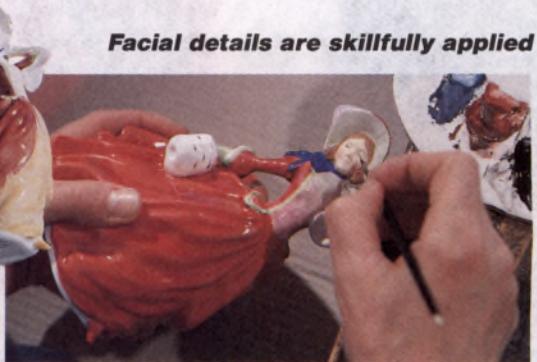
**The slip pouring from the pug mill into a plaster mold**



**Opening the plaster molds**



**After the glass glaze, a figurine is painted freehand with multiple coats of color**



**Facial details are skillfully applied**

All photos: Courtesy Royal Doulton

### **Sticky Beginnings**

China clay, my main ingredient, is ground together with white granite and calcined animal bone, mixed with water. The balance has to be just right. Electromagnets draw out any iron particles that may be in the creamy liq-

uid, or slip, as the trade calls it, after which water is squeezed out until it looks like a lump of Plasticine.

The slip is next pushed into a pug mill, which is like a giant mixing machine, to be poked and kneaded. A vacuum pump re-

moves all air bubbles, which would cause my clay to crack when it is eventually heated in the kiln.

My designer has made a model of me that is about 13 percent larger than I will eventually become. And little wonder! I shrink as I am put through a kiln three or four times at temperatures ranging from 1,500 to 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit. Oh, yes, there are yet months of work ahead before I am able to smile at you as only I can. Let me tell you more.

### **Assembling the Pieces**

Do you think I am cast in one piece? Most people do, but nothing could be further from the truth. I am cast in many plaster molds that draw the moisture out so that my clay sets firmly. When my caster eventually opens his molds, there I am, but rather disjointed—my head here, a leg there, my skirt carefully laid elsewhere. Oh, how I long to be put together!

With gentle hands my assembler now takes hold of me. I am glad he has noted the rough edges left by the molds. Carefully he cleans them off, including that ugly seam around my head. I feel better already! With great skill he connects my arms to my body, making sure my muff is positioned just right. With the deftness of a surgeon, he joins and welds until no one would ever guess my life had been so fragmented.

Now I stand to dry. As no telltale cracks appear, I am ready for my tests of fire. The kiln is heated, and I am gently conveyed into it, along with many other figurines.

### **Decoration**

A voice of authority says of me, "Best!" I have made it, and now I stand in line to be taken to the decoration department. I am going to be covered with a glass commonly called glaze, which means I have to be plunged into a vat of the liquid. Then, into the

kiln I go again to come out sparkling and shiny, ready for my on-glaze coats of color.

I am painted freehand, which is why no two of us figurines are exactly alike. It takes years of training, and the young lady who will paint me says she must brush steadily but quickly. Otherwise, lines may appear where the paint dries.

Do you like my eyes? They are most difficult to do. One day I heard a painter confide to a friend that he has to rest me firmly against the bench and take a deep breath and hold it until the extremely fine strokes of the eyes, pupils, and brows are all completed. Breathing or moving in any way can spoil a brush stroke in a split second, I heard him say.

So now I am dressed, and I am called Autumn Breeze. On my base my name and my maker's name are carefully stamped—a seal of approval, you might say. A final firing to set my appearance, and I am ready to go anywhere in the world.

In fact, I was destined for the home market and stayed in England, which is where John saw me. I am glad he did. Jane, his wife, was so happy when he gave me to her to commemorate their 25th wedding anniversary. It was then that I first heard Jane say: "Oh, we must be careful! I would hate to see her broken!" It is good to know I am safe in their hands. And it is so nice to give pleasure—and to be appreciated.

