With part of the wood he makes a god to worship . . . and with another part he cooks his food

Over the centuries countless gods have come and gone—impotent because they were fashioned by men. But the one true God will always be. That is because he is not made in the minds of men. Rather, he molds men to his purpose. What does history testify as to his worship? How can you acceptably serve him today? Read

This fine Bible-study aid of 384 pages and 90 studies is currently being used for counsel in the Theocratic Ministry School at all congregations of Jehovah's witnesses and is scheduled for study and talks later this year. Only 3/6 (for Australia, 50c; for South Africa, 35c).

WATCH TOWER THE RIDGEWAY LONDON N.W. 7

I am enclosing 3/6 (for Australia, 50c; for South Africa, 35c). Please send me postpaid the hardbound book *Qualified to Be Ministers.*

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 19, Ont. **SOUTH AFRICA:** Private Bag 2, P.O. Elandsfontein, Transvaal. **UNITED STATES:** 117 Adams St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

Awake!

Parents, What Are Your Children Being Taught? PAGE 5

Crimes of Youth—Who Is to Blame? PAGE 10

Why Keep On Smoking? PAGE 17

The Farmer's Fertilizer Problem PAGE 21

FEBRUARY 22, 1967

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
WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY
Watch Tower House, The Ridgeway London N.W. 7, England
N. H. KNORR, *President* GRANT SUITER, *Secretary*

Average printing each issue: 4,475,000

Now published in 26 languages

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

Yearly subscription rates for semimonthly editions

Offices

America, U.S., 117 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 $1
Australia, 11 Beresford Rd., Strathfield, N.S.W. $1
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.

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

Guard Against the Practice of Sin 3

Parents, What Are Your Children Being Taught? 5

Crimes of Youth—Who Is to Blame? 10

The Caspian Sea—Russia's Billion-Ruble Problem 14

"According to Their Kinds" 16

Why Keep On Smoking? 17

The Farmer's Fertilizer Problem 21

A Tragedy in the Greek Archipelago 25

"Your Word Is Truth" Jesus' Condemnation —on What Charge? 27

Watching the World

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

Volume XLVIII | London, England, February 22, 1967 | Number 4

GUARD AGAINST THE PRACTICE OF SIN

A POET long ago said: "To err is human; to forgive, divine." As much as that saying is quoted, it is not altogether true. To forgive may be Godlike, but to be human does not necessarily mean to err. Our first parents, though human, did not have to err. They were created perfect. (Gen. 1:31; Deut. 32:4) When the Son of God came to earth he proved this to be true, for, though human, he did not err—not in thought, nor in word, nor in deed. (1 Pet. 2:22) It is only due to the transgression of our first parents that erring became human, that "the inclination of the heart of man is bad from his youth up."—Gen. 8:21; Rom. 5:12.

But let no one jump to the conclusion that, since a tendency to err, to sin, to make mistakes, is inherent in man, we have no obligation to strive against these. We do have such an obligation! We are obligated by the light of conscience, and our very ability to reason, to treat others as we ourselves would be treated and to take care of ourselves properly so as not to become a burden upon others. And to the extent that we become familiar with Bible principles we are further obligated, for knowledge brings responsibility.

In this regard some have pointed to the mistakes made by certain men of God and asked how it was possible for them to do such things. But the important thing is not that they did this or that but that they did not take their erring lightly, they did not make a practice of such things. Noah is such an example. On one occasion, some years after the Flood, he drank wine to the point of intoxication. No doubt there were extenuating circumstances; but, be that as it may, the fact remains that we do not read of his getting intoxicated again. So also with the apostle Peter. Though on one occasion he denied his Lord three times because of fear of man, he sincerely repented and thereafter became a fearless witness to his God and his Lord, continuing faithful in spite of beatings and imprisonment. —Acts 5:40, 41; 12:3-5.

In this respect Peter stood in striking contrast to his fellow apostle Judas. Judas had made a practice of being dishonest; for, as the inspired record tells us, "he was a thief and had the money box and used to carry off the monies put in it." He made a practice of stealing, and that from such an unselfishly dedicated group as Je-

sus and his apostles while posing as one of them! Pride and greed combined in him to commit the act of betraying his Lord. No wonder that afterward he found no repentance, though remorseful, and so hanged himself!—John 12:1-6.

The apostle John makes this fine distinction between committing a certain sin and making a practice of sinning, saying: "My little children, I am writing you these things that you may not commit a sin. And yet, if anyone does commit a sin, we have a helper with the Father, Jesus Christ, a righteous one."—1 John 2:1.

But as regards those who keep on repeating their sins he says: "Everyone who practices sin is also practicing lawlessness, and so sin is lawlessness. He who carries on sin originates with the Devil, because the Devil has been sinning from the beginning"; that is, from his beginning as Satan the Devil.—1 John 3:4, 8.

Today, more than ever before, we see people making a practice of sin, of loose conduct, of sexual immorality, of crime. Regarding the problem this poses for those having to do with law enforcement, the New York *Daily News,* July 8, 1966, had a 'guest editorial' by New York's Chief Police Inspector S. D. Garelick, which read: "Recidivism (the repeating of crimes by the same persons) is increasing in intensity and is becoming much more serious. The fear of punishment is waning and it is apparent that there is a lack of respect of other people—both for their person and property."

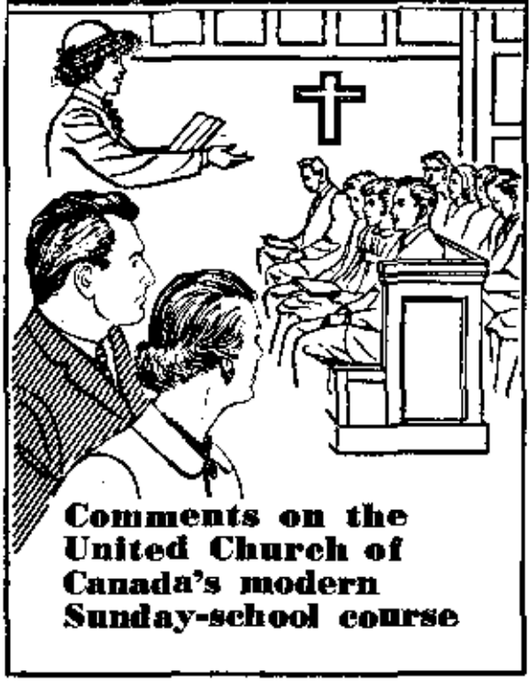
This "falling back," which is what recidivism literally means, is something that every self-respecting person, every lover of righteousness and, in particular, every Christian should want to guard against, for often it is the practice, rather than the sin itself, that determines its seriousness. Thus in the summer of 1966 in a certain Brooklyn congregation of Jehovah's witnesses two likable young people were excommunicated, disfellowshiped, to the shock of many of their friends. Why? They had been put on probation because of having violated the Christian moral code, but, instead of taking this censure to heart and exercising care in the future, they became repeaters, making a practice of their wrongdoing. So the Christian congregation had no alternative but to excommunicate them.

Not that committing a single act of sin is to be taken lightly. Not at all! One will never become a practicer of certain sins if he never commits them the first time. Besides, it is so much easier to transgress the second time; one may even find he has acquired a craving for it. More than that, many a single act has resulted in untold misery, as unwed mothers, victims of venereal disease, and even King David of old can well testify.—2 Sam. 12:7-12.

Yet, because of circumstances, because of being caught off guard, because of inherited tendencies, a person may yield to temptation and commit a serious wrong. Then what? Will he sincerely repent and change his course of action? If he is wise he will cultivate a hatred for what is bad because of the evil it entails, even though it may seem pleasant. As the psalmist counsels: "O you lovers of Jehovah, hate what is bad."—Ps. 97:10.

He who wants forgiveness and a right standing before God and his fellows must be on guard against making a practice of erring, of sinning. He must walk in the fear of God, keeping close to Him by a study of his Word and by prayer. A great aid is association with those who recognize the Bible's lofty principles. Doing so, he can have stumbling stones become stepping-stones, and the undeserved kindness that God has extended to him will not have failed in its purpose.—2 Cor. 6:1.

Parents, What Are Your Children Being Taught?



Comments on the United Church of Canada's modern Sunday-school course

"DON'T be surprised if Johnny comes home from Sunday School some day soon and tells you that the whale didn't swallow Jonah, that Moses didn't cross the Red Sea, and that what the Bible says about the creation of the world is way off base."

Thus the Toronto *Daily Star* commented on the nature of the modern Sunday-school course of the United Church of Canada shortly before it was published. The course, a million-dollar publishing enterprise, features special literature for children of various ages, primary, junior, and so forth. In addition to the *Teacher's Guide* for the various age-groups there are such books as *God Speaks Through People, The Word and the Way* and *The Mystery of the Rock.*

Christian parents know that it is important for their children to take in the right kind of religious knowledge. Why? Because as Jesus Christ said: "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ." At the same time, knowledge of God's Word will enable the children to go straight and avoid the many pitfalls causing juvenile delinquency, even as we read: "All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness."—John 17: 3; 2 Tim. 3:16.

If you are parents who love God, you want your children to take in explanations of the Bible that will strengthen their faith in God and in his Word, not destroy it; knowledge that will help them to do what is right by instilling in them the fear of God, not make them indifferent to what is right and wrong. Will they be getting this kind of teaching from the Sunday-school course of the United Church of Canada?

First Eleven Chapters of Genesis—"Not History"?

Repeatedly these United Church publications make the statement that the first eleven chapters of Genesis are not history: "The basic ideas on which the rest of the literature is built are set out in the first eleven chapters of Genesis. These chapters are not history. . . . The first historical person to emerge in the Biblical narrative is Abraham."[1]

But is that what Jesus Christ and his apostles taught? By no means! Jesus accepted the account of creation as history, for he used it to refute the position

of his opponents on the matter of divorce: "Did you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female?" (Matt. 19:3-6) He made reference to the shedding of Abel's blood as history, and he also considered the account of Noah and the Flood as historical. —Matt. 23:35; 24:37.

Jesus' apostles and early disciples were wholly of the same mind. Why would Luke, an educated physician, trace the genealogy of Jesus, not only back to Abraham, as did Matthew, but farther back, to Adam, and that according to the Genesis account, if these first eleven chapters were not historical? (Luke 3:34-38) Why would the apostle Paul tell of sin entering into the world by one man and death ruling as king "even over those who had not sinned after the likeness of the transgression by Adam," if Adam were not a historical person?—Rom. 5:12-14.

