

Awake!

**The Demand for Law and Order
—Where Can It Lead?**

PAGE 5

The Hernia Problem

PAGE 12

A Catadlysm Strikes Peru!

PAGE 16

A Balanced View of Pleasure

PAGE 21

AUGUST 8, 1970

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!"

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CONTENTS

Why Envy Celebrities?	3	Giant Water Tanks of the Desert	15
Stereoscopic Vision	4	A Cataclysm Strikes Peru!	16
The Demand for Law and Order —Where Can It Lead?	5	A Balanced View of Pleasure	21
Alcoholism—a Disease?	8	Witness Given by Obedience to God	24
The Churches and Sexual Morality	9	The Airplane—New Guinea's Workhorse	25
Oats Are Good for You	11	"Your Word Is Truth"	
The Hernia Problem	12	No Images for Worship	27
		Watching the World	29

Awake!

"It is already the hour for you to awake."

—Romans 13:11

Volume LI

Brooklyn, N.Y., August 8, 1970

Number 15

WHY ENVY CELEBRITIES?

DO YOU dream of becoming a famous singer or actor and having people crowd about you for your autograph? This is a very common desire, especially among young people. But does such fame really make life fuller and more enjoyable?

Consider what a celebrity sacrifices for fame. He cannot have the freedom you have to move about inconspicuously in public places. At a party he cannot speak unguardedly, because he is likely to be quoted or misquoted. His being famous makes it difficult for his children to have normal associations with other children. There is also the constant danger of their being kidnapped by people seeking ransom money.

The personal affairs of his homelife cannot be easily kept private. Recently the former personal secretary of Jacqueline Onassis published a book that reveals to the public things that went on in the private life of Mrs. Onassis while she was Mrs. John F. Kennedy. Undoubtedly Mrs. Onassis would prefer that her private affairs were not made public. But since celebrities feel obligated to hire employees it

is not easy for them to keep private what occurs within their own home. Their loss of privacy is a high price to pay for fame. Do you really want to live like a creature in a goldfish bowl, one whose every movement is watched and criticized?

Furthermore, celebrities cannot be sure that those who profess to be their friends really are. Such persons might actually be more interested in being seen by the public in the company of a famous person. The professed friendship of another celebrity is also undependable because that person puts first his own position in the public eye. He can become insanely jealous if a so-called friend gets more public acclaim than he does. A true friend, however, sticks "closer than a brother."
—Prov. 18:24.

As far as morals are concerned, celebrities are certainly not to be envied. Immorality is rampant among them, causing domestic strife, divorces and diseases. An immoral way of life is not a happy one. Regarding this, Maurice Zolotow, a close associate of many famous persons, observed: "For about fifteen years I have

been the confidant of Broadway and Hollywood actors and actresses who have opportunities to live a promiscuous sexual life. And some of them live it to the hilt . . . But when they trust you and let down their hair, they will confess how frustrating and unsatisfying it all is."

Usually a famous person is soon forgotten when he dies. Although his name may be preserved in history books, it ceases to be on the lips of the people. This is particularly so as new generations come and the older ones that knew him pass away. For example, how many great athletes who won fame in ancient Greece do you know by name? How many are acclaimed today?

Did you ever hear of Philonides? He gained fame by running 105 miles in one day, but the public today do not acclaim him. How about Alcibiades? He was famous because he was the only one to have seven chariots in the Olympic games at one time and to carry off the first, second and third prizes. Cities joined together to celebrate his victory; yet he is unknown today by the general public.

The fame of such persons was relatively short-lived. It was not eternal, as some may have thought it would be. The same is true of fame today. Recently a well-known member of a singing trio said: "There we are, fixed in time, forever and ever." Is this not mere illusion, wishful thinking? The only way anyone can be "fixed in time, forever and ever" is to gain the gift of

eternal life that our Creator has promised to those doing his will.—Rom. 6:23.

A modern-day athlete, a boxer, who became famous in the South Pacific area came to realize that there is something more worth while to be sought than fame. He knew what it was to be famous. People would stretch out their hands to touch him as he passed; he had trophies, publicity and personal glory.

Upon realizing that his fighting was not pleasing to his Creator, he immediately quit. When asked what people would say, especially with a big bout scheduled for the day after he quit and in view of his having been chosen to represent his island in special games in New Caledonia, he gave a short and pointed reply. He said that the praises of men no longer mattered to him. What he wanted was the approval of God.—2 Tim. 2:24.

Instead of envying celebrities who have a passing name of fame with men, would it not be far more rewarding and satisfying for you to seek a good name with God by good works in harmony with his written Word?

The boxer that gave up fame so as to seek a good name with God chose the better course in life. Now he is having the satisfaction of helping others, the pleasure of being surrounded by genuine friends and the happiness of anticipating an eternal future in human perfection in God's new order. Is this not more to be desired than the fleeting fame of being a celebrity?

Stereoscopic Vision

¶ The brain is able to form just one image even though what we see comes through two eyes. This ability to form one image even though the two fields of vision overlap is called *binocular vision*, or stereoscopic vision. To demonstrate the value of this, close both eyes and have someone hold up a pen or pencil about two feet away. Then extend your arm from your side with index finger pointing. Now, open one eye and in the first motion try to touch the very tip of the pen or pencil. A few tries will show the value of stereoscopic vision, or the ability to judge depth.

The **DEMAND** *for* **LAW and ORDER**

“**W**E’RE going strongly towards the right and perhaps into our own kind of fascism.”

“It’s the small liberties that are slipping away first. And as always, the slip-page is justified on the grounds of ‘national security.’”

“Less than a generation ago, the tapped wire, the bugged room, the secret informer evoked contempt and ridicule . . . These were the marks of police states . . . It is happening here now.”

Fascism? Liberties slipping away? Marks of a police state? From what country’s press were the three quotations above taken? Did they come from Germany after Hitler rose to power? Perhaps from a country taken over by a Communist revolution?

It may come as a surprise to many, but the above quotations were taken from prominent news sources in America.* They were reporting on a situation that is now developing in the United States.

What is this all about? How could responsible persons make such statements about a nation where freedom has been championed for nearly two centuries?

To understand just what has provoked these comments, we need some background information. It has to do with the situation that exists in the United States regarding law and order.

* Los Angeles Times, March 13, 1970, part 2, p. 1; New York Post, April 27, 1970, p. 38; New York Times, April 27, 1970, p. 32.

Where Can It Lead?

Breakdown in Law and Order

Authorities agree that law and order have been breaking down in the United States in recent years.

The chance of an American’s being the victim of a crime is much greater now than ten years ago—more than twice as great. In fact, during the 1960’s crime rose about eleven times as fast as the population.

Police forces have been hard pressed to keep up with this avalanche of crime. This can be seen in the following statistics: for every 100 crimes committed in 1960, 31 were solved; but in 1968 out of every 100 crimes only 21 were solved. The average citizen feels that his security has surely lessened. Thus in a poll 71 percent of the people questioned considered crime the leading problem.

Other types of disorders also bother people deeply. Drug traffic increases every year. So have terror bombings by radical elements, as buildings in more than a dozen cities were bombed in just three months of 1970. Student riots and disturbances are becoming commonplace throughout the country. Demonstrations that can turn violent are becoming frequent.

More and more people are now demanding that something be done to combat this

growing trend toward lawlessness and disorder. Some government officials feel that harsh measures must now be taken, but what measures?

Recent

Proposals

Few would question the need for taking measures that would help stem the rising tide of crime and disorder. But what kind of measures are among those that have been advanced?

At least one house of Congress has passed a bill that would give police the right to break into a person's home without warning. It is suggested that this method can be effective where a person is suspected of having drugs, but where a warning might give him time to get rid of the evidence.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has approved a bill that would make it a crime to give a "provocative speech." At present it is thought that this could silence radical elements who may advocate violence or who provoke riots.

Then a crime bill is being promoted that would suspend certain constitutional guarantees of persons accused of crimes. What is being proposed is called "preventive detention" where persons suspected of committing crimes can be imprisoned without trial or bail for a period of time. Indeed, a House subcommittee has already approved a proposal that permits judges in Washington, D.C., to jail those they regard as dangerous criminal suspects up to sixty days without a trial.



A proposed law would give police the right to break into a house without warning

The New York *Post* noted other measures taken recently: "The Post Office is again opening mail that should not be opened. An Army captain has filed suit in Washington to stop the Army from making unwarranted 'generalized searches.' Electronic eavesdropping . . . 'bugging' on private lives—has been alarmingly increased."

U.S. News & World Report stated: "The steady build-up by government agencies of detailed information on private affairs of citizens is heading for a system of lifetime official surveillance over everyone in America. Along with the extensive growth in collection of intimate facts about individuals by federal, State and local governments, computerized 'data banks' enable revelation of just about anybody's secrets at the touch of a button."

To some, these types of proposals and actions are welcome. Indeed, a recent poll found that the majority of Americans would be willing to suspend at least seven of the basic guarantees in the Bill of Rights to get law and order.



A Senate committee passed a bill to make it a crime to give a "provocative speech"

New York's Mayor John Lindsay said that many people are now accepting the idea "that crime will stop if we erase the Bill of Rights, that unity will come if we suppress dissent, that racial conflict will end if we ignore racial justice, and that protest will cease if we intimidate the people who report it."

But where can all such measures lead?

AWAKE!

Will they really help stem the tide of the kind of crime that worries most people?

Where Can It Lead?

Where can the proposal lead that gives police the authority to break into a person's home without warning? True, right now this can be used against drug addicts and pushers.

However, in the *New York Times* of February 1, 1970, editorial writer Tom Wicker asks: "How long will it be, as a result, before agents come bursting without warning into the house of political dissidents, contending under this law that any other procedure would have resulted in the destruction of pamphlets, documents, and the like, needed by society to convict?"

What about the proposed bill that would make a "provocative speech" illegal? In the *New York Post* of April 27, 1970, columnist Harriet Van Horne noted that this law would have made illegal the speech Patrick Henry gave in defense of early American freedom. She added: "Such a law might temporarily silence a Rap Brown or a Jerry Rubin. But it would also produce a generation of obedient little fascists, saluting the flag at mass rallies and snitching on their elders."

