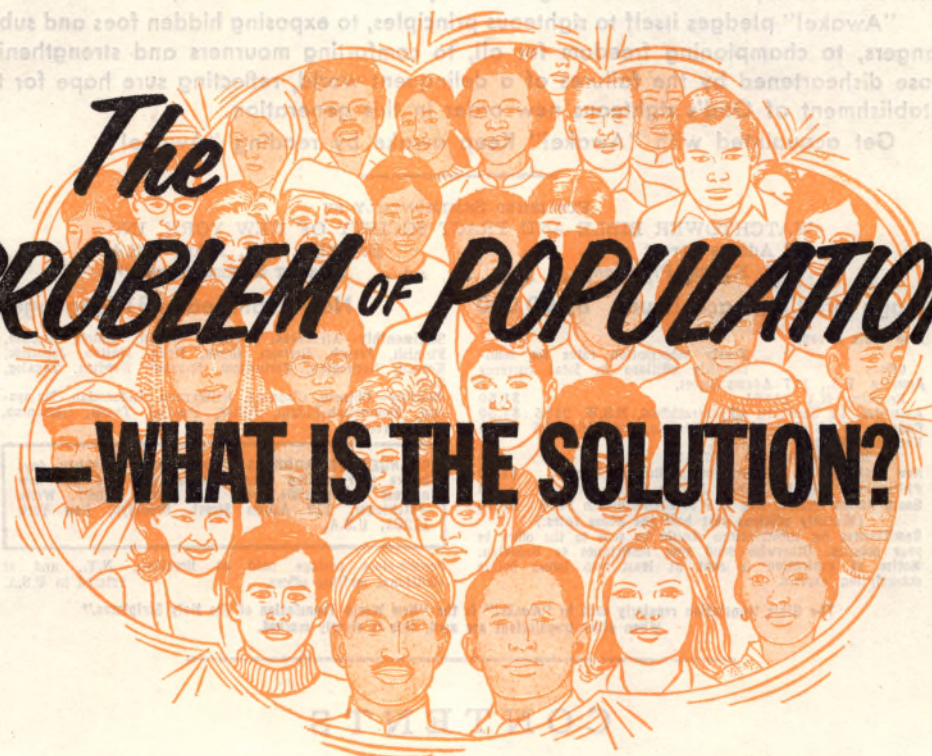


Awake!

The **PROBLEM ^{OF} POPULATION** **—WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?**



JUNE 22, 1974

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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Awake!

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

Volume LV

June 22, 1974

Number 12

IS THERE REALLY



"WE'RE at a point in history that's never even been dreamed of before," says noted authority William F. Draper concerning the oft-predicted population crisis. "It's just going to engulf the world."—*Science*, March 1, 1974.

What is behind such dire predictions of a world population calamity, which are now echoed by growing numbers of experts? Are they merely the clamorings of alarmists? Their gloomy forecasts have been widely questioned on the ground that they have ignored offsetting forces. Furthermore, it is argued, man's ingenuity has always prevailed before, has it not?

But population authorities claim that this problem is different from anything mankind has faced before. It is deceptive, they say, because of the way population grows. Rather than a steady, even expansion, it feeds on itself, mushrooming dramatically until, suddenly, the limits of the environment are said to be reached.

How Population

Grows

What happens can be illustrated by the anecdote about a man who agreed to work for one cent the first week if his employer would double his income every week thereafter: 2c, 4c, 8c, and so on. At the end of three months he would have only about \$80. But, due to the "doubling" effect, from this deceptively slow start the man would have made over \$45,000,000,000,000 by the end of a year, if the world's money supply



were not exhausted!

Population grows in a similar fashion, though many other factors enter as well. It took thousands of years for earth to gain its first billion humans, in about the middle of the last century. Yet it took less than a hundred years to double that population! Just thirty more years brought another billion into the world,

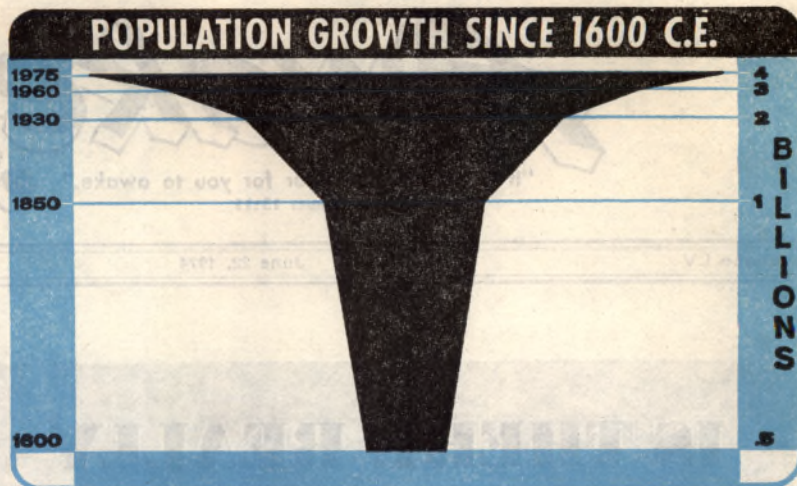
and fifteen years will have produced the fourth billion, in 1975! The fifth billion? Experts estimate little more than a decade—barring a “miracle”—or a disaster.

Currently, the “doubling time” of earth’s population is under thirty-five years, but that time has been shrinking! The 1974 edition of *The Encyclopædia Britannica* points out that certain parts of the world are now experiencing a young population “endowed with both a high birthrate and a low deathrate. Such a condition if it lasted very long would result in earth’s population being multiplied 32,000 times in only 500 years.”—Vol. 14, p. 816.

Imagine! Over 200 persons have been added to the world since you started reading this article, about 150 a minute. A city of some 200,000 since this time yesterday, a metropolis of over six million every month, or a nation the size of West Germany every year could be populated! Just think what it takes to feed, shelter, clothe, educate and provide jobs for 78 million people in one year!

Can the World Absorb Them?

The world’s ability to meet these demands grows, but not as rapidly as the



population. Shortages now jolting the world are said to prove that mankind is falling behind in the race. Snowballing demands on agriculture, education, housing and other needs have brought the world from abundance to scarcity in just a few short years. Unprecedented inflation even in the wealthy “developed nations” testifies to these shortages.

Further aggravating the situation is the fact that population is now growing more than twice as rapidly in the poor “less developed nations” as it does in the rich industrial ones. Since there are already nearly three times as many people in the poor countries, they must absorb most of the overall population increase. And the half of the world’s population under twenty years of age are living primarily in those countries. Think what a baby boom could lie ahead for them!

More and more persons must share virtually the same limited resources. Growing inequalities result. This process is called “polarization,” a widening gap between opposites. In simpler terms, “the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.” Consider:

- Last year’s *total* value of all goods

and services, or gross national product, in the 128 poorer countries was *far less* than the *increase* alone in 21 wealthy nations.

- World grain production would have to grow *eightfold* if the rest of the world were to eat as well as North Americans.

- There are now *100 million more* illiterate persons in the world than there were in 1950.

- Less than a third of earth's people consume over nine tenths of the world's energy, while more than two thirds must get along on the remaining 8 percent.

How successful are efforts to narrow the gap? A report to the 1974 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science noted that usually, when underdeveloped countries try to increase the educational level of their citizens and redistribute the wealth through land reform, productivity drops and they fall farther behind the developed nations.

As a result, says president of the World Bank Robert S. McNamara, this planet is like a ship with a quarter of its people in "luxury first-class conditions" and the other three quarters in "steerage," the lowest-class accommodations. He said that it cannot be a "happy ship" with such inequities. Instead, it has become a breeding ground for hunger, misery, economic chaos and political ferment. Will world leaders find a solution? Some authorities believe it is already too late.

Gloomy Predictions

Growing numbers of experts believe that the crisis is rapidly coming to a head. Some even adopt a fatalistic attitude, foreseeing only a "death-rate" solution to the birthrate problem. One forecast, based on the assessment of "most experts on energy, agriculture, population and the global econ-

omy," is that "a billion people, or fully a quarter of the earth's population, face bankruptcy, social breakdown and mass famine within the next twelve months." —The Denver Post, March 3, 1974.

Whether such predictions prove true or not, growing unrest over food shortages and high prices in India and the still-raging famine in Africa provide a melancholy background for their assessment. An official in Bangladesh, whose seventy-five million population is three times as dense as India's, says that "unless we can control population here quickly, we can't control anything. It is interwoven with our very existence, our survival as a nation."

Social conduct is reported to be badly deteriorating in south Asia and parts of Latin America. News reports tell of "unexpected hoarding among farmers," as well as widespread black marketing. "There is unprecedented adulteration of foods by merchants" to make them stretch farther, "sometimes with [poisonous] adulterants." Another report says: "Bands of youths, armed with guns left over from the 1971 war, are roaming the towns and countryside in Bangladesh, committing antisocial activities unprecedented for the sensitive Bengali people." Similarly, "bands of roving children, called 'abandonados,' now roam the streets of some Latin American cities like . . . packs of abandoned dogs."

