Awake!

Christianity's Unique Requirements

PAGE 5

Tire Care May Save Your Life

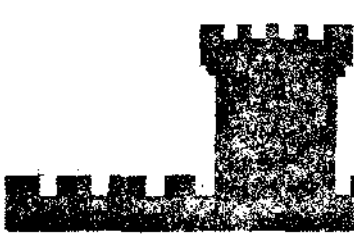
PAGE 9

Worldwide Lawlessness of Youths—Why?

PAGE 16

Fertile Soil—A Miracle of Creation

PAGE 20



JANUARY 22, 1966

THE REASON FOR THIS MAGAZINE

News sources that are able to keep you awake to the vital issues of our times must be unfettered by censorship and selfish interests. "Awake!" has no fetters. It recognizes facts, faces facts, is free to publish facts. It is not bound by political ties; it is unhampered by traditional creeds. This magazine keeps itself free, that it may speak freely to you. But it does not abuse its freedom. It maintains integrity to truth.

The viewpoint of "Awake!" is not narrow, but is international. "Awake!" has its own correspondents in scores of nations. Its articles are read in many lands, in many languages, by millions of persons.

In every issue "Awake!" presents vital topics on which you should be informed. It features penetrating articles on social conditions and offers sound counsel for meeting the problems of everyday life. Current news from every continent passes in quick review. Attention is focused on activities in the fields of government and commerce about which you should know. Straightforward discussions of religious issues alert you to matters of vital concern. Customs and people in many lands, the marvels of creation, practical sciences and points of human interest are all embraced in its coverage. "Awake!" provides wholesome, instructive reading for every member of the family.

"Awake!" pledges itself to righteous principles, to exposing hidden foes and subtle dangers, to championing freedom for all, to comforting mourners and strengthening those disheartened by the failures of a delinquent world, reflecting sure hope for the establishment of God's righteous new order in this generation.

Get acquainted with "Awake!" Keep awake by reading "Awake!"

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THE UNITED STATES BY THE
WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.
117 Adams Street Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201, U.S.A.
AND IN ENGLAND BY
WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY
Watch Tower House, The Ridgeway London N.W. 7, England
N. H. KNORR, *President* GRANT SUITER, *Secretary*

Printing this issue: 4,450,000

4d a copy (Australia, 5d; South Africa, 3½d)

Offices	Yearly subscription rates for semimonthly editions
America, U.S., 117 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201	$1
Australia, 11 Bernsford Rd., Strathfield, N.S.W.	8/-
Canada, 150 Bridgeland Ave., Toronto 19, Ont.	$1
England, Watch Tower House, The Ridgeway, London N.W. 7	7/6
New Zealand, 621 New North Rd., Auckland S.W. 1	7/-
South Africa, Private Bag 2, P.O. Elandsfontein, Tvl.	70c

(Monthly editions cost half the above rates.)

Remittances for subscriptions should be sent to the office in your country. Otherwise send your remittance to Brooklyn. Notice of expiration is sent at least two issues before subscription expires.

Now published in 26 languages

Semimonthly—Afrikaans, Cebuano, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Iloko, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Zulu.

Monthly—Chinese, Cinyanja, Hiligaynon, Malayalam, Polish, Tamil, Ukrainian.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS should reach us thirty days before your moving date. Give us your old and new address (if possible, your old address label). Write Watch Tower, Watch Tower House, The Ridgeway, London N.W. 7, England.

Entered as second-class matter at Brooklyn, N.Y.
Printed in England

The Bible translation regularly used in "Awake!" is the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, 1961 edition. When other translations are used, this is clearly marked.

CONTENTS

Be Wisely Generous	3
Christianity's Unique Requirements	5
Helping Others to Learn the Teachings of Christ	8
Tire Care May Save Your Life	9
The Pilgrimage to the "Virgin of Verdun"	12
Those Amazing Sleepers	15
Worldwide Lawlessness of Youths—Why?	16
Injurious Passion	19
Fertile Soil—A Miracle of Creation	20
Our Complex Atmosphere	23
Dhows—A Look at Living History	24
"Your Word Is Truth" Does the Bible Teach Purgatorial Suffering?	27
Watching the World	29

Awake!
"It is already the hour for you to awake."
—Romans 13:11

Volume XLVII | London, England, January 22, 1966 | Number 2

BE WISELY Generous

BEING generous is usually defined as being liberal in giving, openhanded. It is just the opposite of being petty, mean, stingy, niggardly and parsimonious.

Strictly speaking, however, generosity is not synonymous with liberality. Generosity goes farther and is a more noble quality than liberality. Thus, as has been said, 'generosity seems to be superior to liberality, for it refers more to the internal disposition or heart condition and therefore implies a completer triumph over selfish impulses.'—*Century Dictionary.*

It follows, then, that the liberal American people are not necessarily more generous than others, even though it has been said of them, "You couldn't stop Americans from giving even if you wanted to." And by the same token, notwithstanding popular opinion to the contrary, it cannot be said that the Scots are ungenerous. They as a people have had to practice extreme thrift because of the nature of their land, but those who have come to know them well will testify that as a people they are truly generous.

True generosity is not only noble but also the course of wisdom, even as King Solomon long ago wrote: "There exists the one that is scattering and yet is being increased . . . The generous soul will itself be made fat, and the one freely watering others will himself also be freely watered." "Send out your bread upon the surface of the waters, for in the course of many days you will find it again."—Prov. 11:24, 25; Eccl. 11:1.

Jesus Christ made the same point when he said, in his sermon on the mount: "Practice giving, and people will give to you. They will pour into your laps a fine measure, pressed down, shaken together and overflowing. For with the measure that you are measuring out, they will measure out to you in return." Expressing the same thought but slightly different, the apostle Paul said: "He that sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and he that sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." —Luke 6:38; 2 Cor. 9:6.

However, to no small degree the above-noted principles depend upon our being wisely generous. They would not apply if we acted foolishly in our giving or had been victimized. So it is not enough that we want to be generous in our giving, but we should give wisely, be wisely generous.

To whom or what shall we give? To the truly needy ones, to those who are deserving. Emphasizing that our giving should be to the ones in need, Jesus once stated: "When you spread a dinner or evening

meal, do not call your friends or . . . rich neighbors. Perhaps some time they might also invite you in return and it would become a repayment to you. But when you spread a feast, invite poor people, crippled, lame, blind; and you will be happy, because they have nothing with which to repay you. For you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous ones." Not that there is anything wrong with reciprocal social entertaining; but can it be said to be an evidence of generosity? Much of Christmas giving has such lack of generosity connected with it. People give to those from whom they expect to receive and even measure the size of the gift they give by the size of the gift they expect to receive!—Luke 14:12-14.

Then again, it does not necessarily follow that when a shabbily dressed man asks for money he should be given a coin. His pitiable appearance may be purposely assumed for the sake of appealing to people's sympathy, or his appearance may be due to laziness or indifference. He may be asking money for food or carfare but just as likely he may be wanting money for liquor or tobacco. So the merits of each appeal have to be appraised so as not to reject the worthy and not to be taken in by the unworthy.

That the same principle applies to contributing, showing generosity to organizations claiming to be philanthropic, is also apparent from an article that appeared on the front page of the New York *Times*, December 13, 1964. It told, among other things, that the giving to philanthropies in the United States had increased in the last thirty years from $1 billion a year to $10 billion, about half of this sum going to religious organizations, making philanthropy one of America's ten top "businesses." It also reported that some $300 million each year is collected by questionable groups and even more is wasted by well-meaning incompetents.

Among questionable groups are those who pocket for themselves from 80 to 90 cents of each dollar collected, whereas a reasonable amount would be around 15 cents. A board that supplies information on the worthiness of various philanthropies, for approval requires that an organization maintain "a responsible unpaid board, a legitimate purpose, reasonably efficient programs, ethical promotion and solicitation," and so forth. In view of these requirements it is indeed of interest that the president of one of the world's most respected charities receives an annual salary in excess of that received by the president of the United States.

Among other things, the *Times* quoted recommendations that one contribute only to solicitors whom one knew personally. It said that "the biggest share of the charity pie goes to those who shout the loudest and use the best techniques . . . People give to the things that have the greatest emotional appeal." Surely this is food for thought. Do you contribute on the basis of need and merit or because of the loud shouting, the technique used, the emotional appeal?

One of the most widespread philanthropies in the world today is carried on without any solicitations and yet spends many millions of dollars in financing the preaching of the good news of God's kingdom in obedience to the prophetic command found at Matthew 24:14. Those interested in this philanthropy, however, do not limit their support to money but give that which is even more valuable, their time, their energies and their personal influence. And this may be said to be the most deserving of all philanthropies, because it works toward the sanctifying of God's name and the everlasting life of those willing to listen and to heed. And what is more important than these things?—Matt. 6:9; John 17:3.

Christianity's unique Requirements

What are they? Who are meeting them?

WHAT are Christianity's unique requirements? Ask that question of the average person in Christendom who professes to be Christian and he might answer something like this: 'Believe in God. Keep the Ten Commandments. Do to others as you would have them do to you.'

Good and important as it is to believe in God and to do good to others, this is not what distinguishes Christianity from all other forms of worship. They are not its *unique* features. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did not need to come from heaven to earth to teach these things, for they were taught the Jews through the law of Moses.

Yes, long before the Son of God came to earth the Israelites had given to them the 'two great commandments of life,' namely, to love Jehovah with all one's heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself. (Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18; Mark 12:28-32) Jesus said that the teaching of the Law and of the Prophets, which they had had for centuries, was this: "All things, therefore, that you want men to do to you, you also must likewise do to them." (Matt. 7:12) So, too, they had long had that fine epitome of God's requirements for man as found at Micah 6:8: "He has told you, O earthling man, what is good. And what is Jehovah asking back from you but to exercise justice and to love kindness and to be modest in walking with your God?" These noble things were required of the worshipers of the true God Jehovah before the inception of Christianity, even though now they correspond with its requirements.

Since these requirements had been laid upon the Israelites long before Jesus Christ ever came to earth, just what are some of the requirements that he laid upon his followers that are unique, and so unique to Christianity? Among the foremost are recognizing the part Jesus Christ plays in Jehovah God's purposes, the preaching commission he laid upon his followers and the new commandment he gave them to love one another as he had loved them.

Recognizing Jesus Christ

What is the part Jesus Christ plays in Jehovah God's purposes? In the beginning, as the Word, he was with God his Father and he himself "was a god." His Father used him in bringing all things into existence and without this Son of God "not even one thing came into existence." He came from heaven to earth, as he himself testified, not to be ministered to or to be served, "but to minister and to give his soul [life] a ransom in exchange for many." He came as "the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." On the third day after he gave his life for the sin of the world God raised him from the dead and thereafter "exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every other name, so that in the name of Jesus every knee

should bend . . . and every tongue should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." —John 1:1-3; Matt. 20:28; John 1:29; Phil. 2:9-11.