Then there is the proposal for "preventive detention." This may now be used against persons who are recognized as dangerous criminals. But who can guarantee that it will stop there? In time a person who disagreed with an official or a political party in power might be regarded as a "dangerous criminal" seeking to overthrow the government. So he could be imprisoned without bail or quick trial. Even those with different religious be-



"Preventive detention" of suspects is being proposed

liefs could be imprisoned, as they are today in dictatorial lands. Without a doubt many innocent persons could be sent to jail for months under such a proposal.

It is no wonder that many freedom-loving persons are alarmed. Mayor Lindsay said that the recent legislative proposals by the United States government "constitute the most significant threat to freedom from our own Government in a generation."

Representative Richard Ottinger of New York charged that members of the government, "by playing upon fear and prejudice, have begun to ram through measures which would wipe out basic constitutional freedoms while failing to halt the spread of crime in our society."

The *New York Times* stated: "Think about some of the methods now described as vital to law enforcement—wiretapping, breaking into homes without knocking, limiting the right of defendants at trial to know the sources of prosecution evidence. What will they do, what can they do, to reduce the volume of street crimes that rightly disturb Americans most of all? How can wiretapping stop a rapist or mugger?"

When such measures do not stop crime, then what might happen? The editorial adds: "It could be to demand ever harsher police measures . . . with tens of thousands of suspects held in detention without trial, say, and the Supreme Court swept aside if it found preventive detention unconstitutional."

In its issue of April 26, the *New York Times* made this sobering assessment of the situation:

"Each morning in schools throughout this land, millions of children pledge their allegiance to a nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all. This daily ritual is beginning to lose all meaning as America's fundamental principles of freedom are being undermined. . . .

"Group appeals, sectional politics, harsh and divisive statements and, most important of all, repressive administrative actions and retrogressive proposals and laws are directed from the very highest sources of Government against dissenters and nonconformists. . . .

"Amid talk of the maintenance of law and order, an epidemic of electronic eavesdropping creates conditions approaching governmental lawlessness and moral disorder.

"To suggest that the Bill of Rights can be temporarily ignored in times of discord and anger would be to turn the Constitution into an impotent, bloodless document.

"It is not in harmonious times that liberties require protection. It is in days of doubt that the rights of the unpopular few must be upheld, if the liberties of the many are to remain safe."

Could It Happen?

Many persons find it difficult to believe that such a trend could continue in the United States until basic freedoms are eroded. But it has happened before in many countries throughout the earth.

For instance, in Germany between 1918 and 1933 the people experienced difficult times. There was much lawlessness and disorder. Added to that were the hard

times that began with the worldwide economic depression of 1929. The German people came to the point where they were willing to accept a dictator to restore and preserve law and order.

But their acceptance of Adolf Hitler did just the opposite. In his book *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* William L. Shirer said of Hitler's regime: "It caused an eruption of this earth more violent and shattering than any previously experienced . . . during which it instituted a reign of terror over the conquered peoples which, in its calculated butchery of human life and the human spirit, outdid all the savage oppressions of the previous ages."

As reported by the Los Angeles *Times* of March 13, 1970, Shirer stated of the situation in the United States now: "Hitler never got more than 39% of the vote in a free election, but I think the American people now would vote for almost anything which would put down the so-called peaceniks and the college kids and the blacks. . . . If our affluent society turned into one of hardship, I think you'd get by the consent of the people a very right-wing society and government in which freedom would be greatly restricted."

Yes, it can happen. Indeed, many responsible persons in the United States warn that the process may have already begun.

Alcoholism—a Disease?

- ◆ Many are the news items and magazine articles that speak of alcoholism as being a disease. Is it? In 1968 the United States Supreme Court rendered what is considered a landmark decision. It found in a 5-4 decision that alcoholism is not a disease. The majority opinion pointed out that doctors cannot agree "on what it means to say alcoholism is a disease." Commenting on this Supreme Court Decision, *Medical World News* of February 20, 1970, said: "The law still considers that alcoholism is as much a paralysis of will power as anything else."

ON THE first of June, 1970, the New York Times reported that venereal disease, one of the results of sexual immorality, has become "the nation's most common communicable disease, except for the common cold." Especially are increasing numbers of young people being infected. To many sincere persons, it might seem that the churches, by their teaching of morality, would provide a bulwark of protection for their members. But do they?

Clergyman Norman Vincent Peale admits: "The Protestant church has shown increasing hesitancy where sex morals are concerned, a tendency to adopt a permissive or relativistic approach."

This attitude was brought to nationwide attention recently in the United States. In its issue of May 17, 1970, *Parade*, a magazine supplement carried in ninety-three newspapers, had the feature article "Religious Storm Center: New Sex Code." It said:

"The United Presbyterian Church's proposed new sex code—one so liberal that it practically eliminates sin as a major factor in sexual relations—is already sending shock waves of controversy through U.S. religious circles. . . .

"Entitled 'Sexuality and the Human Community,' and drawn up by a team of experts in various fields, the report repudiates all absolutes regarding human sexuality.

"Among significant sex moralities advocated by the Presbyterian experts:

"Removal of all restrictions against unmarried adults who wish to live together. . . .

"Removal of any stigma that makes homosexuals feel they are in irresolvable conflict with the Christian fellowship."

Parade also observed:

"On adultery, for example, heretofore absolutely unpermissible in the eyes of the church, the experts' report says, 'We recognize that there may be exceptional circumstances where extra-marital activ-

THE CHURCHES and SEXUAL MORALITY

ity may not be contrary to the interests of a faithful concern for the well-being of the marriage partner.'"

Although not endorsing it, the recent United Presbyterian annual assembly in Chicago voted, 485 to 250, to "receive" the report for study by its congregations. To many, their action sounds innocent enough. After all, they did not endorse it. But what a long way they have drifted from the teachings of Jesus Christ when they passively 'receive for study' a proposal approving fornication, adultery and homosexuality!

What the United Presbyterian Church has done is not the first action of its kind. In 1966 the British Council of Churches resolved: "The Council receives the report *Sex and Morality* which has much to contribute of value to the contemporary discussion of moral questions by both Christians and non-Christians."

Yet what does this report say? "We should leave the individual parties free to decide whether a personal relationship has achieved the intimacy and tenderness of which sexual intercourse is the appropriate expression, either in cases where a marriage is intended, or where it is not."—Page 28.

And what does that mean? Given such instruction, a young girl may well conclude that if she has sex relations with a boyfriend, her parents should not criticize, and married people may reason that if they decide to have sex relations with someone else, their mates should not complain. Do you agree with such an outlook?

In 1963 a report entitled "Towards a Quaker View of Sex" was completed. Although it was not endorsed as an official view, the Society of Friends (Quakers) did help to finance the publication of the report, feeling that such would be good.

That report ridicules the Bible prohibition of homosexuality, and says: "One should no more deplore 'homosexuality' than left-handedness." "An act which expresses true affection between two individuals and gives pleasure to them both, does not seem to us to be sinful by reason alone of the fact that it is homosexual." (Revised Edition, 1964, pp. 26, 32, 33, 41) Is that the kind of religious instruction that you want your son to receive?

Though these are philosophies that an increasing number of religious organizations 'receive' and view as worthy of consideration, what they are doing does not represent the Bible. In plain language it says:

"Flee from fornication." (1 Cor. 6:18) "God will judge fornicators and adulterers." (Heb. 13:4) "Neither fornicators, . . . nor adulterers, . . . nor men who lie with men . . . will inherit God's kingdom." —1 Cor. 6:9, 10.

So it should be recognized that the churches of Christendom, while professing to use the Bible, do not really represent it. That they are deliberately repudiating the Bible itself is evident from the statements of religious leaders themselves.

For instance, the Assistant to the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York expressed church-approved views on New York radio station WQXR on the evening of April 6, 1970, when he said:

"Adultery, fornication, homosexual acts, and certain deviant sexual practices may violate Judeo-Christian standards of moral conduct, but when only adults are involved and there is no coercion and such acts occur in private, they should not be considered crimes. But they are in many instances, and these laws should be repealed."

The "Judeo-Christian standards of moral conduct" that he rejects are those found in the Bible. In a similar vein the report *Sex and Morality* received by the British Council of Churches observes:

"Intelligent Christian opinion no longer regards the Bible, or even the New Testament, as a text-book from which one can extract authoritative rulings which automatically decide contemporary problems."

—Page 19.

And D. W. Ferm, dean of the chapel at Mount Holyoke College, writing in the prominent Protestant journal *The Christian Century*, went so far as to say that the Bible prohibition of sex relations before marriage is "wrong and immoral." —Jan. 14, 1970, pp. 47, 48.

Are you shocked? If you are a church member, what viewpoint does your own minister take on these matters? It would be worth your while to ask.

The viewpoints quoted above are not merely isolated cases, nor are they altogether new. The training that these clergymen were given when they attended theological schools laid the groundwork for this trend. Thus, when the Presbyterian report came out, theologian Roger Shinn of Union Theological Seminary in New York, instead of expressing disapproval, said: "The report in regard to adultery is consistent with unfolding ideas in this field."

But what are the fruits of those "unfolding ideas"? Venereal disease has reached 'epidemic proportions,' reports the news. Abortions are on the increase. In addition to those performed "legally," in the United States about a million a year are done illegally. And clergymen who downgrade the Bible's moral code are making a major contribution to the worsening situation.

Plainly, those who want for themselves and their families the protection afforded by the Bible's high standards of morality must look somewhere other than to these churches for instruction.

OATS

are good for you

WISE King Solomon once wrote: "I have come to know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good during one's life; and also that every man should eat and indeed drink and see good for all his hard work. It is the gift of God." Among the foods that are especially suited to enable man to do hard work is the grain known as oats.—Eccl. 3:12, 13.