Some authorities believe that the population problem will probably make a "test case" of south Asia. One says: "The quality of life in this region has already begun to decline, with the fabric of society unraveling. And *no man has been wise enough to think of a solution.*"

This is certainly not because of lack of effort. Solutions have been and are being tried. What is happening to them?

THE WORLD TRIES TO MANAGE HER POPULATION

WELL-MEANING men and organizations have long been engaged in programs to relieve the problems attributed to population growth. Many "solutions" have been tried—some agricultural, some economic and some political.

However, as with most "cures" that attack *symptoms* rather than the *cause* of a disease, the results have been disappointing. Most programs have either had little success, failed outright or aggravated things still further. A look at some of these "solutions" shows why.

Free Food

A growing population can survive without many things, but not without food. For years the productive North American Great Plains have been a "granary of last resort" for starving nations. When populations living at bare subsistence levels had local crop failures, they could always count on the grain-rich countries to pack off millions of tons of surplus to tide them over.

Now the surplus is nearly gone. World food reserves are reported to be at their lowest in many years. Whether there will be enough food to eat during the year to come depends on the weather during the current growing season. "The world has become dangerously dependent on current production and hence on weather conditions," says director general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization A. H. Boerma.

Should bad weather strike, do you really think people will dip into their own re-

duced food supplies to aid starving peoples? Or, due to modern food production's dependence on energy, will they sacrifice their energy supplies to aid these people? As the *New York Times* recently editorialized: "Affluent Americans could soon be faced with the choice of consuming energy on highways and in air-conditioned rooms, or permitting the production of food to feed whole populations in Africa and Asia."—March 25, 1974.

Agricultural Self-Sufficiency

Programs to help the poor nations feed themselves have been launched with much fanfare. Dr. Norman Borlaug's 1970 Nobel Peace Prize citation credited him with a "technological breakthrough that makes it possible to abolish hunger in the developing countries in the course of a few years." Yet, even so, Dr. Borlaug said his Green Revolution was "*not the solution*." It could only delay the food crisis while the nations continue working on population control. "If the world population continues to increase at the same rate, we will destroy the species," he said.

Now the results are coming in. Among other things, this technology requires large amounts of increasingly costly energy, fertilizer and pesticides. As a result, rich farmers benefit far more than poor ones, who often cannot afford to use it at all. Wealthy households then buy up poor farmers' lands, thus only adding to unemployment problems.

For these very reasons, a report on one nation's intensive efforts to use Green Rev-

olution technology says: "They are failing. Their optimistic plans and programs have created only increased human suffering and promise more of the same."—*Natural History*, January 1974.

Economic Development

Other efforts attempt to slow the rate of population growth, rather than trying to feed any number that are born. Wealthy industrial nations generally have low growth rates, some even approaching the widely hailed goal of

"zero population growth." Their peoples seem naturally motivated to have fewer, better cared for children. On the other hand, in the less developed countries with largely rural populations, children themselves are considered a form of wealth. Parents desire them to help with farm work and as "social security" to care for them in old age.

As a result, families in these countries average nearly twice as many children as those in industrial nations. Also, "people have six or more children because they know that two or three will die," says a Bangladesh official. And studies show that families who lose children often *overcompensate* by producing more living children than those whose children all survive.

Thus many conclude that the answer to overpopulation lies in economic development and industrialization, together with adequate measures to keep children alive so parents will not overcompensate. However, says *The Encyclopædia Britannica*, "overrapid growth of the population brings

in its train an excessive need for [economic] investments . . . just to keep pace with the extra mouths to feed and bodies to clothe and shelter." Thus, little or nothing is left to improve living standards.—Vol. 14, p. 823.

Recognizing this, most experts now agree that there are just not enough time, energy and other resources to develop the poor nations to the point that birthrates begin to drop naturally. Even if they could be developed, at least a generation passes before results begin to be felt.

So the experts say that population growth must be reduced *first*, before economic development can be successful. That brings up—

Birth Control

Many believe that some form of birth control must be part of any successful population program. Accordingly, some nations are pouring funds into family-planning programs and reducing aid in other fields. What is the outlook for this "solution"? Disappointment.

"Radical" birth-control measures such as abortion and sterilization have morally destructive side effects. Japan legalized abortion in 1948. Professor T. S. Ueno of Tokyo's Nihon University says, "We can now say the law is a bad one." Free sex and lack of respect for the life of the unborn are among the moral problems he cited. "Abortion has become a substitute for contraception," as indicated by the 1.5 million performed in 1972. He believes

- **China's Door Begins to Open.**
- **Nursing Your Baby—Burden or Pleasure?**
- **Evolution and Creation—The Debate Continues.**

—In the next issue.

that where life is held in such low regard, the next step could be euthanasia, putting those over a certain age to death!

India, with perhaps the world's oldest family-planning program, recently slashed her target figure for reduction in the 1980 birthrate by 40 percent! Many of the people and even their leaders are resisting government and international programs.

Selfish interests keep many from cooperating with family planning. They may want to keep their race, religion or language group numerically superior to gain or maintain political power, though they would be glad to see reduction in *other's* populations. One major Latin-American nation recently restricted birth control there, hoping to double her population within the century. The desire for growing national power and fear of overpopulated neighbors were cited as reasons.

The Catholic Church has long used religious dogma to block any "artificial" form of birth control, so keeping her impoverished masses swelling in numbers. *The Encyclopædia Britannica* summarizes the overall outlook:

"It would be futile to deny that artificial population control is inhibited by powerful moral constraints and taboos. . . . even the most optimistic program of population control can only hope to achieve a slight reduction in the rate of increase by the end of the 20th century."—Vol. 18, p. 54.

Does a "slight reduction" in twenty-five years sound like the "solution" to you?

"United" Action?

Failure of all the foregoing "solutions" is bringing home to world leaders that population growth is a world problem. Civilization has become tightly interdependent, and nations can no longer act without regard for international repercussions. Growing numbers of leaders are urging a cooperative world approach to solving

problems associated with population. Accordingly, the United Nations has declared 1974 to be "World Population Year" and plans a world conference on population control in August.

A "world population plan of action" is expected to arise from this meeting. Will it be binding? One observer notes that the plan "could more appropriately be called a suggestion," which will outline steps that countries "might wish" to take in their own circumstances. "This all seems pretty weak medicine," notes this writer, in view of the rapidly escalating situation. —*Science*, March 1, 1974, p. 833.

The alternative to vigorous worldwide action is seen by many to be a series of jolting hardships that may pave the way for dictatorial control of population and resources, as well as the loss of human freedoms. They foresee forced abortion, sterilization and even such things as genetic engineering and elimination of the weak. Would you want such a "solution" imposed on you? Is there a better one?



Efforts to manage the world's population problems end in failure when "cures" attack symptoms rather than the cause

The Real Solution

FOR

EARTH'S POPULATION

DID you notice that the "solutions" offered by "experts" attack only *symptoms* of the problem while overlooking the *real disease* altogether? Is the underlying problem really overpopulation?

Or, is it not, rather, this world's *selfishly divided* economic, political and religious *system of things*? That is what some are beginning to recognize. They see the need for other arrangements than the present ones for administering earth's affairs. The book *Environmental Ethics* notes that the first step toward ensuring man's survival on earth must be 'some form of world government so that mankind can manage itself as a whole.'

But will men ever give up their selfish national rivalries for the common good? There is little reason to think so. For example, the United Nations recently approved a proposal for the major powers to cut their military budgets by 10 percent and then to use that amount for aid to the poor countries. But what did the major powers do? They simply ignored the proposal. Then, too, within the nations themselves selfishness rules. Inequalities exist. In the United States, for instance, one fifth of the population has 76 percent of the wealth, while the bottom fifth has just one percent! If nations cannot balance out such inequalities inside their own borders, what reason is there to believe they can do so on a world scale?

The real solution lies in a new kind of world government. But such a government

cannot be administered by imperfect, selfish men. There is a crying need for a worldwide government under an unselfish, impartial ruler. Did you know that the Bible reveals that God has purposed such a world government for mankind? We read: "I kept on beholding in the visions of the night, and, see there! with the clouds of the heavens someone like a son of man happened to be coming; and to the Ancient of Days he gained access, and they brought him up close even before that One. And to him there were given rulership and dignity and kingdom, that the peoples, national groups and languages should all serve even him. His rulership is an indefinitely lasting rulership that will not pass away, and his kingdom one that will not be brought to ruin."—Dan. 7:13, 14.