Jesus Christ claimed to be God's Son in a unique sense, for he told Nicodemus: "God loved the world so much that he gave his *only-begotten* Son, in order that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life." As the apostle Peter, in reply to Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?" answered: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."—John 3:16; Matt. 16:15, 16.

As faithful Jews, Jesus' disciples were already, at least in effect, witnesses for Jehovah. (Isa. 43:10-12) But now they were to be also witnesses for Jesus Christ, as he himself told them: "You will be witnesses of me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the most distant part of the earth."—Acts 1:8.

In keeping with that injunction we find that, when the apostle Peter was sent to the Gentile army officer Cornelius, Peter gave him a witness regarding Jesus Christ, saying: "God anointed him with holy spirit and power, and he went through the land doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil; because God was with him. And we are witnesses of all the things he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem; but they also did away with him by hanging him on a stake. God raised this One up on the third day and granted him to become manifest, not to all the people, but . . . to us, who ate and drank with him after his rising from the dead. . . . To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone putting faith in him gets forgiveness of sins through his name."—Acts 10: 38-43.

True Christianity requires belief in these truths regarding Jesus Christ as the only-begotten Son of God, the long-promised Messiah and the ransomer of mankind.

A Congregation of Preachers

Another unique feature of Christianity as introduced by its Founder was that of making all his followers, all those that believed in him, preachers and teachers. They were to be his followers, not only in accepting him as the Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, but also in imitating him by spreading this good news to others. There had been nothing like this prior to Jesus' coming to the earth. The law of Moses made no provision for the Israelites' preaching to the Gentiles and trying to convert them to the worship of Jehovah. Nor did the prophets, from Samuel to Malachi, appeal to their hearers to become preachers of the Word of God, to endeavor to spread the worship of Jehovah beyond the confines of the nation of Israel. Of course, later the Jewish scribes and Pharisees did "traverse sea and dry land" to make proselytes to Judaism, but not with good results.—Matt. 23:15; Acts 2: 5-10.

But Jesus Christ did institute a preaching campaign in which *all* his followers were to share—truly something unique with Christianity. He set the example, pioneering the way. In the next year after his baptism in the Jordan River he began to preach: "Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near." And so we further read that "he went around throughout the whole of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the good news of the kingdom." Not content to have just one group of preachers, he sent out the twelve apostles in two's, and later the seventy evangelizers, all to follow his example by preaching the good news of God's kingdom.—Matt. 4:17, 23; 10:2-7; Luke 10:1, 9.

No question about it, as regards Jesus' activity while on earth, preaching and teaching came first. The Gospel accounts put the emphasis on Jesus' preaching, as in his sermon on the mount, in his giving of many parables and then in his explaining of them. In fact, such was the emphasis on teaching in his ministry that both those who opposed him and those who followed him addressed him as "Teacher," or "Rabbi," which terms mean the same thing. —*Matt. 5:1–7:29; 13:1-53; 18:1-35; 22:16, 24, 36; 23:8;* John 1:38; 3:2.

So also with Jesus' disciples. The first ones he called he invited to become "fishers of men." How? By preaching, of course. And among his final instructions to his disciples was the command to make disciples of people of all nations. How? By *"teaching them."—Matt. 4:19; 28:19, 20.*

Then after Jesus ascended to heaven and the holy spirit was poured out upon his followers at the time of Pentecost, what did the gathered 120 in that upper room in Jerusalem do? They at once spoke out and preached, causing people to say: "See here, all these who are speaking are Galileans, are they not? And yet how is it we are hearing . . . them speaking in our [own] tongues about the magnificent things of God?" And they kept on preaching, so much so that they were arrested and commanded "nowhere to make any utterance or to teach upon the basis of the name of Jesus." In reply the apostles said: "We cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard." And when, after the stoning of the disciple Stephen, persecution scattered the early Christians, we read that "those who had been scattered went through the land declaring the good news of the word."—Acts 2:7-11; 4:18-20; 8:4.

Not only that, but underscoring the importance of this preaching ministry are the inspired words of the apostle Paul: "If you publicly declare that 'word in your own mouth,' that Jesus is Lord, and exercise faith in your heart that God raised him up from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one exercises faith for righteousness, but with the mouth one makes public declaration for salvation." Speaking, preaching, witnessing to others, making public declaration, was not one of the requirements of the law of Moses and is not required of each one practicing the religions of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism or Shinto, but it is uniquely one of the main requirements of true Christianity.—Rom. 10:9, 10.

All of this calls to mind what the archbishop of Canterbury, Arthur M. Ramsey, said of the late Albert Schweitzer: "Schweitzer was one of the great Christians of our time or of any time." Now, undoubtedly Schweitzer was a dedicated man. Because of his talents he could have lived in material luxury, but he did not choose to do so. After having become an ordained clergyman, he went back to school and studied medicine and then chose to serve as a medical missionary in one of the most inhospitable sections of Africa.

Why did he change from preaching to the practice of medicine? He is quoted as saying, "I wanted to become a doctor, that I might be able to work without having to talk." But why did he no longer want to talk? Because he had lost his faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and in the inspiration of the Bible. As he himself admitted, he was in a quandary: "Was I to teach what I myself had been taught but which I did not believe? How could I, as the principal of a seminary, accept the responsibility for teaching young men that which I did not believe? But was I to teach what I did believe? If I did so, would this not bring pain to those who taught me? Faced with these questions, I decided I would do neither. I decided that I would

leave the seminary. Instead of trying to get acceptance of my ideas, involving painful controversy, I decided to make my life my argument."

However, true Christians accept Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah, the Son of God, the Ransomer of humankind, and make the preaching of his kingdom their chief concern.

"Love One Another"

To mention but one more of Christianity's unique requirements, we have the one Jesus gave his followers on the last night of his life on earth as a human. On that occasion, among other things, Jesus said: "I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves." —John 13:34, 35.

No question about this being a unique requirement of Christianity, for it was to be one by which all his followers could be identified. This went far beyond the love of neighbor as oneself; it meant loving a fellow Christian even more than oneself. As Jesus further observed on that same evening: "This is my commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you. No one has love greater than this, that someone should surrender his soul [life] in behalf of his friends." This is the very thing, let it be noted, Jesus himself did.—John 15:12, 13.

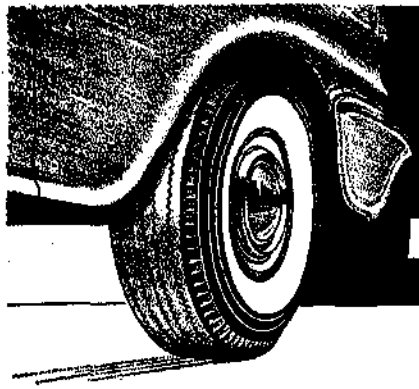
What a far cry this standard of Christianity is from what we see practiced in Christendom by ever so many of those professing to be Christians! They sling mud at one another in political campaigns, engage in cut-throat competition, defraud one another as to marital right and in time of war kill one another. Truly this unique requirement of Christianity to love one another as Jesus loved his followers is overlooked by the vast majority of those professing to be Christians.—1 Thess. 4: 3-8; Jas. 4:1-5.

Clearly, Christianity is not to be confused with any other religion. It has unique requirements, foremost of which are (1) recognizing the part that Jesus Christ plays in the purposes of God as revealed in the Christian Greek Scriptures, (2) preaching his kingdom at every opportunity and (3) manifesting the kind of love that Jesus himself showed, being willing even to die for a fellow Christian. It might be said that these requirements are so high that few professed Christians are interested in meeting them.

There is a class of people, however, that, by their fruits, show that they are meeting these requirements. Known as the Christian witnesses of Jehovah, they stand ready to help all others who are interested in meeting the unique requirements of Christianity, and this they do by conducting Bible studies in the homes of interested persons free of charge. If you would appreciate such help, then the next time one of the witnesses of Jehovah calls at your door, welcome him in so that he can begin to give you this help; or write to the publishers of this journal, requesting to have someone call for that purpose.

HELPING OTHERS TO LEARN THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST

◆ In the past year, in 197 different lands, Jehovah's witnesses conducted, on an average, 770,595 Bible studies in the homes of interested persons, free of charge. Under the direction of 92 branch organizations of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, they also made 59,165,475 return visits during the year to help others learn the teachings of Christ.



Tire Care MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE

EVERYONE helps to load the automobile, the family piles in, and you nose the car out onto the highway. Anticipation of a pleasant vacation creates a festive mood. But as you accelerate to the speed of the fast-moving traffic something you recently read has a sobering effect: 'Every month, thousands die in automobile accidents, and many more thousands are injured.' It causes you to wonder, "Have I checked everything to make sure the car is in the safest possible operating condition?"

Often the most obvious item, and the one of perhaps greatest importance, is overlooked: *The tires.* Think about it. Your tires are what support the whole automobile and everyone inside. You are riding on about a six-to-eight-inch cushion of air held within the rubber that is mounted on about a fourteen-inch-in-diameter wheel rim. These tires make it possible to start the car moving. And all four of them must stay properly inflated to carry you and the automobile safely down the highway. At increased speeds your life actually depends upon them!

Did you ever stop to think what happens when a tire suddenly goes flat at high speed? The section of the automobile riding on that air cushion instantly falls about seven inches, or approximately 50 percent of the height of the wheel rim. This abrupt drop twists the wheels, often sending the car off course and, at times, completely out of control. If there are oncoming cars, even a slight twist of the wheels may throw you right into their path. No wonder defective tires are considered by traffic experts as one of the greatest hazards to motorists.

The Killer Tire

Major Singleton Sheaffer, head of the state police patrolling the Pennsylvania Turnpike, believes that tires cause more accidents than even the experts may realize. "Police are trained investigators," he stated, "but too often this killer slips through the net of blame, masquerading under the names of 'Too fast for conditions,' or 'Lost control on curve,' or 'Hazardous highway conditions.' We need to strip off these disguises and identify this killer once and for all."

Writing in *Traffic Safety,* Sheaffer calls the worn tire "a public enemy," and explains: "My stomach turns over when I see a worn tire. It brings sickening mental pictures of the many dead and injured I have seen, spewed over the highways in their grotesque and ludicrous resting places, pinned in torn and jagged metal, horribly festooned with baggage, canned goods and children's toys."

New York Thruway authorities have ranked tire failure highest in all vehicle-caused accidents. Pennsylvania Turnpike

officials have placed it second only to driver fatigue as a cause of accidents. And the Indiana Turnpike reports that 15 percent of its accidents are directly traceable to defective tires; the Ohio Turnpike, 10 percent; and the New Jersey Turnpike, over 9 percent.

Who is to blame for the tire failures that have caused such terrible carnage on highways? Are the tire manufacturers and suppliers at fault? Are new tires of sufficient quality to stand the long-distance high-speed driving to which they are often subjected today? Or is the negligence of the driver the primary offender? To what extent is ignorance of proper tire care responsible?