Oats are grown around the world, some 3,000 million bushels annually, more than one-fourth of which is produced in the United States. In that country oats are exceeded only by corn or maize. There are some one hundred different varieties of oats, among which are white, red, yellow, gray and black oats. It is a favorite grain of the Scots, and not without good reason. It thrives on lean soil such as is found in Scotland, is the most economical of all grains as regards food value, and oat straw can be used for feed and for fertilizer.

In some lands a considerable portion of the oat crop is used for animal feed, such as for horses and chickens. In fact, it is the best of all feeds for horses, being unexcelled as a tissue or muscle builder. Horses prove their value to a farmer by using their muscles, and so need oats.

For many humans oats are also an excellent cereal food. Just how far back the production of oats goes is not known today, there being no reference to oats in the Bible. But, for that matter, neither is there any mention in the Bible of certain other important grains, such as corn (maize), rice and rye. ("Corn" in the *King James Version* refers to grain, not to maize.) However, oats are mentioned in the Mishnah, completed about the year 200 C.E. Earliest references tell about wild oats being a bothersome weed.

Hippocrates, the so-called father of the healing arts, who lived in the fifth century B.C.E., wrote that oats made into porridge or gruel (a thin porridge) "when eaten moistens and refreshes."

Pound for pound, oats lead all other grains in food value. In the form of oatmeal they are rich not only in carbohydrates, 67 percent, but also in protein, 16 percent; fat, 7 percent; minerals, 2 percent, and the rest moisture or water. All told, a pound of oatmeal contains 1,850 calories. It follows that a judicious use of oatmeal can cut down on the use of more costly foods. Oatmeal is in particular a good source of vitamin B.

One of the reasons why oats have such an advantage over certain other grains is that, when they are milled, only the outer husk is removed, the bran and the germ remaining, the vitamin- and mineral-rich portions. It is therefore far more nutritious than any breakfast food made largely from white flour or polished rice. This is indeed something to be considered, for according to Dr. Jean Mayer, Harvard nutritionist, during the last twenty years there has been a decline in the vitamin and mineral content of the average American diet.—*New York Times*, March 12, 1970.

There are many ways in which rolled or cut oats can be used. For one thing, they can be used in making stuffing for chicken or turkey, even as they can be used instead of bread crumbs when making meat loaf. Oatmeal can also be used instead of flour as a thickening agent.

Many are also the uses to which oatmeal can be put in baking. Oatmeal cookies are as delectable as they are nourishing. For making them without flour take four cups of oatmeal, two cups of brown sugar, one cup of oil. Mix and leave it for eight hours. Then add two well-beaten eggs, one-half teaspoon salt, one teaspoon almond extract and raisins and nuts if desired. Bake in moderately hot oven for 15 minutes. Let cool before removing from pan. Result? As tasty, nourishing and wholesome a cookie as you could wish for.

Then there is also oatmeal bread, a favorite of the Scots, even as are scones made with oatmeal. Oatmeal can also be used with flour when making piecrusts, when making date-nut bars, and so forth. And, of course, the most common use of oatmeal is for porridge or as hot cereal. As such it has been a favorite for twenty-five centuries. Cooked with milk, honey and diced apples, and served with wheat germ and sliced bananas, it is a meal in itself.

Yes, as a nourishing cereal oats are good for you. And with a little culinary ingenuity, oats can also be "tops" in appeal to the palates of your family.

The

Hernia Problem

DID you know that hernias are among mankind's most common ills? That is, at least as far as the menfolk are concerned, for 75 to 80 percent of them occur in males. It is said that as many as one in twenty, or 5 percent of the males, in such lands as the United States and Canada have this problem. In Great Britain from 10 to 15 percent of all hospital admissions are for hernias and the ratio is even higher in Nigeria.

While it is common to refer to hernias as ruptures, the medical profession prefers the term hernia as being the more correct one. Hernia literally means a protrusion, which is what any hernia is. It does not necessarily involve a rupture or tearing of the tissues, but as often as not is a mere distending or stretching of them. This is especially true of the kind of hernias more common in womenfolk. In other words, every rupture is a hernia but not every hernia is a rupture.

Hernias are described in medical literature going back thousands of years. In ancient times and, indeed, until quite modern times, hernias were treated in a great variety of ways, magical, medical and surgical, some of which were very painful. In view of the prevalence of hernias, it will be of interest to note the causes of hernias, what, if anything, can be done to prevent them, and the various ways of treating them.

Causes of Hernias

There are various causes of hernias even as there are various kinds of hernias.

There are hernias of the brain, usually caused by accidents or tumors, and there are those of the iris or eyes. There are also hernias of the neck, found in wind-instrument players who put quite a strain on the muscles of their necks while playing their instruments.

Then again, there are what are known as "incisional" hernias. These are protrusions where there was previously an operation for some cause other than a hernia. (A hernia where there previously was an operation for a hernia is called a recurrent hernia.) There are some in the medical profession who hold that if surgeons were more careful when operating and sewing up their patients, there would be practically none of these incisional hernias; or at least very few of them, comparatively speaking.

Then again, a hernia could easily result from an accident. If someone were to suffer a fall on his feet, that could well result in a hernia. The most common form of hernia, that of the groin in men, usually is brought on by straining, as when straining to have a bowel movement or trying to lift some heavy object in an injudicious manner. It is called an "inguinal" hernia.

However, by and large, the medical and like professions agree that these are but contributing causes. The basic cause according to most authorities is an inherited or congenital weakness of the abdominal or other muscles. This seems to appear from the fact that hernias at times run in families. Thus, for example, the trumpet

player who suffers a hernia in his neck no doubt brought it on because of straining while blowing; but he did not necessarily strain more than other trumpet players who do not suffer this injury. It is just that in the structure of his throat some of the muscles were not as strong as they should have been.

Prevention

But could this congenital or inherited weakness, except in the case of infants and children, be compensated in some way? Or could it be that in some cases, instead of being born with this weakness, some may acquire it because of neglecting their health? That is the position taken by some who hold that unwise health habits, such as insufficient exercise, overindulgence in eating or in other bodily pleasures could well be contributing factors. Those who hold that proper care of the body could well protect against at least some hernias point to the marvelous way in which the body is made. Thus in the abdomen there are several sets of muscles that cross one another at different angles—really so designed as to give the maximum strength to the walls of the abdomen. These are known as the 'transversal,' the 'oblique internal' and the 'oblique external' muscles.

As for strengthening and improving the tone of the abdominal muscles, there are many things that one can do to acquire this result. Simply cultivating the habit of good posture, walking, standing, and sitting erect will be a great help. And since overweight, as well as an overloaded alimentary canal, is conducive to hernias, moderation in food and drink should also be practiced. Obviously a rupture or hernia can more readily occur where the muscles are fat and flabby.

Since hernias are not uncommon among muscular athletes, it is apparent that not just any exercises will help to compensate

for an inherited defect that may result in a hernia. Exercises should be those that strengthen the muscles of the abdomen. These include climbing stairs, jogging, push-ups, horseback riding and, especially, bicycle riding. All these tend to strengthen the muscles of the abdomen as well as contribute to one's general health.

Yes, the old saying, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure might well be applied to the hernia problem. More care on the part of surgeons doubtless would notably decrease the number of incisional hernias. And learning to lift heavy objects properly might well keep many other hernias from happening. Instead of merely bending over and putting all the strain on the loins when trying to lift a heavy object, one should also bend one's knees so as to employ the muscles of the legs. And there is also the factor of exercises that strengthen the muscles of not merely the arms and legs, but also the abdomen.

What Can Be Done About a Hernia

As with treatment of other physical infirmities to which man has fallen heir, there are wide differences of opinion as to what is the best thing to do. Not a few resort to a truss. The use of trusses goes back some five centuries or more. Some authorities recommend them as a temporary measure and in treating infants and very young children, among whom there is a good likelihood that the hernia will repair itself. Trusses are also recommended by some for very old persons, although more so in times past than at present. Some men prefer trusses because of the fear of an operation or the expense of it, but they leave much to be desired as they are wearisome to use (especially in hot weather), rarely remedy matters and at times may even make matters worse.

A few doctors treat hernias by injection

of certain chemical substances that cause a fibrosis. That is, they cause an abundant producing of fibrous tissue that is supposed to close the hernial opening and so cure it. It is said by some to have advantages in certain cases.

Most physicians recommend surgery. But the record has not been altogether complimentary to the surgical profession as a whole. Thus Dr. A. A. Koontz, a United States authority on the subject, in his book *Hernia* (1963), tells about the recurrence rates. According to him they vary from 10 to 30 percent and more, depending upon the type of operation.* Apparently not all who operate for hernias are as skilled as they should be. He states that, while the situation is improving, the recurrence rate is still far too high and points to his own recurrence rate of less than one-half of one percent. He counsels surgeons operating for hernias: "Make the operation fit the patient. Don't try to make the patient fit the operation."

Also Dr. S. H. Wass, writing in *Guy's Hospital Reports*, No. 3, 1968, says: "Our results leave much to be desired. Max Page (1934) surgeon to St. Thomas' Hospital decried complacency and drew attention to the bad results of routine hernia surgery. In spite of innumerable modifications of the techniques of hernia repair over the past thirty years recurrences are still far too common."

Surgery for hernias goes back to the ancient Orient. One who in more recent times did better than the rest was A. Paré of the sixteenth century, who is quoted as saying: "I cut them and God heals them." The present-day methods by and large are based on those developed by an Italian surgeon, E. Bassini, and by W. Halsted, an American surgeon, both in about 1890.

* According to others, the present U.S. recurrence rate is 4 percent.

A more recent innovator was the late E. E. Shouldice, of Toronto, Canada, who developed his system during World War I and whose clinic continues to specialize in only hernia operations. He developed a method of overlapping and reinforcing, using steel wire in adults and gut in infants and children. He brought down his recurrence rate to less than one percent and felt so confident of his method that he offered to repair any recurrences free of charge, even as does his clinic today.

A surgeon writing in the *West African Medical Journal*, December 1968, told of successfully performing hundreds of hernia operations with only local anesthesia, even as does the above-referred-to clinic. No doubt because of this, patients at this clinic are able to take exercises the very first day after the operation and to return home after the third day. Doubtless helping to account for the success of this method are the facts that overweight patients are required to reduce before being accepted and smokers are asked to cut down on their smoking two weeks before the operation.