Before you dismiss such an idea as unrealistic or religious nonsense, think what a world government and ruler whose purpose is unity in heaven and earth means. Since Christ is perfect, bringing all things into harmony with him would mean earth-wide unity. That would signify an end to all the divisive forces that have made it impossible for millions of humans to have needed food, clothing and shelter.

There can be no question that our planet was designed to provide its human population with a happy, comfortable home. The intricate beauties and abundant variety in creation are obviously designed for the benefit of intelligent creatures who can appreciate them. Man himself gives

evidence of being designed to enjoy earth's natural state and live in harmony with its natural cycles. Who of the most hardened city dwellers does not feel the tug of the country and woodlands at times, be they only in the local park?

The Bible shows that the bad conditions now laid to overpopulation are a sign that very soon this selfish system of things will be replaced by a government of the world under its one Head, Jesus Christ. (Ps. 72: 7, 8; Matt. 24:3, 7, 8, 14; Luke 21:11, 25-28; Rev. 6:1-8) The time is ripe for restoring the proper state of things under that government. Under that rule the Creator's expression on how men are properly to fit into earth's natural environment will finally be accomplished, as stated to mankind's first human parents: "Be fruitful and become many and *fill* the earth and subdue it." (Gen. 1:28) Has mankind 'filled' and 'subdued' the earth in the way purposed by that commission?

'Filling the Earth'

Instead of subduing the earth purposefully, men have made unwise use of its resources. They have done a work of tearing down. Centralized big industry and its production methods have interfered with earth's natural cycles and continue to do so. Besides industrial pollution, poor agricultural conservation has been and is now "ruining the earth," endangering its capacity to support growing populations.—Rev. 11:18.

Instead of filling the earth, millions have piled themselves up in giant, dirty cities. Also, the unequal distribution of mankind among the nations points up its failure to "fill the earth." For example, Canada has about six people, on the average, for every square mile of her vast territory, while Bangladesh has 1,300, over 200 times as many! Yet the Creator's purpose for 'filling the earth' logically called for some mea-

sure of uniformity. His view on such matters is indicated by his command to those who took possession of the land of Judah in the fifteenth century B.C.E.: "And you must apportion the land to yourselves . . . To the populous one you should increase his inheritance, and to the sparse one you should reduce his inheritance."—Num. 33:54; 26:53-56.

Obviously, some land areas, such as mountainous ones and those with extremes of weather, are not as capable of sustaining so large a population as others. However, it remains true that the divisive national barriers set up by men must answer most for men's failure to "fill the earth" in fairness to the whole population. That is why the government that the "God of heaven will set up . . . will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these" selfishly divided governments of the world. In 'giving rulership and dignity and kingdom' to his Son Jesus Christ, God purposed "that the peoples, national groups and languages should all serve even him" unitedly. When that purpose is realized, gone will be all divisive national barriers! God's kingdom by Christ "will not be brought to ruin" by greedy, rapacious polluters of the earth.—Dan. 2:44; 7:13, 14.

Never again will the earth be blamed for failure to support its population. When men conduct their affairs in harmony with natural cycles and laws, the earth will be able to care for far more population than it does today. Now, little more than a tenth of the earth's land area is cultivated for food. Another fifth is in meadows and pastures. "The remainder," over two thirds of earth's land surface, "is either in forests or is not being used for productive purposes," says *The Encyclopædia Britannica*.

Think of the potential for making much of this land productive! And mankind will

work to this end under the guidance of Jesus Christ, the one whom God used as a "master worker" back at earth's creation. As "master worker," he was especially "glad at the productive land of [God's] earth" and "was fond" of mankind. (Prov. 8:22-31; compare Colossians 1:16, 17.) We can be sure that mankind will feel this fondness in full measure when he lovingly regulates the 'filling' of our earth to its reasonable capacity.

Even now Christians who choose to have children are Scripturally bound to have families no larger than they can properly "provide for." (1 Tim. 5:8, Catholic *New American Bible*) So at that time earth's population will be allowed to grow only to the measure of both community and/or rural living that will not bring ruin to the environment or starvation to the offspring.

Then humans will see the land's full ability to produce for its population. Reflect on what has been done in certain desolate areas by using modern methods of irrigation and cultivation. Then think of what the earth could produce when, with its Creator's blessing, it flourishes, as illustrated by Isaiah's words: "The wilderness

and the waterless region will exult, and the desert plain will be joyful and blossom as the saffron. . . . For in the wilderness waters will have burst out, and torrents in the desert plain."—Isa. 35:1-6.

Then, as during the peaceful reign of King Solomon, "there will come to be plenty of grain on the earth; on the top of the mountains there will be an overflow." (Ps. 72:16; compare Isaiah 65:17, 20-24; 25:6.) This is the one real solution.

There are about two million Christians in all nations on earth today who are learning now to live in harmony with this soon-to-be-realized solution. A Columbia University professor of biological sciences, David W. Ehrenfeld, noted this in his recent book *Conserving Life on Earth*: "Among contemporary Judeo-Christian religious groups, few besides the Jehovah's Witnesses would appear to have formulated a [belief that living nature is an irreducible whole] and balanced philosophy of man in relation to his environment (see *Awake!*, April 22, 1971)." They did not originate it. It is found in the Bible. They will be pleased to assist you to learn it as well.—Isa. 2:2-4.

A PURE WORD

◆ Some readers of the Holy Scriptures have taken offense at what the Bible presents in regard to sexual matters. The Scriptures contain accounts involving the upright and noble place of sex in marriage. Also, there are some accounts dealing with misconduct, which accounts have long aided Bible readers to know what is improper in the sight of the Creator. Does the frankness of such information make the Bible immoral or obscene?

Writing on the modern "sexual revolution," Professor David R. Mace points out: "The Biblical writers were not tongue-tied, as many Christians are today, in their treatment of this subject. They tell many stories about sexual behavior that would be considered quite unsuitable for public reading or public

discussion, even in our enlightened age. Yet there is nothing about these stories that is offensive. They are straightforward, down-to-earth accounts. . . . Sex is treated as it should be, as part of human life. There is no embarrassed concealment. On the other hand, there is no leering suggestiveness either. The approach to sex is honest and healthy-minded. 'Nowhere in the Bible,' says Otto Piper, the Lutheran theologian, 'is sex in danger of sinking to the level of the obscene.'"

Yes, the Scriptures are in some places quite frank, but never are they obscene or suggestive. As the psalmist wrote: "The law of Jehovah is perfect, bringing back the soul. . . . The commandment of Jehovah is clean, making the eyes shine. The fear of Jehovah is pure, standing forever."—Ps. 19:7-9.

THE CRAVING

FOR

Excitement

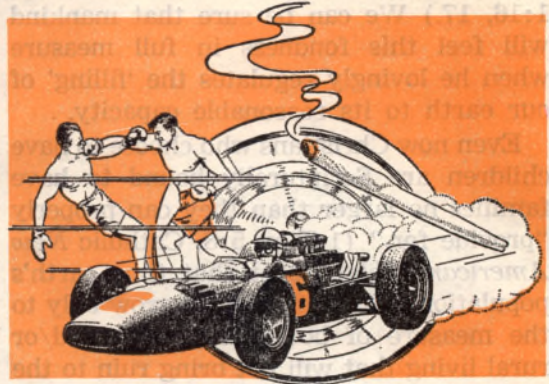
"IT'S exciting!" That is the message that sports reporters try to get across to their audiences. They are well aware of the appeal that exciting things have. And often there is indeed a pleasurable feeling about excitement, when your heart beats faster, when you breathe more quickly and when your nerves are set at tingle. Without a question, certain things that are exciting can make your life more interesting.

There is, for example, the excitement known to inventors; history records the excitement that the inventions of the telegraph and telephone caused. An outstanding piece of art, be it an opera or a symphony, a painting or a piece of sculpture, can create excitement. And so can viewing such wonders of creation as the Grand Canyon, the Victoria Falls, the Swiss Alps.

Excitement has its place, and we should keep it in its place. It can easily get out of hand and cause us to lose proper perspective, with harm to ourselves. It can become an overpowering craving, and that for the wrong thing. There is nothing wrong with a noble craving, but more often than not it is an unhealthy, selfish desire. Thus the Bible forbids selfishly *craving* a neighbor's possessions and it also speaks of the *craving* of the wicked.—Deut. 5:21; Ps. 140:8; Prov. 10:3.

The Excitement of Speed

Among the ways in which many modern youths seek to satisfy their craving for ex-



citement is by driving their cars at reckless speeds. This pastime has become so popular that there is a magazine, *Hot Rod*, that is devoted to the sport. No question about it, there is a thrill in moving fast over the ground, but is it worth risking your life for the sake of enjoying that excitement? Young men pay the highest insurance rates. Why? Not necessarily because of their lack of skill, but because the craving for excitement makes so many of them take foolish chances. All too often this results in accidents and death.

This desire for speed and the excitement associated with danger also accounts for the great crowds that watch auto races. These, too, time and again, are marred by fatal accidents.

