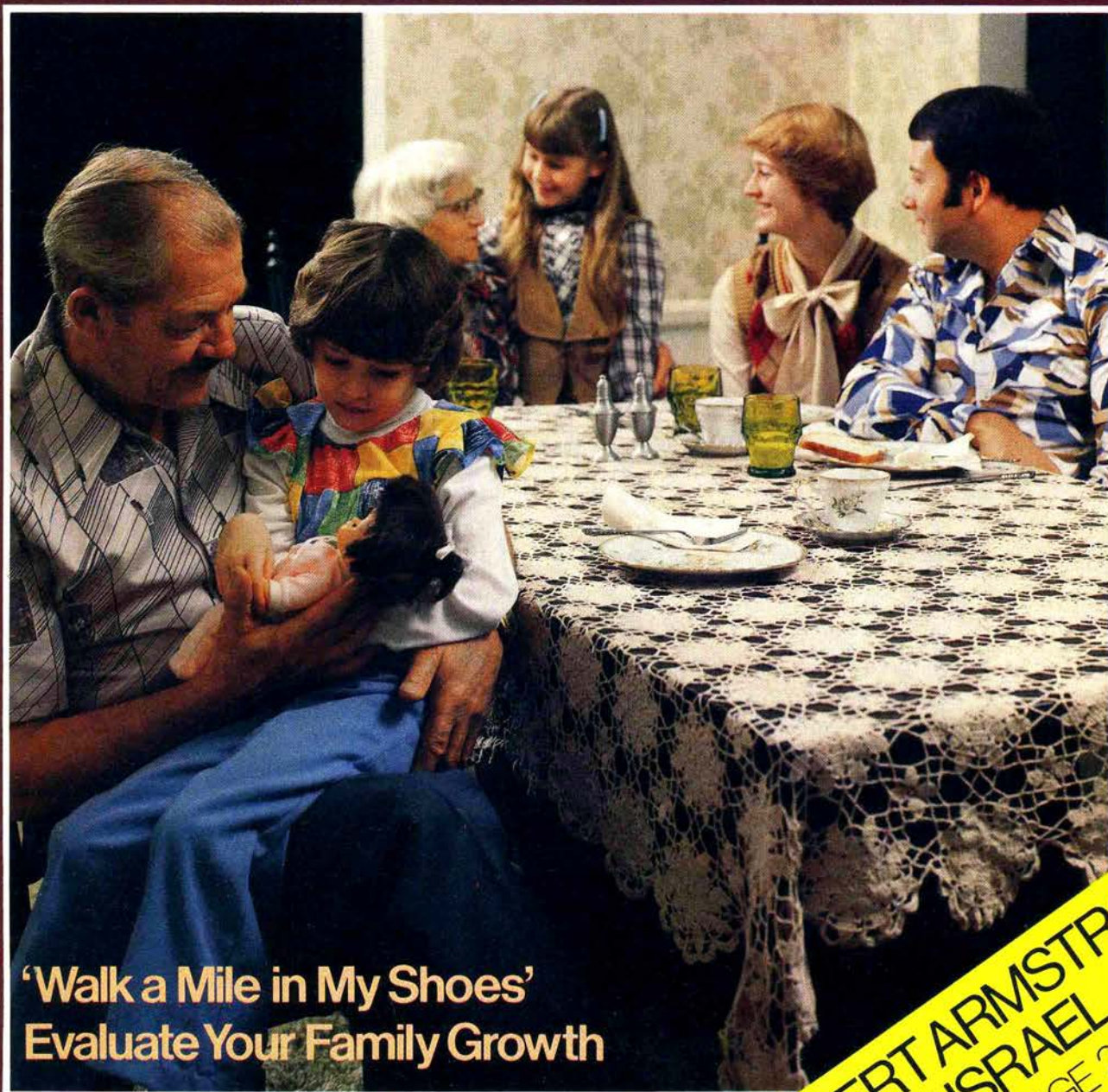


The Good News

FEBRUARY 1979

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION



**'Walk a Mile in My Shoes'
Evaluate Your Family Growth**

**HERBERT ARMSTRONG
IN ISRAEL
SEE PAGE 2**

The Good News

FEBRUARY 1979

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COVER: Family togetherness plays an important role in the emotional and spiritual development of a child. And the parent's responsibility for providing the right kind of family life does not stop with this generation. See page 12. Photo by Warren Watson.

Letters

Helpful request

Since we can't always pick up the broadcast here anymore, it's hard to find out what is still in print.

If I may make a suggestion—that we have a monthly list in *The Good News* when it is put back into the magazine format. It would help us members to know what we can ask for. And it would save on postage for both the members and the Work.

David N. Smith
Big Sandy, Tex.

To give our readers opportunity for further study we are including a "Literature You Can Use" section on the inside back cover of The Good News. The literature corresponds in subject matter to the articles in that particular magazine.

Happy impression

Having gone through every *GN* issue from last June 5th, I have shared that happy impression . . . that an absolute and unmistakable spiritual recrudescence has reared its lovely head . . . in this era of God's Church and Work.

To Mr. Armstrong, who undoubtedly first woke up to the urgency of the state of the Work, and to his fellow laborers in the ministry, I say, "Keep up the good Work you are doing!"

Though we the brethren continually pledge complete loyalty, support and encouragement . . . we know your *real* prime mover is God's Holy Spirit, and that God's ultimate reward is infinitely greater than all of the pledges God's Church worldwide could ever make to you.

Emele N. Kalu
Lagos, Nigeria

Full-color magazine

I . . . am really thrilled to hear we're going to have *The Good News* back in full-color magazine form. I have really missed it. The members need a magazine of their own that exhorts, encourages and corrects them. Thank you.

Barbara Woodworth
Warsaw, N.Y.

I have just completed reading your last letter and am happy to know of your plans to make *The Good News* into a full-color magazine. I know I will enjoy it, but I also enjoy reading it in any form. God bless all your decisions and those whom God has chosen to help you in this awesome Work.

Regina McCoy
Baltimore, Md.

WHERE THIS BREAK DOWN OF FAMILY LIFE IS TAKING US!

Family life in the Western world is crumbling. WHY? Where is it leading?

The VERY foundation of any stable civilization is a solid FAMILY STRUCTURE. Today's civilization, with its foundation disintegrating, is itself on the way out!

WHY? The modern world has adopted what it calls "the new morality," which in truth means gross IMMORALITY! Mated with it has come "women's lib." Women have been emancipated from the HOME! Women have their own incomes and a new spirit of independence.

Nothing in this material world is as important as a happy home life with father, mother and well-taught happy children — a close-knit FAMILY.

WHY?

It strikes at the very heart and core of humanity's future and eternity and the Gospel that Jesus Christ proclaimed.

His Gospel was the good news of the coming Kingdom of God. That Gospel, suppressed from the world for 1,900 years, reveals that God's Church is the affianced Bride of Christ — to marry Him at His glorious imminent return, establishing the world-ruling Kingdom of God. What has that to do with established FAMILY LIFE?

By approximately the middle of the first century, Christ's GOSPEL MESSAGE was suppressed — not proclaimed to the world until the middle of the present 20th century!

And what was that Gospel message? It was the news of the coming Kingdom of God. And what is the Kingdom of God? It is the divine FAMILY OF GOD, ruling all earth's nations with the government of God.

WHO and WHAT is GOD? God is NOT a "Trinity." Yet it is true God is more than one Personage. Actually GOD is a family name. In the very

first verse in the Bible, Genesis 1:1, the English translation is, "In the beginning GOD created the heavens and the earth." Moses originally wrote those words in Hebrew. The Hebrew for God is *Elohim*, a uniplural noun, such as the words *family*, *church*, *group*. ONE Church with many members — yet "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth..." (Ephesians 4:16). Not many independent Christians, each going his own way as *he* feels is right in God's eyes — but ONE BODY, not only JOINED TOGETHER, but *fitly* joined together, all speaking the same thing (I Corinthians 1:10) and that "same thing" the Word of God — God's TRUTH as revealed in His Word.

A FAMILY is made up of more than one person, yet *only* one family. And God's family on earth is not split up and divided, for "a house divided against itself cannot stand." It is COMPACTED together (Ephesians 4:16) and the word *compacted* means as closely bound together as if GLUED together — definitely not made up of independent Christians.

And so, in truth, God is not merely ONE PERSONAGE or even limited to a "Trinity," but is a FAMILY.

And God is a KINGDOM — that is, the supreme divine FAMILY that RULES the UNIVERSE! The whole Gospel, which Jesus Christ brought from God for mankind, is the GOOD NEWS of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD. And the united, closely knit together family of Christians — the Church — will, at the coming of Christ and the time of the resurrection, become the KINGDOM OF GOD!

The Kingdom of God starts with a FAMILY relationship — first the physical human families, second, the ONE compacted together CHURCH, and finally, when the Church is changed to immortality, the GOD FAMILY —

which is the KINGDOM OF GOD!

There is but the ONE GOD, even though that GOD is composed of more than ONE PERSONAGE! But those Personages are closely COMPACTED together. Jesus said that He and God the Father are ONE. They are 100 percent IN HARMONY. So must the CHURCH be!

Elohim is the divine FAMILY — only ONE family, and therefore ONE GOD!

When Jesus was born human, of the virgin Mary, He became the Son of God. He was "Emmanuel" — God with us — God in mortal human flesh to make it possible for the rest of us humans to be born into the GOD family!

In Genesis 1:26, *Elohim* said, "Let us" — not let me — "make man in OUR IMAGE..." — in God's likeness as to form and shape, although man is made from the dust of the ground, mortal, and God is wholly SPIRIT, not matter or flesh.

So the Eternal Father is GOD — a divine Personage. And Jesus is a different Person and is GOD! They are two separate and individual Persons (Revelation 4:2, 5:1). The Father is divine Supreme HEAD of the GOD FAMILY. He is the LAWGIVER, Christ is the administrator — He does the work by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Word or Spokesman — He "speaks and it is done."

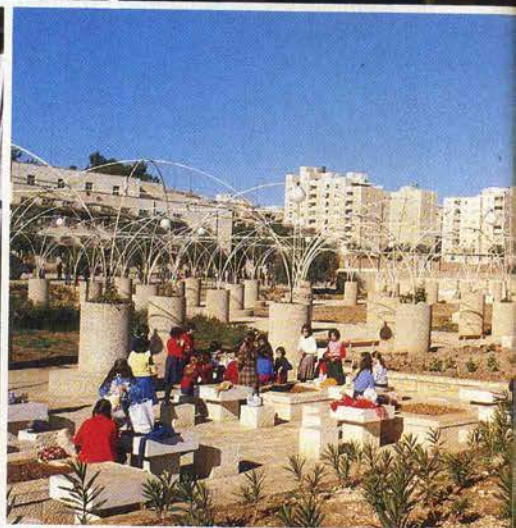
But when Jesus was begotten in the womb of the virgin Mary, He was NOT, as all other humans, begotten by a human father, but by GOD the divine Father, by the power of God's Spirit, which emanates from His very Person. When Jesus became adult, He set us the example of praying to His FATHER in heaven. He had become the Son of God. And so we have the divine Family relationship — Father and Son. That is a FAMILY relationship!

(Continued on page 22)

By Herbert W. Armstrong

10th Anniversary at

JERU



JERUSALEM



Even Almighty GOD is concerned about what is happening at Jerusalem. He has opened the door to Jerusalem for His apostle. This anniversary celebration may prove of major importance.

GOD ALMIGHTY CHOSE Jerusalem as *His city*. Then, because of the sins of the nations Israel and Judah, God finally hid His face from Jerusalem — but He “... shall yet choose Jerusalem” (Zechariah 1:17) and “... shall choose Jerusalem again” (Zechariah 2:12).