Exercising Recommended by Some

There are some who speak highly of the value of certain exercises in remedying reducible hernias in those not beyond the prime of life. Reducible hernias are those that disappear when one is lying down or with gentle pressure. If they do not disappear under such conditions they are termed irreducible or incarcerated hernias, a more serious condition.*

* Most serious of all are "strangulated" hernias, in which, as their name implies, the circulation of the blood is strangled by a decrease in the size of the opening through which the hernia protrudes. This can happen at any time and generally requires immediate surgery or else complications, gangrene and even death, can shortly ensue. Because of this risk many physicians recommend that all hernias be immediately repaired; this is the opposite extreme, it might be observed, from resorting to exercise.

Those healthy young men whose hernias are not too bothersome or serious might well want to try the exercise approach to their problem. Of course, all the exercises previously mentioned as strengthening the muscles in the abdomen would be helpful in reducing a hernia. But additionally there is a special set of exercises that is indispensable in reducing a hernia, namely, those that strengthen the muscles in the groin.

A great help for these exercises is a slant board. This is a board of some six feet in length, about 18 inches wide and one end of which rests on the floor whereas the other end is raised about a foot. This higher end has a strap around it under which a person can place his feet. With hands clasped behind the head, he endeavors to raise himself into a sitting position. Then in a sitting position he tries to turn his body as far as he can to the right and then as far as he can to the left, all the while having his hands clasped behind his head.

A similar exercise is to be turning once

to the right as one raises oneself erect on the slant board and then the next time to the left. Such twisting exercises strengthen the muscles of the groin. Another exercise is to lie flat on one's back on the floor and then, with the feet raised, try to imitate the motions used when swimming. Another is to sit in a chair and put the right hand on the left knee and the left hand on the right knee and oppose or try to push the knees apart while resisting the pushing with one's legs as much as one can. Of course, all such exercises require determination, but those using them testify to their value.

Since hernias have been termed one of mankind's most common ills, it does seem that more could be done to prevent both their occurrence and their recurrence. Also, the facts seem to indicate that one should exercise care in choosing a surgeon if an operation is deemed necessary. Each one faced with this problem will therefore do well to consider the pros and cons before making a decision as to what to do about it.

Giant Water Tanks of the Desert

A VERITABLE living water tank! That is what the giant saguaro cactus could be called. Why? Because of the amount of water that this desert plant can soak up and store. You see, rain does not fall for many months in the desert. But when it does, the saguaro cactus will soak up enough water to keep living and bearing fruit and blossoms for a year or even longer. And when it is filled with water it can weigh five or more tons.

Close study of this cactus water tank tells us that it is ideally suited for its desert home. Rather than having a long taproot that could not survive in the desert sands, this cactus has long near-surface roots that spread out in all directions from its main stem. When it rains, these roots will take in water from the sand as fast as it falls. Also its "skin" or smoothly waxed outer shell is grooved to ex-

pand like an accordion when it is taking in water. Further, the inside of this waxy, water-tight shell is filled with a spongy material that absorbs the water taken in by the roots.

Now, what keeps the saguaro cactus from flopping over into a heap? The Creator designed it with a skeleton of runglike supports or hard cells one to two inches thick running through its trunk and branches. These also serve to help carry water up into the spongy tissue.

Look at the size of the saguaro cactus! Some specimens have grown to a height of fifty or more feet, with their main trunk being two feet in diameter. And some are believed to be more than two hundred years old.

Where can you see these giant water tanks? In the Sonoran Desert in southwestern United States, especially in the area that is known as Saguaro National Monument.

A CATAclysm STRIKES PERU!

By "Awake!" correspondent in Peru

"QUAKE LEAVES 100 DEAD IN CAJACAY." "LANDSLIDE BURIES 18: SAYAN." "40 DIE BURIED BY ROCKS IN CAJATAMBO." "YUNGAY TOTALLY DESTROYED."

Any one of these headlines would be enough to arrest its reader with shocking concern. But that they should all appear in rapid succession, bringing reports of the western hemisphere's worst natural disaster in recorded history, strains credibility. When the final tally is known, if indeed it will ever be accurately known, the toll taken by the violent earthquake that rocked Peru on Sunday afternoon, May 31, may well exceed 60,000 dead!

The results of the quake, flashed on television screens and in newspaper headlines throughout the world, defied imagination. Chimbote, a thriving fishing and industrial port of over 100,000 inhabitants, was 85 percent destroyed. Huaraz, Caraz and Yungay, nestled in the travel-poster setting of the beautiful Huaylas valley, were in ruins; Yungay being completely swept away and its remains buried beneath a sea of mud and ooze.

The capital, Lima, too, felt the quake at 3:24 that Sunday afternoon. But when a quick check of different sections of the city showed little property damage and only three deaths, the citizenry began congratulating itself on having experienced just another *susto* (scare). They settled back to watch the opening game of the world

soccer tournament being held in Mexico and televised via satellite around the earth. Lima bedded down for the night totally unaware of the tragedy in its neighboring cities to the north.

Chimbote and Casma

Not until Monday morning did the first reports reach Lima, as vehicular traffic along the Pan-American Highway began to arrive. A member of the office staff of the Watch Tower Society and his wife were returning to Lima after a short vacation with friends in Trujillo, and they were among the first to reach the capital with a report of what had taken place. Let him narrate his experience.

"The drive from Trujillo to Chimbote had been pleasant but, as Lima was yet another five-hour drive away, we decided to stop and freshen up a bit before continuing our journey. We pulled up in front of the Hotel Chimú, overlooking the placid Chimbote bay. The engine had hardly died when everything was gripped in the throes of a violent upheaval. The automobile lurched frantically from side to side and up and down. The hotel, an imposing three-story building, leaped and twisted about. Windowpanes shattered to the ground. I backed the car into the middle of the parking area and there we rode it out."

"The once-calm bay was seized with giant choppy waves, and the beach began to sink and fall away toward the ocean. Large fissures opened in the street. The

front wheels of one car dropped into a wide crack that had opened up suddenly beneath them. A glance toward the midtown section revealed a rising cloud of gray dust that reached a height of one hundred feet blanketing the entire city.

"All about us the city lay in ruins. Frantic cries of pain and grief pierced the air. In panic, people ran to and fro searching the debris for loved ones, calling names, listening for voices. A father ran aimlessly down the street, the lifeless form of his little boy draped in his trembling arms. Many were still too stunned to do anything except stand in the street casting questioning glances about them.

"The quake lasted but forty-five seconds—a short span, indeed, in any circumstance but an earthquake. In those fleeting, prolonged, *interminable* forty-five seconds, there were drastic changes in the lives of hundreds of thousands of persons.

"When the initial fright had passed, the thought came to us: 'How had our Christian brothers, Jehovah's witnesses, in Chimbote fared?' They were probably having their weekly Sunday meeting. So we made our way to the nearest Kingdom Hall. There are three congregations in Chimbote.

"Only five minutes had elapsed when we arrived at the Kingdom Hall. It was demolished, but the whole congregation was safe and alive! A steel girder had remained suspended at one end by its reinforced concrete column. Though the roof had caved in on either side, it had remained sufficiently high to permit all to crawl out to safety. Only minor injuries were received by a few.

"Shortly, someone arrived and reported that the roof had held at their Kingdom Hall. Although some had sustained fractures, it appeared that only one young girl was critically injured. Since the third congregation had not been holding its meet-

ing, nothing was known immediately as to their plight.

"All the Witnesses had lost their homes and belongings, being left with only the clothes on their backs. It was later discovered that only one Witness and the wife of a Witness had perished in Chimbote.

"No telephone lines remained. So we decided to return to Trujillo and from there notify the Watch Tower office in Peru by telephone. We did not know at the time that Trujillo, too, had been badly hit. When we arrived at the mountain pass north of Chimbote, we found it filled with huge rocks and impassable. So we turned around and headed on to Lima.

"The first town south of Chimbote was Casma. It took about thirty minutes to find the Kingdom Hall where the Witnesses had been holding their meeting. None of them were found. However, we learned that one had been critically injured when a wall of the hall fell in on him. He died that night.

"Night had fallen by the time we resumed our race to Lima. Shortly we found the road blocked by huge boulders. Our car was small enough to negotiate the road blockage, but when we got to the Casma Bridge we were unable to get over the two-foot rise caused by the sinking of the macadam approach. We returned to a safe spot out in the open, away from possible falling rocks, and waited the long night out. We could not sleep. All through the night repeated shakes and tremors, accompanied by an unearthly rumble, continued to rock our car.

"It was dawn on Monday morning when finally the bridge was opened to traffic. So we were able to drive the remainder of the four-hour trip to Lima."

Relief Organized

Immediately telephone calls were made to all of Jehovah's witnesses in Lima who

had phones. Instructions were given to gather food and clothing, blankets and medicines, and to pass the word on to others to do the same. The loving response was immediate. That night the lobby of the Watch Tower office in Lima began filling up with bags of clothing and boxes of foodstuffs. Money was received in donations large and small.

So great was the response that by midnight Tuesday, just thirty-six hours after receiving the word, a convoy of five vehicles including a ten-ton truck left Lima headed for Casma and Chimbote with relief supplies! They carried blankets, clothing, food and 275 gallons of drinking water, as well as kitchen and cafeteria equipment and canvas tenting materials. The Watch Tower caravan was among the first to reach these stricken areas with aid.

A truckload of provisions was left in Casma. All the Witnesses there had gathered at the property of a Witness on the outskirts of town where no damage had been registered.

In Chimbote the Witnesses were found in good spirits in spite of the great loss.

In the two days following the earthquake they had cleaned up the debris from the Kingdom Hall and put up walls of woven matting all around it. This made for a secure place to leave provisions until they could be distributed.