Tire Quality and Legislation

Automobile tires have mushroomed into a multibillion-dollar business, an estimated 12.5 million of them being sold in the United States in 1965, compared with only 3,850,000 as recently as 1957. Many discount merchants and department stores have entered the lucrative field, offering tires of lesser quality at lower and lower prices. From 1958 to 1963 tire prices dropped 17 percent.

There are now some 150 brands and nearly 1,000 different models on the market, without adequately enforced legal standards for tires to meet. For example, it is not illegal to label an inferior tire as equal in grade to a better one. One company may label a tire "first-line," but it may be only equal in quality to another company's "fourth-line" tire. Bottom-grade tires may be named "champion," "deluxe" or some other fancy name; so names cannot be depended on as a guide to quality. Even price is not always a reliable guide, although it is generally a good indication of relative quality within one company's line of tires.

The bewildering situation facing the average motorist buying a tire has been aptly likened to entering a jungle with a blindfold. And just as entering a strange jungle can be dangerous, so using an inferior automobile tire can be lethal. Recently there have been many complaints about new tires blowing out on highways.

Such complaints have been instrumental in the introduction of a large number of bills in state legislatures and in the United States Congress. By mid-July 1965 one tire trade journal counted 113 bills relating to tires pending in state legislatures. Bills before Congress would require that all new tires meet minimum safety standards, and that a uniform system of grading and labeling be established. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, who introduced such a bill this April, claims that tires "are . . . intentionally mislabeled. As a consequence thousands of motorists are traveling on tires that are a threat to their lives and the lives of other motorists."

In an effort to head off federal legislation, the tire industry has recently taken action to raise its own standards. But will their measures be sufficient to hold in check the greed for gain that has given rise to the problem?

It is readily apparent that the manufacturers and suppliers of low-quality tires must bear a portion of the responsibility for the terrible carnage on the highways. Many new tires simply are not made to carry a fully loaded car at sustained high speeds. Nevertheless, a measure of protection can be realized by purchasing a tire of proved quality, one recommended by reliable authorities, even though it may cost a few extra dollars.

Negligent Motorists

Undoubtedly a greater part of the responsibility for tire failure must rest on the negligent motorist who continues to

run on bald tires or on those with little tread. These are "killer" tires. It is claimed by the tire industry that 90 percent of tire failures occur during the last tenth of tread life. To protect motorists from this "killer," New York state passed a law making it illegal for tires with less than one-sixteenth of an inch of tread to be on the highways.

The value of periodically checking the condition of your tires is illustrated by the safety achievement of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. At entrance points and other strategic locations spot checks are made and drivers with questionable tires are warned, while those with bad tires are banned. Three years after introducing this practice, accidents due to poor tires dropped from 26 percent of the total to less than 5 percent.

Do your tires have sufficient tread? Have you checked their condition lately, looking for cuts, bulges or objects stuck in the tread? That many motorists are woefully negligent in this matter was revealed by a tire safety check made in Wichita, Kansas. Of the 36,284 vehicles examined, 40 percent had one or more defective tires.

Safe Tire Inflation

Whereas outright negligence is perhaps the major reason for tire failure, ignorance regarding safe tire inflation is probably responsible for more accidents than most people realize. For example, it is not unusual for a family of five or six to pile into a heavily loaded automobile for a vacation trip, and fail to be concerned that their tires are underinflated. "What is wrong with that?" they may ask. "Is it not better to start out on a trip with a little less air pressure so that the tires will not become overinflated when heat causes the pressure to build up?"

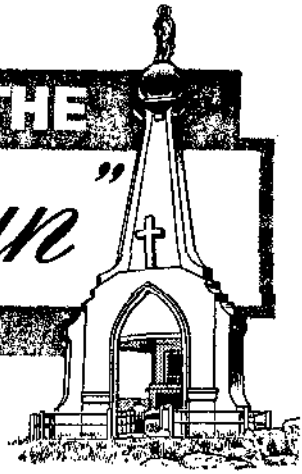
Not just a few persons reason this way, and some have paid with their lives for such erroneous reasoning. When you are driving, the tires are constantly flexing with each rotation and bump. Flexing and friction against the road build up heat, and excessive heat ruins tires. Underinflated tires, because they flex more, build up greater heat, which can result in the fatal high-speed blowout that safely inflated tires would have avoided.

For safety, therefore, auto experts recommend increasing the air pressure several pounds beyond the suggested pressure. Some car manuals advise to this effect: 'For considerable high-speed driving, heavy loads, or for maximum fuel economy, add four to six pounds.' True, the added pressure will give you a little bumpier ride, but the greater safety afforded by cooler running tires is worth it. Increased pressure will also give you better steering and control of your car, particularly on curves. Besides, it will boost tire life considerably, as well as save on gasoline. At the same time, avoid too much inflation, for this will cause the center of the tread to wear excessively and increase the chance of fabric breaks.

It is important to check the air pressure of your tires regularly, every two weeks or so. Be sure to take your readings while the tires are cold; before you start out in the morning is a good time. And do not worry if during a long, hot drive your tires build up several extra pounds of pressure. They can take it. By all means do not "bleed" air from them! This will only cause them to flex more, building up greater heat, and increasing the danger of a blowout.

So the next time you nose a heavily loaded automobile out on the highway for a trip, do not neglect to examine your tires. Are they of good quality, "first-line" tires of a reliable brand? Do they have plenty of good tread, without bulges and cuts? And are they safely inflated? It is a truth: Tire care may save your life.

THE PILGRIMAGE TO THE "Virgin of Verdun"



MINAS is an inland city of about 30,000 inhabitants that lies some one hundred kilometers northeast of Montevideo, the beautiful seacoast capital of Uruguay. About six kilometers outside the city rises the large, brush-covered hill of jagged rock called Verdun. Although it is not a particularly beautiful hill, every year tens of thousands of persons from far and near make a pilgrimage to climb it. A look at its top reveals the reason why.

There a towering steeplelike concrete structure rises some forty feet into the air, and at the top of it is a life-size image of a woman. She is standing erect, gesturing with both hands toward her heart, and encompassing her head is a halo of sixteen stars. This is the "virgin of Verdun."

This image is said to be an approximate representation of the famous statue of Mary at Lourdes, France. In 1858 the young peasant girl Bernadette Soubirous claimed to have seen a vision of the virgin Mary there, and, a short time later, the location was made a Catholic shrine. Ever since then Lourdes has been visited regularly by many thousands of pilgrims.

In Uruguay it was in 1901 that the Roman Catholic Church arranged the first pilgrimage to the "virgin of Verdun" outside of Minas, and more than 3,000 participated. Now the pilgrimage is a popular event. It is held each year, usually sometime in April or May, and some 70,000 to 80,000 persons are present for the occasion from all over Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil.

Arrival at the Hill

The day for the pilgrimage finds people arriving at the foot of the hill of Verdun by every conceivable means of transportation. What excitement there is! Look at all the people milling around the wooden gateway entrance that leads to the ascent to the image! Many of them are either coming to or going from the nearby large Spanish *feria* (outdoor market) that has been set up.

Here you can buy almost anything. There are clothing of all descriptions, leather goods, baskets, jewelry, pets, plants, and so forth. There are things for the children too—comic books, balloons, Kewpie dolls, pinwheels and many other toys. Refreshment stands also have been set up, and many persons are enjoying *parrilladas* (outdoor barbecues) with cold drinks. Every vendor must pay the Catholic church a designated fee for the privilege of selling here.

Surprising to many visitors, perhaps, is the festive mood that exists. You might think you were visiting a carnival. Everywhere, it seems, there is someone trying to sell you something. This atmosphere

prompts many Catholics to lament: "Most persons come just to *pasear* (for a good time)." While this may be your impression too, it is obvious that this is, at the same time, a religious occasion. Loudspeakers carry the traditional church organ music and are interspersed with announcements of mass services.

The Climb to the Image

Leaving the outdoor market and wanting to see the image, you have to climb the hill, which means walking over a path of loose pebbles and sharp, jagged rocks. It takes the average person about twenty minutes to a half hour to reach the top. Along the way you notice some religious devotees painfully climbing or descending the rocky hill barefooted. But many others, you note, are walking with the aid of rough bamboo walking canes that are offered for sale around the bottom of the hill. The commercialized atmosphere, however, is not left behind as you progress upward toward the "virgin."

All along the winding path there are vendors selling miniature replicas of the image, white candles, religious postcards and other religious objects. Either going up or coming down the hill, religious devotees make a brief stop at each of the ten small altars called 'stations of the cross.' According to tradition, some place a pebble on each of these altars, while others think this is unnecessary and meaningless.

At the top of Verdun, many kneel at the foot of the concrete pedestal and offer prayers to the image. Some just sit or stand there looking up at the image, while others enjoy the mountain scenery. The candles bought from the vendors are either lit individually or thrown into a fire created by the melting wax of thousands of candles deposited there.

Young and old alike participate in this pilgrimage, and an interview with some of them reveals a variety of attitudes. Some persons are serious and somber. Others seem interested only in sight-seeing or enjoying an outdoor picnic with family and friends. Youths in general are indifferent to the religious aspect of the occasion and admit that they have come out of curiosity or just to have a good time. Most adults, especially the aged, say that this is an act of faith and an expression of thanks to the "virgin" for her protection. Others say they have come to pray to God in front of the image.

Requests are generally made to the "virgin" regarding personal matters, including health and business. Although no cures have been certified and are recognized by the church as miraculous, Catholics believe that the "virgin" hears their requests, and some promise that they will make another pilgrimage to the image if their requests are granted.

This brief visit to the "virgin of Verdun" may cause you to wonder where this form of religious worship originated. Should Christians make such pilgrimages and worship before images of Mary? Is it pleasing to God?

Its Origin

Interestingly, there is no place in the Holy Bible where God's people are commanded to make religious pilgrimages in honor of deceased humans, nor is there any evidence that such pilgrimages were ever made by His servants. In fact, when the famous Israelite leader Moses died, God buried him in an undisclosed location so that no tomb or image would be made that might become an object of worship. —Deut. 34:6.

On the other hand, concerning demon-worshiping Egypt the historian Alexander Hislop writes: "There were great and pompous pilgrimages at certain seasons of the year, and these often attended with gross

excesses. Herodotus tells us, that in his time the multitude who went annually on pilgrimages to Bubastis, Egypt, amounted to 700,000 individuals."* It may be surprising to some persons to learn that religious pilgrimages to honor a deceased, deified human or to worship images have a pagan and not a Biblical or Christian origin. But they will probably be even more surprised to learn the origin of the worship of the virgin Mary.