Other Sports Events

Auto racing is but one of many kinds of sports events to which people flock to satisfy their craving for excitement. Among others are boxing, wrestling and tennis matches, football, basketball and baseball games, not to say anything about

the allure of bullfighting and of the Olympics. And many times greater is the number of those who watch such events on TV.

Concerning those reporting on such sports events, a West German sociologist, associated with a Swiss college, stated: "They turn their reporting into a manipulation of emotions, the kind of emotions that make fanatics out of players and spectators and turn stadiums into battlefields." And, he warns, "the more the mass media succeed in emotionally arousing players and spectators, the greater the danger of negative, aggressive reactions on the part of both."—*Sports Illustrated*, October 1, 1973.

The Gambling Fever

Gambling is a worldwide activity and goes back thousands of years. While many who gamble give various reasons for it, such as wanting to gain money, actually most gamblers seek what is referred to as "the strange tension" experienced in the game. Yes, "the craving for this strange thrill frequently overshadows the desire to win," it is reported. In fact, according to the book *Gambling* (edited by R. D. Herman of Pomona, California College), the "more intelligent gamblers stress the irrational motive in gambling: the thrill component"; "thrill" being just another term for excitement.

Because of their craving for this thrill, gamblers will borrow money after they are broke so as to gamble still more. And it is also why they can hardly ever be content with having won a sum, but at once they turn around and lose it. What apparently drives them on is their craving for the gambling thrill.

And what bitter fruits are reaped! To pay for their gambling losses, men embezzle funds from banks or other firms that employ them. Public officials become

obligated to underworld characters because of their gambling debts, which debts, at times, cost the lives of the gamblers as victims of murder or suicide. Even an apparently harmless game such as bingo represents an enormous loss in time and money by reason of the fact that so many housewives are addicted to it. Like those to whom the Bible refers, they neglect God Almighty to set a table for their god called "Good Luck."—Isa. 65:11.

Resorting to Drugs

Others, including many youths, turn to drugs for excitement. Starting with marijuana, which gives them a pleasurable feeling, they go on to more powerful drugs in their craving for greater excitement. Many rock 'n' roll artists resort to drugs to create excitement and to encourage the use of drugs in others—all of which results in harm to body, mind and morals.

And what a terrible price the drug addict pays for his craving for excitement! He becomes a slave to narcotics and often turns to muggings and robbery or, if a female, to shoplifting and prostitution. Such leading rock 'n' roll artists as Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Brian Jones of the Rolling Stones paid with their lives for their drug addiction. The Bible speaks of some as being 'slaves to sin,' and when a person becomes "hooked" on hard drugs he certainly is such a pitiful slave.—Rom. 6:16.

The Excitement of Breaking God's Laws

In ancient Rome the gory battles of the gladiators satisfied the craving of the populace for excitement. And today ever so many people want to see and hear things that are likewise shocking, horrible, blood-curdling. Movies and TV programs glorify violence and make heroes out of murderers and rapists, all to feed the craving of their audiences for excitement.

People also find excitement in doing that which violates their ethics or moral principles. Thus there are women who make a habit of shoplifting, not because of wanting or needing the articles they steal, but for the "kick," the excitement, that goes with stealing and getting away with it. Yes, excitement goes with pursuing activities that are forbidden. The very fact that they are forbidden causes them to seem desirable to many.

Typical is the appeal that illicit sex has. It promises excitement because of what is involved and because of what it might lead to as well as because of the intense selfish pleasure expected. So single and married persons toy with immorality and go on to commit fornication or adultery. This craving for excitement causes others to engage in unnatural or perverted acts. Thus some Christian women complain because their husbands want them to become parties in sodomy and oral sex. Needless to say, perverted, unnatural practices are far from expressing love, affection and tenderness for each other. All such sensual behavior is repeatedly condemned in God's Word.—Rom. 1:24-32; Jas. 4:1, 3.

Rock Music

Nor to be overlooked is the role that rock music plays in youths' craving for excitement. As reported in the *New York Sunday News*, May 13, 1973, rock is an "unholy trinity of . . . violence, sex and noise." Another writer puts it this way: "Three things distinguish rock—the relentless beat, the freedom of conception and the overpowering volume. . . . Together with the pulsing, driving beat, it creates passionate excitement, an almost sexual tension—one wants to move, to dance." According to one rock fan, "the loudness makes you feel wild, it blows your mind."

Regarding this feeding of the audience's craving for excitement, one leading rock

star said: "Time will come when somebody will have to be killed onstage to 'get' [satisfy] the audience. Kids are interested in the same things that have always excited them—sex and violence. That's what they want, that's what they'll pay to see." With such a musical diet, is it any wonder that crime is increasing even faster among youths than among adults?

Counteracting the Craving for Excitement

Truly the craving for excitement that goes to extremes on the one hand and, on the other hand, expresses itself in loose or lawless conduct is to be avoided. How can you counteract it? One way is by soberly reasoning on the subject. Good judgment recommends moderation, even as does the Bible.—1 Tim. 3:2, 11.

The upbuilding things of life can also provide excitement, but in a wholesome way. This has been the experience of the Christian witnesses of Jehovah. Thus, one of them recently wrote the Watch Tower Society: "I also want to thank you brothers for your labor in producing the most exciting publication I've ever read . . . Naturally I'm speaking of *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached*."

These Witnesses also find attending assemblies, and especially the larger ones, exciting. They likewise find it exciting when in their house-to-house preaching work they find people groping for God and hungering and thirsting for righteousness. And they also find excitement in learning new truths regarding God's purposes.

Yes, things of the spirit, not only those appealing to the natural man, can bring the pleasure of excitement. And these things of the spirit promise not only temporary, but eternal blessings that are without regrets.—Prov. 10:22.

WE STARTED out from a mile-high Guatemala City. In a few hours we arrived at the shore of Lake Izabal. After loading our gear onto a waiting craft, we set out on an unusual and rewarding journey. Let me tell you about it.

Lake Izabal lies at the foot of Guatemala's Sierra de Santa Cruz mountain range. It is a body of water comprising some two hundred square miles, about three times as big as the Sea of Galilee. It empties into the Río Dulce (sweet-water river) and thenceforth into the Caribbean Sea.

Our intention was to make a complete circuit of the lake, talking to everyone we could contact. During our three-week-long trip we spoke with fishermen, merchants, plantation owners and humble land workers.

Why Did We Do This?

My family and I have noticed that many today show little interest in their fellowman. As Jehovah's witnesses, we have tried to avoid that spirit by arranging our affairs to aid other people. We have found ample opportunity to do so in this Central American country of Guatemala, where we have been for the past five years. On a recent vacation to Lake Izabal we noted the friendliness of the natives that live along its shores. For the most part they have heard little of the Bible's comforting promises. We keenly felt their need to know of the "good news" contained in the Scriptures. (Matt. 24:14) But, we thought, what good was knowing of their needs if we did nothing about it? We decided, therefore, to return to Lake Izabal, this time not for a vacation, but to help the people to understand the Word of God.

Showing

UNSELFISH INTEREST IN OTHERS

By "Awake!" correspondent in Guatemala

Careful Preparations Necessary

Our intention was to talk to all the inhabitants living along the shores of the lake as well as to navigate various rivers to reach inland jungle settlements. We would need a watercraft with capacity to accommodate the three of us for two or three weeks. It would have to provide protection from the tropical sun and rains as well as have room to store conveniently our camping gear and many cartons of Bible literature. As the waters are often shallow, we would need a boat that would come right up to the shoreline, so that we might disembark and board easily.

With this in mind we decided to build a "catamaran," or twin-pontoon vessel of lightweight plywood with a deck size of only five by twelve feet. We outfitted it with a small canvas canopy for shade, a small outboard motor, and a long pole and paddle, which we had to resort to frequently. Food and clothing were kept dry inside large metal containers or plastic bags, and each article was assigned a definite place.

Reaching Everyone Possible

We organized our schedule so that two of us would devote the day to visiting homes and villages, while the third member of the group stayed with the boat, keeping alert to come ashore to pick the others up when foot travel between houses or villages proved impossible.

At times as many as thirty persons would gather around our boat at the shoreline to listen to the Bible's message. They showed considerable interest and accepted much literature. Sometimes interested persons ran up to us asking for Bibles, books, or magazines by name, having seen one in the home of a neighbor.

These humble folk were willing to trade foodstuffs and other commodities for Bible literature. We quickly learned the local values of such items as tortillas, eggs, *elote* (sweet corn), bananas, plantains, coconuts, cacao pods and dried or fresh fish.

One day, as our load of foodstuffs piled high, we were happy to see one of our group return with a large woven cane basket that he had gotten in trade for Bible literature. Although we saw little of the type of food that we customarily eat, there were abundant provisions available; it was a pleasant change for us.