The two other congregations in Chimbote had set up camp on a hill overlooking the city. When members of the expedition arrived they found a tiny city established. It was neat and orderly and functioning harmoniously. Tasks had been assigned. In the mornings the Witnesses cleaned up the debris from around their fallen homes. And in the afternoons they visited the homes of stricken people offering consolation from the Bible. A school had been set up to keep the children occupied.

Soon the Witnesses were enjoying their first warm meal in three days. That night they were able to sleep warmly under the blankets and heavy clothing that had been provided. Having cleared the site of the Kingdom Hall, the congregation continued its meeting schedule without interruption. The Witnesses had given attention first to their Kingdom Hall, leaving their own homes until later!



Witnesses operate their little city set up after the earthquake as they do their assemblies

The Huaylas Valley

But a large and foreboding question mark still hung over the city of Huaraz. No word had been received from the congregation there. Nor had any news been received from Caraz, farther north of Huaraz, where there is an isolated group of Jehovah's witnesses. Even after eight days no word had been received concerning the Witnesses in the Huaylas valley. As the reports of the magnitude of the disaster continued to pour in, we really feared for the plight of our fellow Witnesses there.

The winding roads to Huaraz

and Caraz that climb tortuously into the Andean "altiplano" were never good at their very best. Now they were practically obliterated. A monumental task befell the corps of Army road engineers to open them as soon as possible.

True, aircraft had been dropping in supplies. But due to their restricted payload, as well as the risk of lives and the great expense, it was vital that ground transportation into the area be opened up. Already four helicopters and one plane had gone down, with eight persons killed. Hundreds of tons of relief goods were waiting to reach the stricken ones as soon as the road could be opened.

The road crews worked around the clock in an almost superhuman race against time. One convoy sent by Jehovah's witnesses was thwarted by the still-blocked roadway, and the supplies were carried on to Casma and Chimbote. Finally, on Monday, June 8, word was officially received that the road would at last be opened. Another convoy was organized, and it was among the first fifteen vehicles waiting a mile or so behind the road crews, moving forward as each new stretch of road was opened up.

One member of the convoy observes: "As we restlessly tried to catch some sleep in the bitter cold while waiting for the road to open, we were mindful of our fellow Witnesses and their little children who would also be trying to sleep. But they would have no roof over their heads, and few blankets and little clothing to ward off the freezing temperatures."

At last the way was free and the caravan continued its dusty climb into the freezing, rarefied atmosphere of the heights above!

The Search

The warming rays of the dawning sun found the caravan winding its way at last

down into the valley where Huaraz had once stood. The total destruction of villages that were passed along the way brought somber thoughts to the minds of the travelers. Surely a destruction so complete must have wiped out some of the Witnesses, if not all of them.

The convoy broke ranks with the other trucks and began the task of trying to locate the Witnesses. The city lay in ruins. All around its perimeter, camps of refugees had sprung up. Rumors and leads were followed disappointingly to their dead ends.

Using walkie-talkies to keep in touch, two members of the convoy threaded their ways among the camps from tent to hut to lean-to, inquiring. At sundown two separate leads brought them almost simultaneously to the campsite of Jehovah's witnesses. Tears of joy streaked down cheeks as they embraced one another. All of Jehovah's witnesses and their immediate family members, some sixty persons in all, were alive and safe!

Little by little the tale of survival began to unfold. Some had been able to reach open ground while others sought refuge in their doorways, that part of a building that is most often left standing. There were close calls.

One Witness dug frantically to uncover his young son who had been buried beneath two heavy adobe walls. Fighting suffocation from the dust and dirt, the boy had the presence of mind to limit his breathing until his father could clear the debris from around his face and head. He got off with only a fissured jawbone.

An eleven-year-old daughter of a Witness had gone out on her bicycle to buy bread for the evening meal. Her mother, on the second floor of her home in the very middle of the most devastated area, rode out the quake under a doorway while the rest of the house crumbled down

around her. A search was made for the little girl. Two hours after the quake her *uncle* stumbled onto several pieces of bread among the rubble of the street. Then the mangled part of a bicycle, and just beyond under large adobe bricks and roofing tiles, the missing child. She is now recuperating in a Lima hospital from multiple fractures of arm, leg and pelvis.

Utter Desolation

Ten thousand others were not as fortunate. For it was officially estimated that many persons were still buried in the narrow streets of Huaraz under tons of debris.

When the first tremors were felt, thousands scrambled for the safety of the open spaces. They never had a chance. Their own homes came tumbling down upon them.

The rubble in the streets now reaches the height of what once was the second floor, so it is difficult to tell where the streets were.

Reports from farther down the valley revealed yet greater and more complete destruction. Apparently a gigantic chunk fell away from the north face of Mount Huascarán into Lake Yanganuco, spilling its waters over into the canyons leading to the Huaylas valley below. The resultant onrush of water, mud, stones and ice reached the city of Yungay and its neighboring town, Ranrahirca, burying the two and claiming over 20,000 lives! All that remains visible of the city of Yungay are the tops of four tall palm trees that once marked the central "Plaza de Armas." Those who might have survived the terrible quake were killed just ten minutes later by the inundation.

The city of Caraz was spared total destruction from this terrible avalanche when it stopped just short of the city limits. Though the road there was still unopened, a message finally arrived from

the Witnesses in Caraz. They were all safe!

From all over the 22,000 square miles shaken by the cataclysm came stories of terrible desolation. Two hundred and fifty cities, towns, villages and hamlets reduced to rubble, rendering from 800,000 to 1,000,000 homeless. Jehovah's witnesses are indeed happy that they need count only three dead and very few injured among the approximately 400 Witnesses that live and work in the areas hardest hit.

Recovery

Now the mammoth task remains of caring for the injured, burying the dead, finding homes for the hundreds of orphans left in its wake and rebuilding the cities that lay in waste. But there is confidence this will be accomplished. For the Peruvian has learned resilience in living with the ever-present possibility of earthquakes and avalanches.

In this century alone twelve major quakes have rocked Peru. And many other areas of the earth have likewise been shaken by numerous major quakes since 1914, with death tolls ranging from hundreds to close to two hundred thousand in each of these disasters. Jehovah's witnesses see in these cataclysms further evidence that we are living in the last days of this system of things. For Jesus Christ specially said that "earthquakes in one place after another" would mark "the conclusion of the system of things."—Matt. 24:3, 7.

From around the world has come aid to assist the earthquake victims to recover from this disaster. Jehovah's witnesses in New York city donated well over ten tons of clothing, categorized it for easy distribution, packed it in over a thousand cartons, and sent it to Peru early in June. Such efforts have helped Peruvians recover from the western hemisphere's worst natural disaster in recorded history.

AWAKE!

THERE is a worldwide interest in fun and pleasure. Americans reportedly spend close to \$150,000,000,000 annually in the pursuit of pleasure. However, it has been confidently forecasted that by 1975 this figure will reach \$250,000,000,000, outrunning all the rest of the economy.

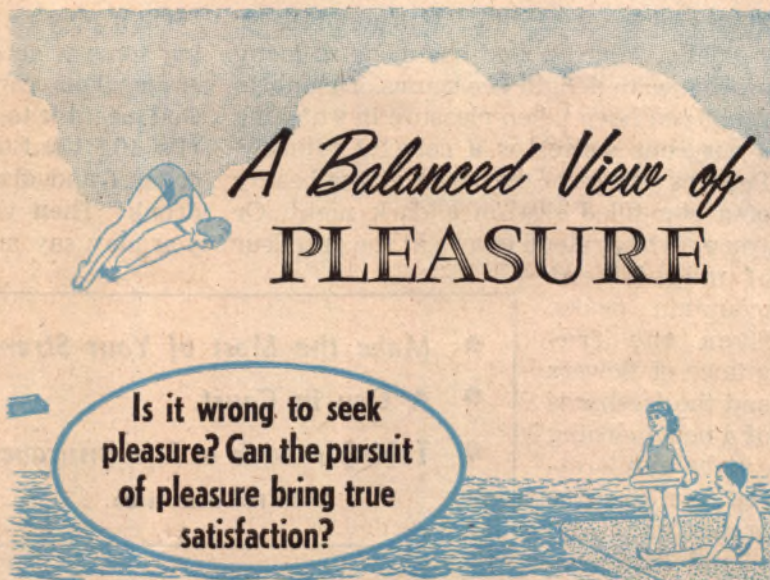
On liquor alone, Americans spent \$14,500,000,000 in a recent year. Also, some 3,500,000 skiers spent \$1,100,000,000 in connection with the sport of skiing. Millions of other persons seeking pleasure purchased \$1,000,000,000 worth of movie tickets. And a vast number of Americans spent some \$3,000,000,000 to enjoy the pleasures of boating. Other countries, too, are experiencing an explosion in pleasure-seeking.

Do you enjoy certain forms of recreation? Do you, for example, like to go skiing or boating? Do you enjoy swimming, playing tennis or participating in other sports? Or do you perhaps find pleasure in watching a wholesome movie? Are such pleasures wrong?

Some religious persons would say that they are. It has been taught that refraining from pleasure is meritorious, and some religious leaders have frowned upon and even condemned pleasure.

Does the Bible Condemn Pleasure?

The impression given by some religious persons has been that the Bible disproves of pleasure. But such persons have misrepresented the Bible and its author Jehovah God. This is obvious from the fact that the Creator made pleasurable



A Balanced View of **PLEASURE**

**Is it wrong to seek
pleasure? Can the pursuit
of pleasure bring true
satisfaction?**

the very functions necessary for the continuance of life, including eating and drinking. No doubt you enjoy a fine meal, and perhaps you find pleasure in having a beverage along with it. That God meant his creatures to derive pleasure from such things is clearly shown in the Bible.

For example, the Bible urges: "Go, eat your food with rejoicing and drink your wine with a good heart." (Eccl. 9:7) Also, Jehovah directed his ancient people of Israel on the use of money that had been set aside for a certain purpose: "You must also give the money for whatever your soul may crave in the way of cattle and sheep and goats and wine and intoxicating liquor and anything that your soul may ask of you; and you must eat there before Jehovah your God and rejoice." (Deut. 14:26) How obvious that God meant that you should derive pleasure from eating and drinking!