The booklet *La Virgen del Verdun* (*The Virgin of Verdun*) acknowledges that the image of Mary outside Minas represents the "Queen and Lady of Heaven." The Bible, however, does not bestow such a title upon the virgin mother of Jesus, but it does describe the worship of the ancient goddess called "the queen of heaven." Note Almighty God's indignation at his people for worshiping her: "The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead the dough, to make cakes to *the queen of heaven,* and to offer libations to strange gods, and to provoke me to anger."—Jer. 7:18; 44:15-19, Roman Catholic Douay Bible.

Who was this "queen of heaven"? *Harper's Bible Dictionary* explains under the heading "Queen of Heaven": "An ancient Semitic deity, the Babylonian Ishtar (Venus), popular in Jerusalem and Egypt in Jeremiah's time and earlier." It further observes, on page 47: "Many scholars believe that the beginning of the fertility cult was Babylonia, whose Queen of Heaven was . . . Ishtar." And *The New Funk & Wagnalls Encyclopedia* notes under the heading "Ishtar": "As a goddess, Ishtar was the Great Mother (q.v.), the goddess of fertility, the queen or mistress of heaven." This celebrated "Queen of Heaven" was worshiped by many ancient peoples.

In time this very Babylonian goddess came to be worshiped even by peoples of Christendom, as the historian Hislop explains: "Instead, therefore, of the Babylonian goddess being cast out, in too many cases her name only was changed. She was called the Virgin Mary, and, with her child, was worshipped with the same idolatrous feeling by professing Christians, as formerly by open and avowed Pagans."*

For Christians?

Although Mary was a faithful servant of God who was blessed with the privilege of bearing God's own Son, the Bible does not instruct Christians to worship and adore her. The Holy Scriptures make clear that all worship should go to Almighty God. Humans are not to be given reverence, not even a prominent apostle such as Peter. When the Italian centurion Cornelius bowed down to adore him, the Bible says: "Peter lifted him up, saying: Arise: I myself also am a man." And even when the apostle John bowed before a living angel he was reproved: "See thou do it not. . . . Adore God."—Acts 10:25, 26; Rev. 19:10, *Dy.*

In view of what God's Word says, is the adoration of Mary pleasing to Almighty God? Does God approve of worship that is carried on in imitation of pagans who long ago provoked him to anger by worshiping the Babylonian goddess, "the queen of heaven"? Is it proper for Christians to bow down and say prayers before an image?

Some persons may claim that when they prostrate themselves and pray toward an image, it is not the material image itself to which they are praying but the person represented by the image. Yet God's straightforward commands clearly bar even such relative worship of images. He says: "Thou shalt not make to thyself a graven thing, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath . . . Thou shalt not adore them." "You shall not make to yourselves any idol or

* *The Two Babylons*, page 180.

* *The Two Babylons*, page 82.

graven thing: neither shall you erect pillars, nor set up a remarkable stone in your land, to adore it." "Little children, keep yourselves from idols."—Ex. 20:4, 5; Lev. 26:1; 1 John 5:21; see also Isa. 44:9-20; 46:5-7; Ps. 134:15-18, *Dy*.

These God-given commands also apply to images of Mary, including the one on the hill of Verdun outside of Minas. Such worship is certainly not pleasing to God. It is in direct violation of the Christian principle stated by the apostle Paul: "We walk by faith and not by sight."—2 Cor. 5:7, *Dy*.

Consider, for a moment, the helplessness of images. They are lifeless. They are merely works of men's hands. They cannot reason as a person does. They cannot speak to you any more than a doll can converse with a child. Like a stone wall, they cannot hear your petitions, nor see impending dangers and then cry out and warn you. Therefore, do not put your trust in them! Instead, trust in God. Learn the truth about Jehovah God by studying his Word the Bible. Then pray to Him in the name of his Son Jesus Christ; not before an image.—John 14:6.

THOSE AMAZING SLEEPERS

MANY people have marveled at the ability of some animals to react to the cold of winter in temperate areas by going into a deep sleep called hibernation. But equally amazing is the fact that a similar state, termed estivation, is experienced by varied forms of life in response to prolonged periods of heat or lack of water. Yes, in fact, they are often called the 'summer-sleepers.'

The chipmunk, sometimes called the striped squirrel, goes into a deep sleep during the hot month of August in parts of North America. While this normally active little animal is not a true estivator, you might be able to find him rolled up in his leaf-lined bedroom enjoying a sound sleep while humans are trying to beat the heat with fans and air-conditioners. As he sleeps, his body is cold to the touch, for his body functions have slowed almost to a halt. You might think he is dead. But in a few weeks, when the climate has cooled down, he will be active again.

Some forms of aquatic fishes and reptiles go into forced estivation when the water they live in or around dries up. Crocodiles and alligators can bury themselves in mud and remain there inactive for many months until released by the coming of water. Under the hard, dry surface of the "clay pan" of central Australia frogs have been found buried at a depth of one foot.

But few 'summer-sleepers' compare with the African lungfish. When the water disappears, so does Mr. Lungfish, burrowing down into the mud to await the return of his liquid habitat. He prepares a cocoon of dried mucus and lives by slowly absorbing stored fat or even part of the muscle tissue of his tail. But how does he breathe? The cocoon has an opening at his mouth, and he leaves an air hole running up to the surface. Lungfish have been known to survive up to four years in this state. In fact, Dr. Homer W. Smith of the New York University School of Medicine estimated that "if the animal has a maximal store of fat when it goes into estivation, and if it gets the breaks from nature . . . it might survive for seven years." But chop him out of the mud, put him in water and he will shortly be awake and active again.

Water and land snails also demonstrate amazing abilities to remain alive. Some specimens of one type of snail found in Australia were put in a tin and forgotten for fifteen months. When they were later found and put in water, they all perked up and appeared none the worse for the experience. One shell from an Egyptian desert snail was taken to the British Museum and attached to a card. Of course, it was assumed that the shell was empty. Four years later some slime was noted on the card. The shell was placed in water, and presently the snail began to crawl about.

It is evident that much has yet to be learned about the living creatures around us. It is evident that the adaptability of the 'summer-sleepers' demonstrates great creative wisdom.

WORLDWIDE LAWLESSNESS of YOUTHS — Why?

WHEN 4,000 youths rioted in Stockholm, Sweden, last August it was not something new for Sweden. On a previous occasion 3,000 of them had rioted in this same city and overturned a number of cars. In the Swedish town of Karlskoga another riot involving 500 Swedish youths took place during an auto race. They set fire to a building and then threw bottles at the firemen who tried to put out the blaze.

Such lawlessness is a worldwide problem that is especially puzzling to sociologists because many of the youths involved come from middle-income and upper-income families. No longer can juvenile lawlessness be regarded as the product of poverty and slum living. In country after country young people from all levels of society seem to be going wild.

Riots such as experienced in prosperous Sweden occurred also in England last summer when mobs of teen-agers battled one another at the beach town of Margate. Such battles have been repeated occurrences at British beaches and dance halls in recent years. In Norway 2,000 young people rioted when their favorite club was closed.

At Weirs Beach in New Hampshire several thousand American youths threw rocks and beer bottles, swung bicycle chains and clubs, overturned cars, set on fire an overturned car from which a family barely escaped in time, and set buildings aflame. The local police, state police and national guard fought the mob in an effort to restore law and order. A few days earlier another crowd of drunken teen-agers defied the police during a riot in Massachusetts.

Crime

Terrorizing towns by means of destructive riots is only one feature of the lawlessness of modern-day youths. In steadily growing numbers they are turning their hands to crime of every kind. Of all the prosecutions for serious crimes in Hong Kong during September 1964, 18.4 percent involved juveniles. An even higher rate exists in Japan, where 21 percent of all crime is committed by teen-agers. Of the 1,572 acts of violence occurring in the Korean city of Seoul from January to March of 1964, teen-agers are reported as committing the greater portion of them. In the Philippine city of Manila more than one-third of the prison population is made up of criminals between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one.

Smuggling, burglary, car theft, arson, vandalism, mugging, senseless brutality, rape, narcotics addiction, drunkenness and murder are some of the many vile activities now being engaged in by a growing tide of lawless young people. Frequently, when a young delinquent is asked why he committed a vicious cruelty or vandalized a home or school, the answer is, "I don't know why." Or he might claim he did it "for kicks." It seems they act on impulse without making any effort to exercise self-restraint.

Crimes by children under sixteen are becoming commonplace. A Philippine child of eight was charged with homicide in 1963

and a fourteen-year-old was charged with rape. During the first nine months of 1964, the city of Dallas in the United States had seventy-nine major crimes committed by children under ten years of age. These crimes included murder, robbery, assault, burglary and car theft. In Canada, the city of Vancouver arrested three boys, ages thirteen and fifteen, for burglarizing 127 homes.

And so the sordid reports read from all over the world. What is wrong with today's youth? Why is the incidence of crime among them constantly rising? Why are they committing so many violent and wantonly senseless acts of violence? A number of factors seem to be involved.

Atmosphere of Materialism

Although poverty and slum living do contribute to juvenile crime, there are other factors that undoubtedly bear greater responsibility. This is evident from the number of lawless young people who have been reared in comfortable homes without ever having wanted for food or clothing and from the fact that during the depression years, when one-third of the people in the United States were in want of material things, juvenile delinquency was declining.

Prosperity seems to contribute to juvenile lawlessness. This surprising fact has been noted by Japan's leading criminologist, Taro Ogawa, who has pointed out that there is a definite relationship between the amount of prosperity in a country and the amount of juvenile delinquency. The experience of West Germany seems to confirm this view. There unparalleled prosperity for that country has been experienced since 1954 and also unparalleled juvenile delinquency.

In itself prosperity is not bad, but the inability of some parents and children to cope with it produces bad results. They seem unable to realize that there are more important things in life than material things. Consequently, they become consumed with the love of money, which, as God's Word says, "is a root of all sorts of injurious things." (1 Tim. 6:10) Juvenile lawlessness is one of those injurious things. Reared in an atmosphere of materialism, many children tend to become selfish and lacking in a sense of values.

Mental Diet of Crime and Violence

Not to be overlooked as a cause of juvenile lawlessness is the constant diet of violence, crime and horror fed to children through television, movies, comic books and novels. Referring to a United States Senate investigation of juvenile delinquency, Senator Robert Hendrickson observed with regard to comic books: "Many experts advanced the belief that this kind of printed, visual suggestion had led to some of the more violent and incredibly vicious youth crimes that had so shocked our nation."

In one of these Senate hearings Dr. Frederic Wertham stated: "It is my opinion . . . that comic books are an important contributing factor in many cases of juvenile delinquency. There arises the question: What kind of child is affected? I say again . . . it is primarily the normal child. . . . Everywhere they see this where women are beaten up, where people are shot and killed and finally they become . . . unconsciously delighted." A Texas police chief expressed a similar view when he said: "We are careful to see that the silverware and glasses are sterilized, but we let their minds feed on garbage."