At Christ's *soon* coming, Jerusalem shall become *the CAPITAL OF THE WORLD*, with Christ's Throne ruling all nations from Jerusalem.

In November, 1968, I went to Jerusalem on an inspection trip, to decide whether to enter a joint participation in a large archaeological project adjoining the south wall of the temple mount. I was more than favorably impressed with Professor Benyamin Mazar, in charge of the dig.

On that visit we had a luncheon, never to be forgotten, in the Knesset, in a private dining room. Present were Professor Mazar (former president of the Hebrew University), Dr. Josef Aviram of the Hebrew University, Gen. Yigael Yadin, who had organized the Israeli army in the war of independence in 1948 and had been chief of staff until 1967, Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol, Stanley R. Rader, Dr. Herman L. Hoeh and myself from Ambassador College.

But I did not give a final decision on whether we would enter into a joint participation in the project at the time. I said that I would return to Jerusalem on Dec. 1, 1968, with a definite decision.

We had flown to Jerusalem in our Falcon. Our plane flew Mr. Stanley Rader and me to the airport at Beirut [Lebanon], where we boarded a Pan American plane for Tokyo.

(Pictorial report continues on page 5.)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Members of The World Tomorrow television crew record Herbert Armstrong's meeting with Israeli President Itzhak Navon; Mr. Armstrong talks with President Navon; Mr. Armstrong and the AICF helped sponsor Jerusalem's Liberty Bell Park; a stone marker in the park notes Mr. Armstrong's contribution; a plaque honors Mr. Armstrong for his aid to the ICCY in Jerusalem; Mr. Armstrong speaks at a luncheon given by Professor Benyamin Mazar and Dr. Josef Aviram of the Hebrew University and Yigael Yadin, deputy prime minister of Israel.





Our Falcon flew back to Pasadena with Dr. Hoeh its lone passenger.

On Dec. 1, 1968, Mr. Rader and I were once again in Jerusalem. A meeting had been set at the president's residence. It was a memorable — perhaps an historic — meeting with President Zalman Shazar and our Israeli friends at the preceding visit. On that date we formally entered into the joint participation with Hebrew University and the Israel Archaeological Society.

Some little time after that we entered into participation in the ICCY (International Cultural Center for Youth), founded by Eleanor Roosevelt and Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol. We have continued both participations. Beginning with the summer of 1969, we sent students every year during summer vacation to work on the dig — some years up to 100 students.

About 2½ years ago, Mayor Teddy Kolleck came to see me when I was in Jerusalem. He showed me elaborate plans for a downtown city park in Jerusalem, to be called the "Liberty Bell Park." The City of Philadelphia had presented an exact

(Continued on page 23)

A DINNER celebrating 10 years of cooperation with Hebrew University and the Israeli Archaeological Society. **ABOVE:** Herbert Armstrong meets Israeli President Zalman Shazar in 1968.

Was Jesus Really the Son of God?

By John R. Schroeder

You have to go back to Honest to God to remember any book that has so stirred up the British religion. The culprit? A book entitled The Myth of God Incarnate by John Hick. Few religious works in living memory have captured the attention of the small and usually sedate church-going public. This collection of controversial essays challenged the heart of evangelical theology. Was Jesus really God — or just the outstanding religious leader of His day?

Traditionally, evangelicals and even those who espoused a more liberal theology have long considered the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — the Godship of Jesus Christ — as the very core of Christianity. It was the doctrinal rock upon which the Christian's own immortality was based — survival beyond the grave was assured. Traditional Christology was a bulwark against the do-your-own-thing philosophy of life.

But those who envision a solely human Christ have emerged out of the woodwork. Seven British theologians have stated their case for Christ's humanity while denying His deity.

Reaction in Britain and America

Rebuttals began pouring off the presses. First were the British evangelicals with a potpourri of rebuttals edited into a popular paperback titled *The Truth of God Incarnate*. Even Ian Paisley got into the act. The controversial rector from Northern Ireland published his version titled *The Myth of God Incarnate Edited by John Hick, [but] Reviewed and Refuted by Ian Paisley*. For only 25 pence (about 45 cents) you could read his expose of the book's "colossal falsehoods."

Soon the heresy hunting spread across the Atlantic. Leon Morris published his denial of this new doctrine in *Christianity Today*. Back in Britain, John R. Scott, heir apparent to the common man's theologian, C.S. Lewis, charged editor John Hick and his seven British cohorts with heresy. He asked "what the Church should do with false teachers" while posing some suggested paths to ecclesiastical discipline.

It is hoped enough water has passed under the bridge by now that we can calmly take an unbiased look at the biblical evidence.

Beginning at the beginning

Let's begin our study with the book of John. Perhaps in part because of his special closeness to Jesus, John was given a deeper and broader understanding of his Savior.

John's beginning predates even the events in the Old Testament. Notice it. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with

God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:1-3, Revised Standard Version throughout except where otherwise designated). Verse 14 explains just who this "Word" was: "And the Word became flesh and *dwelt among us* . . ." Jesus Christ is the only heavenly Being who ever became a fleshly human being and lived in this world.

John's first letter and one of Paul's epistles provide us with an excellent commentary on these beginning scriptures in the fourth gospel. As if by habit, John begins his first epistle with:

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us — that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you . . ." (1 John 1:1-3).

This letter makes it plain that this Being with whom the disciples had lived, worked and played was none other than a member of the God-head.

And the apostle Paul wrote: "... He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities — things were created through him and for him. *He is before all things* . . ." (Colossians 1:15-17). Paul here points out the broad and massive extent of the work and authority of the *prehuman* Christ.

The Godship of Christ

John emphasizes over and over the preexistence of Christ *as God* before His human birth throughout his entire gospel. Notice it again in the first chapter. "He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not" (John 1:10).

If He made the world, then He *preceded* His own creation. Yet when He came in the human flesh, the vast majority of those who had the opportunity to know Him rejected their own Creator.

(Continued on page 22)

‘And this Gospel shall be preached...’

Matthew 24:14

Sermon Summaries from Ministers of the Worldwide Church of God

President Jimmy Carter said, prior to his inauguration, that the strength of a nation lies in its family unit; I agree with him.

God is very much concerned with the family concept. He instructed Adam and Eve to begin the first human family. This is patterned after the heavenly family that God is developing, and it will involve us.

When God draws analogies to show His relationship to us, He uses terms that illustrate a family. Jesus Christ, we are told, loves the Church like a husband is supposed to love his wife (Ephesians 5:23-32). God reveals Himself as fulfilling both the roles of father and mother. We see God's love illustrated through the mother's role in Isaiah 49:15.

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." So God compares Himself to a mother who literally brings a child forth, nourishes and dearly loves it.

You can see this analogy of God as a mother in Isaiah 66:9 as well. "Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the Lord: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? . . ."

In Malachi 1:6 and 2:10, Revelation 21:7, and many other scriptures, God appears as a father to Israel and to the saints.

We have Christ as a husband to the Church (Revelation 19:7,9; Ephesians 5:25-32). We have Jesus Christ as our elder brother (Hebrews 2:11). God and Christ explain what it's like to live forever and continually draw analogies to the family unit!

In the family unit people reach their full potential. It's inside the family unit that people can be happy and educated to contemplate God's purpose in their lives. Stripped of the family unit, most people are miserable and uncomfortable. They do not come up to the potential that God has in mind for *eternity*. There are exceptions, of course. The family unit is important to the nation, the Church and to the fulfillment of God's plan for the entire universe.

With this in mind, I would like to talk about one aspect of the physical family unit—the marriage relationship.

Step one

I would like to point out several observations from my experiences in dealing with

people that should help us all improve, strengthen and build our marriages.

"Marital rule one" is the most important rule of human relationships. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them . . ." (Matthew 7:12). In other words, treat others — especially your mate — as you want to be treated.

Now the husband who is "macho" or the "big wheel," puffed with lordly ego and authority and orders his wife around like a slave, should ask if that is the way he wants to be treated.

Wives who like to punish their husbands by picking away at them and tearing them down by rehearsing their faults should ask if that is the way they want to be treated.

The best way to learn to give is by analyzing your own needs. We all desire recognition, love, affection, attention, encouragement, inspiration, companionship, understanding, patience. Seeing what satisfies and makes you feel good teaches you to "turn on" and satisfy other people too. It's as simple as that. But it takes constant effort to do what you know you should!

Step two

In Ephesians 5:22-23, we read: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church . . ."

This is part of God's inspired Word and is a law of marital happiness. However, I believe there is a tendency to overemphasize this one facet to the point that some husbands "beat" their wives over the head with it. In some cases, rather than having a husband-wife relationship, they have a master-slave relationship or, at best, a father-daughter relationship.

The master goes around and tells his slave what to do, when to do it and exactly how to do it. That's not a marital relationship. And the father-daughter relationship is one where there is a vast disparity in experience, wisdom, stature. A daughter honors her father. But a wife is to be one

flesh with her husband. Husbands and wives are partners who ought to be sharing life in a unique relationship.

The concept of wives being submissive is not the only biblical instruction to consider. I Peter 3:7 tells us just as authoritatively: "Likewise, ye hus-

SEVEN STEPS TO A GOOD MARRIAGE

“Marital rule one” . . . “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them . . .” (Matthew 7:12).

bands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life . . .”

I believe the term “weaker vessel” means physically, not mentally, not emotionally and certainly not spiritually. If the husband and wife emphasize that they are heirs together of the grace of life, this is closer to what God wants than the master-slave concept, which some have had in mind.

“Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them” (Colossians 3:19).

In the marital relationship, husbands and wives walk down the path of life together.

There is a poster you can buy in bookstores that says: “Don’t walk in front of me, I don’t want to follow you. Don’t walk behind me, I don’t want to be your leader. Walk beside me, and we’ll share life together.”

That’s what marriage is all about. The husband is neither out in front nor is he behind, nor is the wife behind. Both should be walking down life’s path together, hand in hand.

Step three.

Some husbands tend to punish their wives by putting them down in public. A husband will make some complimentary remarks about some other woman and say, “Why can’t you be like that?” or say, “Honey, why can’t you cook like this? How come your pies are always burned?” That tears away at confidence and is certainly dangerous and destructive to the marriage.

Now I think we have to recognize when we do those things and quit being a bully.

Mates also punish each other by withholding what the Bible calls “due benevolence.” This shouldn’t be done.

“Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence; and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. *Defraud* ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency” (I Corinthians 7:3-5). This will tear down your marriage. But it’s a common form of punishment, used mainly by wives, although there are husbands who use it.

Wives sometimes punish their husbands by tearing down their confidence. While many wives stay at home, almost all husbands have to go out and get a job and provide the income. It’s easy to sit in the background and complain about what he’s doing. It’s very easy to tear down his confidence. Unfortunately some women play this game!

We need to find ways to compliment, encourage and support each other. We should realize that our mate is part of our flesh and when we criticize, tear down and wound, we are actually injuring our own bodies, and that

is stupid. “So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself” (Ephesians 5:28-29).

Step four

People tend to become what you make them. A friend of mine once said if you trust your children, they will rise to that trust. And if you are always suspicious of them, they will often sink to the level of conduct reflected in your suspicion.

Treat them with respect and dignity, and they’ll rise up to that level.

It usually works the same in marriage. You treat your wife with respect and dignity, and she’ll rise up to that level also. But if you treat her as somebody who’s common and unimportant and unloved, she’ll sink down into despair.

The same is true for the husband. If the wife treats him as someone special and looks to him as someone special, honors, respects him and places him on that pedestal, he’ll rise to it. “Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband” (Ephesians 5:33). We ought to be concerned with helping each other rise toward perfection!

Step five

We need to teach ourselves how to respond inside of marriage.