More than that, why did the writer of the book of Hebrews draw on these first eleven chapters for examples of faith if they are not historical? He tells that "by faith Abel offered God a sacrifice of greater worth than Cain," and that "by faith Noah . . . showed godly fear and constructed an ark." (Heb. 11:4-7) Other Bible writers, such as the apostles Peter and John and the disciple Jude likewise make reference to events and persons recorded in the first eleven chapters of Genesis. —2 Pet. 2:5; 3:6; 1 John 3:12; Jude 14.

Parents, with whom do you agree? With Jesus Christ and his apostles and early disciples who regarded the first eleven chapters of Genesis as historical or with the Sunday-school course of the United Church of Canada, which claims that those chapters are based on myths?

The Bible Charged with Inconsistencies

The Sunday-school course also charges that the Bible contains inconsistencies and therefore cannot be taken literally as the infallible Word of God. "There are inconsistencies in the Bible. . . . If you compare the two creation stories you will see that in the first one, man and woman are created together at the same time. In the second story man is created first."[2]

It may well be asked, How can such a statement be made in all sincerity? The account of creation in the first chapter of Genesis merely states that "God proceeded to create the man in his image . . . male and female he created them." (Gen. 1:27) Nothing is said here about time. It is simply a condensed statement of what occurred. Proof of this is seen in chapter two, from which we learn how God created man, "out of dust from the ground" and blew "into his nostrils the breath of life." And in giving the details, the second chapter also tells us how the woman was created, when, as well as why—because it was not good for the man to be alone.—Gen. 2:7, 18-25.

How logical that the writer of Genesis in telling of the creation of all material things would first give a condensed statement of the creation of the first human pair and then devote another portion to the details as to just how the first man and woman were individually created! Surely there is nothing inconsistent about the way these two chapters of Genesis are written.

The United Church of Canada spokesman lists another alleged inconsistency as follows:

"Israel used to be ruled by judges. A judge was a sort of combined general and prime minister. He assumed leadership during a national emergency. Once the emergency was settled, he became a private citizen again. This was not a very stable form of leadership, so Saul was finally chosen as the first king. One story says the choice was made by God. The

other says, in choosing a king, the people were really putting a man in the place of their King."[2]

But what are the facts according to the Bible record? In the first place, these emergencies arose only because the Israelites fell away from the worship of Jehovah. Secondly, it was Jehovah God who time and again chose these judges, and, further, the reason the people "finally" wanted a king was that the Israelites got the idea from the nations roundabout them. There is nothing inconsistent about the Bible record, for it shows that while the people *wanted* a king, it was Jehovah God who chose the particular man who was to be their first king.—1 Sam. 8:4-20; 10:1, 24; Hos. 13:11.

Other alleged inconsistencies in the Bible can be as readily explained. The Bible contains inconsistencies only for those who want to find them in the Bible as an excuse for not accepting it as the inspired Word of God. Parents, do you want your children to view the Bible as filled with inconsistencies or do you agree with Jesus Christ when he said to his Father, "Your word is truth"?—John 17:17.

Moses' Miracles Explained Away

How this modern Sunday-school course destroys faith rather than building it is further seen from its efforts to explain away the miracles of Moses. Thus the death of the firstborn of Egypt is termed a "children's disease of such epidemic proportions that nearly every Egyptian home lost at least one child."[3] But what does the Bible say? It tells that only the *firstborn* died, whether small children or older ones, and even the *firstborn* of the lower animals; also that the only protection against the plague was having the lintels and doorposts of one's house sprinkled with the passover blood and remaining inside. More than that, we read that Jehovah God claimed all the firstborn of Israel as his because of having spared them from this plague.—Ex. 12:1-38; Num. 3:40-51.

Children who attend these courses are also asked to believe that from previous experience, accidentally come by, Moses knew that the "Red Sea" was a very shallow body of water and that men, women and children could walk through it but that chariots and horses or even a man in armor would get bogged down in it.[4] It strains credulity to claim that a mother with babe in arms, of which there must have been many among the fleeing Israelites, could have waded through the muddy seabed but a man in armor would have perished in the attempt. At the same time such an explanation ignores the Bible account that there was literally a wall of water on each side of the Israelites as they marched across dry of foot, not having waded through shallow, muddy waters! —Ex. 14:5–15:21.

This Sunday-school course further teaches children that Moses was familiar with manna and knew that it would spoil if kept for more than one day.[5] But the inspired Bible record tells us that it spoiled if kept over until the next morning, except if that morning was a sabbath. Then, the day before, the Israelites were to gather twice as much, as it would not spoil if kept twenty-four hours longer. And what is more, when the Israelites wanted to gather manna on the sabbath, which they had been expressly forbidden to do, they did not find any manna. How can it be explained why the manna did not spoil when kept over to the sabbath but spoiled when kept overnight on other days? And how can it be explained that they found no manna on the sabbath? —Ex. 16:11-31.

Clearly, Moses made much of these unusual characteristics. Was it all fiction? By no means! Rather, it was Jehovah God

by means of Moses who was teaching his people the Israelites the lessons of obedience and dependence upon their God. What can endeavoring to explain away all these miracles do but destroy the faith of children in the Bible as the dependable, authoritative Word of God? Is that what you would want?

Jesus' Birth Without the Miraculous?

Regarding the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, children are told by the Sunday-school course of the United Church of Canada that "this may rest on a mistaken translation of Isaiah 7:14."[4] But, regardless of how Isaiah 7:14 reads, the inspired Gospel writers Matthew and Luke leave no doubt about the fact that the virgin Mary conceived by the power of God's holy spirit. Reported Matthew: "She was found to be pregnant by holy spirit before they were united." Also Joseph was urged to accept Mary as his wife because "that which has been begotten in her is by holy spirit." (Matt. 1:18-20) And Luke gives us more details. (Luke 1:28-38) It cannot honestly be stated that the belief in the virgin birth of Jesus depends upon a mistranslation! Why, Jesus Christ himself time and again testified to his own prehuman existence and so did his apostles. Since he did have a prehuman existence, he could not have had a human father; and so Mary must have been a virgin who conceived by the power of God.—John 1: 1-3; 3:13; 6:41; 8:58; Phil. 2:5-8.

Not content with casting doubt on the virgin birth of Jesus, this Sunday-school course also questions the rest of the record about Jesus' birth: "Such narratives as the annunciation to Mary (Luke 1:26-38) and the shepherds and the angels (Luke 2:8-15) and the visit of the wise men (Matthew 2:1-12) are expressions of the reverence, love and devotion that Matthew and Luke shared. . . . Crude literalistic analysis will literally get us nowhere."[5]

But Luke begins his Gospel with no allowance for his merely giving expression to his love and devotion for the Messiah, nor is there any bid to us to use our imagination in understanding what he has to say: "Whereas many have undertaken to compile a statement of the facts that are given *full credence* among us, just as those who from the beginning became *eyewitnesses* and attendants of the message delivered these to us, I resolved also, because I have traced all things from the start *with accuracy,* to write them in logical order to you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know fully *the certainty* of the things that you have been taught orally." Parents, surely you can see that the Bible is setting out fully checked facts of history and not engaging in poetic flights of imagination as the authors of the Sunday-school course of the United Church of Canada would have children believe.—Luke 1:1-4.

Is It Honest?

So determined are the writers of this Sunday-school course to do away with Biblical miracles that they will even distort the record to keep from mentioning them. How damaging to the faith of children this can be may be seen from the way they retell Jerusalem's deliverance from the siege of Sennacherib in the days of King Hezekiah: "The Assyrians did return to their own land, but Hezekiah had to pay them a big price to do so."[6] Is this right? No, it is not, for according to the Bible account, even after King Hezekiah tried to pay off Sennacherib with a large sum, that pagan emperor proceeded against Jerusalem. (2 Ki. 18:13-27) True, relief came, but how? "It came about on that night that the *angel of Jehovah proceeded to go out and strike down a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp*

of the Assyrians. When people rose up early in the morning, why, there all of them were dead carcasses."—2 Ki. 19:35.

There just were no two ways about it. The issue was unequivocally stated and joined: Was Jehovah, the God of Judah, the one true God, or was he like the gods of the nations roundabout? Sennacherib's spokesman had taunted: "Do not listen to Hezekiah, for he allures you, saying, 'Jehovah himself will deliver us.' Have the gods of the nations at all delivered each one his own land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?"—2 Ki. 18:32-35.

Meeting the issue head on, King Hezekiah prayed to Jehovah: "Open your eyes, O Jehovah, and see, and hear the words of Sennacherib that he has sent to taunt the living God. It is a fact, O Jehovah, the kings of Assyria have devastated the nations and their land. And they have consigned their gods to the fire, because they were no gods, but the workmanship of man's hands . . . And now, O Jehovah our God, save us, please, out of his hand, *that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Jehovah, are God alone.*" In view of such a plea, what else would Jehovah God do but act in a supernatural way so as to prove that he was indeed the one true God?—2 Ki. 19:16-19.

And so, as we have already noted, it came about. But the paying of a big price to have Sennacherib return would not have been a vindication of Jehovah as the one true and living God. To present the account in this fashion is palpably dishonest and robs youth of a powerful example showing Jehovah's superiority over all other gods, weakening faith. Parents, would you want this to happen to your children?—2 Ki. 19:21-35.

Unchristian and Faith-destroying

The Bible's account strengthens the faith of youth in Jehovah as the one true God. But distorted and dishonest retellings of it are faith-destroying as well as unchristian. Jesus Christ and his apostles and early disciples were all of the same mind. They accepted the Hebrew Scriptures as the inspired Word of God and repeatedly quoted from them, appealing to them as the authority. Today we are living in the times Jesus foretold in his great prophecy about the conclusion of the system of things. We have seen, not only wars, famines, earthquakes and pestilences, but also the "increasing of lawlessness," as a result of which the 'love of God on the part of the greater number of people has cooled off.' Many people have little faith, if any at all.—Matt. 24:12.

With the Bible being charged with inconsistencies, with its miracles either ignored or explained away, is it any wonder that modern youth has so little faith in God? The situation is not limited to Canada. The stand taken by the United Church of Canada's Sunday-school course is the same as that taken by ever so many other professedly Christian organizations and groups, and the faith-destroying effect is the same. So parents, it is up to you to choose. Do you believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God? Do you believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, knew what he was saying when he testified to the truth of the Scriptures? If you do, then you will want to look somewhere other than to such churches of Christendom for help in teaching your children about God and the Bible. Standing ready to help you are the Christian witnesses of Jehovah in your community, and this applies to parents not only in Canada but throughout the world.