Murder mysteries vividly portrayed in novels and movies have a strong suggestive influence upon young minds. There have been numerous instances in which young, imaginative minds have put into action the violence contained in such stories. An example in point is that of a college student

who read a murder mystery and then proceeded to try out the slaying described by the novel in vivid detail. The eighteen-year-old boy bought a rifle, selected two victims at random, and murdered them. In another instance four teen-agers followed a pattern of sadism minutely described in a horror magazine when they beat and burned derelicts, even drowning one, and horsewhipped some teen-age girls.

With regard to movies and television shows that constantly depict violence, Dr. Mary I. Preston of Stanford University concluded that "the repeated exposure to the suffering of others, for the purpose of entertaining, stunts such desirable emotions as sympathy and compassion toward those in distress; and that such exposure results in a scarred tissue of hardness, intense selfishness and even unmercifulness."

Lack of Parental Supervision

Possibly the chief cause for juvenile lawlessness is the failure of many parents to fulfill their role as parents toward their children. The father that is too busy with a prosperous business, dinner engagements, club and committee meetings, golf games, and so forth, to spend adequate time with his children contributes to their delinquency. Usually such a father tends to substitute gifts of money and other things for the time he should be giving his children, but the love and respect of children cannot be bought.

It is especially difficult on children when both parents are working or mother is busy with card parties and committee meetings. No one is home to welcome them when they return from school and there is no one to supervise their activities. A fifteen-year-old girl who became a promiscuous delinquent because her mother was always away working when she came home said: "You don't know how empty and cold a house may be when Mother is not there to talk to you."

Lack of parental supervision of what children are doing accounts for many of the disgraceful incidents in which some young people have become involved. Regarding a riot at Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, involving 10,000 teen-agers, a newspaper asked: "Where were the parents of these 15- and 16-year-olds when they were tearing up the beach? . . . These are not responsible adults. They are children and should be supervised as such."

The failure of parents to discipline their children, their toleration of insolence and disobedience, their failure to teach good ethics and Bible principles, their failure to set a good example and their failure to show loving interest in their children are factors that contribute to juvenile lawlessness. So great is parental responsibility for it that juvenile delinquency is often regarded as parental delinquency. On this point the Canadian Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police observed: "It is not juvenile delinquency I want to speak about—it is parental delinquency—because, in my humble opinion, the group which is creating the troubles I have referred to is, for the most part, a product of irresponsible homes and irresponsible parents. I think the trouble begins in the home, and ultimately it will have to be corrected in the home."

We are living in a rebellious era in which people are rejecting long-established moral codes, flagrantly violating laws by acts of civil disobedience, fighting policemen trying to maintain law and order and, under the influence of atheism, rebelling against the supreme Lawgiver, Jehovah God. This spirit of rebellion has infected the youth and is encouraged by parents and teachers who place ever fewer restrictions and limits upon them.

In recent years students at a number of American universities displayed this rebellious spirit. At the University of California

a student rebellion against campus restrictions in 1964 resulted in the arrest of hundreds of demonstrating students. They resented restraints placed upon their freedom by school authorities. Many even demonstrated in March 1965 in resentment when a nonstudent was arrested for parading on the campus with an obscene sign. To grant young people all the freedom they demand would result in anarchy. Realizing this, Dean Joseph O'Meara of the Notre Dame Law School said: "I venture to suggest it's time to get tough when violence erupts . . . on the campus."

How to Prevent Delinquency

The preventing of juvenile delinquency must begin in the home while children are young and pliable. A loving and peaceful relationship within the family is essential for helping a child to avoid developing a lawless spirit. The well-known criminologists Professor and Mrs. Sheldon Glueck stated with regard to love in a family:

"What is really required is great firmness, administered with love. . . . Love is the essential element. We think that it is even possible for a parent to be overstrict at times or too lenient at other times, yet be an effective parent if he really loves the child—because the child then will accept these variations. . . . Now, the earlier in the child's life he senses parental love and guidance, the sooner he will acquire self-discipline—and the less of a disciplinary problem he's going to be as he grows up."

Teaching children to obey rules and to respect authority is an important way to show them love. Children need someone older to tell them what they can and cannot do, someone to make rules for them and enforce those rules, someone to establish boundaries for them. Children growing up in a warm family relationship where there are rules that are enforced are better able to accept the rules in a community when they are older. They are then less likely to allow idleness and boredom to get them into trouble.

Religious training by parents that instills respect for the high moral principles of the Holy Bible is very necessary for building in the children a defense against the degenerating influence of the present system of things. If parents give them good moral standards and teach them to respect such standards, the children are better able to exercise self-discipline when they are on their own and not in the company of their parents. It is wisely written: "Train up a boy according to the way for him; even when he grows old he will not turn aside from it."—Prov. 22:6.

The reasons for worldwide lawlessness among young people are many, but the chief responsibility can be laid at the feet of permissive parents who, while the children are growing up, have failed to manifest loving affection for them, to discipline them, to supervise them, to instill in them respect for good moral standards, to set a good example for them and to establish a cohesive family relationship. Children trained by good parents to exercise self-discipline and to hold fast to the high moral standards of the Bible are not likely to be participants in the destructive riots and criminal acts of lawless youths.

Injurious Passion

◆ In his book *The Paper Economy*, David T. Bazelon writes: "Money is a dream. It is a piece of paper on which is imprinted in invisible ink the dream of all the things it will buy. . . . Most of us who are not outright losers in the Great American Scramble love money much more than any of the things it will buy. It is not a means to an end for us, it is a passion." This passionate love of money is called in the Bible "a root of all sorts of injurious things."—1 Tim. 6:10.

FERTILE SOIL

A MIRACLE of CREATION

By "Awake!" correspondent in Eire

"HOW is it possible for the soil to sustain the tremendous variety and vast amount of vegetation that, year after year, draws life and nourishment from it?"

The person who asked that question had just come from Dublin, capital city of the Republic of Ireland, to spend a few quiet days in the peace of the countryside. Like many other persons living in the busy cities, he had never really considered just how marvelous a provision the fertile soil is. It had never struck him before how dependent we are on the soil for the everyday necessities of life. How many of the essentials in life can you name that in some way do not have their origins in the soil?

Having now the opportunity to think a little about these things, he was beginning to appreciate how much each of us owes to the Designer of the amazing processes that ensure the continued productivity of the soil. His host, who was extremely interested in the soil because of his occupation as a farmer, was glad to enlighten his visitor on what went on beneath the ground and to explain the Creator's wonderful arrangement for a fertile soil. Together they walked out to one of the fields, where the farmer picked up a handful of soil and showed it to his guest.

Microorganisms

"This is not just a handful of dirt," he said, "but, in fact, it is a tremendously complex substance, simply teeming with microscopic forms of life, the majority of them being invisible to the naked eyes, and all of them industriously at work producing the food necessary for healthy plant growth. In this one handful of soil, researchers tell us, there could very easily be as many as 20,000,000 living organisms of one kind or another. Can you imagine it? There are only about 3,000,000 people in this country, and yet this one handful of soil can have that amazing number of living organisms.

"The activity of these tiny creatures is essential to the continued existence of life on earth. They might be likened to the cooks who prepare the food that we eat. What they do is to break down the complicated substances in the soil and then 'cook' them up into a form that can be easily assimilated by the plants.

"The smallest of these organisms are the microscopic plants called bacteria. These bacteria process the substances in the soil into forms that can be held there until they are later required by the plants. Some of the bacteria engage in what is called 'nitrogen-fixing.' Nitrogen is one of the elements essential to plant growth. Being a gas, it could easily escape from the soil; but these bacteria process it into a more stable form that can be held in the ground,

combining it with other elements there. So the bacteria, although exceedingly tiny, have a big and important function to perform."

"Now I understand much better the wisdom in the divine creation of bacteria," commented the visitor. "Why, without bacteria we could not have fertile soil."

"But there is not only bacteria in soil," replied the farmer; "there are also fungi. They, too, work on dead organic matter in the soil, breaking it down and holding it for the plants to use. Another group of organisms are algae. They differ from the fungi in that they possess the power to extract and to form their food from inorganic substances. The algae work along with the bacteria, collecting nitrogen from the air and producing plant foods. So the activity of these microorganisms assures that the necessary foods are present and available for the plants. These are some of the undercover agents that we never see, but that are constantly on the job, working for the continued fertility of the soil."

"What an amazing thought," exclaimed the visitor, "that our lives are dependent on such tiny creatures and the work they perform beneath our feet!"

Now his farming friend pointed to another of the creatures engaged in making sure that the soil remains fertile. He picked up a fat, glistening, wriggling earthworm about four inches long and explained that this relative giant of the soil is one of the farmer's or the gardener's best workers.

The Earthworm a Living Plow

"This creature," the farmer continued, "cultivated the ground before man ever started plowing it. It's difficult to believe, but there can easily be 2,000,000 earthworms on every acre of fertile land, some working near the surface and others tunneling well beneath it. In fact, on some grassland it has been estimated that there are more than 8,000,000 earthworms at work in every acre! We farmers owe a great debt to the work that the earthworm does. It has even been said that, without the humble earthworm, agriculture as we know it would be very difficult if not impossible. When you think that the earthworm has no teeth or claws, is naked and blind and has no legs, it is fantastic how much good it does for mankind.

"The earthworm eats its way through the soil, absorbing earth, dead vegetation, dead animal residues and anything else in its path. These substances are then digested inside the worm and are ejected as what are termed 'casts,' these being rich in nitrogen and other materials that plants require for food. These casts, held together by mucus, are a direct aid in producing good soil structure.

"The earthworm has been described as 'the living plow,' because its burrowing and tunneling make the soil more penetrable for air and water. These living plows also play an important role in the vital mixing of organic material near the surface with underlying soil particles, ensuring that the available food is evenly distributed throughout the soil. It has been estimated that the earthworms in an acre of good ground can bring to the surface as much as twenty tons of buried soil a year.

"The condition of a farmer's earthworm population can even give him some indication of the condition of his soil. If the worms look healthy and active, then the soil is fine; but if they appear pale and sluggish, it is likely that something needs attention. In some parts of the earth people are breeding worms specially to put into poor land, to build up its fertility. You might liken the earthworms to the maintenance staff in any big organization because of the work they do in keeping the soil in good condition, capable of support-

ing the plants that draw life and strength from it."

Utilizing Wastes

The visitor from the city looked both surprised and a little puzzled by now. "I can understand the wonderful way in which these small creatures play their parts in maintaining the productivity of the soil now, but where do they get the raw materials to produce the plant foods? After all, a cook can't produce a meal out of nothing, can she?"