When confronted with several days of rainy weather, we had to get used to wearing a long plastic raincoat or piece of plastic covering, as well as working out of a plastic-covered briefcase. In the evening we would dry off around a charcoal fire.

Heartwarming Experiences

Talking to these people in their simple surroundings, we could not help but feel reassured that we had done the right thing in coming here. One couple in a dug-out canoe (*cayuco*) greeted us enthusiastically. Their small craft contained baskets of fresh delicious bread, neatly covered with clean white cloths. They readily accepted Bible literature and expressed eagerness to have us return to study with them. As we munched on some of their delicious *pan dulce* (sweet bread), we assured them that we would come back soon.

One day we paused for a brief lunch, pulling the boat onto the beach near some coconut palms to take advantage of the shade. Here we noticed many persons passing by on the beach as they returned to their *ranchitos* (thatched-roof houses of cane). Could we pass up such a golden opportunity of speaking to them about the Word of God? Not if we were truly interested in their welfare.

In this way a man named Carlos Enrique accepted a Bible publication and expressed his desire to learn how to study it. Later that same afternoon he again located us, sitting down for an hour-long study. We admired his eagerness to learn.

That evening we pitched tent, built a fire, and sat down to prepare supper and to share joyful experiences with one another. Then we heard someone approaching our campsite. How surprised and delighted we were to see Carlos Enrique! He had searched for us, wanting to study another chapter in his newly acquired Bible study aid. By the time that we finished the second chapter, the charcoal had burned low. Then Carlos explained that he had to return to his village, which was a number of miles away along a dark jungle path. Such appreciation! Among others who visited us at an unusual hour was José Morales, who approached our tent at midnight, requesting a Bible and a publication to help him to understand it.

As our circuit of the lake neared completion, we reflected on the number of persons interested in the Bible that we had been able to contact on our three-week trip. We placed hundreds of Bible publications and made many new friends. How thankful we were to our Creator for the opportunity of sharing the truth of His Word with the friendly folks around Lake Izabal!



MAJOR SURGERY WITHOUT BLOOD

NOT long ago, blood transfusion was considered a routine part of major surgery. Nearly all doctors felt that they had to use it.

Today this is no longer the case. A growing number of doctors now recognize that they can operate successfully without administering blood. They have developed new techniques to do so. And these new methods are very much appreciated by the increasing number of patients who do not want blood transfusions.

Too, doctors have discovered that the new methods are superior to the older ones in certain important respects. Thus, as a general rule, they now often recommend these new procedures to their patients.

Why the Trend?

Why this trend toward bloodless surgery? Some reasons are noted in an As-

sociated Press dispatch that states: "Two goals of bloodless surgery are to avoid potential hazards from transfusions, including transmitting the liver disease, hepatitis, and to reduce the need for blood donors."

Blood-transfusion dangers are now widely acknowledged. As reported by *Awake!* in its May 22, 1974, issue, each year thousands of people are killed and tens of thousands of others are injured by blood transfusions. This is due to factors such as blood-carried contaminants and diseases (particularly

hepatitis), technical errors (for instance, mismatched blood) and allergic reactions. Experts frankly admit that no known tests can totally eliminate these hazards. That is why Dr. Stanley Dudrick, chief surgeon in a Philadelphia hospital, says: "We don't throw around a bottle of blood willy-nilly anymore."

However, there is another reason why new techniques have been developed to eliminate transfusion of blood in surgery. As the Palo Alto *Times* of California notes: "The need to develop surgical techniques which did not require blood transfusions was stimulated in part by limitations on usual forms of surgery imposed by the faith of Jehovah's Witnesses, whose religion opposes transfusion of donor blood."

Jehovah's witnesses will not take blood. They reject this form of medical treatment because God's Word, the Holy Bible,

requires Christians to "abstain . . . from blood." (Acts 15:20) Hence, they look for doctors who will provide some alternative treatment when they are in need of surgery.

At first, nearly all doctors who were not Jehovah's witnesses refused to perform the more difficult operations without blood. But gradually some came to appreciate the need to help Jehovah's witnesses as best they could and accepted the challenge of finding ways of operating without using blood. As the new methods proved successful, more doctors began using them.

Many of these doctors are well known in their local communities. In the United States the names of many of them are now included on a list kept at the headquarters of Jehovah's witnesses in Brooklyn. Such a list does not imply an endorsement of the doctor but is kept for the convenience of persons who need an operation but do not know a surgeon who will perform it without blood.

Can the new methods be used in all kinds of operations? Yes. And such operations include the most delicate and complicated types on vital organs.

"Bloodless" Open-Heart Surgery

At one time doctors considered it unthinkable to perform open-heart surgery without having the option of using blood. It is of interest, therefore, to see how bloodless heart surgery developed over the years.

Among the pioneers in the field were teams of Houston, Texas, doctors. They appreciated that simply refusing to operate on Jehovah's witnesses was unreasonable, as, in some cases, this refusal would amount to an automatic death sentence.

Thus, in 1962 these doctors began devising methods to take the cases of Jehovah's witnesses that other doctors had refused. One of the early reports on such

surgery was contained in *The American Journal of Cardiology* of June 1964. In an article entitled "Open Heart Surgery in Jehovah's Witnesses," Drs. Denton A. Cooley, E. Stanley Crawford, James F. Howell and Arthur C. Beall, Jr., explained some of their bloodless techniques.

To enable the surgical team to operate on it, the heart may actually be stopped for a period of time. The pumping action is taken over by a "heart-lung" machine, which maintains the flow of blood and its vital oxygen to all parts of the body. It had been the usual practice to use about three pints of blood to prime its pumps and fill its tubing and blood reservoir before the machine was connected to the patient. What did these doctors use instead? They reported:

"The technic developed in our clinic also permits the use of 5% dextrose [a simple sugar] in distilled water to prime the extracorporeal [outside the body] unit without addition of blood. The solution contains 25 mg. of heparin per 1,000 ml. of solution to prevent fibrin depositions in the oxygenator. Priming volume consists of 20 to 30 ml. dextrose solution per kilogram body weight [about two quarts for a 150 pound person]."

Also, since no blood could be used during the operation, the surgeons had to be more meticulous, giving more than the usual attention to "hemostasis." This is the checking of the flow of blood from severed vessels. From this need there has developed a number of new techniques now widely used.

Where artificial grafts were needed to replace a worn-out artery, special pre-clotted materials were used to prevent blood leakage. And various salt and sugar solutions were fed into the patient's veins during the surgery.

The continued experience with Jehovah's witnesses confirmed the beliefs of these early pioneers in bloodless surgery. Then, after nearly a decade of bloodless

open-heart operations, a report was issued by *The American Journal of Cardiology* of February 1972 on the work of these Houston doctors. It covered in particular the surgery performed at the Texas Heart Institute of St. Luke's-Texas Children's Hospitals in Houston. Written by doctors John R. Zaorski, Grady L. Hallman and Denton A. Cooley, the report said, in part:

"Since 1962 bloodless prime has been routinely utilized in more than 5,000 operations at this institution with excellent results; and several hundred of these operations were performed electively without blood transfusions in patients most of whom were not Jehovah's Witnesses. . . .

"The Jehovah's Witness patients in this series received the same treatment as all other patients except that all Witness patients received injectable iron before and after operation, and no blood was held in reserve for them at the blood bank. The only fluid they received was the priming solution and intravenously administered dextrose in dilute saline or Ringer's lactate solution."

The report showed that in the entire period covered, only one of Jehovah's witnesses died where the cause was "attributed to anemia." This death came three days after the operation.

The general conclusion of this report was as follows: "We believe that our experience demonstrates the feasibility of open heart surgery in Jehovah's Witnesses and, moreover, indicates that blood transfusion can and should be used sparingly to reduce morbidity and mortality in all patients."

Others Begin Using New Methods

As experience was gained and publicized, other surgeons began to use similar bloodless (transfusionless) methods in open-heart cases as a service to Jehovah's witnesses. For instance, in 1970 Dr. Charles W. Pearce performed bloodless open-heart surgery on one of Jehovah's witnesses in Methodist Hospital in New Orleans. Dr.

Pearce, who served several years as an investigator for the American Heart Association, was assisted in the operation by Dr. White Gibson. Regarding this surgery, an interesting account on the front page of *The Sentry News* of Slidell, Louisiana, relates:

"Many resident doctors and visiting doctors could not understand how it could be performed and were allowed in the operating room to witness this unusual operation. So many, in fact, that the hospital ran out of surgical gowns."

The fact that other doctors could not understand how it could be done demonstrates the urgent need for doctors to keep up-to-date with improved surgical techniques. Also, it shows the need of their not rejecting all techniques that depart from what are considered "usual and accepted" methods.