REFERENCES

1 *The Junior Teacher's Guide,* Year I, p. 4.
2 *God Speaks Through People,* Frank Morgan (1964), p. 18.
3 *Ibid.,* pp. 58-68.
4 *The Junior Teacher's Guide,* Year I, p. 18.
5 *The Junior Teacher's Guide,* Year II, p. 8.
6 *God Speaks Through People,* p. 141.

CRIMES OF YOUTH / who is to blame?

Parents blame youths. Youths blame parents. What are the facts?

IT WAS early Saturday morning, November 12, 1966, at Mesa, Arizona. A local beauty shop had just opened and in it were five women and two children. Then in came an eighteen-year-old high-school youth. He ordered the women to lie on their stomachs on the floor in a circle like spokes of a wheel, with their heads in the center, and then calmly began to pump bullets into the backs of their heads as he walked around the circle, refilling his revolver as it ran out of bullets, and laughing all the while. By the time the police arrived and apprehended the youth he had murdered four of the women, stabbed a three-year-old girl to death "because she kept jumping around," and wounded the remaining woman and infant.

Why had he done it? According to his own statement: "I wanted to get known . . . just wanted to get myself a name." He further boasted that he had planned the murders for about three months, getting the idea from the massacre of eight nurses in Chicago and the mass murder of more than a dozen persons in Austin, Texas. At the time of his arrest he was cocky and showed no sign of remorse.

Yes, in this age of violence and crime, youth looms up prominently. In the United States 48 percent of all arrests for serious crimes involve youths under eighteen years of age. This figure is not at all surprising when we note that New York police, in mid-March 1966, arrested a group of twelve boys, ages fourteen to eighteen years, all from comfortable homes, with money and autos, who had burglarized seventy-eight different homes and stolen thousands of dollars' worth of goods. Why? They wanted something to brag about, they said. Then there was the teen-ager who in three months robbed thirty-five taxi drivers, many of whom he wounded with a knife or pair of scissors.

Last September the New York City police picked up five youths ranging from twelve to fifteen years of age. Why? One of them had poured gasoline on two sleeping Bowery tramps and another threw burning matches on them while the other three stood by to watch the "fun." Both men had to be rushed to the hospital, where one died four days later from his wounds. What kind of mentality did these five "good boys"—according to their parents—have, for them to plan and execute such a cruel deed?

In November in the same city three well-dressed youths asked an elderly slightly built unemployed man for the time and then suddenly knocked him to the sidewalk and, in spite of his pleadings, poured a can of searing lye on his head. Why? Not for money, but, according to the police, simply "for the thrill of it."

Modern youths' proclivity for crime is also seen in vandalism. In New York city alone youthful vandals each year destroy $5 million

worth of school property. They not only break windowpanes by the hundreds of thousands, rip out pay phones and mark up walls with paint or lipstick but also steal much valuable school property.

There are also the sorry and harmful aspects of "glue sniffing" and other forms of drug and narcotic addiction such as LSD. Police records are filled with the violence and crimes committed by youthful glue addicts, including armed robbery, rape and murder. Three Chicago youths of "respectable" homes, while under the influence of "pills," shot a sixty-three-year-old man and then stomped him to death.

Not that the crimes of youth are limited to the United States. It is only that they are more widespread and vicious there. Other lands also have their problems. An item from New Zealand tells of three boys, two of them thirteen, and one fourteen years of age, having been involved in thirteen, nine and six robberies respectively. They stole hundreds of dollars' worth of transistor radios, wrist watches and like valuable articles. The press also reports increasing juvenile delinquency in Russia and blames it on boredom. And the latest phenomena are China's Red Guards, who have embarked on a campaign of terror, violence and torture.

Who Is to Blame

Shocking? Yes, this behavior on the part of youth is indeed shocking. But let it never be forgotten that youth takes its attitudes, its values, from adults. There is no question about the increase of lawlessness among adults. According to the FBI of the United States, there were 2,780,000 serious crimes in the United States in 1965, a 6-percent increase over 1964. It is the adults who set the example. Thus a prominent New York City clergyman has used every conceivable disreputable trick to evade the law and even became a refugee from justice. What kind of an ideal is he for youth to copy?

Not only do adults set wretched examples for youth, but some of them make it their business to exploit youth for the sake of selfish gain. They encourage youth to gamble, to become drug addicts, and they harden them to violence by its portrayal in motion pictures and on television screens, and in particular do they abet youths' trend toward sexual immorality by pornographic material, books, magazines and moving pictures, all of which has become a multimillion-dollar business in the United States. Who is operating it? Adults. Who are its prime targets? Youth.

But in particular are the immediate parents of delinquent and criminal youths to blame; a fact on which, incidentally, both the Bible and psychiatrists are agreed. Thus the Bible says: "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) And reports *Science Digest* (December 1966): "Psychiatrists . . . place the blame for criminality almost completely on the early parent-child relationship." It also reports that "delinquents begin antisocial acts at the average age of eight."

In what respects do the parents fall short? Primarily in two respects. One of these is the failure to be firm for what is right, or to be "strict," in dealing with their offspring. The other is an indifference as to what is best for the child and an unwillingness to sacrifice one's pleasures for one's children. They both betray a lack of parental love and affection, which the Bible shows was to be one of the characteristics of the "last days." —2 Tim. 3:1, 3.

Rightly the Bible says: "Do not hold back discipline from the mere boy." (Prov. 23:13) The wisdom of this is apparent from the report of a seven-year survey

sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health and under the direction of Dr. Coppersmith, chairman of the University of California Psychology Department. According to his findings: "Almost without exception the most successful children —in school and in play—came from homes where parents laid down the law. Children of strict parents reported that punishment usually was deserved . . . Children from strict parents felt closer and more affectionate to their parents than children from permissive homes. The father usually was successful, confident and the family disciplinarian." He also stated that these strict parents put the acquiring of high standards ahead of a child's enjoying himself, and achievement ahead of sociability. "They knew practically all their childrens' friends." Yes, as the Bible shows, the parent that truly loves his child will discipline him. (Heb. 12:6-11) This is in striking contrast to such parents as the prominent Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, attorney who tried to excuse the raping of a fifteen-year-old girl by seven teen-age youths, one of which was his own son, as a "boyish prank."

The importance of parents' having a genuine interest in their children is being demonstrated by the New Castle, Pennsylvania, Youth Guidance Council. According to its spokesman, "most children who get in trouble are in one way or another neglected at home. . . . Some parents are just indifferent." Through this Council a youth who has gotten into trouble with the law has a counselor assigned to him whose chief role is 'to be a substitute parent for the youth to confide in and look up to.' (Just what parents should be!) This has proved so helpful that very few of these youths show up at police headquarters a second time, resulting in a decrease in juvenile crime in this city as compared with increases elsewhere.—*Parents' Magazine and Better Homemaking,* February 1966.

In one New York community there is a somewhat similar arrangement in which mature, volunteer women are assigned as 'school moms," one to each problem child, with whom they spend several mornings each week. Being a "school mom" requires much patience and affection, but the results are worth it, not only for the child but also for the "school mom," one of whom stated: "I've never done anything so exhausting and rewarding in my life. No one can measure what it means to me to know that I am, in a very real sense, helping to save [the child's] life." What these are willing to do for other people's children, parents should be willing to do for their own. If they did, there would be no need for such "school moms."—*The PTA Magazine,* June 1966.

Note also the record being made by the *Kinderdorf* orphans. Instead of being housed in large institutions, these live in tiny villages consisting of individual homes where a mature woman with a sense of humor and, above all, a large motherly heart presides over eight children. The village itself has a male supervisor serving as father. The purpose of *Kinderdorf* is "the generating of strong currents of love. . . . The mother's job is love." Some 200 of these children have already grown to adulthood, not one of whom has turned out bad. Originated in Austria, the *Kinderdorf* idea is spreading to many other lands.

But it is not only mother love that is needed. The role of that male supervisor is just as important if not more so. The Scriptural principle of the father being the head of the home is a sound one. (Eph. 5:22, 23; 6:1-4) Says one government official: "The ancient culture in which the father is the undisputed head of the family . . . appears to produce fewer lawbreakers." No question about the father's responsibility for the way youth turns out!

Youth's Own Responsibility

Do the foregoing facts absolve youths from all blame? By no means! They are not robots. On the principle of *particeps criminis,* accomplices to the crime, they share the blame. Youths blame parents and then deliberately do worse themselves!

Youths pride themselves on their thinking ability, so let them think. Do they want someone to steal their auto and then wreck it? Do they want to be tortured or have their home vandalized? So youths should think about the lack of logic in treating others differently from the way they themselves want to be treated. —Matt. 7:12.

Further, youths should ask themselves, Does my pursuit of "kicks" or thrills make sense? Doctors tell that glue sniffing results in much physical harm and even death as well as leading to the use of stronger drugs. As one youth put it: "You start on the glue kick and you get to like it. Then you want a bigger kick. You begin to take pills and you like them even better." But the result is a ruined life.

Further, youth should be realistic. Does the pursuit of such lawlessness pay? Is it worthwhile? Is it rewarding? Who sits out a lifetime sentence for rape, as in the case of a white Mississippi youth who lured a fifteen-year-old colored girl into his car on the pretext of needing a babysitter and then took her to a lonely spot and at knife point raped her? That teenager's parents or himself? Thus also, *Science Digest,* August 1966, tells that suicides are increasing as the cause of deaths by youths, only auto accidents, cancer and drowning being more frequent causes of death, whereas among college students it is the second most frequent cause of death. Besides, are these the ways to reward one's parents for having practiced all the self-denial and sacrificing necessary to bring into the world and rear these youths? Youths may think they are smart, but no more than adults can they thwart the divine principle that what a man sows he will also reap.—Gal. 6:7.

There are also other things to consider, such as peace of mind and self-respect. Certainly no one who gives expression to his feelings without regard to the interests of others can have either self-respect or peace of mind.

Above all, there is the question of God, the Creator, whose name is Jehovah. All visible creation testifies to his existence, even as his Word shows. (Rom. 1:20) Only the "senseless one has said in his heart: 'There is no Jehovah.' " (Ps. 14:1) Since He is our Creator, we are accountable to him. To recognize that fact means to fear to displease him, which the Bible shows is the beginning of wisdom, as it means to turn away from what is bad. —Prov. 8:13; 9:10.