The farmer explained that the source of raw materials is all about us: "In the countryside everything is in a state of change. The leaves that drop from the trees, dying plants, dead insects and other things are worked on by organisms in the ground. Otherwise the rubbish would pile up year after year. But it is not really rubbish, because this is the source of supply of future plant food. Any efficient business likes to find an outlet for its side products or waste products. The wise Designer of the soil made it capable of utilizing wastes. The complex organic matter, the 'rubbish,' is destroyed by microorganisms and then processed into nourishment for future vegetation. The death and decay of old vegetation leads to the strength and growth of new vegetation."

By now the farmer and his inquiring guest were back in the farmyard, and the farmer pointed to the decaying heap of cattle dung and straw, explaining how manure is what restores heart to the soil.

Manure

"To many city dwellers," he said smilingly, "the manure heap may offend the nose, but it has an essential part to play in restoring the soil's ability to provide the food and clothing demanded by the millions of persons living on the earth. The farmer recognizes that output depends upon input. Whatever good you take out of the soil with successive crops must be returned if the soil is to remain fertile.

"Soil fertility has been defined as 'the capacity of the soil to supply plants continuously throughout their growing season with all the food and water they can consume.' It becomes obvious that if we expect the ground to remain in good condition and to be able to fulfill its job we must be prepared to replace what we take out. The soil is thus like a bank. You can only draw from it for a limited period of time, depending on how healthy your account is. To keep the bank balance sound, you regularly add to it. So you must deposit in the ground the equivalent of what you withdraw from it when you reap your crop.

"The so-called waste products of animals, the excreta of cattle, for instance, are mixed with straw and left to decay under the action of billions of organisms that we already mentioned. To begin with, the manure heap is composed of complex organic material that couldn't be used by the plants, but once the microorganisms have been at work they 'cook' it up in a form that plants can use as food.

"The gardener works on the same principle with his compost heap. He gathers all the dead vegetation in the garden, mixes it with soil and allows it to rot thoroughly until it is what he rather euphemistically terms 'sweet.' This, then, is the source of food, strength and fertility for the soil. And the end product of this decay in the manure heap or compost heap is called 'humus.'

"This is the substance that makes the difference between sand and soil. If you take a handful of sand you can easily let it trickle through your fingers, but a handful of good fertile soil, rich in humus, binds together. Fertile soil is living soil. There is a lot more to it than just inorganic chemical elements. The humus is the great

reservoir of potential plant food, gradually being utilized by the billions of microbes at work there. As well as producing plant food, though, humus has this job of binding the soil particles together. It gives the soil strength and heart, and has been termed the 'cementing' agent in the soil.

"Once the humus content in the soil has been removed or used up and not replaced, then the soil loses its ability to hold together and its strength to support plant life, resulting often in the soil's being washed or blown away."

"It certainly seems that there is more to the soil than meets the eye. But why is it, then, that you use artificial fertilizers?" the visitor asked, pointing to the various sacks of chemical fertilizers.

Fertilizers

"Some soils have known deficiencies," explained the farmer, "or else some crops require an extra supply of a specific food. So we use these chemical fertilizers, containing such things as potassium, phosphorus and nitrogen, to augment the work of the microbes and earthworms.

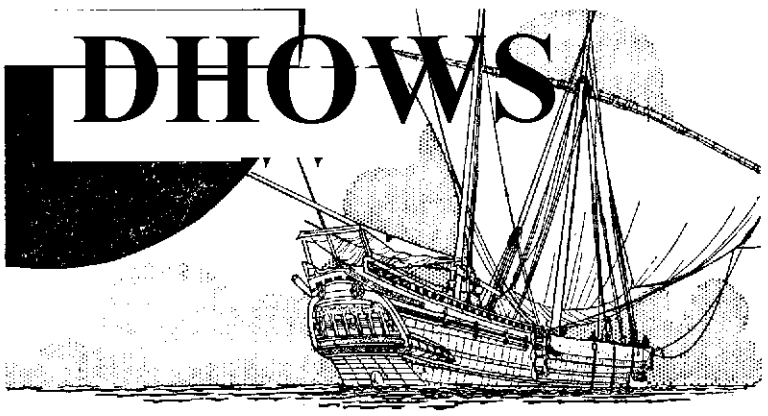
"Sometimes the use of chemical fertilizers has been overdone, with disastrous results. Instead of recognizing the wonderful work that the microorganisms perform, some persons have tried to do without them, concentrating on the use of artificial fertilizers instead of utilizing so-called 'waste products' by feeding them back into the soil. This has, in some instances, had adverse effects. In fact, because of the danger, some gardeners refuse to use artificial fertilizers at all. A careful, balanced use of these, though, seems to work well in Irish agriculture. It's a case of trying to help the soil to its peak of productivity, always recognizing the amazing ability of the soil itself to provide nourishment for the vegetation growing on it."

"Thank you very much; this has been a most enlightening discussion," said the guest from the city. "I never before realized what a wonderful cycle of events the Creator arranged for keeping the soil fertile. Why, the soil is really alive, and microbes and earthworms are on the job to keep it fertile. It's amazing! Credit is certainly due to the One who made possible fertile soil, a miracle of divine creation!"

Our Complex Atmosphere

The earth is surrounded by a vast ocean of air. Daily you breathe some of it, but how often do you give any thought to what you are drawing into your lungs? What is called "air" is really a combination of gases mixed by the motions of the atmosphere. The most plentiful of these gases is nitrogen, 78.11 percent by volume. Next, and of great importance to life, oxygen amounts to 20.95 percent. Air also has about .93 percent argon. But that is not all! To the list we can add small traces of hydrogen, krypton, methane, xenon and nitrous oxide. Then there are some things that are present in variable amounts, such as carbon dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and water vapor. Finally, and probably of more concern to most housewives, there is a dash of dust in the air, though it varies in quantity depending upon the local circumstances. Some of these things in the atmosphere are not directly used by the human body, and so they are exhaled from the lungs. However, the next time you stretch and take a deep breath, consider that you are inhaling a small part of our complex ocean of air.

DHOWS



A LOOK AT LIVING HISTORY

By "Awake!" correspondent in Kenya

DO YOU ever wish you could turn the clock back in time and look at how people lived and worked ages ago? By visiting some places on earth this wish can be realized; for instance, the east coast of Africa. There you can see the picturesque dhows of the Indian Ocean—a living link with the primitive past.

The dhows give one a look at living history because their design and mode of operation are the same now as they were hundreds of years ago. They have been described as the last pure sailing fleet of the East. Until very recently there was not an engine among any of the dhows and only very few have equipped themselves in this way even now. They are still driven by the trade winds.

A dhow's most distinguishing feature is its enormous lateen or triangular sail. It has to be huge when it is the main means of power for these ships, which range in weight from 20 tons up to 900 tons. An important part of the dhow is the mast, which is the most expensive item and is often made of imported teak. Most sailing craft, such as yachts, have a perpendicular mast; but the mast on the dhow is different in that it leans forward at an angle. If the mast were at right angles to the deck, the weight and power produced by the extraordinarily large sail filled with wind would overturn the boat. As it is, the strong winds from the stern fill the sail at an angle, and this tends to lift the dhow as it is pulled along.

The dhows are manned by a crew of Arab seamen wearing the traditional turbans and long white gowns. These experienced sailors are not dependent on modern methods of navigation. They use no instruments, charts or other such aids to navigation. If one should find an occasional compass, it is invariably an ancient, decrepit instrument of little practical use. The Arab seamen skillfully operate their ships in accordance with the knowledge handed down from father to son for generations. They know the coast and waters like the backs of their hands.

Monsoons or Trade Winds

Dhows depend on a combination of the trade winds and the ocean currents. There are two regular seasonal winds that serve the Indian Ocean, and the rhythm of these winds and the sea produces the monsoons. These tropical winds are more or less constant. As they blow down from the poles toward the equator they are deflected by the rotation of the globe and produce either the northeast wind in the Northern Hemisphere, or the southeast wind in the Southern Hemisphere. Actually, the southeast wind first blows from that direction and then changes to southwest.

From December to March the northeast wind blows from the northern part of the

Indian Ocean. It is a very reliable wind that maintains a fairly consistent direction and usually blows at a good steady strength. This northeast wind or monsoon blows the dhows from the Gulf of Kutch, the Persian Gulf, Arabia and the homeland of the queen of Sheba down to the seaport towns of Mombasa and Lamu in East Africa, and eventually to Tanzania. Later in the year it is replaced by the southwest monsoon, which begins in April or May and blows until October, and the dhows travel back home on that.

It is not known how long the dhows have been crossing the Indian Ocean on the changing seasonal monsoon winds. It seems that they arrived on the east coast of Africa about the time of the rise of Islam. In any case they were well established there by the time Vasco da Gama and the Portuguese pioneers entered the Indian Ocean toward the close of the fifteenth century (1498 C.E.). By that time trade was well established between Arabia, the coast of India, East Africa and even down as far as modern-day Tanzania.

Historic Traders

It is for reasons of trade that the Arabs have made such long voyages throughout the centuries. The financial means is provided by the merchant who wishes to use the vessel for carrying his goods, but does not want the bother of owning her. Therefore, the captain is financed and permitted to be the nominal owner. This acts as an incentive for him to care well for his dhow.

There are seasonal factors to be noticed in the employment of the dhows. First, there are the monsoons that govern the trade routes, directions and destinations. Then there is the supply and demand of various commodities that are available only in certain markets in some seasons. Also, there is the opportunity for extra seasonal labor in some parts, and the dhows carry many passengers as temporary job seekers to meet this demand.

Dhows bring to East Africa many things, such as dried fish, dried fruit, dates, nuts, salt, matting, basketry, fine carpets from Persia, perfume and similar goods. They also bring down many passengers, immigrants and laborers seeking temporary work. Some of the larger craft carry up to 300 passengers. Passenger traffic is particularly heavy when Muslims visit their relatives in observance of the Islamic calendar feast of Ramadan.

On the return journey dhows take one of the chief products of the east coast of Africa, namely, mangrove poles. Because Arabia is denuded of trees, timber is at a premium there. As mangrove poles are cheap and can be put to many uses, they have become the basis for Arab trade.

Sailors manage to fit in a little private trade with a few articles. As most places they visit have a large percentage of Muslims, they can carry on quite a profitable side business in selling amber beads (or an imitation) made up in the popular thirty-three-bead Muslim rosary.

Life on Board

Most of the oceangoing dhows are away for nine months on a voyage, and so the dhow becomes the home for these seamen. The captain, who is called the Nakhoda, besides sailing his ship, has to act as her agent in collecting cargo and passengers. He looks well to the interests of all aboard.

The day begins about dawn with the wailing cry of the Muslim muezzin, or prayer announcer. When praying, they always face Mecca, their holy city. After a few minutes of private meditation, they fall into the routine exercise and set words of the memorized prayers.

Work is rotated on a shift basis, so that there are some on duty at all times. The Muslim Sabbath (Friday) is not observed

at sea, so they have no day of rest. In addition to the general work of sailing and baling, the sailors sometimes work with their hands at sewing sails and making ropes. Most of the work is done on deck.