Today, we have a mistaken idea, because of the freedom we have in our western society, that we have the privilege to say anything we want to anyone. But the Bible does not give us that freedom. If we harm others by our words we are accountable to God. “But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36).

Proverbs 12:18 tells us: “There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.” Proverbs 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” You might think you have the right to respond in any way you want to your mate, but God hasn’t given you that right. The wise and righteous person teaches himself how to respond.

“The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness” (Proverbs 10:32).

God praises the individual who uses the acceptable response. “He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace” (Proverbs 11:12). A wise man learns how to respond and realizes many times he should say nothing.

“He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction” (Proverbs 13:3). There’s a time not to respond in a negative way. “A

The best way to learn to give is by analyzing your own needs. We all desire recognition, love, affection, attention, encouragement, inspiration . . .

soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Proverbs 15:1). We as Christians have to train ourselves how to respond, how to answer.

Suppose you're late for a dinner party, and you both are scurrying around trying to get ready. The husband may say, "Honey, where are my shoes?" The wife, a bit upset by this time, says, "Well, if you'd clean up your closet, you'd know where your shoes are."

Now we have antagonism. How you as a husband respond is important. You can say: "Hey, I'm not taking that from anybody. I didn't ask you for a smart comment, woman. I asked you where the shoes were. Now get 'em!" And what have you got? Deeper antagonism — that's all.

A better response would be: "You know, you're right. But I still can't find my shoes." That comment takes the sting out. Then, if the wife realizes her wrong position, she will say, "Oh, I shouldn't have responded that way, I'm sorry," and help you find your shoes. No more antagonism.

In Psalm 141:3 in a prayer to God, David says, "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips." He's saying to put a little governor between brain and mouth, a little check, a little balance, something to make us say: "Hey, wait a minute, is this a positive thing I'm going to say? Is it going to hurt? Is it wrong?" If it's wrong, you send it back to the brain with a little word *repent* next to it. If it's all right, it goes on out.

So one observation of marriage is, teach yourself how to respond to your mate. Train yourself so that you aren't always rendering evil for evil. Turn the situation around. Somebody has to break the negative vibes that come up in marriage.

Step six

Every relationship is based on mutual need. Where there is no mutual need, relationships break down. In marriage if one person is always getting and taking but giving nothing, you have a breakdown. It's only when two people need and help each other that they really grow and develop throughout life. When you recognize your need for one another, you grow together. We need kind and thoughtful things said to us; we need to be cared for. Both husband and wife need it, so you must give it to each other.

Mutual need is a biblical principle. I Corinthians 12, talking about the Body, the Church, says, "God has set the members every one as it pleased Him." Then it says in verses 21-22:

"And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary." The point Paul is making is that we all need one another.

When we recognize that need, we respect one another, we love one another, we grow together. It's through that concept of mutual need that the relationship grows.

In Ephesians 5:28, we read: "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself." When you give love to your mate, you get it all back. It's like putting money in the bank; you even get interest back with it!

Step seven

I think that a lot of the problems that I've observed inside many marriages are that two people who start out together begin to grow apart. And this brings on problems.

You have to strive to grow together and discuss your goals, plans, hopes, dreams. Communicate.

Talk about important subjects such as: "Where are we going to be 10 years from now? What are our goals for the children? What do we hope to do? Where do we view ourselves religiously? What do we want from each other? Are we fulfilling each other's needs?"

Happily married people will be sitting down and talking about these things quite often. It's extremely important. It will prevent the common problem of growing so far apart that one day you say, "Hey, I'm over here and my mate's over there," and then you scramble to try to get close again. It's a difficult thing to do. Don't let the problem ever get started. Communicate with one another. Talk about everything.

Work toward perfection

In conclusion, let's remind ourselves again to reinforce it in our minds: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Christ wants a perfect marriage, and He knows that in order to get a perfect marriage He has to work at it.

Christians should have the same goal that Jesus Christ has with His marriage. They should continually ask: "How can my marriage improve? What can I do to help? How can I uplift? How can I build? How can I create? How can we go forward? How can we grow?" In a good marriage two people want to make it better and better and better. Quoting Herbert W. Armstrong, "There can be no more wonderful physical blessing in this mortal human life than a happy marriage, based on true love, honor, integrity and faithfulness . . ." This is an essential part of Christianity. □

This summary was prepared from a sermon given by Steve Martin, a minister in the Pasadena area.



A Key Toward Improving Family Relations

'WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES'



Photo by Warren Watson

By Leslie E. Stocker Jr.

Aw, come on, Dad. Why can't I have a car? This isn't World War II. All the other fellas have one, so what are you worried about? It won't cost that much."

"But, son, you don't know what you're asking for. All you want to do is go chasing around town all night. Do you want to kill yourself? And besides, it costs too much!"

Sound familiar? Yes, it's another of those family arguments where each participant (in this case a father and his teenage son) is struggling to promote his/her point of view.

Small arguments, however, can often lead to deep rifts between father and son, mother and daughter or, like as not, between husband and wife.

The pleading son is likely to think his father is a miserly, stingy, old authoritarian who neither understands nor loves his son. On the other hand, the father might think his son is an ungrateful, selfish, young rogue, who neither cares for nor loves his father.

If these feelings and interpretations linger, they will tend to harden and discolor future communication.

A widespread problem

Nations go to war for want of clear communication. People turn to drugs, alcohol and other forms of escape, because they are not heard. Friendships wax cold, and employees lose jobs because human beings refuse to see the other's point of view.

There is no simple solution. Communication between human beings is a complex thing. It's miraculous when you consider the myriad personal experiences, feelings, attitudes, needs and desires that the most simple of communication must penetrate. And yet God showed communication to be a fundamental key between success and failure for human endeavor at the Tower of Babel.

There is one method that improves the channels of communication between individuals — empathy. Com-

plex communications, which involve feelings, attitudes, judgments, opinions and points of view, are greatly enhanced with the key of empathy. Empathy is the ability of one individual to see life through the eyes of another person.

Empathy in action

There are graphic biblical examples of empathy in action.

One is found in I Kings 3:16-28. Young Solomon, as he ascended to his father's throne, was given great wisdom by God, so that he would be a good judge in Israel.

Two harlots came before him with one living son. Both had given birth to sons, and one of the infants had died during the night. Both claimed to be the mother of the living child.

Solomon's judgment was to divide the living child in half, obviously killing it, and to give each woman one half. The true mother, moved by compassion, intervened.

How did Solomon arrive at his strategy? Perhaps God simply revealed it to him in an instant. It is possible, however, that he practiced this quality called empathy.

By looking at the situation through the eyes of the real mother, Solomon must have felt her deep maternal compassion. He knew the true mother would be especially solicitous of the infant's well-being and life.

Through empathy, we could have arrived at a judgment similar to Solomon's.

A powerful key

Empathy is a most powerful key to communication and *understanding* other people and their feelings.

Perhaps the most dramatic example of empathy in the Bible is found in Hebrews 2:17-18 — one of the most important reasons why Jesus Christ suffered many trials and finally martyrdom.

"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."

Jesus Christ understands each of us in our trials and human problems because He is literally able to see life, to experience pain and suffering, through our eyes.

That is not to say He will condone your continuation in a sin or your defeat when you are able to overcome a trial. But He understands. He can sympathize. You can truly communicate with your Advocate.

A wiser approach

Now consider empathy in the preceding scenario of a teenage son pleading with his father for a car.

The son was saying that "all the other fellas have one." He was telling his father that he wanted to be like his friends. Inclusion is a critical issue to a 17-year-old. And that is not to speak ill of 17-year-olds. They are living a period of life through which every adult had to live. It is an important formative time when an understanding father is irreplaceable.

A wise father will not shout down his son. He will try to recall what it

was like to be 17. He will try to see life through his son's eyes and come to appreciate his son's point of view.

He might ask his son to empathize with *him* — the father. That is, coach his son into viewing life for a few fleeting moments through a parent's eyes. To consider the actual price of a car, insurance, license and basic maintenance. He might even ask his son to go out and research the facts. In short, to have his son see for himself.

This father might express his personal love and affection for his son and his concern for his son's safety and well-being.

Taking time for empathy

By slowing down the argument a deeper communication can take place. Now it is true that empathy will not provide the needed money for another car. Nor will it, by itself, provide the safety and protection that every parent so desperately wants for his/her sons and daughters.

But empathy *will* do this: It will cause each member of the family to better appreciate each other's desires and frustrations. They will come to care more deeply about each other, not just for self.

How many marriages have become casualties of poor communication? Of those millions of divorces, how many could have been prevented if each mate would have taken time to see life — yes, experience life — through the eyes of the other?

Through empathy, families can become teams, facing their problems *together*. Without empathy, those same problems are approached by competing factions, all fighting to accomplish individual ends.

Not a simple matter

Empathy is not as simple as looking at another person's point of view. One must look at life for that passing moment through the eyes of that other person. That is, through the entire *context* of that person's life. Context includes age, geography and cultural background, values, ambitions, occupation and the other powerful forces that make up each individual.

It is difficult for a 17-year-old to perceive the life, throughout the years, of his 45-year-old father. He can glimpse that life through reading, and most importantly, through many

hours of listening to his parent's talk about the times and conditions through which they lived.

Seemingly idle chatter among families can be vital background information by which each family member is better equipped to empathize, see life, through the other members' eyes.

A lack of true empathy has thwarted hundreds and thousands of diplomatic discussions down through the millennia. Nations seek peace at the conference table, but so often their academic interchanges disregard life as viewed by citizens of the other country. The cultural, religious, geographical and other major considerations are left out. The so-called "peace talks" turn into nothing more than bartering sessions with each side striving to promote his viewpoint.

Empathy would have assuaged some of the animosities and hostilities. Understanding, empathy and appreciation for the other is a powerful force in relations between nations as well as families.

Avoid the extreme

Empathy, like any other good thing, can be taken to extremes. Remember, empathy is to view life as seen by another, for a moment, not abandon *your* views, feelings and judgments.

The father we read about earlier is absolutely right in sticking to his better judgment, even though he might make concessions at other times. The financial well-being of the family and the physical welfare of his son may demand that he hold firm.

But empathy could be of inestimable value in helping him and his son to appreciate each others' dilemma. One thing is for sure, empathy puts more love in a family than open and ugly hostility. Empathy is the backbone of communication in a family!

Fortunately for us, Jesus Christ never abandoned His mission. He went to every kind of sinner and admonished him to sin no more, *as* He empathized. Above all, He came to view life through the eyes of humans. And through His life and death, He has become the greatest empathizer of all time. That kind of empathy in each of us would help in all of our social relations — but *especially* within our families. □

From Generation to Generation

By Richard Rice

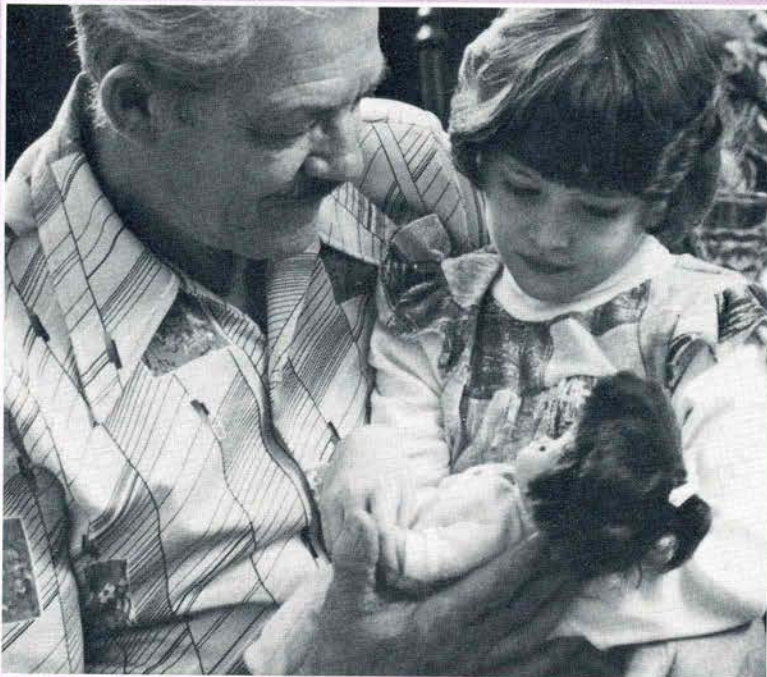


Photo by Warren Watson

Ask the average parent in God's Church to define his most important role in child rearing, and he will probably quote Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

No one can doubt the power, force and gravity of this scripture. To bring up our children to fear and reverence God is the greatest responsibility we've been given as parents.