The fact that there is so little respect for the Bible, and that Bible knowledge has declined and Bible principles are ignored is a basic underlying cause for youths' crimes, and for this the clergy of Christendom are chiefly responsible. But the Bible points out the true course of wisdom: It shows that, rather than selfishness, unselfishness is truly rewarding: "There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving," and who does not want to be happy? More than that, the Bible holds out the hope of everlasting life, and who would not want to live in happiness forever?—Acts 20:35; John 17:3.

That Bible principles can be applied by parents and youths to modern living is not merely a theory but is practical and practicable. It has been proved to be so by some one million Christian witnesses of Jehovah living in nearly two hundred lands and islands of the sea.

The Caspian Sea

—Russia's Billion-Ruble Problem

THE Caspian Sea is not quite a Russian lake. The Soviet Union and Iran share its coastline and waters between them, Russia claiming the lion's share. To the peoples of America and western Europe this largest inland body of water in the world seems to be rather remote, but to Russia the Caspian is a valuable link in her waterways system, a source of food and raw materials for industry, and a very costly and chronic problem. Let us see why this is so.

This huge inland sea—its area is greater than all the Great Lakes of North America put together—stretches some 750 miles from north to south and is almost 270 miles across its widest section. Its 169,000 square miles of surface make it, in magnitude, truly a "sea," though we usually call a landlocked body of water a "lake." It is formed of two major basins divided by an underwater ridge, in reality the eastward continuation of the Caucasus Mountains. The maximum depth of the north basin is 1,500 feet, that of the south basin some 3,240 feet.

Fed by the waters of several rivers, including the Ural, the Terek and the Volga, one of the world's sixteen largest, we might expect the Caspian to be a freshwater sea. But, in fact, it is salty, though not too salty to support an abundance of fresh- and saltwater fish: pike, sturgeon, mullet, carp, whitefish and herring, to name a few. There are even seals in the Caspian, suggesting some ancient connection with the Arctic area.

The really profitable feature of the Russian fisheries in the Caspian is the trade in caviar, obtained from sturgeon and other large fish. And it so happens that 90 percent of all sturgeon caught in the Caspian are caught in the shallower north basin. In fact, Astrakhan, near the mouth of the Volga River, is one of the chief centers of export of this delicacy. From this region almost the whole European demand for caviar is met.

A Disappearing Sea

But what bothers the Russians is the fact that, despite the regular influx of river waters into this land-girt sea, there are undeniable signs that its level is dropping steadily year by year. Imagine what this means to port facilities and to fishing villages that are left high and dry by the receding shoreline! And what about the costly installations at oil harbors such as Baku, center of the Caucasian oil region? Already the breakwaters constructed in some locations are, in their stranded state, useless and unsightly. The threatened loss to fisheries and to economical shipping by

seaway by reason of the continuing drop in the water level certainly poses a serious problem.

The Caspian's water level has a history of inconstancy. For example, prior to the year 1665 its level was constantly rising. Then for sixty-five years it dropped steadily. During the following eighty-five years, ending in 1815, it had gained and lost as much as ten feet. Thereafter and until 1930, it seemed to stabilize at eighty-five feet below sea level. Then, once again, it began falling, until now it is about ninety-two feet below sea level.

Explaining the Loss of Water

Researchers have explained that the fluctuations are tied in with the amount of rainfall in the whole Volga River basin, and that this, in turn, is vitally affected by weather in the Arctic. They point to the steadily moderating conditions in the Arctic and fear that this presages a diminishing rainfall and therefore a continuing fall in the Caspian's level. They are not at all optimistic.

Another factor that adversely affects the northern basin of this vast inland sea is the tremendous volume of sediment washed down by the Volga and her tributaries—believed to be about fifty-five million cubic feet annually. And this is cause for chagrin to the Russians on two counts. Most of the sediment is valuable topsoil that is lost to the land, and its entry into the Caspian is making their most productive fishing areas shallower and shallower. The constant dredging of the Volga's delta is one of the operations that is costing Russia one billion rubles each year.

Then there are the great dams that have been reared here and there in the Volga basin for purposes of irrigation and production of hydroelectric power. Huge artificial lakes have thereby been formed, one of them near Kuibyshev being almost as large as Lake Winnipegosis in Canada. Thus the inflow of water to the Caspian has been seriously reduced.

The question of evaporation was considered to be but a minor cause for water loss until it was realized that the Gulf of Kara-Bogaz-Gol was the Caspian's own special evaporation pan. This large, almost circular gulf or bay on the eastern coast, north of Krasnovodsk, is believed to have been at one time merely a shallow depression in the desert, separated from the Caspian by a narrow ridge running north and south. At one time when the sea's level was unusually high it is said that the waters must have breached the ridge with a 400-foot-wide channel and poured into the desert depression, flooding an area of about 7,000 square miles to a maximum depth of about forty feet. Since even now the level of the gulf is some fifteen feet below the level of the Caspian the waters rush through this channel to the gulf at the rate of 22,000 cubic feet per second—truly a vast drain!

The torrid winds speed the evaporation of the waters in this large, shallow "pan," building up salty deposits on its bed and around its shores. The result is that the salinity of the water climbs steeply as it enters the gulf, becoming lethal to fish that are caught in the swift waters of the channel and swept into the gulf. Salts in the Caspian's water amount to 13 parts in 1000 of water, whereas in the gulf there are 300 parts of salt to the same quantity of water. Compare this with America's Great Salt Lake, which has 200 parts of salt, or with the Dead Sea, which has 250 parts of salt.

So here, where the waters of the Caspian pour into the gulf, there are desert eagles, sea gulls, corsac foxes and even wolves eagerly waiting to pounce upon the weakening or dead fish before they become too highly impregnated with salt.

Fish that get too saturated with the salt are eventually cast up on the shores of the gulf, where they become completely dried out and preserved, useful to any wandering shepherd who may chance to pass and pick them up for his larder.

Today, due to the lowering of the Caspian's level, the maximum depth of the gulf is only about ten feet and its area has shrunk to some 4,000 square miles, still well over twice the area of the Great Salt Lake. But this shrinkage only intensifies the evaporation process, and is proving to be a costly inconvenience to the Russian interests that are exploiting the sodium sulfate deposits in the gulf.

Grappling with the Problem

Russian scientists and technical men have come up with various ideas for solving the problem of the disappearing sea. Eyeing the northward-flowing rivers that seem to drain uselessly into the Arctic Ocean, they speak of diverting some of those waters into the Volga River basin and thence into the Caspian. For example, they believe that the Ob and Yenisei Rivers could be dammed so as to form a huge artificial lake the waters of which could be backed into the Volga water system. This also, they claim, could be done even more easily with the Dvina, Mezen and Petchora Rivers, since their valleys lie west of the Ural Mountain barrier. However, it is generally admitted that such vast schemes would involve staggering expenditures and many years of labor before anything tangible could be achieved.

Another more immediate scheme, for the maintenance of the water level in the northern portion of the sea, calls for construction of a dam across the Caspian from a point south of the Terek River on the west coast to the Island of Kulali off the eastern coast. Then another short dam would connect the island with the mainland. The total length of the proposed dams would be 280 miles. Though opponents criticize this as an almost impossible undertaking, its proponets point out that the maximum water depth that would be encountered at the proposed site would be only about twenty feet.

It remains to be seen whether Russia can solve this problem and how many more billions of rubles it may cost. It may even be that the inconstant Caspian will move into another period of buildup. The fact remains, however, that this vast inland sea presents a unique geographical feature. Ordinarily rain and snow on the land masses eventually seep and drain by rivers and streams into the ocean. But here is an instance where the rivers pour into the Caspian, and it, in turn, pours its waters into the eastern desert. The Caspian has no other known outlet.

"According to Their Kinds"

The biological rule that living things were created to reproduce "according to their kinds" occurs ten times in Genesis chapter one. This immutable law was made by the Creator, Jehovah God. While allowing for immense variety within each family kind, it does not allow for the evolutionary idea that one family kind can make or evolve another, entirely new, kind. So obvious is this that even current proevolution scientific journals such as *Scientific American* have admitted it. In its December 1966 issue on page 32 it said: "Living things are enormously diverse in form, but form is remarkably constant within any given line of descent: pigs remain pigs and oak trees remain oak trees generation after generation."

Why Keep On SMOKING?

AFTER a separation of about two years a couple of old friends got together, keen on exchanging news and talking over old times. As we listen in on their conversation, John is saying: "Make yourself comfortable, George. Will you have a smoke?"

"No thanks," is the rejoinder. And then, after a brief pause: "I thought you quit smoking the same time I did after that report by the Surgeon General in 1964?"

"You're quite right, I did cut out cigarettes for a few months. But then I got started again. Everyone else is doing it, so I could see no reason why I should deny myself the pleasure."

"That may be okay," said George, "but if everyone took to loose living, I'm sure you would not follow the crowd."

"Oh, that is different. After all, there has been no solid proof that smoking is the hazard they try to make of it, and I have been told that the Surgeon General's report was only a scare."

"I would like to know where you get your information, John, because every time I pick up a magazine or a newspaper, it seems, I find articles about the dangers of cigarette smoking, often by medical men with long experience. The mere fact of cigarettes being linked with lung cancer prompted me to give some serious thought to the subject. Why run the risk of cancer?"

"Do you really think the matter so serious, George? You know, there are many cancer deaths among nonsmokers."

"Quite true, John, but that is because there are other causes. At least the link between cigarettes and lung cancer is established, and statistical records of male smokers who were patients in hospitals for other reasons indicate that the incidence of cancer is directly related to heavy smoking."

"Well, I am not a heavy smoker—only about twenty a day."

"It's rather odd you should mention that figure, for I just read a clipping from a Toronto paper telling how one doctor claimed the man who smoked one pack per day can expect to die eight years earlier than he should; and the two-packs-a-day man can move up his date with the undertaker another eight years."

"What should I care whether I'm going to die at sixty-five or seventy-three. It's still a way off."

"You must be joking," said George. "I know right well you would not want to leave your family without its mainstay even at sixty-five, if you live that long. It reminds me of the experience told by

a scientist who contracted cancer. Speaking of his ability to stop smoking, he said, after the operation: 'I was strongly motivated; if I did not stop, I was a goner. Even so, I had to submit to surgery, an ordeal I might have avoided had I quit a few years earlier.' And his operation involved an incision nineteen inches long."