In the case of this patient, observed by so many other doctors, amazement was expressed at the speedy recovery. In fact, a nurse's aid nicknamed him "Speedy." Only ten days after the operation, he was discharged from the hospital. The news report stated of the bloodless surgery experiences of Dr. Pearce:

"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 famed surgeon said that this method without the use of blood virtually eliminates the possibility of infectious hepatitis. He said it also reduces the possibility of an allergic reaction . . . that it reduces the more serious reactions of shock . . .

"When blood is used, the functions of the heart, lungs and kidneys sometimes become impaired during the early period following open heart surgery, Dr. Pearce explained. 'But with the technique used . . . the function of these organs is nearly always satisfactory,' he added."

More Widespread Now

Reports from all over the world show that in the past few years, bloodless surgery in the more difficult operations, such as open-heart cases, has become quite widespread and accepted in highly regarded medical institutions. For instance, a Johannesburg, South Africa, heart specialist performed one on a fourteen-year-old girl, one of Jehovah's witnesses. The *Sunday Times* there reported that she made a "fantastic recovery," spending only one day in the intensive-care ward.

In Spokane, Washington, a team of surgeons now performs open-heart operations on Jehovah's witnesses without using blood. The *Seattle Times* describes their method: "The physicians adopted a no-blood priming technique using a dextrose (sugar) and water solution alone or the sugar-and-water solution with Ringer's lactate (a common therapeutic solution of sodium chloride, potassium chloride and calcium chloride)." They noted that there had been no negative results.

In San Francisco a fifty-four-year-old patient was badly in need of a heart operation. He was one of Jehovah's witnesses. It was Dr. Elias Hanna and his team's first experience with such bloodless surgery in an open-heart case. After the less than an hour-and-a-quarter-long operation, Dr. Hanna said of the patient: "He's doing phenomenally well for all the work we did on him."

In a letter that Dr. Jerome H. Kay of Los Angeles wrote to *Awake!* magazine in November 1973, he also noted that his team now performs bloodless open-heart surgery on the majority of all his patients. Dr. Kay added: "It has been a pleasure operating upon patients who are Jehovah's Witnesses. We do not give these patients any blood or blood substitutes."

It is obvious that if such complex operations as those involving the heart can be

performed successfully without blood, others can too. This has proved to be the case. Now fortified by the experience and success of others, more doctors than ever are studying the new techniques and applying them.

Other Operations Without Blood

In Wellington, New Zealand, a fifteen-year-old girl had a brain tumor removed in a complex operation—with no blood used. The operation was a complete success, and she was allowed to return home only one week later!

In Milwaukee, doctors operated on a sixteen-year-old who had torn a main artery in his chest. He had lost more than a quart of blood and would lose more during surgery. The *Detroit Free Press* reported that doctors "used salt water to replace his lost blood while they used a daron tube to replace the torn part of his aorta." When surgery was completed, the patient's red-blood-cell count was only one third of normal. But doctors said that with iron supplements and a high protein diet the youth's body would replace his lost blood in a few weeks.

The New York State *Journal of Medicine* contained an article entitled "Extensive Urologic Surgery Without Blood Transfusion." It was written by Doctors Philip R. Roen and Francesca Velcek from the Department of Urology at St. Barnabas Hospital in New York. The doctors said:

"Our experiences with Jehovah's Witnesses requiring operative procedures has demonstrated to us that blood transfusions are not necessarily essential even when hemoglobin levels are low—as low as 5 Gm. per 100 ml. in one of our cases!

"This indicates that this experience in avoiding blood transfusion may be applicable to an overwhelming percentage of cases even if the patient will permit such blood transfusion. The only requirement is

a careful and more meticulous operative technic. We have adopted this approach in all our cases, and blood transfusion is a most unusual event in our hands. . . .

"Although special technics to reduce bleeding and operative risk have been employed by others, such as induced hypothermia, deliberately induced hypotension, use of colloid blood expanders, and so on, we have not resorted to such measures. The surgical attack has been that of a most meticulous operative technic with emphasis on sparing every milliliter of blood possible and replacement of blood loss with simple crystalloid solution, namely, lactated Ringer's solution. The results have been most satisfactory.

"It is gratifying, moreover, not to have to be concerned about such complications of whole-blood transfusion as allergic or hemolytic reactions, renal shutdown, and hepatitis."

What specific "formula" do these doctors use to replace the blood lost before or during surgery? They say:

"Our own method in caring for these patients has been that of employing only lactated Ringer's solution for blood replacement. No specific formula is employed, but we generally use three times the volume of this fluid over the sustained blood loss. . . .

"Although isotonic dextrose solution and isotonic saline solution are widely used, a 'balanced' formulation is better—Ringer's solution contains potassium and calcium in addition to sodium and chloride. It must be noted that the calcium and potassium are present only in 'physiologic' concentration and this preparation is not designed for replacing deficits of these ions.

"'Improved' Ringer's solution contains sodium lactate. The customary Ringer's solution has a slight acidifying effect; the lactated Ringer's tends to overcome this acidifying influence and is therefore the preferred crystalloid solution for intravenous administration."

Also, extensive abdominal operations, such as resections (removal) of the stomach and intestines in cases of malignant disease now have been done many times without the use of blood.

Probing Questions

In view of such successes, the following comment of Doctors Roen and Velcek is worthy of note. They said: "In most instances physicians and hospital authorities have refused operation on Jehovah's Witnesses because of the problem of blood transfusions. We contend that it is wrong to deny operations to these people, no matter how extensive the contemplated surgery."

These doctors cite case after case of Witnesses being refused surgery elsewhere, then coming to St. Barnabas Hospital and being operated on successfully without blood. The successes in bloodless surgery performed by other skilled surgeons all over the world confirm their conclusion.

Indeed, it must be said that today doctors who still refuse to operate on Jehovah's witnesses unless blood is used betray themselves. While no doubt they are sincere, one now has to ask: Why do they refuse? Are they not familiar with what leading, highly respected surgeons are doing in other parts of the world, or in their own country, even in their own state or city? Is it possible that their past training and conditioning has made them close-minded, unwilling to progress with the latest developments in the field of medicine? May it be, in some cases, that they simply lack confidence in their skill? Or could religious prejudice even enter into the matter?

In the light of modern developments in medicine, there is no excuse for any doctor to try to force blood transfusions on people who do not want them.

Additional Procedures

Nor do the above examples exhaust the methods now used or under investigation in bloodless surgery. Another practice that has proved very useful has to do with building up the patient's blood well before,

when time permits, and also after surgery. Various nutrients are given to the patient, such as iron, vitamins and amino acids. In this way, although there may be blood loss during surgery, the remaining blood will be better able to carry the load. The nutrients will also help the body to replace lost blood. One doctor who uses this adjunct to the actual operation stated: "It is amazing how fast patients come around" in response to the buildup.

Another procedure has been worked on by Dr. James E. Eckenhoff, dean of Northwestern University Medical School. This involves hypotension, lowering of blood pressure to reduce blood loss. It is said to be useful in surgery of the head and neck and upper extremities, in neurosurgery and in plastic surgery.

Then there is the form of bloodless surgery called cryosurgery. This involves using extreme cold to lessen blood loss. It has been used to remove malignancies and to treat certain other conditions. One of the doctors who have worked on this method is Dr. Irving S. Cooper of St. Barnabas Hospital in New York.

Another idea was originated by New York physicist Lewis Balamuth. He was awarded a patent for a scalpel that vibrates at very high speed, over 30,000 strokes a second. The distance covered by the stroke is only about five thousandths of an inch. The blood vessels cut are at the same time cauterized, closed off by the heat of friction. This method is said to be useful in eliminating the need to tie off certain severed veins and arteries, and may represent an improvement over electro-cautery techniques in use by many surgeons for the past several years.

Fluorocarbons

Also of interest is a development that is still in the experimental stage. It has

to do with the body's need for oxygen. Normally, this need is taken care of by the red blood cells, which pick up oxygen from the lungs. The heart pumps the oxygenated blood throughout the body, where the oxygen is released to the billions of cells that require it for their normal functioning. However, the plasma volume expanders used now cannot carry oxygen. Thus, when there is very great blood loss, the body's ability to transport oxygen is impaired.

The experiments involve what are called fluorocarbons capable of carrying oxygen. These are organic compounds in which all hydrogen atoms have been replaced by fluorine. One drawback has been their tendency to accumulate in body tissues with unpredictable effects. However, *Science* magazine reports that newer fluorocarbons have been devised that are rapidly eliminated from the bodies of experimental animals.

Scientists caution, however, that at this time it is not possible to relate these experiments on animals to practical effects in humans. Also, they note that these fluorocarbons are far from being total blood substitutes. Blood contains hundreds of other chemicals and structures besides the red cells with their oxygen-carrying capacity. So whether such research will ever result in practical help for humans remains to be proved.

Thus, it can be seen from all such efforts mentioned here, and others too, that good work is being done to honor the wishes of patients who do not want transfusions of blood. Already highly skilled surgeons have devised methods of eliminating blood during surgery, with very gratifying results. As more work is done in this direction, further beneficial results can be expected.