When in port the crews work at maintenance and repairs. During very bad storms they simply lower the huge lateen sail and let the ship drift to ride out the storm or gale. Sometimes the dhow is becalmed, and then the men work at making baskets or else catch fish.

Meals are very frugal and consist mainly of mounds of rice along with fish. The food is eaten in the regular native manner. A communal tray is placed in the center and each person eats from his own place. Although the fingers are used, there is a certain way of doing this. One must use only the tips of the fingers to pick up the food and should not touch the lips with the hands when feeding. To accomplish this, one takes hold of a small piece of fish, then gathers as much rice as possible without spilling any and rolls it all together into a small ball. Then with a deft flick of the thumb it is propelled into the mouth. Afterward a boy comes along with a bowl of water for hand washing.

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- Why You Should Read the Bible Yourself.
- Your Body's Fight Against Infection.
- What to Do When Entertaining Guests.

An Interesting Analogy

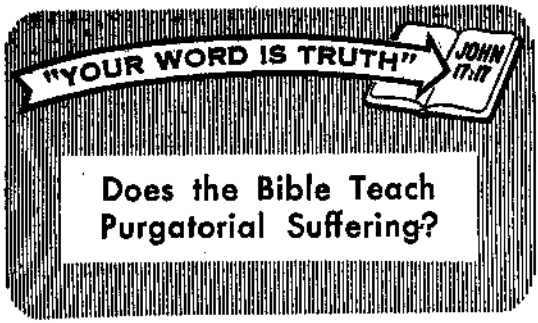
For the Bible student a look at the dhows helps one appreciate the apostle Paul's shipwreck experience as recorded in Acts chapter twenty-seven. In his book *Of Ships and Men,* Alan Villiers, a European who actually sailed in the dhows, compares them with the sort of vessel in which the apostle Paul sailed. He explains that in the dhows during storms "they lowered their big sail and let her drive, under the bare poles," just as in Paul's experience we read at Acts 27:17 that they "lowered the gear and thus were driven along."

Villiers goes on to explain that "they anchored by the stern because the hull was so shaped that it lay better in a strong wind that way, and their anchors were easily portable." In verse 29 we note that this was the way they anchored the ship carrying Paul.

In verse 40 we read about the crew "*loosing the lashings of the rudder oars,*" and Villiers says he has seen them on the dhows loosen the rudders and haul them up out of harm's way to prevent damage when the ship is beached. So then we can get a better understanding of some of the maritime terminology used in the Bible record and of how the dhow used in modern times follows the pattern of the sailing craft used in Bible times.

Just how much longer the dhows can hold out against competition from steamers and other modern pressures remains to be seen. Already the trade is dwindling, as the demand for their goods decreases and the men are attracted toward jobs that are more lucrative than the hard and simple life aboard the dhows.

Observers still get a thrill at the sight of the picturesque dhow as she gracefully rides the waves with her huge lateen sail proudly swelling in the breeze. As she sails away with her carefree crew of turbanned sailors, their skirts wildly flapping in the wind, a gay chorus of song floats across the waves until they are blown out of sight. But the dhows are expected back again, just as they have been each year for generations, to provide observers with another look at living history.



Does the Bible Teach Purgatorial Suffering?

MILLIONS of persons in Christendom have been taught that there is a purgatory and that "the faithful on earth, through the communion of saints, can relieve the sufferings of the souls in purgatory by prayer, fasting, and other good works, by indulgences, and by having Masses offered for them." (Revised edition of the *Baltimore Catechism*) Since it is claimed that the majority of Christians at death must spend an indefinite period amid the painful purgings of purgatory, we are anxious to learn the basis for such a belief.

Roman Catholic authorities who have written on the subject differ in their views. One insists, for example, that the sufferings are literal and physical, while another views them as altogether psychological. Still another alleges that some have even been miraculously resurrected to life in the flesh so they might undergo their purging right here on earth. So great is the difference of Catholic thought on the matter that one Jesuit writer of our day was moved to write: "And so, though tales are told and surmises and conjectures are rife, we are free with reverence and patience to choose our opinion for ourselves."—From pamphlet on *Purgatory* by Bakewell Morrison, S.J.

But, pursuing our inquiry as to the nature and location of purgatory, the following is noted in an advertisement sponsored by the Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus: "It is true, of course, that the Bible does not mention the word Purgatory, any more than it does numerous other words and terms commonly accepted by all Christians. But it *does* clearly indicate that there is such a place of satisfaction for sin and the temporal punishment due to it after death but before the general judgment." So hopefully we seek further explanation, only to learn the following: "But where this place may be, of what nature or quality the pains be, how long souls may be there detained, in what manner the suffrages made on their behalf be applied—whether by way of satisfaction, intercession, etc.,—are questions superfluous and impertinent as to faith." (*Faith of Catholics,* Berington and Kirk, pp. 140-207) It does seem rather strange that nothing can be adduced from the Bible on these important questions.

What, then, are we to think of the following description of purgatory passed on by no less eminent an authority than Cardinal Bellarmine (1452-1621 C.E.): "One whose aspect was as of light, and his garment glistening, conducted me to a valley of great depth and width, but of immeasurable length; one side of which was dreadful beyond expression for its burning heat, and the other as horrible for its no less intolerable cold. Both were filled with souls of men, which seemed to be tossed, as by the fury of the tempest, from one side to the other; for, being quite unable to endure the heat on the right hand, the miserable wretches kept throwing themselves to the opposite side into the equal torment of the cold, and thence back again into the raging flames"? Surely he must have known that there was nothing in Holy Scripture about all this!

Suppose now we take a look at what the Sacred Scriptures do have to tell us about the dead. What happens at death is briefly expressed for us at Psalm 145, verse 4, Catholic *Douay* translation: "His spirit

shall go forth, and he shall return into his earth: in that day all their thoughts perish." Another text in point here tells us: "The living know that they shall die, but the dead know nothing more. Neither have they a reward any more: for the memory of them is forgotten." (Eccl. 9:5, *Douay*) In the light of this it is very difficult to see how the dead can be suffering, when their thoughts have perished and they are unconscious.

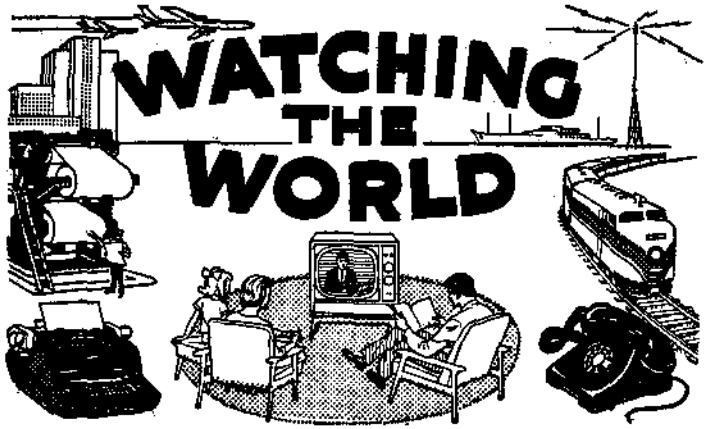
However, it is claimed that it is the body that is dead and unconscious, not the soul. But our mind is set at rest on this point, too, when we read what one of God's inspired prophets wrote: "Behold all souls are mine: as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, the same shall die." (Ezek. 18:4, *Douay*) Since the Bible clearly shows that souls die and are unconscious, without sensation of any kind, then surely there could be no suffering for them anywhere.

Now, what about the place in the Bible where it "does clearly indicate that there is such a place" as purgatory? The text at 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 is offered, where reference is made to fire burning up wood, hay and stubble. Since the Christians to whom Paul was then writing were not building on Jesus Christ as a foundation with literal wood, hay and stubble, so likewise the term "fire" is also employed in a figurative sense. Instead, it is clear that the apostle Paul is speaking about the fiery tests that come upon all true Christians, exposing and destroying, as it were, all those works that are disapproved by God and testing their faith, that it might be purified.—See also 1 Peter 1:6, 7.

It is impossible to ignore some of the implications of the purgatory teaching. It suggests that God is mercenary in his dealings with his creatures. How so? Because it favors the materially rich, those who can afford the gifts required so that prayers and indulgences may be secured. It encourages men to put their trust in material wealth as a means of atoning for sin, born now in this life and after death. It depicts God as inconsistent and arbitrary. It has him first ruling that sinful man must sweat until he returns to the dust, and then changing the verdict to include more sweating after death in the purgatorial fires. —Gen. 3:19.

How thoroughly divorced from all such God-dishonoring teaching is the message of God's Word of truth! This Book of truth declares with authority that Christ Jesus is the sole mediator between God and men. (1 Tim. 2:5) It magnifies the justice of God and assures men that just and merciful judgment will be available to all who demonstrate genuine repentance for their sins. (Isa. 61:8; Deut. 16:19, 20) Rather than teaching men to think they can curry favor with God by means of gifts, it shows that the truly acceptable offering to God is a heart contrite and humbled. (Prov. 11:28; Ps. 50:19, *Douay*) Instead of teaching that the dead must undergo a long-enduring and torturous stay in a horrifying place of purging, God's Word points to the resurrection from the unconscious death state as the hope for the human dead. (Apoc. 20:11-14, *Douay*) God's written Word affords no support whatever for the traditional teaching on purgatory.

As between the Word of the living God and human tradition, wise persons will make the right choice. Let the written Word of God be your guide.



Shoplifting Gangs

◈ Two-thirds of the shoplifters in Porirua and Titahi Bay in New Zealand are schoolchildren, one in seven an adult and the remainder secondary-school pupils, according to Sgt. M. J. Ryan, a subdistrict officer in charge. Ryan said that now organized gangs of boys and girls "sweep" stores clean of merchandise. Some of the gang distract the shop assistants while the others steal whatever they can get their hands on. A gang of five college boys were caught stealing goods worth $500. Stealing has become a contagious disease, Ryan said. One child steals something, tells his friends, then they try their hand at it. "Fridays are the black days," said the officer. "The adult offenders are invariably women." One thing these criminals should know is that stealing never pays, even when you do not get caught, because the act itself destroys priceless moral fiber that can never be replaced.

Travel Business

◈ Domestic travel in the United States is a $30,000,000,000-a-year business. But Robert E. Short, the new chairman of Discover America, Inc., noted that only 20 percent of United States' residents have ever been on an airplane, and that only half the nation's population has ever been more than 200 miles away from home. He said that more than half the populace had never spent a night in a hotel or motel and that half did not take a vacation in 1964. Some may prefer their own homes; others may not have the money that traveling requires.