"I hope I never run into anything like that. But did you know, George, that only a small percentage of cigarette smokers ever contract cancer? Also, I read recently that a prominent officer of the Tobacco Institute charged that many 'unjustifiable emotional campaigns based on the "health scare" technique' were being conducted."

"But has it occurred to you that smokers who die of other ailments may already have developed cancer, even though not to the extent that it would appear on the death certificate as the major cause of death? Anyway, physicians claim that the smoker doubles his chances of coronary disease and lays himself open to chronic bronchitis. The statistics are quite positive on this."

"Yes, George, but don't you know that almost anything can be proved by statistics? They are not so accurate as they are supposed to be."

"That depends altogether on the honesty and the integrity of the one employing them. All these doctors who are themselves breaking away from the cigarette habit and warning others to do the same are not going to make more money if cancer and heart cases are reduced drastically in number. Besides, you yourself are in the insurance business, and you have to depend to a large extent on statistics to protect you from crippling losses. In fact, several life insurance companies are now offering lower premium rates to nonsmokers. Most of those who challenge the statistics produced by independent research projects have some connection with the tobacco industry or are justifying their own captivity to the habit."

"Well, don't you think if the danger were so real the Government would step in and completely ban the sale of cigarettes?"

"The Government, John, has to respect democratic rights and processes. But even at that, various governments have gone quite far. In Italy cigarette advertising is unlawful. The Polish Government has purposely upped the price of tobacco because of the conviction that smoking exerts 'a negative influence on the health of the population.' In Britain television advertising of cigarettes was discontinued on August 1, 1965. In fact, the chief medical adviser to the British Health Ministry only recently urged a complete boycott of cigarette smoking in his country. He claims that lung cancer and respiratory ailments cause more than five times as many deaths as do road accidents in a year. And here in the United States the Federal Government requires tobacco companies to print a danger warning on all their cigarette packages. Our Public Health Service, too, has no delusions about cigarettes. It awarded grants and contracts totaling nearly $2 million during the year that ended June 20, 1966, for research and education on the dangers of cigarette smoking."

"I admit they are spending plenty of the taxpayers' money on a lot of projects that I can't see. What the Government spends money on does not always make sense."

"But look at it this way, John. The Government stands to lose a lot of badly needed revenue through curtailment of cigarette smoking. Yet in spite of this, state and federal programs are moving right ahead. This can only mean that a growing number of responsible citizens are convinced of the danger. On this very point I recall that the sponsors of the Ital-

ian legislation banning tobacco advertising felt that it was immoral to permit the advertising of products clearly injurious to the nation's health."

"You make a strong case, George. But you must admit that there are many people, prominent and otherwise, who still smoke their favorite brands, and have no intention of giving them up."

"I can't deny that. I am inclined to think that they are so completely enslaved to the habit that they cannot even see how they could ever get free. It is not that they believe all the phony advertising claims about 'cooler' smokes, 'more puffs to the cigarette,' billboard posters depicting smokers in delightful and healthful surroundings—not far from outright misrepresentation."

"Yet the law does not step in and curb it."

"Well, in the past it did have to step in and curb many false claims made by cigarette advertisers, claims that the product would sweeten the breath, prevent colds, soothe the nerves and all sorts of other benefits. And even recently the industry agreed under pressure to impose its own code of advertising ethics. By this code they pledge that 'cigarette advertising shall not represent that cigarette smoking is essential to social prominence, distinction, success, or sexual attraction.' They also agree to refrain from using the names of popular athletes in testimonials of their products. Yet all these gimmicks they have been using for decades to entice the gullible public into becoming their captive customers."

"Well, I agree that there has been plenty of promotional advertising of cigarettes, and I feel that too much of it has been directed at children."

"You're so right, John. You know, one writer aptly described cigarette advertising as 'a narcotic dream with an inexcusable dosage of dishonesty.' And the worst feature of all was touched on by the American Public Health Association back in 1959, when it declared that 'lung cancer will claim the lives of more than one million present schoolchildren in this country before they reach the age of 70 years.' I am convinced, however, that there are those who will be just as much to blame as tobacco advertisers."

"Who do you mean?"

"I mean adult cigarette smokers in general."

"You mean, George, that we smokers are the main cause of young people taking up the habit?"

"That's exactly it. You know, youngsters are great mimics, and they like to try everything they see done by their parents, their heroes, their sport champions. What they see in real life, on television, at the movies, becomes something all right for them. And they are innocent enough to believe there can be no real harm in something that is done by so many people."

"Well, I can't help what other people's children do. I forbid my youngsters to smoke until they are seventeen."

"So you do realize that smoking is a menace. But your verbal warnings, without the backing of example, will have no effect. Your children are going to get hooked. In fact, most children manage to get in quite a lot of secret smoking before they start smoking openly. After all, John, you are their hero."

"But I really don't do much smoking in the home or when they are around; mostly it's when I'm commuting to and from work."

"So that makes you a big-time advertiser for cigarettes."

"How do you mean?"

"Have you ever stopped to think of the many young people who may be riding in

the same coach with you? They probably look forward to the day when they can do just what you are doing. Of course, there are also the nonsmokers who are forced to breathe in your exhaled smoke. It surely must appeal to them as a deprivation of their right not to smoke, when so many smokers on public vehicles insist on blowing their used cigarette smoke all around, even when 'No Smoking' signs prohibit it. For myself, I never realized how utterly oblivious to the comfort of others we smokers are, until I quit the habit."

"You know, I never thought of that angle, George. Of course, I usually ask whoever is next to me if they mind my smoking. But I know many smokers just go right ahead without even bothering."

"Even if you do ask your neighbor, your smoke reaches far beyond him. And in any case, what are they going to say? Not many are going to make an issue of it. Nevertheless, I now know that they are far from pleased about the situation. More than that, there are many characteristics of the smoker that are revolting to the nonsmokers."

"There are? Tell me more."

"Well, a smoker's breath and clothing just reek with stale cigarette smoke. His teeth and his fingers are often stained an ugly yellowish color. More often than not he has a smoker's cough, a harsh, raspy kind of cough. And, perhaps worst of all, he keeps clearing his throat and spitting. Nonsmokers get to thinking of him as a real menace to their health."

"You know, George, you make me feel like a delinquent. And I would quit the habit tomorrow if I thought I could beat it. But I have tried it before, and I must admit it was an awful experience—to find the longing for cigarettes so deeply rooted in my system. Do you think it is possible that I could win out?"

"I know it takes powerful motivation to quit, for I've been all through it myself. But that fact alone is enough to show you that it is a habit-forming drug that robs its victims of the liberty to make good decisions. That thought got me so mad that I fought all the harder. When you marshal all these factors we have been discussing, you have a strong case against cigarettes."

"But, George, how do you explain the fact that so many people eased up on smoking after the Surgeon General's report and then slipped back again into the old routine before many months passed?"

"This conversation tells quite a good part of the story, John. You did not take the report too seriously yourself. You did not bother to investigate the great pile-up of evidence against cigarette smoking. You were more prone to notice the statements that tended to justify the habit you very much wanted to continue. You just failed to examine the whole question impartially. And many others are in the same boat. Consider, however, the many benefits to be gained by breaking free of the habit. You would save money for other needs. Your lungs and throat would get a chance to get back to normal. You would taste your food so much better, and have a healthier appetite. You would be giving your own and other children an excellent example. Of course, you could not expect miracles. But at least you would know that you are not willfully contributing to your own decline in health. To that extent you would be doing the right thing by your family, and they do rely upon you for so many things."

"You'll never know, George, how helpful this chat has been to me. Why not let's have another get-together soon. Meantime, why should I keep on smoking? I'm going to make a real effort to break this senseless habit."

The Farmer's FERTILIZER PROBLEM

By "Awake!" correspondent in Costa Rica

WHEN you see a stalk of corn do you ever stop to think about what nutrients are needed to make it grow and to produce tasty kernels? If corn does not grow in your country, we might ask the same question about any food-producing plant that does. This is something successful farmers cannot ignore. Plants need certain nutrients for good growth just as humans do. If a crop is planted repeatedly on the same plot of land without replacing the nutrients that the plants remove from it, the productivity of the land will drop. The farmer's problem, therefore, is to know what nutrients his land needs and how they can be put into it for best productivity.

As a rule plants need large amounts of ten chemical elements—carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, potassium, nitrogen, sulphur, calcium, iron and magnesium. Six other elements, called trace elements, are needed in very small amounts—copper, boron, zinc, manganese, molybdenum and cobalt. Carbon, hydrogen and oxygen come mainly from the air and water that the plant uses, whereas the other elements are supplied by the soil.

If a farmer's soil is deficient in some of these elements, he must add them to the soil to achieve a good yield. Citrus fruit, for example, cannot be produced in abundance unless zinc, copper and, in some regions, molybdenum are added to the soil. Soils that are deficient in boron are not suitable for alfalfa. Whatever crop a farmer may grow, he has the problem of determining whether his land has the necessary elements the plants require and how to provide what is lacking.

Need for Fertilizers Long Recognized

As far back as the days of Jesus Christ it was understood that fertilizers are needed for good plant growth. This is revealed by an illustration Jesus gave in which he spoke of a vinedresser digging around a fig tree and putting manure on it so that it would become fruitful. (Luke 13:6-9) The use of manure as a fertilizer must have been a common practice at that time for him to use it in the illustration. Even the isolated Indians of the Western Hemisphere saw the need for fertilizing their crops. When they planted corn, they would drop a small fish in each hill of corn to fertilize it. So the need to put nutrients into the soil for good plant growth has long been recognized.

In the early history of the United States,

farmers would plant the same crop over and over again on the same land, year after year. When the land wore out, they moved on to fresh land and repeated the practice. When the supply of virgin farmland ran out, they had to change their practice by replacing the nutrients their crops removed from the soil. Manure was a good means for doing this when there were lots of horses and every farm had a good supply of livestock, but the situation is different today. Automobiles and tractors have changed the picture. It is not economical for a large farm to try to fertilize hundreds of acres with manure that is in short supply.

The use of animal manure and the plowing under of cover crops such as legumes, clover and alfalfa to supply the soil with needed nutrients is still done by many farmers, but other materials are also being used. Some are using seed meals, tobacco stems, peanut hull meal, garbage tankage, wool wastes, scrap leather, hoof and horn meal, bone meal, and so forth. These are organic fertilizers.