A Closer Look

AT THE OAU

By "Awake!" correspondent in Liberia

IT WAS May 25, 1963. The first All-Africa Summit Conference threatened to end in failure. Thirty-one African leaders had wrangled on how to form a union of independent states. Wearily a draft charter was presented to the heads of states—only to be rejected!

Nonetheless, the summiteers that met at Africa Hall in Addis Ababa on that day were determined to bring some form of practical unity to the African nations, divided as they were by divergent languages, cultures and political views. Africa's strong men had long worked for it.

Having rejected the first draft charter, the heads of states themselves then made a second attempt. Their discussion continued on past midnight, but when the vote was taken this time there was unanimous accord! Regarding that dramatic moment, an eyewitness wrote: "There were cheers, applause, tears in the eyes of otherwise cynical men as they shook hands with anyone near them. The OAU was born; the doubts, the wranglings, the eloquence, the soul-searching were over."

Liberation and Unity

According to its charter the newly born Organization of African Unity (OAU) was

founded to remove colonialism from the continent and truly unite Africa. Economic cooperation, conciliation through mediation and a host of other provisions were pledged. Now, more than a decade has passed since that historic document was signed. How many of its chartered pledges has the OAU fulfilled?

Within months of its founding, fighting broke out again in the Congo. Other new states hotly disputed border issues. The Super Powers and the Arab World were slow about looking into these differences. African leaders, however, took the initiative to get rival factions discussing their problems. The results? The second conflict in the Congo was not as bad as the first one. The fighting between Morocco and Algeria stopped and Somalia and Ethiopia started talks. Though final settlements were not reached, talking was better than fighting and the OAU was making itself felt. Afterward successful mediations were effected between Guinea and Ghana, the Congo Republic and Zaïre, Uganda and Tanzania, Ethiopia and the Sudan, as well as Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

Waning Impetus

Since then, however, some have wondered if the OAU has lost its original impetus. Not all OAU mediatory efforts have been successful or were immediately forthcoming. For example, the Nigerian civil war was not put on the OAU agenda until fighting there had continued for three months, and an OAU investigative committee did not arrive on the scene until over a month after that. Nothing was done for Ugandan Asians nor to halt the massacres in Burundi. Critics charged that neglects were hidden under the guise of nonintervention in the affairs of sovereign states, but such intervention, they said, is the African way.

Further criticism appeared in *Africa* magazine of May 1973, in connection with an article by Ogbolu Okonji of the University of Lagos.

"The OAU does not play any critical role in settling disputes. Member states have been more effective than the Organization and have sometimes succeeded where the OAU has failed. The OAU tends to succeed only where it can do so without really trying!"

Concerning the structure of the OAU itself, Ogbolu Okonji quoted the comment of Zdenek Cervenka:

"The history of the OAU since its founding has shown quite clearly that the machinery evolved at Addis Ababa in 1963 was not strong enough in itself to act as an immediate extinguisher of hostilities in Africa. Past and even present disputes have clearly revealed the weakness of the system devised by the charter of the OAU for the settlement of disputes. . . . the individual African Statesman continues to be given preference over the organized authority of the OAU."

What about the problem of hundreds of thousands of dislocated African refugees? Has the OAU been doing anything about them? A whole section of the OAU Secre-

tariat has been set up with a joint committee of the United Nations to give assistance to those seeking relocation. Nzo Ekangaki declared that the OAU has "made considerable progress on refugee problems. . . . There are many refugees who, through the OAU, have been resettled, resuming their normal life in a number of African countries. We have also been able to work with young refugees of school age in providing educational facilities inside and outside Africa So I would say our record over the past ten years has been positive and encouraging, and we are facing the future with confidence."

Economic Cooperation

Africa direly needs development, and the OAU has a big job on its hands to promote this on the continent. In the past, African countries relied almost solely on the United States and Europe for economic aid, but now even the French-speaking countries are looking elsewhere and to sister African states for economic cooperation and development help.

Various regional economic communities have been established which continue fairly strong despite unsettling political turmoil. Some projects have run into trouble, such as Air Afrique and the Lake Chad and Senegal River basin joint ventures. Concerning the Trans-Africa Highway, designed to traverse Africa from Mombasa to Lagos, an OAU spokesman stated that "all the states concerned have cooperated excellently with the OAU and the Economic Commission for Africa, and we are all hoping that within the next few years the highway will become a reality."

Economic growth is also in evidence. Despite civil war, Nigeria's growth rate increased during the past ten years from

5 to 12 percent, enabling her to pay off foreign liabilities two months ahead of time. Though Nigeria is the ninth-largest oil-producing country, agriculture contributed heavily toward her economic advancement.

With encouragement from the OAU, inter-Africa cooperation is increasing. Scholarships to African universities are becoming available, and there has been an example of capital assistance in the form of an interest-free loan. Such a loan was made by Nigeria to her neighbor, Dahomey, for the construction of a road inside the latter's territory.

Agriculture and Medicine

To provide more and better food for Africa's hungry populations hundreds of skilled researchers work with maize, Guinea corn, millet, beans and disease-resistant seed. An OAU spokesman revealed: "The anti-rinderpest campaign has been almost completely successful in western and central Africa, and it is now nearing completion in eastern Africa."

Other researchers combat bovine pleuropneumonia. Africa's mineral and marine resources are being mapped. Even African traditional medicine is being enthusiastically researched to ascertain what contributions it can make to the science of healing. A multitude of other programs, already planned, are not being implemented because of lack of funds. Sadly, despite the wealth of Africa's natural resources, starving populations barely exist in drought-stricken areas.

Objectives Achieved?

The OAU was primarily founded to remove colonialism and to establish unity between African states. Have these objectives been achieved? Colonialism is still strong in

certain parts of the continent even though the OAU's original membership has grown from thirty to forty-one states. This moved Ogbolu Okonji to accuse the OAU of being "a failure as well as a frustrating disappointment." One reason for this has been the reluctance of member states to "die a little" to achieve their goal.

Commenting on the liberation of African peoples, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania in 1973 made the following interesting observations:

"An African regime treats African people no better—and in practice often worse—than the colonialists and racists treat our brethren . . . Evil committed by African leaders against the people of Africa is, and must be, a real obstacle to inter-African cooperation. . . . Quite apart from the principles of humanity which are outraged—and which African countries should care about—the whole concept of the liberation struggle is affected when the principles of justice and human dignity are mocked in independent Africa."

A case in point is the extreme, inhuman treatment, including murder, torture and rape, officially meted out to Jehovah's witnesses in Malawi for refusal to purchase political party cards. A report of the outrages appeared in the December 8, 1972, *Awake!* Tens of thousands of Witnesses found peaceful asylum, ironically enough, in colonialist Mozambique, although receiving no official word of comfort from the OAU.

During the OAU's first decade, many were disappointed in its failure to carry out its threat to break diplomatic relations with England when Ian Smith set up a minority regime in Rhodesia. Julius Nyerere commented that France and Britain had more power in the OAU than the African countries. Ogbolu Okonji lamented: "The story of OAU'S role in the Rhodesian crisis has been told at such great

length to demonstrate the kind of ostrich game that it plays when situations that require sacrifices arise."

Okonji also complained that when stronger resolutions were offered to "put more bite" into the OAU charter, member states failed to vote them into effect, thus indicating that "there is no visible sign that the member states want true unity." What is more, African leaders were accused of increasing ethnic tensions. It was argued that "poor, powerless, and unstable sovereign states do not serve the interests of the masses in Africa." Hence, such states should be willing to unite with stronger ones to build mighty African nations.

A review of the OAU's first decade was urgently needed, wrote John P. Morais, "because to the younger generation of African youths the OAU seemed to have been out of touch with the realities of the Continent and Addis is becoming a place for empty resolutions, lavish banquets and false promises." The hue and cry is for the OAU to achieve something more concrete in pursuing its goals of decolonization and unity in various fields.

Stout African Will

Despite its inherent weaknesses, a review of the past will also bring to light that in the field of diplomacy the OAU has made its mark. Working through heads of states and United Nations delegations, "it has set up a barrage of pleas and resolutions rarely seen in international diplomacy," thus keeping up international pressure. The efforts of the organization in the settlements of border and other disputes received the highest praise from United States officials. Said one State Department official: "No similar regional organization has a more impressive record."

So a closer look at the OAU reveals

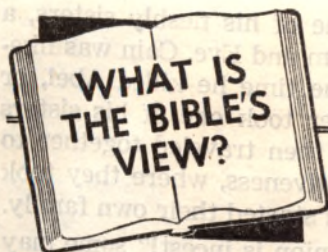
successes and failures, progress and digression. But considering the formidable barrage of obstacles—different forms of political rule, a multitude of tribes, no common language, religion or currency, unjust territorial boundaries, and the often crippling economic conditions—the fact that the OAU has doggedly hung on to existence for a decade reflects a stout African will.