And that keen pleasure and satisfaction should be realized in connection with the marital arrangement the Bible clearly indicates, saying: "Rejoice with the wife of your youth . . . With her love may you be

in an ecstasy constantly.”—Prov. 5:18, 19.

Really, Jehovah God has made so many provisions to delight the senses of man. No doubt you have taken pleasure in watching a gorgeous sunset or a colorful rainbow. Perhaps you have marveled at the beauty of a star-filled sky on a dark night. Or you may have stood in awe at the grandeur of magnificent mountain peaks. Even the fragrance of flowers and the freshness of a new morning can be exhilarating. It is only proper that you should find pleasure in these many good things that God has provided. Clearly there is nothing wrong with wholesome pleasure.

When Satisfaction Is Lost

To help mankind derive genuine satisfaction from those things that bring pleasure, Jehovah God has lovingly provided guidance and direction. For example, as you well know, a tasty meal can be a keen delight. But if you eat too much, what happens? Why, you lose your genuine satisfaction, is that not so? Frequently indigestion and discomfort are the immediate results, and if overeating becomes a habit, you may become obese, unhealthy and die an early death. How appropriate therefore is God's counsel: "Do not come to be among . . . those who are gluttonous eaters of flesh."—Prov. 23:20.

What, then, if you are finishing a delicious meal, and the hostess insists that you have another portion? What will you do? You have enjoyed the food. But you realize that it will lessen your satisfaction if you eat more. So why not compliment the hostess on her fine meal, and then explain that you will have greater pleasure if you do not eat any more?

Or it may be that you have been enjoying some wine or other intoxicating beverage. This can gladden the heart, and God meant it to bring this pleasure to man. (Ps. 104:15) But what if you ignore God's counsel and drink too much and become drunk? Then you may become sick, and you may say and do things that are disgraceful. Genuine satisfaction therefore is lost. But worst of all, pursuing such conduct will bring upon you God's disapproval. Really, how important it is that God's

wise directives be followed!—Prov. 23:29-32; 1 Cor. 6:9, 10.

Following Jehovah's loving counsel also will help married couples to derive real satisfaction from matrimony. Husbands need to follow God's instruction to love their wives, and wives need to obey the Bible directive to have deep respect for their husbands. (Eph. 5:25, 33) When each mate does this, and unselfishly considers the welfare of the other, genuine satisfaction is realized in the marriage, including the intimate aspect of sharing the marital due.—1 Cor. 7:3-5.

If a married person, it is vital, too, that you heed the Scriptural injunction to limit sex interests to your own marriage mate. (Prov. 5:15-23) Failure to do this will likewise diminish marital satisfaction. In fact, the result to you may be a broken marriage, venereal disease, an illegitimate child, a plagued conscience, and other bad consequences.

Thus the truth is forcefully impressed: There is no real or lasting happiness when pleasure is sought in activities that are condemned by God. True, the Bible says that certain ones "have gone in for sensual

- ***Make the Most of Your Strength.***
- ***A Day in Court.***
- ***Taking a Look at Life Insurance.***

—In the next issue.

pleasure." (Jas. 5:5; 2 Pet. 2:13, 14) But pursuing such illicit pleasures simply is not satisfying. It is frustrating, unrewarding, and is wisely avoided. One simply cannot ignore God's instructions and realize genuine satisfaction.

However, even pleasurable activities that are in keeping with righteous principles may fail to bring genuine satisfaction if they are indulged in excessively. Pleasures that gratify the senses are like seasoning in food. In small amounts they are delightful, but in large doses they can become sickening. Thus, if you want the greatest satisfaction from some form of entertainment, it would be wise to limit the frequency of indulging in such entertainment.

Today, though, it is customary for persons unwisely to become engrossed in pursuing pleasures. The Bible, in fact, pointed to our day and foretold: "In the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, . . . lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God." (2 Tim. 3:1-5) But those persons who are such "lovers of pleasures" can never derive genuine happiness from such "pleasures." Something is missing from their lives. What is it?

The Importance of Spirituality

Spirituality is missing. They are not lovers of God. They do not study his Word the Bible or endeavor to serve him. And without the satisfaction of being in harmony with their Creator, they simply cannot derive full satisfaction from the other pleasures that God has made it possible for them to enjoy.

How vital it is, therefore, that you not neglect your spirituality! Jesus Christ pointed to the danger of permitting the "pleasures of this life" to assume too important a role in your life. He spoke of persons "being carried away by anxieties

and riches and pleasures of this life." Such persons, he said, like plants on thorny soil, "are completely choked and bring nothing to perfection." The pursuit of "pleasures," too, can choke out of your life spirituality, and can rob you of satisfaction in living.—Luke 8:14.

But it can rob you of even more—life itself. Jesus Christ himself pointed to this danger. He compared the situation existing now to that in Noah's day before the global deluge. At that time, he said, people were absorbed in the pleasures of eating, drinking and matrimony. To such an extent was this true that "they took no note" of God's judgment of destruction upon that wicked system. Jesus explained that a similar judgment faces this system of things. (Matt. 24:37-39) How vital it is, therefore, that you do not become so involved in the "pleasures of this life" that you neglect spiritual matters!

Thus, when you set time aside for study of the Bible, do not permit the desire to watch a television program to interfere with your plans. If you do, it will only be easier next time for other things to encroach upon spiritual interests, and slowly but surely spirituality will be choked out. Family heads especially should help their families to stick to a regular program of Bible study and participation in service to God.

Such spiritual activity is not burdensome or uninteresting. Rather, learning of God's purposes can be a delightful experience. To gain insight into matters regarding God and his purposes is indeed pleasurable. It is a pleasure that brings true satisfaction. What contentment there is when you bring your life into harmony with the will of your loving Creator! Doing this will lead to your enjoying satisfaction in all that you do, including the enjoyment of the many good things that God has provided for his creatures.

WITNESS GIVEN

by Obedience to God

By "Awake!" correspondent in Brazil

HOW seriously do you view obedience to God? Do you consider faithfulness to the law of God of higher value than personal safety or even life itself? Today there is a growing inclination to minimize the law of God, to consider as fanatical those who choose to place obedience to God above other values.

For example, the law of Jehovah God given to Christians prohibits consumption of blood. It says: "Keep abstaining . . . from blood." (Acts 15:29) This command to Christians was a reiteration of the law that was given years before by Jehovah God to his people: "You must not eat the blood of any sort of flesh." (Lev. 17:14) Once in a while a particular case involving a Christian's obedience to God's law on blood receives widespread publicity. This occurred recently in Brazil.

Rosemberg Cabral do Nascimento, the four-year-old son of Christian witnesses of Jehovah, was admitted to the Children's First-Aid Hospital at Fortaleza, Ceará. He was suffering from purpura hemorrhagica, a condition of unknown cause that is characterized by bleeding into the skin. The actual count of his blood platelets was down to 20,000 per cubic millimeter, while the normal average is 250,000.

Therefore the physician on duty ordered an immediate blood transfusion. When the child's parents objected to this treatment due to God's prohibition on the consumption of blood, the doctor said they were fanatical. He threatened to publicize the case by phoning the leading newspaper in town, *O Povo* (The People).

Thus, the news soon was flashing everywhere: 'A child is about to die at the hospital due to his father's obedience to his God and the Bible.' This became the talk of the town. Headlines appeared in many newspapers throughout Brazil, and the matter became a topic of radio and TV broadcasts.

Frequently, however, the beliefs of Jehovah's witnesses were grossly misrepresented.

For example, reports said that the Witnesses do not eat meat, and that they do not accept blood transfusions in order that there will not be two souls in their body. To clarify matters, a group of overseers of Jehovah's witnesses went to the newspaper *O Povo*. As a result, a fine, first-page write-up was published in the newspaper under dateline of August 22, 1969.

At the hospital the entire medical team tried to pressure the parents into permitting a blood transfusion 'to save' their child. The father explained the Biblical view relative to the use of blood, and asked that other treatment be tried to save the child.

Nevertheless, the pressure continued mounting. It was reported that the city's Juvenile Judge, whose function is to protect children, was going to sign a court order allowing a blood transfusion. However, the Witnesses were prepared to fight legally to resist this invasion of their constitutional rights.

Then things began to change. The newspaper *Tribuna do Ceará* also published a clarifying interview. It quoted the words of Dr. Arthur Kelly of the Canadian Medical Association: "No doctor can be positive that a person will die if he doesn't get a transfusion or live if he does."

And in the meantime little Rosemberg gradually improved. Eventually, after eighteen days at the hospital, he could return home. Representatives of the newspaper *O Povo* took the child home in its station wagon. Many persons at the hospital and nearby stopped work to see him go. He was heartily welcomed back to his neighborhood.

The right heart condition of many persons became apparent. One of the nurses asked the Witnesses to study the Bible with her, saying: "It has been a long time since I started searching for a religion of people with courage and who are not afraid of dying for their faith." Since then she has attended some meetings and a circuit assembly of Jehovah's witnesses.

Another person said: "This is the only religion in which people take their belief seriously." And others, who have been studying the Bible with the Witnesses, have manifested their desire soon to take their stand for Jehovah God. A fine witness was indeed given as a result of these parents' obedience to God's law.

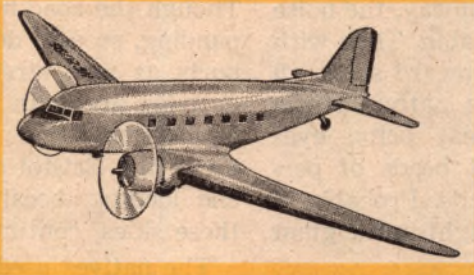
THE AIRPLANE —New Guinea's Workhorse

SAFETY belts are fastened, the plane banks steeply on the approach to the unbelievably tiny airstrip, and soon the wheels touch down on an uneven gravel surface. We taxi to a stop and immediately we are surrounded by painted, befeathered villagers beating drums, waving spears and bows and shouting traditional war cries.

Happily they are our friends, for this is the inauguration of a new airstrip in the eastern highlands of New Guinea. Most of these primitive people are already familiar with the giant bird or *balus* as they call the plane in their native tongue, but for many this is the first time they have seen one landing.