Yet, did you realize that our role reaches far beyond our immediate family, beyond the meaning and scope of the verse just quoted? There are other scriptures that teach us that we also are to be concerned with

the development and education of future generations.

Through the family

The reason is simple. God wants His truth perpetuated for all times. And the way He has chosen is through the family system He has set in motion.

Therefore, it's incumbent on us, as parents, not only to "train up our children in the way they should go" (that is, to instill in them godly values and virtues, attitudes and habits, outlooks and insights), but also to be involved in the education of our grandchildren and even their posterity. Thus, if each succeeding generation would follow this divine precept, God's truth would never vanish from the earth.

In reading through the Bible, I've been amazed to see how much emphasis God places on the generation-to-generation concept of child rearing. For example, notice how God praised Abraham for his determination to teach the true values to his children and those after him: "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household *after him*, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment . . ." (Genesis 18:19).

Notice further the command God gave through Moses: "Only take heed to yourself, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the

The reason is simple. God wants His truth perpetuated for all times. And the way He has chosen is through the family system He has set in motion.

days of your life; but, teach them your sons, and your *son's sons*; specially the day that you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children" (Deuteronomy 4:9-10, paraphrased).

In speaking of dire prophetic events that were to befall Israel, the prophet Joel commanded, "Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation" (Joel 1:3). Clearly, God has given His people the charge to hold inviolate His truth down through the ages by teaching it to succeeding generations.

This profound duty cannot be fulfilled through an occasional hit-or-miss, halfhearted effort. It must be done diligently and consistently with each passing day. "And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart: and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Revised Standard Version).

It is only through consistent teaching of our children that the everlasting truths of God are engraved in their hearts and minds. His promise to us, then, is that "they will never depart from it." What follows as a natural consequence is that they will pass this knowledge on to their children. No doubt you've seen evidence of this principle working in your own life. The qualities that your parents drilled into your mind you have inherently instilled into your children's.

Future generations blessed

Besides preserving God's truth, this approach to child rearing also produces another great benefit. Just as the wrong teaching, improper habits and example of the older genera-

tion will bring retribution, "even unto the third and fourth generation" (Exodus 20:5), so it is that right teaching will bring blessings for generations to come! "But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and his righteousness unto children's children..." (Psalm 103:17).

What values should we teach our children? I believe the place to begin is with the meaning and magnification of the two great commands — love to God and love to neighbor. The apostle Paul says in Ephesians 6:4, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the *nurture* and *admonition* of the Lord."

There is no greater knowledge you can bequeath to your children than teaching them how to love and obey God. This means introducing God's Word, His law and His way in a positive manner so that they come to have a proper concept of what He really is. It takes meditation, prayer and an active imagination to do this effectively. And, of course, we should never minimize the power and force of a model example.

We should teach our children how to love neighbor as self by practicing the Golden Rule. One of the most vital laws of success is learning how to interact with others and to express a heartfelt concern for their feelings and welfare. Our children should be taught that making friends and maintaining good human relations is largely a matter of thinking of others first.

The standard values, such as honesty, integrity, hard work, morality, mercy, patience, will automatically follow when we have put love for God and neighbor first.

A preoccupation with self

In our society we see an attitude that seems to care little about the state of future generations. The emphasis is on "me" not "we." Present-day problems of world pollution, overpopulation, fiscal irresponsibility, a giant vortex of credit spending

and attendant inflation, the creation of planet-destroying weapons and technology, are the result of past generations thinking mostly about themselves and their needs.

Today, in political circles we see the same preoccupation with self and an overt lack of concern for the long-term effect our actions will have. "Let future generations worry about solving the messes we are making," seems to be the "ho-hum" approach many of our leaders are taking. In our mad rush to get for ourselves, the time-tested qualities of love and concern for neighbor are not only ignored — they are deliberately scoffed at and rebuffed.

When Christ returns to set up His Kingdom in the world tomorrow, one of His primary goals will be to restore the generation-to-generation method of education and instruction to the family. Beginning with the first generation at His return, He will spread and perpetuate the knowledge of His truth and quality lifestyle throughout the world until "... the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9).

It is this generation-to-generation system of teaching that will finally help mold the hearts and the minds of people throughout the millennium into a God-fearing, self-disciplined society of culture and achievement.

We as parents today have a profound calling resting on our shoulders. Not only have we been called to help our leaders carry the Gospel to the world, but also to prepare a generation of God-fearing sons and daughters to physically assist Christ as human leaders in ushering in His coming Kingdom.

As Malachi 4:5-6 states, one of the functions of Elijah the prophet is to "... turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers..."

These verses summarize what we collectively as God's Church should be doing — returning to the type of family relationships God ordained from the beginning. □

THE BIBLE AND ULTIMATE REALITY

What is the fundamental "stuff" of creation — the basis of reality? Modern physics is providing some strange and startling answers — and in reaching such conclusions science draws even closer to the biblical view of ultimate reality.

By Robert A. Ginskey

Stonbridge Observatory

Of what is the world composed?" is a question that has intrigued men for millennia. Many answers have been proposed, revised, discarded, revived.

Historically, the ancient Greek philosophers proposed that the four basic ingredients of nature were earth, water, air and fire. A glass of wine, for example, was obviously a mixture of water and earth, and if there were bubbles, air. Similarly, a tree was thought to be a mixture of earth and water, with perhaps a little air and fire as well. The sun, on the other hand, was often considered to be pure fire.

Scientific analysis of 'reality'

By the end of the 19th century A.D., science had developed a much more accurate analysis of "reality." Everything, the scientists of that age maintained, could be explained in terms of about 90 elements (oxygen,

hydrogen, carbon, iron, etc.) plus various kinds of energy or force such as electricity, magnetism, radiation and gravity.

The basic, irreducible, smallest particle of an element was said to be the atom. The four ingredients of the Greeks, the scientists pointed out, were simply the basic states of matter: solid, liquid and gas, plus radiant energy.

The real, hidden reality, the scientists assured, could be entirely described in terms of matter and motion, i.e., the movements and arrangements of various atoms. If there was a spiritual aspect to reality, it was left to the theologians to find. "From now on," declared the celebrated French chemist Marcellin Berthelot in 1887, "there is no mystery about the universe."

Most of the scientists of the 1890s were indeed confident that they had finally arrived at an understanding of nature that was complete, consistent

and useful. All that remained to be done, they half-jestingly lamented, was to improve the accuracy of their measurements, to refine their experimental techniques to "determine that next decimal place."

Yet, by the year 1900, the whole foundation of traditional classical physics had begun to crumble.

Dividing the atom

The discovery of radioactivity in 1896 clearly implied that the atom was not the ultimate reality. Radioactive atoms were found to emit various subatomic particles, such as the electron, proton and neutron.

But these particles were later found to have a wavelike nature. The particles acted more like the waves produced on the surface of a pond when a rock is thrown in. Yet how could something be both a wave and a particle at the same time?

To make matters worse, light,



which scientists thought consisted of waves, acted like a particle. In the photoelectric effect, for example, light particles striking the surface of metal can knock out electrons, creating an electric current. This is contrary to what would be expected if light consists of waves.

Compounding the problem was the perplexing fact, demonstrated by scientists A.A. Michelson and E.W. Morely, that light does *not* require a medium for its propagation. This is in striking contrast to sound waves, for example, which must have air or some other substance to travel through. Light, however, can travel in a perfect vacuum.

Then there was the problem of radioactivity itself, where for no apparent reason an atom would suddenly disintegrate. It was almost as though certain atoms were playing atomic roulette.

The consternation of the world's

scientists continued to increase with the discovery of many more "ultimate" particles such as pions, muons and omegas. Other strange and puzzling phenomena also began to rudely intrude into the comfortable, almost complacent world of science.

What was the answer? Could anyone make sense out of the myriad of strange, incredible, even contradictory facts that modern science was discovering? What was the real basis of reality?

Clearly, no conventional approach could extricate science from its predicament. The bewildering impasse could only be resolved by totally revising many of the very foundations of science itself.

Revolutionary concepts

The first step was taken by the German physicist Max Planck, who in 1900 proposed a revolutionary new assumption — that changes in energy were *not* continuous but "quan-

THE ORION NEBULA, one of the most conspicuous constellations in the heavens, has intrigued mankind since his creation. Its distance from the earth is estimated at 1,200 light years.

tized" in small bundles. This assumption was directly contrary to traditional physics, yet it explained beautifully many experimental facts.

Albert Einstein made even more drastic alterations in the classical scheme of the universe. Boldly applying Dr. Planck's "quantum hypothesis" to light itself, Dr. Einstein solved the riddle of the photoelectric effect by postulating that *light is both a wave and a particle*. Dr. Einstein's explanation helped establish the wave-particle nature of light — a duality that classical science had considered intolerable.

But more was to come! In 1905 Dr. Einstein set forth his famous theory of relativity. The conclusions he drew

seemed preposterous, ridiculous, absurd. Yet one test after another vindicated his predictions.

Was there an interrelationship between mass and energy? Classical science said "no"; Dr. Einstein said "yes"! How? $E=mc^2$ — that is, energy equals mass multiplied by the square of the speed of light. Proof? There are many examples, but surely the atomic and hydrogen bombs — direct application of Dr. Einstein's mass-energy relation — are the most convincing!

Neither mass nor energy

According to Dr. Einstein, matter and energy were *not* different quantities, but equivalent concepts. James H. Smith, in his text *Introduction to Special Relativity*, states that the equation $E=mc^2$ "must really be thought of as the conservation equation of *some new quantity*, neither 'mass' nor 'energy' but having properties of both."

But what is this "new quantity"? Can something be both matter and energy at the same time?

Mathematically linked to Dr. Einstein's prediction that mass and energy are equivalent were several additional conclusions equally strange from a traditional commonsense point of view. Thus Dr. Einstein asserted that mass increases with velocity. Many people objected that "velocity" was certainly unrelated to mass. Yet, once again, repeated careful experiments — including studies with giant particle accelerators — proved conclusively that Dr. Einstein was right!

In addition, the theory of relativity predicted time was related to velocity. Contrary to classical physics? Certainly. Experimentally verified? Yes. Scientists have found, for example, that unstable particles traveling near the speed of light can have their lives extended as long as the proverbial cat — that is, the particles can live nine times longer than normal.

Similarly, Dr. Einstein showed that length is altered by velocity, that change in velocity can be considered equivalent to gravitation, and that gravitation and the properties of space are related to mass. Dr. Einstein's prediction that velocity is related to gravitational fields was verified by studies conducted by the Jet Propulsion Labo-

ratory (JPL) of Pasadena using the Mariner VI satellite.

A fundamental essence

So what does all this have to do with the ultimate reality? Simply this: Modern science, largely as a result of Dr. Einstein's theory of relativity, has shown that the so-called ultimate realities — space, time, matter, energy and gravitation — are apparently not separate entities. Rather, they appear to be interrelated, equivalent expressions of a single fundamental essence!