There are, of course, natural methods by which nutrients are put into the soil, but they are not satisfactory for a farmer who is trying to make a living from the land every year. Lightning, for example, contributes nitrogen to the soil by oxidizing nitrogen in the atmosphere, which is then deposited on the land by rain. Volcanic eruptions are also helpful, but how many farmers live near an active volcano? Of course, the initial eruption usually burns and suffocates plant life around the volcano, but as time passes, the potash, sulphur and zinc in the ash are washed into the soil and combine with the organic matter there. This builds up a reserve of plant nutrients that will last for many years of farming. The volcanic ash spewed out of Mt. Irazú here in Costa Rica from March 1963 to December 1964 covered vast areas with volcanic ash that, in time, will be a great benefit for the farmers.

Inorganic Fertilizers

To solve the fertilizer problem, farmers have been turning to inorganic fertilizers and are getting good crop yields from them. Inorganic nitrogenous fertilizers are obtained from mineral sources or as by-products. For example, natural sodium nitrate, as mined in Chile, usually contains from 5 percent to 25 percent nitrogen. Ammonium sulfate, a by-product of coal, contains over 20 percent nitrogen. Urea, made from cyanamide or from ammonia and carbon dioxide, has the highest nitrogen concentration, over 45 percent.

The chief source of phosphate fertilizers is phosphate rock. Unless the rock is soft, it is usually ground into a fine powder before it is applied as a fertilizer. However, it is more often made into superphosphate by treating phosphate rock with sulphuric acid. Organic sources of phosphates are the bones of animals and guano, a bird manure that is found on some islands in the Pacific Ocean.

Usually inorganic potassium fertilizers are obtained from underground mineral deposits, especially saline residues of salt lakes. Potassium is also extracted from the water of oceans, lakes and rivers as well as from rocks and soils.

It is possible to obtain chemical fertilizers that contain just one of the nutrients a plant needs or that have several ingredients blended to produce a "mixed fertilizer." The latter usually contains the three major plant nutrients—nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium—plus fillers that add weight and may contain such things as manganese sulfate or just plain sand. The modern trend in commercial fertilizers is to produce dry, granular mixtures because these reduce the problem of caking and stickiness.

Some farmers prefer the straight fertilizers, those that contain only one nutrient, because they do not go through the mixing process and therefore are cheaper. They also are free from questionable fillers. On the other hand, the advantage of mixed fertilizers is that one bag contains all the plant nutrients a crop needs as well as material to counteract acidity.

You will see on fertilizer bags formulas such as 3-9-6, 4-12-8 and 5-15-10. These indicate the ratio existing between the percentages of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. In these examples all have a 1-3-2 ratio.

A farmer has hundreds of commercial fertilizers from which to choose. Some are designed for specific crops whereas others are for certain soil problems he may be having. One type of fertilizer is known as "controlled-feeding fertilizer," because it releases the elements in it at a rate that just about matches the rate at which the plants need them. An example of this is the fertilizer known as urea-formaldehyde. As soil bacteria work on it nitrogen is released at the rate a plant needs it.

Determining Soil Deficiencies

A problem that confronts a farmer is how he can determine what nutrients are deficient in his soil. One way is for him to observe the plants he grows on it. If they grow luxuriantly, producing a high-yield crop of good quality, it would indicate that his soil has adequate amounts of nutrients. On the other hand, if the plants do poorly, a nutrient deficiency may be present.

A corn plant is a good test for determining plant food needs. If there is a nitrogen deficiency in the soil, the corn plant will show a yellowing of the lower leaves and older tissue that will spread to the newer tissue. It will move up the leaf midrib in a V-shaped pattern if the nitrogen deficiency persists. Hunger for phosphorus is shown by the corn's being retarded in its rate of growth. The plant matures slowly. If it is a young plant, it may have a dark-green color, with its leaves and stems turning purplish.

A lack of potassium in the soil is indicated in a corn plant by leaf edges and tips that become dry and appear to be scorched. As the plant grows, a brown-edge scorch will affect all the leaves, and the stalk itself will be weak. These visual symptoms of nutrient deficiencies are not always completely reliable because there are other factors that affect a plant such as diseases, insects and unfavorable climatic conditions.

Another way to determine soil deficiencies is by a soil test. Here the problem is to get representative samples of the soil, because soils can vary on the same farm. A farmer can divide his farm into as many areas as there are pieces of land having different general characteristics, and then he can take a single composite sample from each one. A way this can be done is by walking over the area, perhaps one that is no greater than five acres, in a zigzag fashion taking uniform vertical slices of the soil that are about six inches deep. This can be done in a dozen different places. These slices are placed in a container, mixed together and then taken to a soil-testing laboratory, where nutrient deficiencies as well as other soil characteristics can usually be determined with a fair degree of accuracy.

When he knows what his soil needs, he is in a position to select the correct fertilizers. These will be determined to a great extent by the crops he plans to raise. Some crops require more of a certain nutrient than others. Also, a fast-growing crop cannot always make profitable use of a fertilizer that acts slowly. Then, too, some fertilizers are quite expensive and cannot always be used profitably for crops of low

market value. But if the farmer needs advice on fertilizers, he can usually get it from government agricultural advisers.

At government agricultural stations, at universities and on local farms throughout the world, many tests have been performed with fertilizers that generally prove their value. The North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station cites an example of a field of corn where one part of the crop had nitrogen applied at the rate of 180 pounds per acre. The result was 110.3 bushels of corn per acre. The other part of the crop received no additional nitrogen, and it yielded only 24.4 bushels on a corresponding area. Estimates have been made that fertilizers have increased crop yield by 25 percent in the United States and from 50 to 75 percent in some parts of Europe. There are countless examples where crop yield has been increased up to several hundred percent by the proper use of fertilizers.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

A CLOSE-UP VIEW OF MIDDLE AMERICA

Value of Chemical Fertilizers

There are strong differences of opinion over the value of chemical fertilizers. Persons who are outspoken about the wisdom of their use argue that chemical fertilizers can injure the soil, cause the food produced on them to be inferior to that produced by the use of organic fertilizers and can be responsible for some of the illnesses suffered by people who eat the foods grown on them. They feel that chemical fertilizers should be avoided and that only organic materials should be used for fertilizing purposes.

Unquestionably organic materials are beneficial to the soil. They activate microbiological processes, develop soil structure, aerate the soil and improve its water retention capability. They also have a more lasting effect than commercial fertilizers. But farmers who operate large farms cannot make compost heaps big enough to fertilize hundreds of acres, and they cannot economically get enough manure. So, rather than completely draining the land of nutrients, they fertilize their fields with what is available, and the resulting yield is high. Many believe that chemical fertilizers are solving their problem.

Farmers that use chemical fertilizers believe that the proper use of them will not harm the soil. They point out that in the United States an estimated 10,600,000 tons of nitrogen, phosphoric oxide and potash are removed from the soil by cropping each year while some 3,000,000 tons are returned to it by means of manures. To compensate the net loss of 7,600,000 tons they feel that commercial fertilizers are the only answer. They further argue that the use of organic fertilizers does not always fill a specific need of a plant.

While it is readily agreed that a great amount of knowledge has been gained about plant needs, the continuing controversy over the value of chemical fertilizers and what is best for plant life indicates that there is much yet to be learned. The farmer that is trying to earn a living by means of farming has the constant problem of determining what nutrients are required by his various crops and how best to supply them in the most economical way for the most productive results. Whatever effort he makes to understand plant needs and to supply those needs by good fertilizers will benefit his farm.

A TRAGEDY IN THE GREEK ARCHIPELAGO

By "Awake!" correspondent in Greece

IT WAS the early morning hours of December 8, 1966, and the Greek auto-and-passenger ferry Heraklion was sailing from Canea, Crete Island, for Piraeus, the ancient port city of Athens. Aboard were more than 275 passengers and crewmen. About two hours after midnight, when the ship was near the barren island of Falkonera, the Heraklion's radio operator frantically signaled: "Huge waves are smashing our sides and water is pouring in."

A few minutes later the stricken ship sent the ominous message: "S O S. We are sinking." In about fifteen minutes the 8,900-ton ship sank, taking to a watery grave more than 200 persons. It was one of the worst sea tragedies in Greek history. What had caused such a mass tragedy, bereaving so many families of loved ones?

Bad Weather Forecast

When the ship sailed at 7:20 p.m. on December 7, the weather forecast was one of gale warnings. Despite worsening weather conditions, the fifty-year-old captain decided not to delay the ship's departure on its thrice-weekly 190-mile crossing.

During the voyage, the weather worsened, winds blowing at seventy miles per hour. The lurching ship, having sailed over a hundred miles, was near the outcropping of Falkonera. Towering seas had caused a huge sixteen-ton refrigerator truck to rock back and forth on its unfixed wheels. Filled with oranges, the truck had arrived belatedly at the quay. The truck was hurriedly put aboard ship and made to stand diagonally in between two cargo ports or exits. Not only was the truck improperly parked by the doors, but it was improperly moored, not even having wedges placed under its wheels. As the ship lurched, the truck went back and forth, and with every movement, the truck was hitting the cargo door all the harder. Under this beating, the door gave way and was lost, resulting in a mighty inflow of water due to the tempestuous waves. As the water cascaded into the ship's side, the autos and trucks, apparently inadequately moored, were all dashed to one side of the ship, causing the vessel to dip and overturn.

Crewmen and those passengers who managed to get out of their beds threw themselves into the churning sea, only a few having on life jackets. Some clung to debris; others quickly drowned. The ship was now keel upward, and about thirty castaways were on it, thinking that the best thing to do was to cling to the keel. Suddenly a huge wave dashed six of them away from the wreckage. This was to become the reason for their rescue, for the rest of those clinging to the keel shortly found themselves in the whirlpool of the sinking ship and perished.

From the moment the S O S went out, Greek officials declared a state of emergency and ordered freighters, warships and planes to converge on the area. When rescue ships arrived at the scene of the tragedy the Heraklion had vanished beneath the storm-tossed Aegean Sea. At dawn the rescue ships discerned the sign of tragedy—broken crates, oil slicks, a suitcase, planks, oranges, even an auto floating on a swell. The first survivors were found clinging to the wave-washed black rocks of Falkonera Island. Helicop-

ters and planes spotted other survivors, but only a small number were found—fewer than fifty persons.