The skies above New Guinea truly hum with the sound of planes. The growth of air transport since its inception here late in the 1920's has been phenomenal. By 1968 the number of airstrips on the mainland and the islands comprising the territory had increased to 248. The plane is certainly New Guinea's workhorse. In one month last year two million pounds of freight were lifted to highland airstrips from one center alone! And here is the opening of one more airstrip.

AUGUST 8, 1970



By "Awake!" correspondent in Papua

A Trip on "The Milk Run"

But while the celebrations go on, let's reflect on the airplane's role in this mountainous land of jungle and deep gorges. The Douglas DC-3 is quite common here. Without padding or the usual comforts of the modern airliner, they are bare shells, designed to carry a maximum of freight as well as passengers. Canvas and metal seats are ranged along each side of the

plane, passengers facing inward where the center floor space is reserved for the goods that will be picked up or dropped off along the route.

The passenger may note at his feet a bamboo basket containing two hens; farther along may lie a fender

or mudguard for a truck. Fresh bread, frozen meat, spare parts for a tractor, medical supplies, bundles of newspapers and periodicals, water pipe for some village project, odds and ends of construction material—any or all of these may make up the daily cargo.

Up forward, toward the cockpit, there will be stacks of mailbags. How anxiously these are awaited in the isolated communities where this flying workhorse will touch down! By the door quite likely there are cane baskets of lettuce, carrots, cabbage and tomatoes destined for the coast. A big crate may house a large fat pig—probably part of a bride price for a wedding ceremony.

The passenger load can be almost as varied as the cargo: a native policeman going home on leave, a mechanic with a large box of tools for repair of earth-moving equipment on some new road, a planter and his family returning home after a weekend in town, perhaps a naked

pickaninny asleep on his mother's knee, and some nervous villagers in bark loin-cloths. Decorated with shells and feathers, and with bows and arrows at their feet, they would be on their way to the coast to trade cowrie shells, the traditional currency of their highland home, for dollars.

The pilot climbs over the freight to the flight deck, the door is locked and with a roar the engines are started. Every rivet, every bolt seems to shiver and shake as the big bird taxis to the runway, the noise magnified in the unlined cabin. Then with a burst of speed and an upward surge all that load is airborne. The natives strain forward against their seat belts, eyes closed, teeth bared, great beads of perspiration on their foreheads. Probably it is their first frightening flight in the giant "bird"!

Discovering the Reason Why

As the plane circles to gain altitude and climbs through the clouds to pass through a gap between towering mountains, one can begin to realize why the plane is such a valuable workhorse in this region. Running the entire length of the mainland area for some 1,500 miles is a massive cordillera, one of the great mountain systems of the world, with peaks attaining 15,000 feet. Crisscrossing the island are great gorges and fertile valleys. Roads are expensive to build and maintain in this rugged terrain. Indeed, in these areas human carriers and donkeys are relied on to get the produce to the nearest airstrip.

Twisting and turning along the valleys, one gets glimpses of grass huts and orderly gardens. Rumbling below tells the passengers that the landing gear has been lowered, and soon the great bird alights on a grassy slope, perhaps the first level stretch to be seen since takeoff. Native laborers, wearing only grass or bark aprons and a few leaves behind, swiftly load and

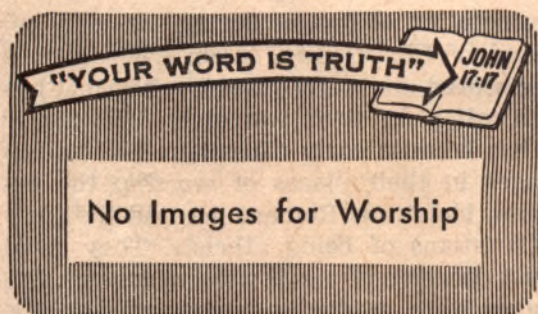
unload cargo. Planters and public servants wait for some long-expected parcel or urgently required spare parts. A jeep may arrive in a cloud of dust, bringing a doctor to pick up his medical supplies and a patient bound for the hospital at Mount Hagen. Yes, the plane here often becomes an aerial ambulance.

Under the watchful eye of government, the air industry here has earned an enviable reputation for safety and service. Though the road network is gradually expanding, so also does the network of airports as new airstrips are completed in outlying areas. In the early days German Junkers used to do most of the air hauling. Later the Bristol aircraft, with its front-end loading, became a familiar sight in these skies, continuing until 1966.

The natives used to think of the planes as huge birds, and would even bring great loads of vegetables to feed it. In fact, a story is told of one native policeman who grew rich by telling the credulous people that the bird would eat only pigs. Today, however, the peoples of the territory value the airplane, not alone as a link with the outside world, but particularly as the workhorse that hauls their loads of produce to market.

A roar of applause brings us back to the present, and the renewal of singing and dancing means that the official ceremony of inauguration of this new airstrip has been concluded. Our little aircraft is again inspected by tribal dignitaries, and the local *luluai* or chief and his councillors are taken for a short flight.

Finally we board our workhorse and take off for home, just twenty minutes away. People traveling by road will take nearly four hours over rough and sometimes dangerous tracks to reach the same destination. That alone tells volumes about the role of the airplane as New Guinea's workhorse.



THE worship of images was prevalent in ancient Babylonia, where the faithful patriarch Abraham grew up. Images were also widely used in ancient Egypt, where his descendants lived for over two hundred years. But when Jehovah God gave his law to the sons of Israel he explicitly forbade the worship of images, in the Second of the Ten Commandments, which are also known as the Decalogue.

Thus we read: "You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, Yahweh [Jehovah] your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons and the great-grandsons of those that hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."—Ex. 20:4-6, *The Jerusalem Bible*.

Repeatedly the nation of Israel violated the Second Commandment, to their own great harm, thus proving God's warning words true. Time and again Jehovah's prophets warned against the worship of images. (Isa. 42:17) The copper snake that Moses made at God's command later became an object of worship, for which reason King Hezekiah had it destroyed.—Num. 21:7-9; 2 Ki. 18:4.

Though Christians are not under the Mosaic law, the principle of the Second Commandment nevertheless applies to

them. What does the apostle John say? "Little children, guard yourselves from idols." That applies both to idols claimed to represent God and to any other images that become objects of worship. Did you know that the apostle Paul listed worship of idols with such "works of the flesh" as fornication and spiritism? And those practicing such things, he warned, "will not inherit God's kingdom."—1 John 5:21; Gal. 5:19-21.

Because of this the apostle Paul could write to early Christians at Thessalonica, "You turned to God from your idols to slave for a living and true God." He counseled the Christians at Corinth to "flee from idolatry." To flee from something means to get away from it as quickly as possible and as far as possible.—1 Thess. 1:9; 1 Cor. 10:14.

Often the claim is made that the religious images used in Christendom are not worshiped. It is said that images are merely given relative honor as an aid to the worship of God. That may be the theory, but what are the facts? Have not countless numbers of devout people carried an image of a "saint" in their autos, hoping thereby to get some protection from it and minimize the likelihood of having an accident? The fact is that devout Italian Catholics have looked to their statues of "saints" to stop the flow of lava, in one instance carrying a statue right to the edge of the advancing avalanche of lava with the hope of halting its flow. And to this very day in certain Latin American lands Catholics daily place food and drink offerings before the images of their "saints."

Is not considering pictures and statues as sacred in themselves rendering them "sacred service"? However, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, said: "It is Jehovah your God you must worship, and it

is to him *alone* you must render sacred service.”—Matt. 4:10.

Those who make use of images in worship might well ask themselves: Can these images communicate with me? Are they able to help me when I am in trouble? Note how the inspired psalmist answers these questions: “Their idols are silver and gold, the work of the hands of earthling man. A mouth they have, but they cannot speak; eyes they have, but they cannot see; ears they have, but they cannot hear. . . . Feet are theirs, but they cannot walk; they utter no sound with their throat. Those making them will become just like them, all those who are trusting in them.”—Ps. 115:4-8.

Even if such images were not worshiped, depending upon them in worship goes contrary to God’s Word. How so? In that Christian worship is based on faith, not on images that can be seen. Speaking for Christians, the apostle Paul says: “We are walking by faith, not by sight.” “We keep our eyes, not on the things seen”—such as images—“but on the things unseen.” That is why Jesus stressed the fact that “God is a Spirit, and those worshipping him must worship with spirit and truth.” A spirit is invisible. To worship the invisible God properly one cannot depend on images.—2 Cor. 5:7; 4:18; John 4:24.

The early Christians did not use any visual aids in the way of holy images, statues or pictures in their worship. True, there are symbols of a dove, a shepherd, and so forth, in the catacombs. But none of these are of a ‘holy’ nature, such as the cross, until the latter years of the fourth century. And when these appeared, there also appeared mythological figures, indicating that apostasy had crept into the ranks of professed Christians.

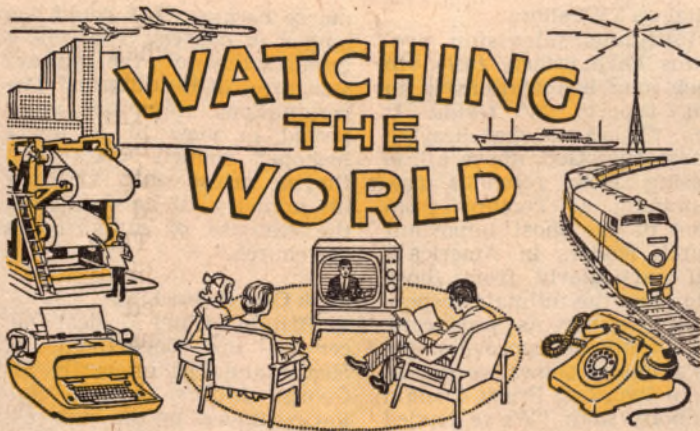
Religious authorities grant that ‘very little if anything was written about the

eneration of images during the early period of Christianity.’ Even when images appeared, for many years no doctrinal justification for them was given. The fact is that because early Christians had no images in their places of worship the pagan, idolatrous Romans accused the early Christians of being atheists. They could not conceive of a god without images. Images were gradually introduced into the worship of professed Christians by those who mixed Christian teachings with pagan philosophy.