### **In Our Next Issue**

#### **Modern Music—Harmless Fun?**

#### **Charitable Contributions —A Christian Obligation?**

#### **How Can I Cope With My Disability?**

## Watching the World

### AIDS in Paris

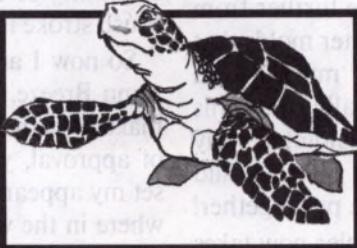
"In Paris, 1 in every 3 deaths among men between 25 and 44 is caused by the AIDS virus," says the French newspaper *Le Monde*. These latest statistics were recently made public by INSERM (French National Institute of Health and Medical Research). The report further reveals that between 1983 and 1990, infection by the AIDS virus increased the death rate among this same age group by 50 percent. Dr. Jonathan Mann, director of WHO (World Health Organization), predicted: "The worst is still ahead; everywhere the epidemic is progressing." According to WHO, five thousand persons throughout the world are infected each day.

### Children and Bottle-Feeding

About 25 percent of Japan's children experience eating difficulties. The cause may be bottle-feeding. For over 20 years, reports *Asahi Evening News*, nursery-school teachers have noticed that some children have difficulty with food that is hard to chew. Some children have trouble swallowing it, others spit it out, and yet others still have it in their mouths after their afternoon nap. Doctors have observed that the jaws of these children are weak and their chins small. Dentist Naohiko Inoue and public-health specialist Reiko Sakashita claim to have traced the cause to infancy and blame bottle-feeding. It seems that when babies feed from bottles, they need only to suck without moving their jaws. However, when babies are breastfeeding, they vigorously use their jaws and strengthen the very muscles they will later on need in order to chew food.

### Sea Turtles' Problem

Although water is home to sea turtles, dry land is where they lay their eggs. After roaming vast distances in the world's oceans, sea turtles return to specific beaches for breeding. After mating offshore, the female lumbers up the beach—possibly the very one on which she was born—and placidly lays her eggs at a carefully chosen site. This is done repeatedly for a few days, until all the eggs—usually about a thousand—have been



laid and painstakingly covered. But then comes the problem. The South African journal *Prisma* calls it "the systematic stripping of nests" by man in his "unparalleled greed and a flagrant disregard for the environment," which "has seriously interfered with the reproductive patterns of the turtles." Some species now face extinction.

### Tobacco Advertisers Exploit Women

"You've come a long way, baby." For years in the United States, female smokers have been cheered on by such persuasive advertising slogans. These women have been exploited, laments Kathy Harty, chief of a smoking-prevention program for one of the northern states. Harty has cocreated a TV and radio advertising campaign stressing that message. One anti-

smoking commercial shows an attractive woman stubbing out her cigarette on an advertising executive's bald head. A radio ad features a woman telling cigarette manufacturers: "Thank you for making our hair smell like an ashtray. Thank you for staining our teeth and increasing our dry-cleaning bills. Thank you for the 52,000 cases of lung cancer you cause in women each year. We only hope we can return the favor some day." Harty explains: "We want [women] to think about it twice: 'Do I really want this cigarette? Do I really want to make someone else rich and myself sick?'"

### Astronomers' Hope

In a ten-year program managed by the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, astronomers are planning to spend \$100 million in an effort to discover radio broadcasts from intelligent beings on other planets. According to the *International Herald Tribune*, their plan is to monitor simultaneously millions of microwave channels at radio telescopes in Argentina, Australia, India, Russia, Puerto Rico, and the United States. While some scientists optimistically forecast early success, others point out that the 50 searches conducted since 1960 have been unfruitful.

### Preset the Television?

"For children, less TV is better, especially violent TV," says the American Academy of Pediatrics in a study published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. The article reported that "infants as young as 14 months of age demonstrably observe and incorporate behaviors

seen on television." Much of what they see is aggressive and violent in nature. In an effort to restore parental authority, the report suggests using the modern technology of an electronic time-channel lock on the television so that programs, channels, and times can be preset. In this way, even when parents are not at home, they can control what their children watch on television and when they watch it.