But what is the nature of this "fundamental essence"? Is it physical? Spiritual? Or is it meaningless to even ask such a question?

Scientists are increasingly perplexed. They use terms like "space-time continuum," "primitive material," "primordial essence," or "quantum fields." Thus Murray and Cobb's college physics text states: "Fields are now believed to be the only entities in nature . . . all matter merely consists of condensed quantum fields." Some scientists, such as Murray Gell-Mann of Caltech in Pasadena, have theorized that the fundamental basis of reality must lie in even more basic — and elusive — particles called quarks.

But other scientists have questioned whether science will ever really understand the "ultimate reality."

Theoretical physicist Sir Arthur Eddington analyzed the discoveries of modern science and concluded: "The stuff of the world is 'mind-stuff.' Yet this mind-stuff is not spread in space and time; these are part of the cyclic scheme ultimately derived from it."

Physicist Eddington maintained that space and time are *not* separate entities, but are derived from the basic essence he calls "mind-stuff," for want of a better term!

Similarly, the famed English physicist and astronomer Sir James Jeans concluded the basic realities of modern science "seem to my mind to be structures of pure thought, incapable of realization in any sense which would properly be described as material."

In other words, physicist Jeans concluded that the ultimate reality, as deduced from the facts of modern science, is *not* physical or material, but *nonphysical*.

The ultimate reality

But isn't this what the Bible has proclaimed for nearly 2,000 years? "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Hebrews 11:3).

The Phillips translation makes it even clearer: "And it is after all only by faith that our minds accept as fact that the whole scheme of time and space was created by God's command — that the world which we can see has come into being through principles which are invisible."

The apostle Paul died 19 centuries before the discoveries of 20th-century science; nevertheless, he knew, or at least was inspired to write, that the visible, physical, tangible creation was made from the invisible, the nonphysical, the intangible — which manifests itself in terms of matter, energy and time.

"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter," according to the book of Proverbs. Yet as scientists have probed deeper and deeper into the ultimate constituents of the universe, it seems increasingly evident that science is dealing with an essence that cannot even be visualized in the imagination — at least not as physical human beings!

Space, time, matter, energy and gravitation have been shown to be interrelated, even equivalent manifestations of a single fundamental essence — but to describe that "essence" seemingly defies the capabilities of even modern science. As scripture says, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God . . ." (Deuteronomy 29:29).

Perhaps it is premature to say that modern science has absolutely *proved* that the ultimate basis of the physical universe is spiritual. Perhaps some people are not yet ready to believe that God created the universe by means of a *spirit* essence known as the "spirit of God" (Genesis 1:2).

But the undeniable fact remains that the scientific view of the universe increasingly sees nature as a unity — as tantalizingly elusive as it may be — and in reaching such conclusions science draws closer to the biblical view of ultimate reality. □

MINI STUDY

Why 'OVERCOMING' Is So Important!

OVERCOMING

The Good News, in conjunction with the Correspondence Course Department, presents brief monthly excursions into the study of the Bible, delving into topics relevant to the development and increased understanding of future members of the God Family. Bible study is one means by which Christians are renewed daily (II Corinthians 4:16), so let's refresh ourselves with more of the precious truths of God's Word!

Instructions: The format of these ministudies is similar to that of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. Look up and *read in your Bible* the scripture references given in answer to the questions. Comments following the questions elaborate on the scriptures just read. That's all there is to it! (These studies are based on the King James Version of the Bible, unless otherwise stated.)

The Bible speaks a great deal about overcoming. Let's understand exactly what it is, why it is so important in living the Christian life, and what bearing that overcoming has on the occupations of born-again Christians in the ruling Kingdom of God.

1. Did Jesus Christ *become* perfect? Hebrews 2:9-10. Notice especially the last part of verse 10. What did Christ say He expects of His followers? Matthew 5:48. Who are they to become like? Ephesians 4:13.

In the original Greek, the word for *perfect* in Matthew 5:48 is *teleios*, which also means *complete*. In other words, Jesus said that His followers are to become complete in a spiritual sense — spiritually mature.

Obviously, we cannot become absolutely perfect in character until the resurrection when God will complete the process and give us new, perfect spiritual bodies with a perfect — sinless (I John 3:2, 9) — nature that will be like Christ's and the Father's. But in the meantime, God wants us to *grow* in His spiritual character daily by obeying His commandments and overcoming and rooting sin out of our lives — *growing toward* that spiritual perfection.

2. Even though Christ was the very Son of God and possessed the Holy Spirit without measure (John 3:34), did He still have to *learn* obedience?

Hebrews 5:8-9. Did Christ overcome? John 16:33. Did He resist temptation? Hebrews 4:15.

Jesus Christ *became* perfect through the trials and tests of human experience. He *overcame* the temptations of the devil, His flesh and the world around Him. In spite of opposition and temptation, He kept God's commandments perfectly. Thus He was able to become the Savior of mankind and the supreme example of spiritual maturity Christians are to be striving to emulate.

3. Because Jesus Christ overcame during His human life and was born again by a resurrection, where is He presently seated? Revelation 3:21. Have *all* angels, authorities and powers been made subject to Him under His Father? I Peter 3:22; Ephesians 1:20-22; I Corinthians 15:27.

4. Just how great is the authority that Christ has already inherited? Hebrews 1:1-2; Matthew 28:18.

Notice how the Moffatt translation renders the original Greek of Hebrews 1:2: "But in these days at the end he has spoken to us by a Son — a Son whom he has appointed *heir of the universe* . . ."

5. Will Christ be the only inheritor and ruler of this earth and the vast universe? Or will there be corulers, joint heirs, with Him to *share* His great inheritance and responsibility? Romans 8:16-17; Revelation 21:7.

We, if we have become true Christians, are now the Spirit-begotten children of God. We are heirs — joint heirs with Jesus Christ — destined to inherit and help rule *everything* God has created when we are born again at the resurrection as members of the God Family!

6. Just how important is overcoming to our being in God's Kingdom and receiving an opportunity to rule with Christ? Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26-27; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7. Will our spiritual works in this life determine our reward — our opportunity for service — in God's Kingdom? Matthew 16:27.

Through overcoming the sinful pulls and impulses of the flesh, the world and the devil, and rather submitting to God and His ways, our spiritual character is being developed. We are building the very character of God. And the more we overcome, the greater the *responsibility* Christ will give

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us in His government on earth. Thus the greater will be our *reward*!

But no one can overcome for us. No one can produce spiritual works for us. It requires putting forth effort on our part, together with the *help* of God's Holy Spirit, to become the kind of spiritually minded and motivated persons God can use in His Kingdom. Overcoming (ceasing from doing) the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) involves letting Christ, by means of His Spirit, live in us to empower us to bear spiritual fruit — to perform spiritual works.

Whether your reward in God's Kingdom is great or small depends on you! It depends on your works. It depends on how much effort you expend in overcoming and growing spiritually. It depends on whether you always willingly let Christ *mold* you into His character image or whether you tend to resist change. Notice Paul's advice in Romans 12:2: "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God remake you so that your whole attitude of mind is changed. Thus you will prove in practice that the will of God is good, acceptable to him and perfect" (Phillips Modern English translation, paraphrased).

The parable of the pounds recorded in Luke 19 shows that the *degree* of reward each Christian will receive will be according to how much he grew and overcame spiritually in this life — how much good fruit he produced by his effort and the help of the Holy Spirit. In this parable Christ pictures Himself as a young nobleman going to a far land (heaven) to receive a kingdom and to return (to earth) (verses 11-12). As He left, He delegated certain responsibilities to each of His servants (representative of converted Christians to whom God has given His Holy Spirit).

7. At His return, having obtained the Kingdom, how will Christ judge His servants? Luke 19:15. Notice the words "that he might know how much every man had *gained* by trading."

Each pound represented a unit of money symbolizing *spiritual value*. God has given each Christian His Holy Spirit to be used to serve others, to overcome and develop spiritual character and to accomplish the Work of God.

8. Will each servant's reward be *directly proportional* to the degree of his growth — his spiritual overcoming and development? Verses 16-17 compared with verses 18-19.

True Christians are the servants of Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 7:22-23). Some overcome more than others — accomplish more spiritual works with what they have been given and develop more spiri-

tual character than others. Thus, in the Kingdom or Family of God, each will receive greater or lesser positions of responsibility dependent on the degree of his spiritual overcoming and character development in this life. Each will be rewarded "according to his works" (Matthew 16:27). But everyone will have a vital, meaningful responsibility to perform.

The responsibilities, which each one of God's Spirit-begotten children today is in the process of qualifying for, and which God wishes to bestow on us, are *in addition to* the gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23). So the reward is commensurate to our effort and diligence in overcoming, but access to *eternal life* comes freely through Christ as God's gift. There is no way we can earn salvation.

9. Does the principle of Matthew 24:46-47 illustrate that it is those who are faithful and overcome to the very end — those who are *still growing* in spiritual character at Christ's return (or at their death, if that comes first) — who shall inherit God's Kingdom and receive a reward?

10. Does II Peter 1:5-9 also show there is need for *continual growth* in the virtues of Christian character as long as a person lives? Do verses 10-11 strongly imply that those who don't continue to grow and overcome may not make it into God's Kingdom?

If you are not moving forward in growth, then the tendency is to slip backward!

11. In what capacity is Christ now serving true Christians? Hebrews 4:14-16.

As the High Priest of all Spirit-begotten children of God, Jesus Christ is always available to help us overcome. He takes special interest in our spiritual development, helping to prepare us so we can eventually inherit all things with Him!

Christ is always on the job and available to help in times of weakness or trial. Through the Holy Spirit He helps us to live a life of overcoming. Thus we have an active role in the salvation process too. It is up to us to "take earnest heed" to use today's time and opportunities for *overcoming* spiritually.

Stay close to God by drawing near to Him in prayer and through Bible study. Change. Overcome. Grow spiritually! Continually build the character of God until death or until the moment Jesus Christ returns when God will instantly change our weak, inadequate bodies into powerful, sinless, glorified Spirit bodies (Philippians 3:20, 21). It is then that we will be rewarded with stimulating responsibilities and opportunities to do great good in the world tomorrow as members of the Family of God! — *Prepared by Richard Sedliacik*

Esther Arenz nearly cried when she was able to fulfill a longtime wish to see the Ambassador Auditorium. Here she was on the campus of Ambassador College, and everything was even more beautiful than her scrapbook of newspaper photos and clippings had led her to believe.

"Overwhelming and awesome is all I can say," said the white-haired, 65-year-old widowed grandmother from Wauneta, Neb., after seeing three performances in the Auditorium during her week-long stay in Pasadena in December.

Tickets for students

Why is this unpretentious lady, who grows her own vegetables behind her small house in Nebraska, donating a generous sum of money to the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation? So that thousands of Los Angeles, Calif., area students can have access to low-cost tickets to performances in the Auditorium. "If I can share what I've got with other people, and we all have fun with it, why, then, that's so much the better."

There are other reasons too. Twice widowed, Mrs. Arenz has set up this fund in memory of her son, Douglas Resler, who died in a car accident during his sophomore year in high school.

Demand for tickets to the Auditorium concert series is extraordinary, according to the AICF. For this reason and in anticipation of financial support, the AICF is withholding from public sale 10 percent of Auditorium seating for student use. With the establishment of the Douglas C. Resler Endowment Fund, students will be given first call on these seats at discounts of up to 50 percent of the regular admission price.

Esther Arenz shuns the attention her gift brings. "My only regret is that those who have sacrificed to give a dollar, two, three, to a worthy cause don't receive the same attention. What I have been given is out of the abundance that God has allowed me to have, not through any sacrifice on my part."

Giving encouragement

But giving has always been part of this woman's life. Scores of Worldwide Church of God members who have never met her know of her



Close-Up

There are thousands of members in the Worldwide Church of God. This is the story of one of them.

through her cards of encouragement.