Lifesaving Action

Though one does not expect to experience shipwreck, it is wise to know something about survival. In the case of the Heraklion, a number of corpses of drowned persons were found floating, girded with lifesaving belts. But the life jackets did not save them. Obviously such jackets have their greatest value under ideal conditions, but ships often go down when the weather is bad. Though passengers are assigned lifeboats, often there is not time enough to use them. How, then, could one increase his chance of surviving in a shipwreck? If one must enter the water, should he wear clothing, strip, or put on an overcoat? Is it to the castaway's advantage to swim or mainly to float about, wearing a life jacket?

A study of shipwreck survival has been made by Dr. W. R. Keatinge of Oxford, who has tried to answer these questions by studying the survivors of the Lakonia, which also sank in December, in 1963. He found that the ship was able to launch only eighteen of its twenty-four lifeboats. Almost 200 persons were left on board. When they entered the sea, the water temperature was about 60 degrees F.

The study revealed that 124 persons died, but of that number only 11 lost their lives due to injury or accident. Evidence strongly pointed to the fact that the other 113 lost their lives due to a drop in body temperature while floating in cool water, which resulted in unconsciousness; and though they were afloat, waves splashed water into their mouths, causing drowning. Dr. Keatinge argues that those castaways would have had a much better chance to survive had they put on warmer apparel before entering the water. He contends that every little bit helps because the body temperature drops quickly after being in cold water for twenty minutes.

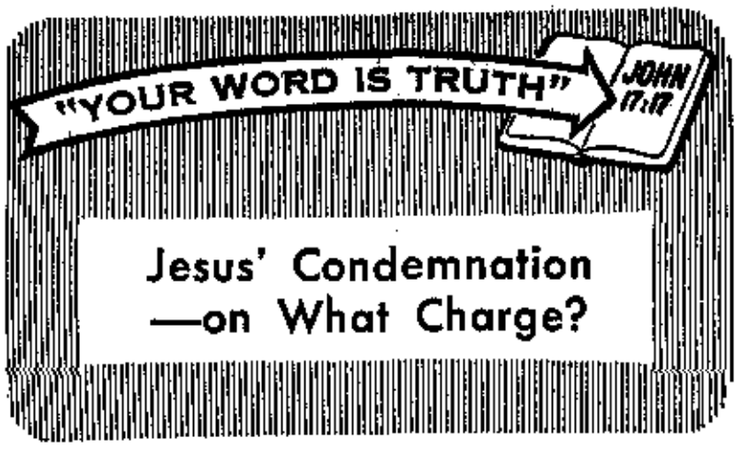
In a study made with volunteers, it was found that the body loses much heat during exertion, so that shipwrecked persons should float (close to one another when possible) unless a rescue vessel is in sight.

And lifesaving action requires, of course, that you know where life jackets are on a ship, also that you know the way out from your sleeping quarters to the deck. It is also wise to voyage along with friends, so you may help one another in case there is no signal to abandon ship.

Then there is the matter of prevention. Many tragedies can be prevented simply by not traveling in bad weather, even though one's vacation is beginning. If you plan to travel and when the time arrives the weather is bad, you often postpone motoring to your destination. And wisely so! But do you postpone the trip if someone else is driving? One does not need to ride with any driver who takes undue risks with bad weather. You can make the decision for yourself.

Nor for that matter does one need to accept the decision of one in charge of a plane or ship or any commercial vehicle. It appears that many carriers are motivated by commercial greed or by pressures due to competition and may be negligent. In this regard the Athens newspaper *Messimvrini* of December 9, 1966, said after the Heraklion tragedy: "Our traveling public is suffering hardships and risks in the holds of speculation of the avid exploiters of marine traffic. . . . Negligence is equal to trickery."

If you feel a decision to travel in certain weather conditions is an unwise one, are you going to entrust your life into the hands of another even though he has a commercial license? Lifesaving action is also up to you.



Jesus' Condemnation —on What Charge?

WHAT was the charge? and the verdict? Normally such questions about a court trial could be easily answered. But basic as they seem to be, you might be hard put to find simple answers in the case of the most momentous trial in human history—the trial of Jesus Christ.

The proceedings in Jesus' case are complicated by the fact that he had what amounted to two legal trials. Further, the charges against him varied at different times during the trials. There were even a number of judgments or verdicts. That may be hard to believe if you are accustomed to legal cases' being tried according to set rules, with one charge, one trial and one sentence. But consider the turmoil and intrigue involved in Jesus' case.

Christ's popularity and his righteous preaching riled the Jewish religious leaders. After he resurrected Lazarus, the Sanhedrin, the religious high court, decided Jesus must die. (John 11:45-53) Imagine, he was condemned before he was tried! Two days before his death the religious authorities "took counsel together to seize Jesus by crafty device and kill him." —Matt. 26:3, 4.

Sooner than they expected, the opportunity came. With the help of Judas Iscariot the religious leaders were able to take Jesus into custody at night. Thus they avoided a possible popular uprising in his support. However, in order to secure political and religious support for the black deed they had in mind, it would be necessary to condemn Jesus with every outward show of judicial authority—but quickly; it would have to be done quickly.

They "led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests and the older men and the scribes assembled." (Mark 14:53) What accusation, though, could the Sanhedrin use to condemn him?

Two witnesses testified that Jesus said he would *tear down the temple* and build it again. (Matt. 26:61) To the Jews this was serious. It was one of the charges that later drove hateful Jews to stone Stephen to death. (Acts 6:14) But this charge was a false accusation. Jesus never said he would destroy the temple, not even the temple of his body. (John 2:19-21) But to the humiliation of the Sanhedrin, the two witnesses could not agree. That would have been necessary according to the Law even if Jesus had committed some crime. —Deut. 19:15; Mark 14:59.

With the collapse of the case on that charge, Caiaphas began agitating for conviction on a more serious accusation —*blasphemy*. He demanded, "By the living God I put you under oath to tell us whether you are the Christ the Son of God!"—Matt. 26:63.

Why ask such a question? Undoubtedly Caiaphas knew that the Jews were sensitive about anyone's claiming to be the very Son of God. On two earlier occasions the Jews drew hasty and incorrect conclusions from what Jesus had said, mistakenly imagining he claimed to be God or equal with God. They had then rashly labeled him a blasphemer worthy of death. —John 10:30-39; 5:16-19.

But, no matter what the Jews thought, Jesus was the Son of God. So to Caiaphas' question he courageously replied: "I am." Already serving as prosecutor and judge, Caiaphas now assumed the role of accuser. "He has blasphemed!" screamed the high

priest. "What further need do we have of witnesses?" (Mark 14:62; Matt. 26:65) Yes, indeed, they would forget the need for witnesses, ignore the Jewish tradition that no man can condemn himself and disregard the legal principles! Jesus stood condemned on the worst charge, the one most likely to cause the people to reject him.

There was yet the matter of the execution. The Romans had deprived the Jews of the power to inflict capital punishment, so the leaders would have to devise an accusation that would force the Romans to kill Jesus. Blasphemy? No, that would never do. It is plain from the apostle Paul's later experiences that Roman authorities would not have condemned Jesus just because of disputes over Jewish law. (Acts 18:13-15; 23:29) To meet this emergency the accusers changed Jesus' charge from a religious offense to a political one.

They led Jesus, bound like a common criminal, to Pilate, the Roman governor. Slyly they avoided mentioning the previous trial and the charge of blasphemy. Instead they accused Jesus, saying: "This man we found [1] subverting our nation and [2] forbidding the paying of taxes to Caesar and [3] saying he himself is Christ a king." (Luke 23:2) Clearly they chose the most serious charges imaginable, ones involving *sedition* and *high treason.*

"Subverting our nation" was a vague charge, yet it strongly suggested sedition, inciting revolt. But where was the evidence? Lacking evidence to prove the charge, the Jews understandably left it unsupported.

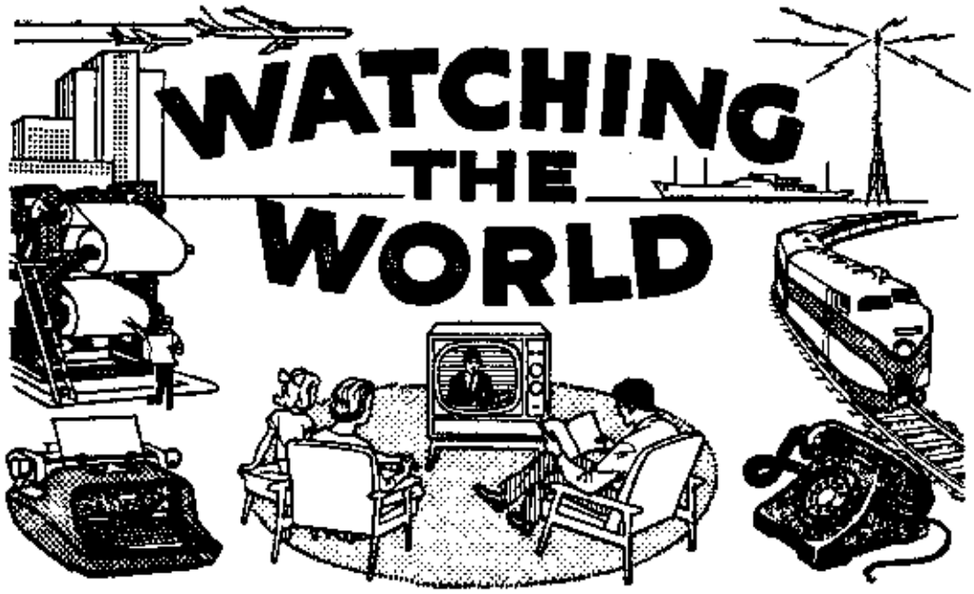
To forbid the paying of taxes to Caesar was a form of treason. It was an open defiance of the law and a direct denial of Roman sovereignty in Judea. Jesus, though, had publicly advised his listeners to pay to Caesar what belonged to Caesar, including tax. (Matt. 22:17-21) Pilate paid no attention to this charge. However, the final and most serious accusation demanded attention.

In private examination Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Yes, 'did you break the law of *laesa majestas,* injured majesty, by making yourself a king in opposition to Caesar?' Christ answered: "Is it of your own originality that you say this, or did others tell you about me?" In effect, he was asking, 'Do you out of suspicion ask as a Roman judge merely for personal information, or are you merely repeating the Jew's accusation?'

Pilate replied: "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation . . . delivered you up to me. What did you do?" That is to say: 'You and they are Jews, so you must know better than I why they charge you with claiming to be a king. What exactly have you done?' In answer Jesus spoke of his kingdom, thus admitting he was a king, but assured Pilate that it was not of this world and hence of no danger to Caesar. (John 18:33-37) After a few more words Pilate pronounced his judgment to the Jews: "I find no crime in this man." —Luke 23:4.