Britain's Blackout

◈ The British hardly stopped saying that it "could not happen here" when it happened. On the first cold night of the season, a power blackout hit large areas of Britain at the peak of the evening rush hour. The first power cutoff of the season came after the big blackout in the Northeastern United States, and after British officials had declared that it could never happen in Britain. As winter struck early, millions of homes switched on their electric appliances. The power generators could not meet the demand. Industry officials warn of the danger of power shortages and blackouts throughout the winter. Appeals are made to avoid simultaneous use of all those electrical appliances you were persuaded to buy.

Space Feats

◈ On December 4 Astro-twins of the United States Gemini team rocketed into space on one of the longest voyages ever mapped by man. It was the first space flight that will attempt a nose-to-nose orbital rendezvous. The flight schedule called for 206 orbits in fourteen days.

Do Churches Offer the Solution?

◈ An editorial in the November 16 Williamsport, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., *Sun-Gazette* quoted Judge Paul S. Lehman's remarks to parents, which bear repeating. Judge Lehman called in parents who had four delinquent children and, in part, said to them: "It is high time that you parents immediately appraise your lives so as to provide a proper set of values for your children. . . . Your failure to attend church and encourage your children to attend, your failure to be with your children after work and teach them moral values, has directly led to the present situation. . . . Most juvenile delinquency is the result of parental neglect."

The editorial went on to say: "We can subscribe to everything Judge Lehman said, but we are haunted with the thought that many churches —and most church members —are too busy with organizational programs to give welcome, understanding or fellowship to persons hitherto unchurched and largely unfamiliar with religious matters. What Judge Lehman is recommending is that parents who may never have had previous connections with a church establish an affiliation for the sake of improving the family's environment. This would be splendid, provided the church to which they present themselves has members ready to provide a quick, sincere and warm welcome; and willing to open their own homes in a fellowship of brotherly love. We fear that many church members shrink from extending this kind of hospitality. They are too often unprepared to help the religiously unschooled, often the personally

unlovely. Is it possible, then, that insofar as church members hold themselves aloof from the untaught they make their churches guilty of delinquency?"

Getting to the Moon

◈ Predictions are made that in the next decade or so man will land on the moon. But a leading scientist, Dr. Warren Weaver, declared, on November 29, that it was wrong to spend $30,000,000,000 to get an American on the moon by 1970 when so much else to benefit humanity could be done with the money. He called the drive to beat the Russians to the moon "plain stupid." He suggested that the $30,000,000,000 could be spent as follows: "We could give every teacher in the U.S. a 10 per cent raise a year for 10 years; endow 200 small colleges with $10 million each; finance the education through graduate school of 50,000 scientists at $4,000-a-year; build 10 new medical schools at $200 million each; build and endow complete universities for more than 50 developing countries; create three new Rockefeller Foundations worth $500 million each." As it is, scientists are not sure that they can land a man on the moon at the cost of $30,000,000,000. And they do not know for certain what he will find after he gets there.

Germany's Armed Forces

◈ West Germany's armed forces observed their tenth anniversary on November 12. In 1945 the German army was completely destroyed. Ten years later, 1955, the new Federal Republic, at the urging of the Western Allies, began to build a new military force. Today the Bundeswehr is a formidable fighting force of 440,000 men, which forms the largest ground force in western Europe. Its soldiers are well-armed and equipped for war. Who would have believed this twenty years ago?

"The Most Criminal Nation"

◈ William M. McCord, Fox Professor of Sociology at Rice University in Houston, Texas, made the following assertion, as reported in the New York *Times Magazine* for November 21, 1965: "America is by far the most criminal nation in the world. On a per capita basis, Americans commit about twice as many assaults as Frenchmen, triple the number of rapes as Italians, and five times as many murders as Englishmen. From the price manipulations of Westinghouse–General Electric and the mass violence of Los Angeles down to the subway muggings and the petty thievery of juvenile gangs, it is apparent, in James Truslow Adams' words, that 'lawlessness has been and is one of the most distinctive American traits.' " Yet, he says, Americans "are at the same time one of the most puritanical of peoples, forever searching for some means to cure, suppress or punish wicked tendencies." They are also among the most churchgoing peoples in the world.

"War" Toys Decried

◈ Christendom celebrates Christmas as the birthday of the Prince of Peace. But more warlike toys, no doubt, are sold and given as gifts than at any other season of the year. Mrs. Julia Rosenthal told a news conference that the Toy Committee of San Francisco Women for Peace aims to annihilate "games of maim, murder, hostility and destruction." She said: "We all must work hard at bringing up children to a saner way of life. There is no need for children to be made to feel that killing is fun, violence is exciting or that games of destruction are clever. Civilization demands civilized toys." Toys are tools for learning. And one thing children of today do not need to learn is the art of killing, maiming and the destroying of one another's property. Toys can be clean fun, can build understanding and be used to teach children to play and work together.

New Coins in Circulation

◈ On November 1 the United States Treasury began to issue new quarters composed entirely of copper and nickel. Nearly 230,000,000 of these coins were scheduled to go into circulation in the first week. By the end of the year 700,000,000 new quarters are expected to be circulating. New dimes and new half dollars are also in production. By mid-1966 there will be some 3,500,000,000 new dimes, quarters and half dollars produced. By mid-1967 the nation expects to produce some 7,000,000,000 more, making 10,500,000,000 in all. The demand for silver for industrial and artistic uses, not including coinage, now exceeds current output. So the changeover to silverless dimes and quarters and to half dollars with less than half the silver used at present is intended to save silver. There is also a need for more coins for retail stores, vending machines and other business purposes, which have grown by leaps and bounds in recent years.

France Enters Space Race

◈ France joined the United States and Russia in the space race on November 26, when she launched her first satellite. A three-stage, 18-ton Diamond rocket carried the 83.7-pound capsule into space. A scientific station in Algeria's Sahara desert was used for the launch. Its main purpose was to test launching and tracking techniques. The launch was hailed by French President Charles de Gaulle as the first step in French participation in the "conquest of space." In the face of what has already been accomplishd in space exploration, however, the launch did not attract so much attention. According to the Smithsonian Institution, there are 874 "man-

made objects" in orbit at present.

A-Bombs Hang Heavy

◈ The U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, at a one-day conference of Defense Ministers of ten of the fifteen NATO nations, revealed, on November 27, that more than 5,000 nuclear warheads were currently stored on the European continent in support of the alliance forces. He said that this nuclear arsenal would be increased by 20 percent during the next six months. In addition to these nuclear weapons, he revealed that the United States has an arsenal of more than 5,000 warheads of its own. Observers speculated that McNamara's emphasis on the warheads was meant to discourage pressure from non-nuclear member countries for access to nuclear weapons.

Married Teen-Agers

◈ During 1964, statistics show, 8,689 couples took out marriage licenses in San Diego County, California. In the same year, 4,173 divorces were granted. That is just shy of 50-percent failure. Statistics show that a large percentage of these failures involved teen-agers. One teen-age couple, who vowed before God never to part, parted in thirteen months. The girl said: "We can't make it work." Still couples are marrying younger than ever throughout the United States. Half of America's girls are married by the time they are twenty and half the boys before they are twenty-three. More girls marry at age eighteen than at any other age. A marriage counselor stated that the reason for failure is a lack of maturity on the part of couples, and a lack of ability to adjust to the world and its conditions.

Burn Therapy

◈ Dr. Charles L. Fox, Jr., of Bellevue Hospital, New York, criticized current theories of burn shock and some treatments. He said that the widespread use of conventional dextrose-water-saline mixtures in emergency treatment of severe burns was "totally inadequate and unnecessary." Dr. Fox regarded oral intake of sodium bicarbonate in water to be sufficient, usually, as a first therapy. "What is essential is the administration of sodium bicarbonate in water quickly. The delay involved in preparing blood for transfusion is often dangerous. On the other hand, a saline-bicarbonate solution can be given simply and quickly. It is usually possible to treat a badly burned adult without blood or plasma, but you can't treat him without sodium," Dr. Fox said.

Take the "search" out of "research."

Go directly to the source of the information you are seeking.

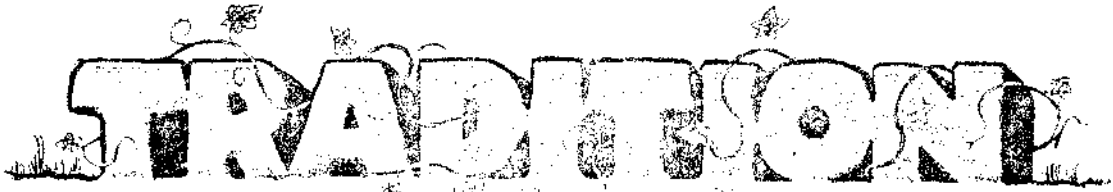
Why look helplessly for the answers to your Bible questions? Why search endlessly through back issues of *The Watchtower, Awake!* or some other publication of the Watch Tower Society for something you may have read sometime? Why wonder where these publications may have considered some particular Bible text? Use the new *Watch Tower Publications Index 1961-1965*. It is 3/6 (for Australia, 4/-; for South Africa, 35c). The first volume, 1930-1060, is also available for 7/- (for Australia, 8/10; for South Africa, 75c).

WATCH TOWER THE RIDGEWAY LONDON N.W. 7

Please send me [ ] *Watch Tower Publications Index 1961-1965* (3/6 [for Australia, 4/-; for South Africa, 35c]); [ ] *Watch Tower Publications Index 1930-1960* (7/- [for Australia, 8/10; for South Africa, 75c]). I am enclosing .....

Name ..... Street and Number or Route and Box .....

Post Town ..... Postal District No. ..... County .....



. . . has paralyzing power. Are you held captive by inherited opinions? Break free! Here's how!

Scriptural traditional beliefs and practices are beneficial, but others can confine your thinking within rigid boundaries that can blind you to the truth. Remember, 'God's word is truth.' So measure everything, even venerated traditions, by God's Word, the Bible. You can do this by regularly studying your Bible along with *The Watchtower*. This magazine's purpose is to "encourage and promote study of the Holy Bible and to give . . . the needed unsectarian help to understand that Book of true religion." It is currently being published in 70 languages, over 4½ million copies each issue. One year, 7/6 (for Australia, 8/-; for South Africa, 70c). Send today.

WATCH TOWER **THE RIDGEWAY** **LONDON N.W. 7**

Please send me *The Watchtower* for one year (24 issues) for the enclosed 7/6 (for Australia, 8/-; for South Africa, 70c). I am also to receive free the timely booklets *When All Nations Unite Under God's Kingdom*, *When God Is King over All the Earth* and *"Peace Among Men of Good Will"* or *Armageddon—Which?*

Name .....
Post Town .....

Street and Number or Route and Box .....
Postal District No. ..... County .....

In: **AUSTRALIA:** 11 Beresford Rd., Strathfield, N.S.W. **CANADA:** 150 Bridgeland Ave., Toronto 18, Ont. **SOUTH AFRICA:** Private Bag 2, P.O. Elandsfontein, Transvaal. **UNITED STATES:** 117 Adams St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.