The way Mrs. Arenz looks at it, people need encouragement. "It's fun to get a letter when you're sick. And a word of encouragement means a lot sometimes. I don't play the piano very well, but once in a while I have to pinch-hit in church. [Mrs. Arenz attends the North Platte, Neb., church.] I'm the type who has to just practice and practice to learn one piece out of the hymn book. When someone says you did a good job or notices you're doing better, it always helps. It helps you want to do better."

The mother of five children, she never calls her second husband's children "step kids." "They're all my kids."

To round out the family she invited a foreign exchange student as well as a foster child to share her home. "I really never learned the meaning of 'love your neighbor as yourself' until we took on a foster child."

An adventurer at heart

Esther Arenz may not look the type, but deep down there beats the

heart of an adventurer. Two years ago this onetime registered nurse bought a 23-foot sailboat, which sleeps four, without breathing a word of it to any of her children. "I knew that if I told my kids I was going to get a sailboat they would try to talk me out of it. I just told my son I bought a sailboat in Denver [Colo.], and he could go after it. They really thought I had gone off my rocker."

Don't ask her where in the world you sail a boat in Nebraska. Before you know it you'll have an offer you can't refuse to join her and her friends at Lake McConaughy, some 80 miles from her home. This skipper is well trained too. In January she took a course in sailboating in Florida.

People do ask every once in a while if she isn't a bit old for this sort of thing. No matter to her, she has always had it in mind since age 25 when she walked along the shores of Lake Michigan while studying to be a nurse. "I enjoy sailing, but I enjoy it most of all with other people."

Can't sit home

"After my first husband died and then my son, I cried so much I didn't think I could ever cry again. But after Jim [her second husband] died, I found I could still cry. I'd chuck everything to have them back; we always had such a good time. But you can't sit at home and look at four walls."

The sailboat was bought in the memory of her second husband. It, her children, 11 grandchildren and the Church occupy her time now.

"The Worldwide Church of God is my life now," she says, recalling her staunch Methodist days. One week she was asked to bring information on the Church of God to Sunday school for a study on the religions of the world. "The pamphlets made it so plain, and after reading the autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong I couldn't wait to be baptized. It was rather cataclysmic with me."

"It's fantastic the blessings and miracles I've had. Little miracles happen all the time. The Church is a fantastic way of life; there is no other way as far as I'm concerned. The pearl of great price, they say." — By Klaus Rothe □

Our family was sitting around the kitchen table eating our traditional Sabbath brunch — pancakes. For us Sabbath brunch without pancakes is like a movie without popcorn. I slowly looked around the table at my wife, my son and then each of my two daughters. I thought of how special each one of them is to me and became lost for a moment in the simple enjoyment of this thought.

I then did my best to express to my wife and children their preciousness and value to me. And next thought how much more often I should do this.

Unconditional regard

Focus for a moment on your relationship with each of your loved ones. How often do you let them know and feel that they are precious to you simply because they exist — not precious because of something valuable they've done, but simply because they are who they are. Unconditional regard — cherishing.

Dozens of times I have sat on the edge of my son's bed and, as we

were going through the "tucking in" ritual, have simply said to him, "I am happy you are my Dewey." Not expressing pleasure in his report card, or his good behavior or his triple in the Little League game (although that should also be done), but simply cherishing him as Dewey, a person, a gift from God.

We call one of our daughters by the nickname "Prinny." A short time ago I noticed she became enthralled with a cat-food commercial on television. In it a cat "sang" some words to a song that went something like this: "What's so special about Special Dinner? It's got the special taste of m-m-milk." Later that night when Prinny was resting I came up to her and sang: "What's so special about special Prinny? She's just special." It's as simple as that. She's just special. You should have seen the expression of delight on Prinny's face.

Cherishing. So many ways to ex-

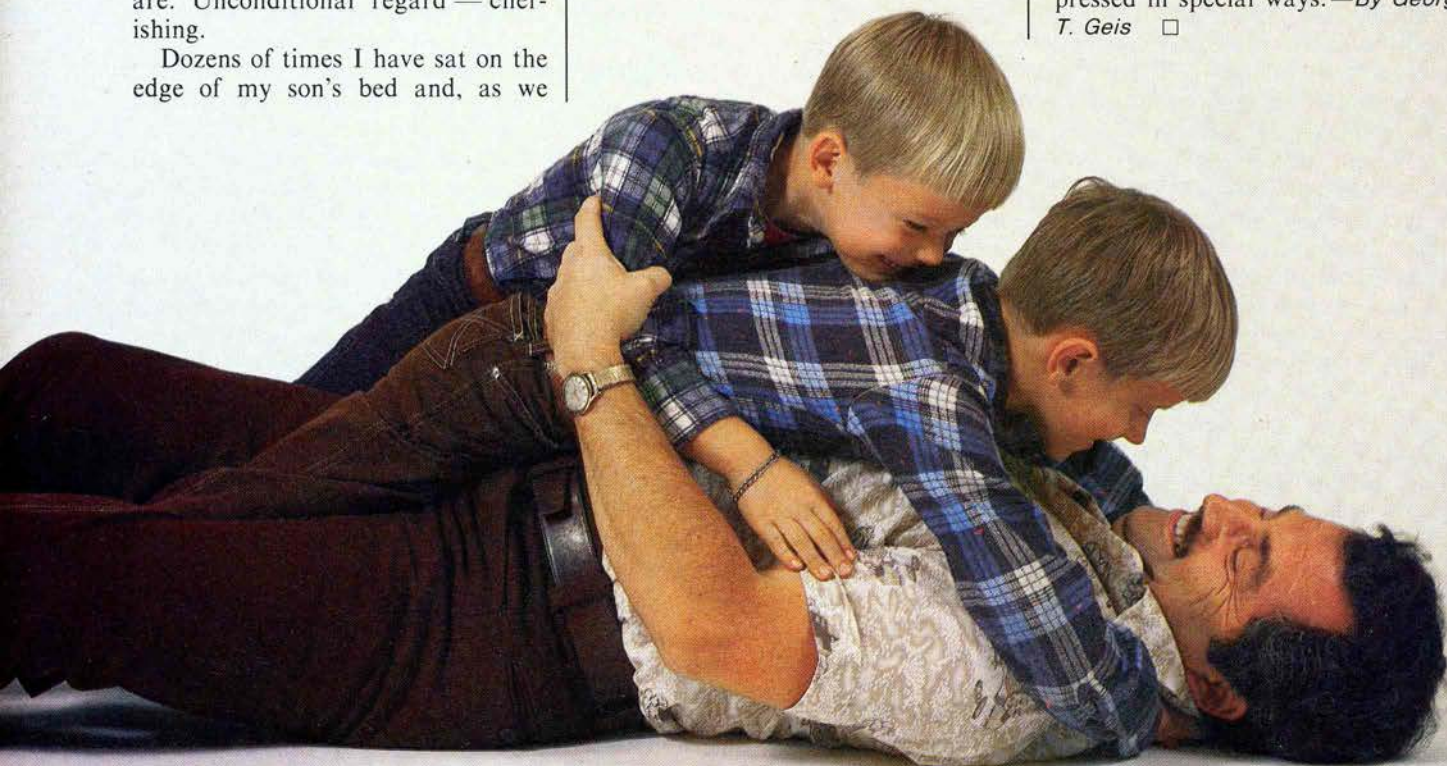
press it. One of my friends talks with a gleam in his eye when he tells of a game he plays with his son. It's the "I bet I love you more than you love me" game. As he puts his son in bed he may say:

"Son, I bet I love you more than you love me; I'm older and know a lot more about love." To which his son may reply: "Dad, I know I love you more than you love me; I'm just a boy, and kids know how to love in a purer and simpler way." Then they go on bandying back and forth arguments as to why their love is "more."

Special love

Cherishing. Do it your own special way with your loved ones. My friend's way or my ways are no better or no worse than your unique ways. The important thing is that we express in our own special ways the "apple of the eye" feeling we have for those dear to us.

Cherishing — special feelings expressed in special ways. —By George T. Geis □



PROVE ALL THINGS

Be Ready Always to Give an Answer

"... be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15).

Some time ago a special guest from Israel visited Ambassador College. We took him to dinner following his lecture. We had explained to him the basic teachings of the Church of God. And as we discussed that evening our relationship to the original Jerusalem Church, we ordered our dinners. Turtle soup and shrimp salad for him. Lamb for us. "Wait a moment!" he said as he caught the waiter's attention. "Make that another lamb..."

Our Israeli friend, a secular Jew, immediately understood why we had ordered lamb. It is clean food, fit for human consumption. Turtle and shrimp are not. They are biblically "unclean meats."

As a secular Jew, our Israeli friend reasoned that while among gentiles he would eat like gentiles. When we ordered lamb, his conscience must have smitten him. He, a Jew, adopting the dietary customs of the gentiles. We, Jews inwardly, living according to the biblical precept. We shared a delightful evening.

As Christians we were following the pattern of life of Christ's first chief apostle who said: "... I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean" (Acts 10:14, Revised Standard Version throughout except where otherwise designated).

It is the same pattern of life Noah followed (Genesis 8:20). The same pattern of life Moses instructed the Israelites to follow (Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14). But what about Paul's comments to the Roman and Jewish brethren in the city of Rome? He wrote, "I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean" (Romans 14:14, King James Version).

Did Jesus persuade Paul that unclean foods were somehow clean? And persuade Noah and Moses the opposite? Did Jesus lead Peter to believe one way and Paul another? What did Paul mean in Romans 14:14?

One would think, with the increase in linguistic skills, that modern scholars would have corrected translation errors in Romans 14.

Three times the 1611 translators incorrectly used the English word *unclean* to render the Greek root word *koinos* in verse 14.

Earlier translators did insert a preferable rendering in the margin — the English word *common*.

Remember Peter's vision of the great sheet let down from heaven (Acts 10:9-16) with all sorts of creatures? Peter, in a trance, was asked to kill and eat what he saw. He immediately responded "... No, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is *common* or *unclean*." Common? Unclean? Why not simply unclean?

Here Peter's expression is correctly rendered by the various versions. Peter used two Greek words to express two distinct matters — *koinos* and *akathartos*. The former word is rendered correctly here as *common*. The latter as *unclean*.

But in Romans 14:14 Paul did not use the word *akathartos*, meaning *unclean*. He used in each of the three cases the Greek root word *koinos*, meaning *common*. Paul therefore was not speaking of unclean meats being somehow clean. His comments should have been rendered:

"I know, and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is common of itself; but it is common for any one who thinks it common." There is no contradiction between Peter and Paul or Noah, Moses and Paul.

What then are we to understand

by Paul's statement — "that nothing is common of itself"?

Clean farm animals, torn of beasts, were commonly eaten by the gentiles. But God inspired Moses to instruct Israel to avoid eating any torn clean animal (Exodus 22:31).

Sometimes a clean animal dies of itself. What does the law say: "You shall not eat anything that dies of itself... for you are a people holy to the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 14:21). Here again, clean farm animals that died of themselves were forbidden to Israel.

Such practice among the gentiles would give rise to the expression that meats could be "common" — *koinos* in Greek — that is, forbidden — though eaten by gentiles commonly and in their spiritual ignorance.

Sheep, goats, calves, doves and pigeons — creatures sacrificed at the temple of God — are clean animals by nature. When killed by wild beasts or upon natural death, they become common. That is why Paul wrote that "there is nothing common of itself." It is a circumstance that happens to the flesh that renders it common to God's people.

Another act that rendered a clean animal common was offering it to an idol (Acts 15:29). Later, as the Greek converts understood that an idol was nothing, it was permitted (see I Corinthians 8).