Today, as a result of the Roman Catholic Vatican II Council, some priests have ordered the removal of all images from their church buildings. Thus in Dominica a priest ordered this to be done, and the workmen simply lassoed the images and brought them crashing to the floor in a cloud of dust. But, by and large, images remain in the churches. Even where such images are removed from one’s church the question each one who professes to be a Christian and desires to be pleasing to God must ask himself is, Do I have any objects in my home to which I give veneration?

When it comes to the worship of images, it is indeed of interest to note that *The New Catholic Encyclopedia* states that “images can include not only pictures, icons, statues and symbols, . . . but also . . . symbolic acts of worship such as the Sign of the Cross.” Do you attach a worshipful religious sentiment to any of such things? In view of all the foregoing, would not doing so be engaging in religious acts that are displeasing to God? Since all such things really have their origin in paganism, regarding them the words of the apostle Paul apply: “Quit touching the unclean thing.”—2 Cor. 6:17.

Clearly the underlying principle of the Second Commandment must be obeyed by all who would be pleasing to Jehovah God.



1970 Assemblies Begin

◆ On June 25-28 Jehovah's witnesses commenced their 1970 series of four-day "Men of Goodwill" District Assemblies in Eugene, Oregon. On the final day 16,370 heard the public talk "Saving the Human Race—in the Kingdom Way." This was the first of thirty-six such assemblies being held in the United States this summer, with many others going on in other parts of the world.

Largest Railroad Bankrupt

◆ America's largest railroad, the Penn Central, declared bankruptcy in late June. One of the nation's wealthiest companies, its assets totaled about \$7,000,000,000. But burdened by debt, spiraling costs, a drop in freight shipments and a huge deficit from passenger service, the company could no longer provide enough cash for operations. Previously a government official had said: "If the Penn Central goes, the public will think 1929 is here. We can't let it happen." But it did happen, and financial circles worried, for many other large U.S. corporations were in much the same condition.

Poll Takers Wrong

◆ Not since Harry Truman defeated Thomas Dewey for the United States presidency have poll takers been so wrong in an election. They had predicted

certain victory for Labor Party candidate Harold Wilson over Conservative Party candidate Edward Heath for prime minister in Britain's elections. While the pollsters tried to explain away Heath's victory, the *New York Times* observed: "The truth is that they flied."

Open-Heart Surgery

◆ After Dr. Charles W. Pearce, a cardiologist, successfully performed open-heart surgery on one of Jehovah's witnesses in New Orleans without using blood, observers were amazed at the patient's speedy recovery. The *Sentry News* of Slidell, Louisiana, stated: "The surgeon said he believes the method used has proven a boon not only to Jehovah's witnesses but to most patients undergoing open heart surgery. 'We recently used this technique in 100 consecutive open heart operations for congenital heart defects,' he explained, 'and there was only one mortality.'" The surgeon said that not using blood virtually eliminated the possibility of infectious hepatitis and the risk of allergic reaction. He noted that when blood is used, the functions of the heart, lungs and kidneys sometimes become impaired during the early period following surgery. "But with the [bloodless] technique," he

stated, "the function of these organs is nearly always satisfactory."

Return from Space

◆ Two Russian astronauts who set a new space record in Soyuz 9 by staying in orbit around the earth for nearly 18 days had difficulty getting used to being back on earth. Prolonged weightlessness has been found to force an unusual amount of blood into the large veins of the abdomen and chest, causing several undesirable chain reactions. An expert stated that "the increased pressure was long-lived and that the normal state does not return quickly."

Graham Praises Patriotism

◆ Baptist preacher Billy Graham praised patriotic symbols such as the flag and cosponsored "Honor America Day," which was endorsed by many political leaders. But if Mr. Graham preached in another country, what would he have told them? Would he encourage believers in each nation to give their paramount loyalty to nationalism at the expense of their fellow believers in other lands? This kind of preaching is directly responsible for members of the same religion killing one another during wartime, contrary to what Jesus Christ taught. Mr. Graham stated: "I wish that I knew the Bible a great deal more."

World Leaders Psychotic?

◆ Behavioral science sociologist Ernest Becker of Burnaby told a session of the British Columbia Family Physicians Association that most of the world's political leaders are "flagrantly psychotic" and that only "divine intervention" can help mankind.

Sex Relations in Public?

◆ *Atlas* magazine of July reported: "Sweden, which already enjoys some of the most liberal 'sex laws' in the world,

is now about to legalize public sexual relations—unless the bill's opponents gain support. From Tel Aviv's *Yediot Aharonot*: The new law—proposed by the government itself—would allow couples to engage in sexual relations on the beach, in public parks and even in the streets 'unless it offends the sensibilities of the on-lookers.'"

Apollo 13 Verdict

◆ After intensive investigation a board of scientists said that the explosion that ripped apart a segment of the Apollo 13 spacecraft was due to errors by industry contractors and gross negligence on the part of ground crews. Their report stated that the makers of the spacecraft's oxygen tank placed the wrong safety switches in it, that the assemblers of the spaceship damaged the tank, and that ground crews of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration failed to notice that something was wrong with the equipment.

'Corrupt Class System'

◆ Columnist Stewart Alsop, writing in *Newsweek*, stated: "The United States, according to the radical young, operates under a corrupt system. They are entirely correct. The system is indeed corrupt, in two absolutely fundamental ways." One way he noted was in regard to military conscription, which, Alsop said, favored the wealthy classes above the poor. A second way is that "a rich man who uses money to make money, can avoid paying anything like his fair share of taxes."

Female Suicides Rise

◆ Between 1961 and 1968 the number of women committing suicide in Ontario, Canada, doubled. Dr. W. T. Anderson said that birth-control pills may be responsible for the increase, since one of two hormones in the pill, progesterone, causes depression.

Religious TV Failure

◆ Religious television programs have utterly failed to teach man his relationship to God, reports *TV Guide*. It says: "This somewhat dizzying charge that God, above all, is missing from religious programming is coming from some of the most important church leaders in America—and particularly from those who have the ultimate responsibility, either as producers, consultants or approvers, for the religious shows we see on the networks." Priest Donald Connolly said: "We've tended to get very involved in the secular aspects of the world. . . . the relationship of man and God, is just not there."

Religion "in Deepening Trouble"

◆ Interviews at 55 American universities and colleges showed that the majority of students do not consider organized religion relevant to their lives. The Glens Falls, N.Y., *Times* commented editorially: "Unless the rising generation can be persuaded that in utterance and action the churches have a generative role to play, organized religion will find itself in deepening trouble." But the younger generation is not being persuaded. And the "deepening trouble" for the churches is already here.

A.M.A. Approves Abortions

◆ For the first time in its 123-year history, the American Medical Association voted to perform abortions for social and economic reasons. There are about 1,000,000 abortions annually in the United States alone. Is it consistent for members of the A.M.A. to condone the mass slaughter of unborn babies, and yet for its members to take court action to force an unwanted blood transfusion on a baby in the name of saving its life?

French Priests Resign

◆ A group of forty-four French priests resigned en

masse because they could "no longer in conscience accept a great many of the present structures of the Church." The resignations were not unexpected in view of a recent bishops' council declaration that no priest could carry out his ministry "if he challenges the exercise of authority in the church."

High Cost of Smoking

◆ Britain's Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, Sir George Godber, gave the following figures on the high cost of smoking in Britain this year: 150,000 working years of manpower lost, 75,000 deaths, and 45,000 men incapacitated through bronchitis caused mainly by cigarette smoking. Godber stated: "We haven't yet reaped the full harvest of the cigarette smoking which increased so much in the latter half of this century."

Bible Eliminated

◆ The Calgary *Herald* reports: "The Bible is something John Gillham, a lay preacher, can do without in church services. . . . He prefers strutting around in front of his congregation, hurling questions at them, replying to questions or reading from Playboy magazine or even Karl Marx, 'if I felt it was pertinent.'" Gillham, a United Church lay preacher, states that "Gospel goodies" are on their way out in the churches. However, increasing numbers of persons feel that since many preachers today leave God's Word out, and even God out, there is no need for these preachers either. Hence, a growing flood of persons are abandoning the churches.

Tax Bite

◆ Tax experts of the National Chamber of Commerce have calculated that all the money earned by the average American taxpayer during the first four months and eight days of

1970 went to pay taxes—federal, state and local. Thus, over one third of the average worker's income is taken from him in taxes.

Mail Theft

◆ Millions of dollars in valuables are being stolen from the mails by employees of the post-office department. Increasingly, credit cards, cash, gifts, checks for charities, even federal money shipments, as well as merchandise, have been vanishing from the mails. Arrests of postal workers for theft have jumped by 50 percent in less than two years.

Bless Homosexuals, Vicar Asks

◆ Anglican clergyman Morris Russell told a Homosexual Law Reform Society meeting

in Auckland, New Zealand, that churches should bless homosexual relationships. Yet, God's law clearly states that neither "men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men . . . will inherit God's kingdom."—1 Cor. 6:9, 10.

Catholics Protest Mass Reform

◆ More than 1,000 Roman Catholics from various European countries came to Rome in late June to protest what they called the "Montini mass." Conservative members of the church, they opposed reforms permitting the mass to be said in the vernacular instead of in Latin. The group prayed publicly in protest, entered St. Peter's chanting the "Credo," and at midnight said the Ro-

sary in Latin in St. Peter's Square. The pope ignored them.

Nude Campaign

◆ In municipal elections held throughout the Netherlands, candidates of one political party campaigned in the nude. They won five seats out of forty-five on the Amsterdam City Council, and two out of forty-five in The Hague.

Lutheran Decline

◆ The Lutheran Church in America experienced a decline in membership last year. Church secretary George F. Harkins said that at the beginning of 1970 there were 3,259,558 members, a decrease of 21,212 from the year before.

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