At least five times that day Pilate declared Jesus innocent. But at last the Jews delivered their *coup de grâce,* their masterstroke. They shouted, "If you release this man, you are not a friend of Caesar." In effect, 'Release Jesus and we will bring charges against you; it is his life or yours.' Unwilling to resist any longer, appalled at possible criminal action against himself, Pilate surrendered Jesus to their will. —John 19:12-16.

So, after being charged with endangering the temple, blasphemy, sedition on a number of counts and high treason, Jesus' Jewish and Roman trials were over. He was condemned by mob verdict, and executed.



Assembly at Barranquilla

◈ The Covered Coliseum in Barranquilla, Colombia, was where the "God's Sons of Liberty" District Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses was held, December 28, 1966–January 1, 1967. To find accommodations for 3,766 who requested rooms in which to stay during the five-day assembly proved a challenge, for in Colombia living space is at a premium. However, one week prior to the assembly all room requests were filled and there were some 902 to spare. The majority of the accommodations were free, which accents the hospitality of the Colombians. A crowd of 5,777 came to hear the public lecture "Mankind's Millennium Under God's Kingdom." It was estimated that some 2,000 were from the Barranquilla area, while the remaining 4,000 came from the interior and other coastal sections. At this assembly 179 symbolized their dedication to God by being totally immersed in water.

Rumble in Red China

◈ There was a rumble heard out of Red China on January 8, according to an official Peking radio broadcast monitored in Tokyo, Japan. There were fatal clashes between supporters of Chinese Communist Chairman Mao Tse-tung and their opponents. Red Guards and workers numbering some 100,000 demanded the ouster of President Liu Shao-chi. It was reported that clashes in Nanking left 54 dead and about 900 injured.

Weather Tragedies

◈ For the first time in twenty-six years snow fell in Mexico City. Temperatures fell to 35 degrees, which is cold for Mexico City. Eight persons died of exposure in the capital and ten in the provinces as a result of the cold wave. Losses to growing crops ran into the millions of dollars.

In North Malayan floods the death toll rose to 36 on January 11, but the receding monsoon waters are revealing more bodies. About 100,000 fled their homes during the disaster.

In Thailand floodwaters claimed the lives of 22 persons and 7,180 families were made homeless.

Treatment for Alcoholics

◈ Aurora, Ontario, Canada, has set up a therapeutic center for research and the treatment of alcoholism and other addiction. This center is unique in that its first patients are all Roman Catholic priests. Clergymen of other religions will also be considered for treatment.

Venezuela's Bridge

◈ South America's longest suspension bridge, 5,507 feet long and carrying four traffic lanes across the Orinoco River, was put in operation on January 6. President Raul Leoni of Venezuela was one of the first to drive across the magnificent structure that links enezuela's rapidly developing ..ndustrial region of Guayana with central and western Venezuela.

Padded Hamburger

◈ Some 70,000,000 hamburgers are eaten every day in the United States, about half of them away from home. Recently, the New Jersey State Department of Health showed that some hamburger patties were padded with cereal, blood, water, ascorbic acid and niacin. The latter two items are preservatives to make inferior meat look better than it actually is. Addition of blood makes it unfit for Christian consumption. Law officials point out if such substances are added, it constitutes adulteration and subjects violators to penalties by law.

Nuns Leaving Convents

◈ In recent years the Roman Catholic Church in the United States has suffered a small but steady loss among its 181,400 nuns. In the Archdiocese of New York, for example, 47 nuns left their convents in 1966, twice as many as in 1965. Some church officials estimate that resignations from the Roman Catholic Church in America have more than doubled in the past five years. What particularly worries church officials is that many of the ex-nuns are not novices disillusioned by the rigors of the training, but mature women who have spent ten and even twenty years in the convent.

Immune to Radioactivity

◈ About 600 roentgens of radioactive fallout can kill a

man outright. The Japanese at Hiroshima and Nagasaki were subject to 300 roentgens. French nuclear scientists in the Sahara have discovered that the African scorpion, the most deadly of insects, is not troubled by a massive dose of 80,000 roentgens, and can hold out for two days under 154,000. Large spiders cannot tolerate a dose of 10,000 roentgens, and the Mexican scorpion succumbs at 50,000. What in the metabolism of the African scorpion immunizes it to radioactivity is not at present known to man.

Terrible Failure

◈ Judge Charles T. LeBrun of the Provincial Magistrate's Court in Nova Scotia stated that crime involving teenagers and the early-twenties group is on the increase and that the church and clergy have "failed terribly" to help improve the situation. The clergy remain silent, he said, when young people are in trouble. Judge LeBrun said 90 percent of the youths who appear before him say they are of some denomination, but few have been visited by a minister.

Champion Phone Users

◈ Canadians are the world's No. 1 telephone users and they have held this record for the past fourteen years! In terms of telephones per 100 population, Canada ranks fifth, behind the United States, Sweden, New Zealand and Switzerland. In the talking department, however, she is unmatched. In 1965 Canadians placed an average of 635.6 telephone calls per person, an increase of more than 12 calls per person over the previous year. In second place is the United States, with 620 calls per person, followed by the Virgin Islanders with 581; the Icelanders with 565.3 and the Swedes with 541.4.

Catholic Restlessness

◈ Throughout the world there is a visible restlessness among Roman Catholics, and the prediction is made that it will increase. William J. McLoughlin, director of student activities at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, stated: "A generation ago we frequently disagreed with some aspects of the Church but it was unthinkable to speak out. We were, with few exceptions, a docile generation, good products of the system but less honest than we might often have wished." This is not true of the present generation, he added. More and more they are speaking out. They reject authoritarianism, and desire authority to be founded on reason. They question what seems irrelevant. "To them," he said, "life must have meaning and must be real and they are finding this commitment more and more outside the official structure of the Church."

Honduras Has Problems

◈ Dr. Ari Kiev reported in The Winter Cornell University Medical College Alumni Quarterly that Honduras' alcoholism and homicide rates are among the highest in Latin America and reflect the meager resources in the country. Family breakdown is evident. Nearly 90 percent of the fathers are irregularly employed; frequently they live away from home. Dr. Kiev stated that because of crowded and poor conditions "violence, homosexuality, criminality, rape and the like are rampant."

"The Retarded Clergy"

◈ John R. Graham, minister of the First Universalist Church of Denver, recently called his fellow clergymen "the retarded Americans." Instead of being the best educated people in a community, he said, the clergy "are more like T. S. Eliot's 'Hollow Men' —our headpieces are filled with straw." He laid bare clergy shortcomings, saying that they are more interested in getting new members than getting to the truth of ideas and issues. "We are rated by our denominations by the kinds of statistics we can accumulate—members and money, missions, financial support for our ecclesiastical superstructures," he said. "In many ways," he went on, "the modern clergyman is little more than a parish prostitute. We quickly become 'organizational men'—by fitting into the system, we guarantee ourselves a lifetime job. By behaving ourselves, we know that we will move to larger churches and higher salaries. We, of course, label these moves 'the call of God' and not promotion. As a result we are more interested in building up the church than in building men. . . . We quickly learn what people want to hear and we give it to them." "As a result it is more dangerous to have an affair with religion than it is to have one with a woman."

Hospital Horrors

◈ On January 10 New York State Senator Seymour R. Thaler on the Senate floor charged that doctors were using humans as guinea pigs for experiments. He said that in one hospital when surgeons have a light schedule, they go to the psychiatric ward and pick out a "sick" patient and proceed to operate to help train interns. At one point Thaler said: "The medical establishment presumed to act as God over the health and lives of the medically indigent." He specified amputations of the limbs of deformed children to demonstrate surgical techniques, liver biopsies performed on alcoholics and derelicts for research purposes, and the deliberate injection of live hepatitis vaccine into the bloodstreams of mentally retarded children, also as part

of a research program. Denials were swift and categorical from doctors. City hospital officials, though denying the charges, admitted that indeed some unauthorized experiments, generally involving tests of new drugs, have taken place.

Saturn's Tenth Moon

◈ A newly discovered moon of Saturn, reported first by a French astronomer and then by the United States Naval Observatory, lies just outside the planet's rings. While the confirmation is not certain, the moon is thought to be a "snowball" about 150 miles in diameter that circles the giant planet every eighteen hours. If true, this would raise the number of moons in the solar system to thirty-two.

Power Seizure

◈ Togo is a country of dry plains and lush forests on the underside of the bulge of West Africa. Its 1,500,000 people of varied tribal groups live off the land. Early in the morning of January 13 Togo's 1,200-man army overthrew the government of President Nicolas Grunitzky without bloodshed. The Constitution was suspended and all political parties were banned. The head of the armed forces said the army seized power to "put an end to the confused political situation" in the land.

Syria-Israel War Threats

◈ U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge called this world "a dangerous place" in which to live. Few rulers would take issue with that statement. United Nations Secretary-General U Thant warned that a recent buildup of arms on both sides of the Israeli-Syrian border could soon lead to all-out war. Thant appealed to both sides to "accept without delay or preconditions . . . an immediate or extraordinary meeting of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission" with a view to finding a solution to the problems in the area.

Oath Withdrawn

◈ People who refuse to swear allegiance to the United States may receive passports now. It was decided some months ago by the staff of the State Department legal adviser, Leonard C. Meeker, that the Secretary of State did not have legal authority to require the oath of allegiance from passport seekers. Neither the Supreme Court nor Congress has acted on the issue. The new passport application forms will continue to carry the oath as one of the items normally signed by those who do not object.

Does What You Believe Make a Difference?

Some beliefs are not too important, such as which color is more pleasing to the eye. But would it matter if you believed you could jump out of an airplane without a parachute? Ah, yes—your life is involved. What about your beliefs in God, and your relationship to him? Be sure! Read:

"Make Sure of All Things; Hold Fast to What Is Fine."

Only 5/6
(for Australia, 75c; for South Africa, 55c)

WATCH TOWER THE RIDGEWAY LONDON N.W. 7

Please send me the 512-page hardbound book of Scripture quotations on 123 principal subjects, entitled "Make Sure of All Things; Hold Fast to What Is Fine." I am enclosing 5/6 (for Australia, 75c; for South Africa, 55c).

Name .....
Post Town .....
Street and Number or Route and Box .....
Postal District No. ..... County .....