Greek vegetarians converted to Christ thought all meat was improper to eat, that is, common. That is why Paul wrote: "... nothing is common in itself; but it is common for anyone who thinks it common. If your brother [a vegetarian] is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love..." (Romans 14:14-15, RSV corrected). — *By Herman L. Hoeh* □

Son of God?

(Continued from page 6)

John the Baptist picks up this same theme. "John bore witness to him, and cried, 'This was he of whom I said, He who comes after me ranks before me, *for he was before me*'" (John 1:15). Was the Baptist indulging in some kind of spiritual double-talk here? No! John was begotten and born into the human flesh before the human Jesus was (Luke 1:35-36, 57-60). Yet Jesus was God long before John was conceived.

Jesus — from heaven

John knew Jesus' true origin. Quoting Christ, John declared, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man" (John 3:13).

John continued: "He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth belongs to the earth, and of the earth he speaks; he who comes from heaven is above all" (verse 31).

The God of the Old Testament

In chapter 8, the Pharisees brought up the subject of Abraham. Jesus had to explain to them: "'Your father Abraham rejoiced that he was to see my day; he saw it and was glad.' The Jews said to him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have you

seen Abraham?' Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, *I am*'" (verses 56-58).

Jesus Christ was the same God who walked and talked with Moses in the wilderness — the same "I am" (see Exodus 3:14) who brought the children of Israel out of Egypt. Paul makes this plain. "I want you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the Red sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea . . . For they drank from the same supernatural Rock which followed them, *and the Rock was Christ*" (I Corinthians 10:1-4).

We find the most emphatic statements about the preexistence of Jesus Christ in the book of John. The book's major emphasis is on the fact that Jesus Christ was God before His human birth. Even the Pharisee Nicodemus said to Jesus, "' . . . Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher *come from God* . . .'" (John 3:2).

Jesus told the leaders of this smallish sect: "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God" (John 5:17-18, King James Version). If you have any sons or daughters, they are on the same plane and level of existence as yourself. Jesus was equal with God in the

sense that He existed on the same God-plane that the Father did.

From Creator to Son

We have now firmly established that Jesus was God before His human birth. But He later divested Himself of His glory and came down to this earth as a human being to die for the sins of all mankind.

Paul wrote to the Philippian brethren:

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, *but emptied himself*, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:5-8).

Paul brings out that Jesus is *now restored* to His former glory: "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that *Jesus Christ is Lord*, to the glory of God the Father" (verses 9-11).

Jesus was God before His human birth; He was God in the flesh while a human being here on earth; and He is *now very God* at the right hand of the Father in heaven. □

From the Editor...

(Continued from page 1)

But humans, if called by God the Father, made physically in the likeness of God, may receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit, thus being *begotten*, but not yet born of God. Though not yet *born* of God, we do become the begotten children of God (Romans 8:14-17).

The Church of God is the affianced Bride of Christ, to MARRY Christ at His coming in Glory, when the Church will be changed from physical mortal flesh to immortal SPIRIT. The Church will, then, become the *born* INHERITORS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, the DIVINE Family! The Kingdom of God will then become the GOD FAMILY, ruling the UNIVERSE!

Did you ever come to realize that this FAMILY relationship is given to no other beings God ever created, but to us as humans? Angels do not reproduce children, have no FAMILY relationship. Animals, birds, fish, have no close and life-long family relationship as do humans.

Satan is subtly DESTROYING the human FAMILY relationship. He is doing it through the women's lib movement and through the new-morality attitude toward sex. The number of men who have become perverted in their minds as homosexuals and the smaller number of women lesbians tends to reduce the number of families and to destroy a God-blessed family relationship. The divorce rate is gradually tending to destroy the human family relationship.

Satan is doing everything in his

power to destroy GOD's Church and GOD's way of life — the way of His law, His government!

And this world is heading at accelerating speed into the final CRISIS — the END of this evil world and the DAWN of a peaceful and happy WORLD TOMORROW, ruled by the Kingdom of God.

Then human mortals still living will be ruled by the Kingdom of God. Satan will be gone from earth.

And, in that happy WORLD TOMORROW, mortal humans, taught and ruled by the GOD FAMILY, will learn the joys and blessings of a healthy home-and-family relationship, with spiritual salvation and eternal life to look forward to.

Jesus taught us to pray, "THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN"! — By Herbert W. Armstrong □

10th Anniversary

(Continued from page 5)

replica of the famous Liberty Bell, crack and all, to the City of Jerusalem as an emblem of friendship between the United States and Israel. He asked me if the AICF (Ambassador International Cultural Foundation) would participate in this park. I decided to sponsor the children's playground area at the entrance to the new park.

The mayor of Jerusalem had visited Ambassador College in Pasa-

dena. He was much impressed with the character and beauty of our campus, which twice has won the award of being the most beautiful, best landscaped and best maintained campus in the United States. Mayor Kolleck has since taken me over various parts of Jerusalem to show me how he is landscaping and beautifying the city of Jerusalem.

So this recent trip in December marked the 10th ANNIVERSARY of our participation in Israel. The whole celebration was in my honor, and they went all out to show their friendship and appreciation.

Although a summary of this anniversary celebration was sent out in a general letter to all *Plain Truth* subscribers, I will give you here a more detailed account of this very important event.

We arrived in Jerusalem Friday afternoon, Dec. 15th. Saturday evening there was a reception in my honor at the ICCY building hosted by Moshe Kol.

Sunday, at 4 p.m., was the dedication ceremony, with a band and many guests, at the "Armstrong Playground" in the Liberty Bell Park. The entire park is really a

A GIFT from the City of Philadelphia, a replica of the Liberty Bell, gives the Liberty Bell Park in Jerusalem its name. A stone marker in the park honors Herbert Armstrong for his aid in establishing the facility.





IN INAUGURATION CEREMONIES at Jerusalem's Liberty Bell Park, a stone marker bearing Herbert Armstrong's name was unveiled in recognition of his sponsorship of the children's playground area.

beautiful garden and certainly a credit to God's chosen city. My name is engraved on a stone marker at the entrance to the playground.

Sunday, 5 p.m., a special performance at the ICCY. There were performances of both Israeli and Arab teenagers on the stage of the auditorium — both boys and girls. The ICCY is making fine progress in bringing about friendly relations between Israeli and Arab youth.

Between the entrance to the ICCY building and the street is a foot-paved square of perhaps 75 or 100 feet across each way, which has been

named "The Herbert W. Armstrong Square." There is a marker with that name on it.

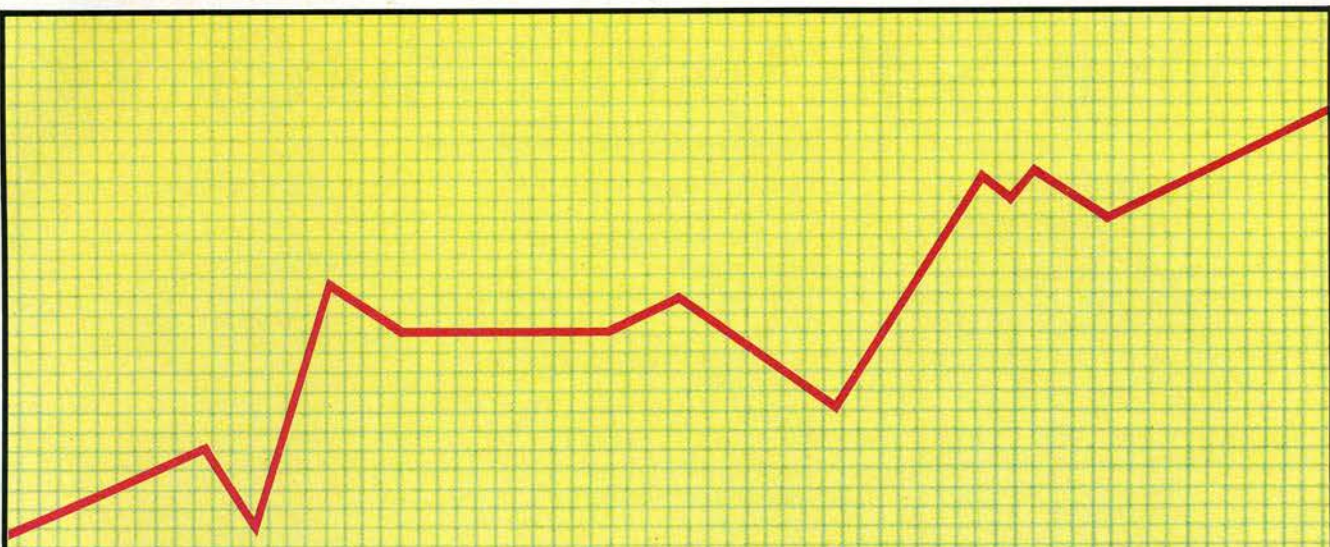
Sunday, 7:30 p.m., the mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kolleck, hosted a special dinner in my honor at Mishle-not Shaananim. Many of Israel's most prominent people were present.

Monday, a luncheon in my honor at Beit Mayersdorf in the Mount Scopus campus of the Hebrew University, hosted by Professor Mazar and Dr. Aviram and the deputy prime minister of Israel, Yigael Yadin. This luncheon also was attended

by many of Israel's most prominent people.

Tuesday was a very busy day. There were several meetings at the Knesset — with Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Shimon Peres, chairman of Israel's leading Labor Party, and the speaker of the Knesset, Itzhak Shamir. Then a visit at the president's residence, with the president of Israel, Itzhak Navon.

All in top offices in Israel were enthusiastic about starting another decade of mutual cooperation and friendship. □



Evaluate Your FAMILY GROWTH

By Robert D. Oberlander

The alarm sounds, and signs of life begin to emerge from within the Rogers household.

Scott's been up since 6:30, trying to make it to high school band practice on time for a change. Eddie, who's studying advanced physics at the university, is contemplating the relative relationship between perpendicular placement and the causal effect of obliquity. (He's deciding if getting up is worth the effort.) Cathy, a lively 12-year-old, hops across the cold floor to sit in front of the furnace, all the while complaining of frostbite.

Soon mom, dad and all the kids are scurrying around in a frenzy of activity, and the pace won't subside until the end of the day.

Too many days in too many households begin just as portrayed above, family members rushing here and there, until the days have turned into years, and the family is no longer together.

It's been said that life is a rat race

— and the rats are winning. Even though life does have its frantic moments, it shouldn't be that way continually.

Meaningful time together

Spending time together as a family can make life so much more rewarding. But it should be meaningful time, relevant to the needs of each member of that family. To insure positive growth, we occasionally need to look at ourselves as a unit, to evaluate our progress and plot a course for the future.

The apostle Paul tells us to redeem the time in Ephesians 5:16. That is to say, we ought to make the most of every opportunity we have for Christian growth. Not only as individuals, but as a family. That growth can only come if we separate ourselves from our everyday chores and take stock of where we are headed.

If there is a lack in showing the fruits of living God's way of life, if there is an empty hole where family

communication should be, then we need to recognize our weaknesses and build on our strengths.

Strive for the right direction with a desire to build a strong and meaningful family relationship based on God's way of life.

"... for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap," says Paul in Galatians 6:7. What is more fertile ground for Christian growth than the family? Its trials and tests offer us many opportunities to display the type of character God wants us to have. Once this realization fully hits us we need only, as some say, to "get some sowin' going" to reap a bountiful harvest that only family love and togetherness can bring.

Analyze your family

So how does your family stack up? Take some time for a family self-appraisal to find out. By looking at our family life objectively we can gain a new outlook on how it really is as compared to how we would like it to be.