### Honey—A Healer

Since ancient times, bee honey has been used for its healing properties. *La Presse Médicale*, a French magazine, reports that modern medical science is now beginning to rediscover honey's healing powers. In a recent study, doctors experimented with the use of pure natural honey for treating burns and various types of flesh wounds. Honey was applied directly to the wounds and covered with dry sterile bandages. This dressing was changed every 24 hours. The results show honey to be outstandingly effective as a cleansing and healing agent. It kills most germs on contact and stimulates new tissue growth. *La Presse Médicale* concludes: "As it is simple and inexpensive, honey should be better known and added to the list of commonly used antiseptic products."

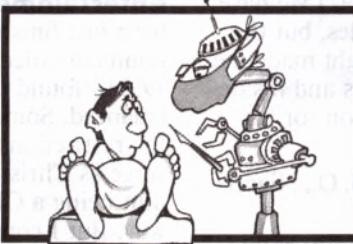
### Superathletes Without Supergood Health

"Excessive training and emotional tension that precede an important competition have an extraordinarily negative effect on athletes' immunological systems," reports *O Estado de S. Paulo*. "The result can be a deficiency in the defense against infections much like the symptoms of AIDS." Research by Dr. Gerd Uhlenbrück and Dr. Heinz Liesen reveals that

professional athletes or super-trained ones have a higher rate of malignant tumors and infections. They suggest that this may be due to stress imposed by the "rigorous training and regimen of competition." The report adds: "On the other hand, moderate practice of sports strengthens the organism and helps not only to prevent cancer but also to prolong the individual's life."

### Telesurgery in the Future?

"The patient is in Rome, the surgeon operates from Milan," explains the Italian daily *Il Messaggero* in describing the "first ever experiment in telesurgery using a robot." Hundreds of miles away, by means of a phone hookup and a video monitor, the surgeon identifies the "exact point of the incision, gives the OK, and the robot goes into action. Its mechanical arm holding a scalpel is lowered



onto the patient's body and cuts." In this demonstration operation enacted at the Rome Surgery '92 congress, the patient was only a mannequin, since Italian law does not allow machines to operate on humans, but within six or seven years, telesurgery, that is, "remote control surgery," may well become reality. According to Licinio Angelini, professor of general surgery at La Sapienza University, Rome, in the future "all those movements that are now carried out by the surgeon with some difficulty will be entrusted to machines."

### Unemployment and Health

Unemployment among young people is one of the most serious problems of the Western world, claims Dr. Anne Hammarström of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. Her findings, as reported in the *British Medical Journal*, show that young unemployed men tend to lapse into unhealthy behavior, such as increased drinking and involvement in crime. Young unemployed women, however, are affected differently, developing more physical illnesses, along with feelings of guilt, worrying that they are a burden to their families. Men get significantly more attention from the public, since their reaction to unemployment is more obvious, observes Hammarström. She recommends that "the health care sector should be more alert to the effects of unemployment on women." The *Journal* concludes that "the only fully effective remedy is meaningful employment."

### 'Germany a Pagan Country'

"The Federal Republic [of Germany] has become a pagan country with a Christian residue. Six million have lost their faith in God. The number of people who do not belong to any religion is greater than those who go to church. Just 10 percent attend church each Sunday." Those were the findings of a survey commissioned by the German newsmagazine *Der Spiegel*. Answers were compared with those given in a similar survey in 1967. The "new pagans," as the magazine called those who had left the church, "have said good-bye to the churches without pain or anger. It was not indignation but indifference that robbed the churches of their allegiance."

## From Our Readers

**Women's Issues** Thank you very much for the articles dealing with the battering of women (November 22, 1988), help for the families of alcoholics (May 22, 1992), and respect for women (July 8, 1992). These articles show an amazing depth of understanding of the human psyche. On the night of my wedding, I was drawn into a whirlpool of traumatic experiences. I developed health problems and consulted doctors and mental-health professionals. A matter such as this is not easy for many to understand, and if you go to someone for help who does not know what to say, it becomes even more difficult. At any rate, I finally feel that the puzzle has been put in order and that the pieces fit into place, thanks to your articles.