Family Self-Appraisal Inventory

(Instructions: Rate yourself on each point on a scale of 1 to 10.)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- Do you show the fruits of the Spirit:
- ☐ Love (genuine concern for the welfare of others)
 - ☐ Joy (cheerful, positive outlook)
 - ☐ Peace (emotional stability, tranquillity)
 - ☐ Longsuffering (patient)
 - ☐ Gentleness (sensitive)
 - ☐ Goodness (kind, considerate)
 - ☐ Faith (trust in God, confidence)
 - ☐ Meekness (humility)
 - ☐ Temperance (self-control, moderate)
- Do you:
- ☐ Pray regularly
 - ☐ Study regularly
 - ☐ Set an example through personal growth and maturing
 - ☐ Take part in Church activities
 - ☐ Instruct and guide your children

Total your score for this section and divide by 14 to get your comparative rating on a scale of 1 to 10.

INDIVIDUAL GROWTH

- Do you:
- ☐ Get enough sleep
 - ☐ Exercise regularly

- ☐ Eat well-balanced meals
 - ☐ Develop new skills and hobbies
 - ☐ Maintain a neat appearance
 - ☐ Read regularly
 - ☐ Make learning a lifetime activity
- Are you:
- ☐ Confident and positive
 - ☐ Dependable
- Do you:
- ☐ Encourage your spouse's self-improvement activities
 - ☐ Show interest in children's schoolwork
 - ☐ Guide your children in making their own decisions
 - ☐ Praise your children's achievements

Total your score for this section and divide by 13.

FRIENDSHIP AND SERVICE

- Do you:
- ☐ Visit friends and relatives, especially when they're sick
 - ☐ Provide warmth and support when others need help
 - ☐ Know and like your neighbors
 - ☐ Keep current with your community's affairs
 - ☐ Know your children's friends

Total your score for this section and divide by 5.

TEAMWORK

- Do you and your spouse:
- ☐ Share compatible values
 - ☐ Trust and respect each other
 - ☐ Resolve differences with love
- Do family members:
- ☐ Practice mutual support
 - ☐ Have constructive communication
 - ☐ Discuss and resolve disagreements constructively
 - ☐ Share family responsibilities

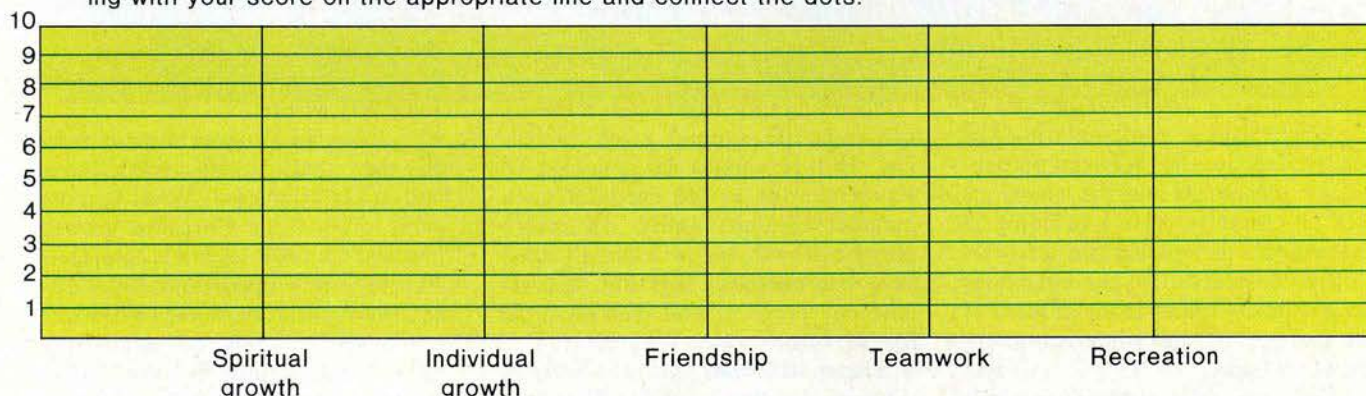
Total your score for this section and divide by 7.

RECREATION

- Do you:
- ☐ Spend time with your spouse
 - ☐ Spend time with your children
 - ☐ Keep up with your children's activities
 - ☐ Channel your children into wholesome hobbies and activities
 - ☐ Plan family recreation and outings
 - ☐ Try new activities together
 - ☐ Make wise use of TV as a family

Total your score for this section and divide by 7.

By following the instructions at the bottom of each section you can get an average score for that part on a scale of 1 to 10. This average score can then be plotted on the profile below. Just place a dot corresponding with your score on the appropriate line and connect the dots.



To help in this self-analysis, we would like to share with you a brief work-sheet, designed to aid you in taking a family inventory. This is not a test, but it is a tool that can help us all take a fresh look at ourselves as a family.

You might enjoy rating each of the points listed on a scale from 1 to 10.

This can be done by dad, mom, even the kids or the family as a whole.

Take a look at five important areas — spiritual growth, individual growth, friendship and service, teamwork and recreation — and apply the questions to your family.

You may want to analyze your family now and then again in a

month or two to see what progress you're making. Though this is not a test, high scores can be encouraging, and low scores can point to areas for personal and family growth.

Remember to be realistic and fair. No family is perfect, but an accurate self-appraisal can help a good family become even better. □



● HIGH STAKES IN IRAN. The continuing violence in strife-torn Iran is fostering increased speculation about that strategic nation's future. A major crisis could be at hand if the shah is forced from office, an increasing possibility. The principal concern is that the entire Persian Gulf area could be up for grabs if Iran falls into unfriendly hands, specifically a regime sympathetic to Moscow. Recent U.S. estimates that the Soviets could suffer an oil shortage in the next decade have increased speculation about Kremlin designs. Saudi Arabia, which has always looked to Iran as a buffer against Moscow, is also deeply concerned, as the fall of Iran to pro-Moscow elements would mean the virtual encirclement of the Arabian peninsula by pro-Soviet regimes. Some observers are suggesting a possible replay in Iran of recent events in Afghanistan, Iran's neighbor to the east, where a pro-Moscow regime assumed power early last year and later signed a 20-year treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Kremlin.

● ISLAM ON THE MARCH. God may be "dead" in the West, but Allah is very much alive in the East. From North Africa across the Middle East to Central and South-east Asia, a renewal of Islamic fundamentalism is surging among the world's 600 million Moslems. Both conservative and radical regimes appear vulnerable. Though the resurgent Moslem movement has taken special aim at what it sees as the "excesses" of western influence, it is hostile to Marxist ideals as well. In Iran, the current center of Moslem unrest, orthodox Moslems are demanding the shah's ouster, opposing what they view as an erosion of traditional Koran-based values as a result of his modernization programs. For the United States and Western Europe, the major concern over the Moslem revival is its potential of a possible new-style jihad (holy war) to recover sacred Moslem shrines in Jerusalem. It is a potentially explosive situation.

● GREECE TO JOIN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. Concluding 2½ years of difficult negotiations, representatives of Greece and the European Economic Community (EEC), or Common Market, reached agreement in Brussels in December, 1978, on the details of Greece's entry into the 20-year-old economic club. The Greek foreign minister, George Rallis, termed the agreement "an historic moment in Europe's history." After allowing for ratification both by the Greek parliament and the legislatures of the nine existing members, Greece would become the 10th full member of the EEC Jan. 1, 1981, if all goes as planned. The accord might also clear the way for Spain and Portugal to begin serious membership negotiations sometime this year.

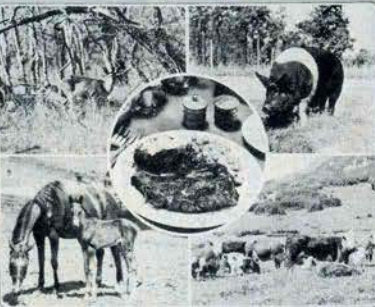
● TWO-TIER COMMON MARKET. The European Economic Community is steadily becoming what has been called a two-tier community. In the first tier are the Germans and the French along with other strong economies such as Belgium and the Netherlands. In the second tier are weaker economies such as Britain, Italy and Ireland. All three countries presently knocking on the EEC door -- Greece, Spain, Portugal -- will join the second-tier rank. Each will need financial help and long transitional periods to help their economies adjust to the competition expected from the stronger members. One is reminded of the prophecy in Daniel 2:41-42 referring to the final "ten-toed" resurrection of the Roman Empire: "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potter's clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken."

● THE ACTIVIST POPE. In his inaugural address last fall, Pope John Paul II said that "we have no intention of political interference, nor of participation in the working out of temporal affairs." Apparently conditions have changed, for according to a Reuter's dispatch of Dec. 24, 1978, "the pope has strengthened in the past few days the impression that during his reign the church will be at the center of international affairs." For one, Pope John Paul on Christmas Day at St. Peter's in Rome read Christmas greetings to "each and every human being" in 24 languages, including Arabic, Chinese and Russian. A few days earlier the pope confirmed that he would travel to Mexico in January to attend a conference of Latin American bishops. The most interesting example of the Vatican's new activism in world affairs concerns the dispatching of a papal envoy to help mediate in a dispute between Chile and Argentina, who have threatened to go to war over possession of a small group of islands at the tip of South America. It is the first time in nearly a century that a pope has attempted to settle an international dispute.

● THE COLLAPSE OF THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT in Phnom Penh has sent shock waves through non-Communist regional neighbors. Hanoi's (capital of North Vietnam) large-scale military support for insurgent forces, which now control most of Cambodia (Kampuchea), has drawn a sharp reaction from the Southeast Asian press, shocked and alarmed over what it calls Hanoi's "aggressive" and "imperialistic" actions. Hanoi's move is seen as a contradiction of Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong's pledge that Vietnam would not aid subversive elements in other countries. With Laos already under Vietnam's sway, the fall of Chinese-backed Cambodia spells Vietnamese dominance over all of Indochina. Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) -- Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines -- fear the long-term regional aims of Soviet-backed Vietnam, seeing the possibility of Hanoi's continuing to pursue its expansionist path by spreading the communist revolution to still other countries. With the fall of Cambodia the balance of power in Southeast Asia has clearly changed. The full ramifications for the region remain to be seen.

● TWO OMINOUS NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET WEAPONRY threaten to completely destabilize the delicate "balance of terror" in the world today and particularly in Europe. The first, revealed by Red Army Marshal Pavel Rotmistrov, is the development of a special lining that can protect Soviet tank crews from the lethal radiation generated by the neutron bomb. If true, this means neutron bombs would be useless against a full-scale invasion of Western Europe by Russian tanks. The second development is the Pentagon disclosure that the Soviet air force has successfully conducted a test in which a Russian fighter plane shot down a prototype cruise missile. This is important because plans call for the United States to put greater reliance on cruise missiles to deter a Soviet nuclear attack. If the Soviet Union can defend against the cruise missile, it means the likelihood of nuclear war is just that much greater.

● AMID FOOD SURPLUSES, WORLD HUNGER INCREASES. The fuse of the world population-food time bomb burns ever shorter while farmers in many developed nations, particularly the United States, worry about their record crops and surpluses. Even though birth rates are slowly dropping and food production is increasing in many developing nations, significant food surpluses are rarely achieved. The 36 most hungry developing nations, containing 1.2 billion people or 30 percent of the world's population, are either barely keeping food production ahead of burgeoning population increases or are falling dangerously behind. Only relatively good weather and costly agricultural inputs, fertilizers and herbicides have kept the sword of serious famine at bay. Political turmoil compounds the problem.



Is All Animal Flesh Good Food?

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cret, you have been unable to overcome? Have you ever met with temptation, struggled with it, only to remorsefully wake up a little later to the fact that you had slipped and failed to overcome?

These things are serious! We must overcome in order to sit with Jesus on His throne (Revelation 3:21). But, *how*? This article explains how to receive and use the power of God in overcoming.

Is ALL Animal Flesh Good Food?

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