N. H., Argentina

**Niagara** I couldn't help smiling as I read the article "Niagara Falls—An Ageless Jewel of the Americas." (October 8, 1992) We have small waterfalls here in the jungles, but the thought of such a stupendous sight made me contemplate Jehovah's love for us and his desire for us to have full appreciation for his creation.

P. J. O., Nigeria

**Respecting Women** During my childhood, I absorbed a cultural prejudice that made me a great woman-hater. Marriage was unthinkable for me! But thanks to the series of articles on the subject "Women—Deserving of Respect" (July 8, 1992), I have changed my attitude toward women. I read the articles twice, and now I think that I someday may be an exemplary husband.

N. B. M., Côte d'Ivoire

**Phone Calls** I was impressed with your article "Young People Ask . . . What's Wrong With Talking to Each Other?" (August 22, 1992) I too was talking to a member of the opposite sex on the phone. I was on cloud

nine! But when I confronted this person and informed him of my feelings, I discovered that he was not serious about me at all. I was the victim of a flirt. I wish I had read your article a year ago. Maybe then my heart wouldn't be so crushed.

L. R., United States

**Space Exploration** I work for the Italian branch of the European Space Agency. On more than one occasion I have suggested that the press-review brochure prepared for our personnel include articles from *Awake!*—but without results. However, the articles on "Space Exploration" (September 8, 1992) were used and took up nearly all the space in our press review! Thanks to *Awake!* I've had many opportunities to discuss the Bible with my colleagues.

P. B., Italy

**Entertainment** I am 20 years old and have just finished the series "How Does Entertainment Affect Your Life?" (November 8, 1992) I found the information both timely and balanced. Some youths feel fenced in by all the restrictions and guidelines we must observe as Christians. My brother, for example, quit being a Christian because he felt that way. But I consider these guidelines to be a protection, and I feel very safe and loved knowing that Jehovah cares enough about us to keep us separate from Satan's world.

D. C., United States

I greatly appreciated the issue on entertainment, but I would like to know where you get the information that enables you to describe the details of films like *Basic Instinct*?

A. A., Italy

*The comments were based on news reports in reputable newspapers and magazines. It was not necessary for members of our research staff to view this objectionable film.—ED.*

# One Solitary Life

"HE WAS born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher.

"He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He did not go to college. He never visited a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

"He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a [stake] between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.



"Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he remains the central figure of the human race, and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, *put together*, have not affected the life of man on this planet so much as that one solitary life."\*—*An anonymous commentary on the life of Jesus Christ.*

\* Details of that solitary life appear in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*, published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.

# Receive Divine Teaching for Our Critical Times



## How It Will Really Benefit You

YOU can receive it by attending a "Divine Teaching" District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses. Millions will be in attendance this summer in cities around the world. In the United States alone, over 150 of these four-day conventions will be held during June, July, and August.

Whether you are old or young—a husband, wife, father, mother, teenager, or child—you will receive teaching presented in a clear, appealing way that will benefit you. "Making Marriage a Lasting Union," "Work Hard for the Salvation of Your Household," and "Parents—Your Children Need Specialized Attention" are just some of the subjects the program will feature.

Specific attention will be focused on the problems young people face and how they can deal with these during our critical times. They should be encouraged by the modern-day drama entitled *Youths Who Remember Their Creator Now*. Another well-rehearsed drama called *Do Not Be Misled or Mock God* will address the challenge Christian youths face because of today's popular videos and music.

Indeed, we are living in critical times. Jesus foretold that "after the tribulation of those days

the sun will be darkened." (Matthew 24:29) The convention program will discuss evidence as to when that "tribulation" occurs, as well as when the sun is darkened.

In these critical times, many ask, What is the purpose of life? This subject will be thoroughly explored, and you will no doubt be delighted with what you receive on this subject. Yet another part of the program will review the record of Jehovah's Witnesses in modern times and show what they have accomplished.

On the final day of the convention, the public discourse will feature the subject "Helpful Teaching for Our Critical Times." The program will conclude with the admonition "Keep Holding Fast to Divine Teaching."