OAU Must Give Way

Though many of its intentions are noble, the OAU will never be able to accomplish what Messiah's kingdom alone can and will do. And, of course, that also goes for the United Nations and any other human agency. Member states of the OAU acting as a bloc have a powerful voice in the United Nations Organization, in which they still trust for world peace and security. Powerful forces within this conglomerate of political nations are predicted in Bible prophecy to turn on the great symbolic harlot, Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion, and they will "completely burn her with fire."—Rev. 17:16.

That will begin the foretold "great tribulation," the great "earthquake" of trouble at God's hands that will cause mighty human organizations, "mountains," to crumble and disappear. The OAU cannot be expected to survive that cataclysm. It must give way to the Kingdom rule of Jesus Christ.—Matt. 24:21; Rev. 16:18-20; Dan. 2:44.

Liberation? Yes. Not just from oppressive political regimes, but from sickness, death, and even the grave itself! Unity? Yes, for under the blessings of the Kingdom rule men will walk in the steps of the God whose 'way is love.' This is the real hope of the near future for all Africa and the rest of mankind.—Rev. 21:3, 4; 20:13; 1 John 4:8.



Where Did Cain Get His Wife?

"I HAVE been in the army nearly eight years and have asked many chaplains that question. None could answer it!" So explained a young Danish man to a visiting minister of Jehovah's witnesses.

Why is this such a difficult question for many persons, including even clergymen?

To understand why, consider the way in which this question is often asked: "The Bible says that Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain killed his brother and went to another land where he took himself a wife and raised a family. If Adam and Eve were the only humans created by God, where did Cain get his wife?"

In framing the question in this way, it is evident that questioners think that Adam and Eve must not have originally been the only humans. So, they reason, Cain evidently obtained his wife from other peoples living on earth. However, this view is not in harmony with the Bible, which says: "Adam called his wife's

name Eve, because she had to become *the mother of everyone living.*"—Gen. 3:20.

Many others, however, do not believe the Bible account of creation to be historical. Such worldly critics may, therefore, dismiss the question regarding where Cain got his wife as unworthy of consideration. They do not believe that Adam and Eve or their son Cain ever really existed.

Well, then, is the question regarding Cain and his wife a legitimate one? Do we have sound reason for believing that he and his parents really existed, and that the entire human family actually sprang from one common source, Adam and Eve?

Yes, this Bible view is in keeping with the evidence. Modern-day scientists have, in fact, indicated this. For example, in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Third Statement on Race, twenty-two experts say: "Mankind is one . . . all men belong to the same species, *Homo sapiens*. . . all men are probably derived from the same common stock."

Also, Professor Ruth Benedict and Dr. Gene Weltfish observe in the publication *The Races of Mankind*: "The Bible story of Adam and Eve, father and mother of the whole human race, told centuries ago the same truth that science has shown today: that all the peoples of the earth are a single family and have a common origin."

Well, then, since this is the case, Where *did* Cain get his wife? Is there a logical Bible answer?

Yes, there is. It is pointed to in the very instructions given to Adam and Eve shortly after their creation, namely: "Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it."—Gen. 1:28.

Obedience to this command would require that Adam and Eve have children. Then these children, in turn, would marry and bear children. This process of reproduction by succeeding generations would need to continue in order to fill the earth in harmony with God's purpose.

However, before Eve was pregnant with her first child Cain, both Adam and his wife sinned by disobeying God and were driven outside the garden of Eden. (Gen. 3:1-19) Where would Adam and Eve now live? The Bible

tells us: "With that Jehovah God put [Adam] out of the garden of Eden to cultivate the ground from which he had been taken. And so he drove the man out and posted at the east of the garden of Eden the cherubs and the flaming blade of a sword that was turning itself continually to guard the way to the tree of life."—Gen. 3:23, 24.

From this it can be seen that Adam apparently went out to the east of the garden of Eden. It was here that, not only Cain and Abel were born, but the Bible also later mentions by name a third son, Seth. However, notice that Adam and Eve had other children as well. For Genesis 5:4 says: "And the days of Adam after his fathering Seth came to be eight hundred years. Meanwhile *he became father to sons and daughters.*"

This meant that Cain and Abel had sisters, and possibly other brothers not listed by name. These grew up together as earth's original family.

Time passed. Finally, following the offering of sacrifices to God by two of the sons, Cain became jealous of Abel because God showed favor toward Abel and his sacrifice, but not toward Cain and his sacrifice. Cain allowed hatred to develop toward Abel and he murdered him.—Gen. 4:1-8; 1 John 3:10-12.

For this wicked deed God sentenced Cain to banishment, away from the rest of his relatives. The Bible says: "Cain went away from the face of Jehovah and took up residence in the land of Fugitiveness [called "the land of Nod" in some Bible translations] to the east of Eden."—Gen. 4:9-16.

However, notice here that the Bible does not say that Cain found his wife in the land of Fugitiveness. It simply says: "Afterward Cain had intercourse with his wife and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch."—Gen. 4:17.

Where, then, did Cain get his wife? It was obviously from among his own family.

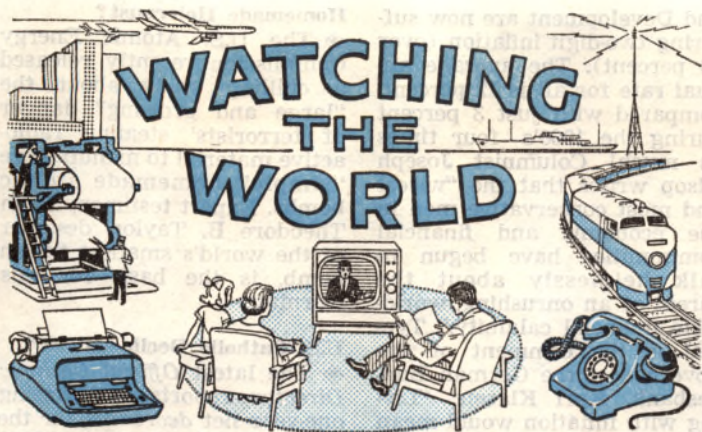
His wife was one of his fleshly sisters, a daughter of Adam and Eve. Cain was likely married at the time he killed Abel, or shortly thereafter took one of his sisters as a wife. They then traveled together to the land of Fugitiveness, where they took up residence and started their own family.

"But such a union is incest!" some may object. This objection reflects knowledge of the risk to children when brothers and sisters marry in our day. These are frequently born with some physical deformity or mental incapacity. Thus most lands today have laws forbidding marriage between close fleshly relatives.

It must be remembered, however, that circumstances were different in earlier times. Adam and Eve were created perfect, and the instruction for them 'to multiply and fill the earth' would necessarily require that their offspring marry one another and reproduce. (Gen. 1:28) But as perfect humans, their children would have been perfect as were their parents.

Even though Adam and Eve sinned and became imperfect, Cain and his brothers and sisters were still so near to physical perfection that the children they produced did not suffer the same adverse effects as do children born of such unions today. Even some 2,000 years afterward, God's faithful servant Abraham married his half-sister Sarah, and God did not disapprove. (Gen. 20:12) It was yet another 450 years or so before God saw fit to provide his nation of Israel a body of laws that forbade incest on penalty of death. (Lev. 18:8-17) By that time imperfection had apparently developed to such an extent that no longer was it safe for close relatives to marry.

So, really, the question of where Cain got his wife is not a difficult one. The answer is provided right within the Bible, and it becomes obvious when the Bible account is read carefully.



Population and Food

◆ African nations have increased food production about 22 percent since the early 1960's. Then why the famine? One reason is that population increase drove already inadequate food consumption per person down 5 percent during the same period. Another reason is the severe drought that parts of Africa have experienced in recent years. "The only certain means of guaranteeing that the present catastrophe will not repeat itself lies with population control rather than with food supplies," reports *Time* magazine. But the U.N.'s August and November conferences on population and food face the grim fact that "between now and the time they begin their deliberations, the world's population will have increased by 30 million."—May 13, 1974.

"Every Country for Itself"?

◆ The director general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) now says that "by the middle of the year [1974] reserve food stocks will probably equal only three weeks world food consumption." Another FAO official adds: "One big crop failure anywhere and it could be every country for itself." But even if a country has grain, sometimes it becomes "every man

for himself." *Time* magazine reports that in some famine-stricken countries "officials have diverted some of the donated grain to commercial channels for sale at enormous profits. Much . . . remains heaped high on the docks where it is prey to rats, locusts and thieves." U.N. Secretary-General Waldheim says "the governments told me they cannot ship it to the areas most afflicted" because of lack of roads and vehicles.

Outlook for Sharing

◆ Will U.S. food producers answer the world's growing demand? *Farm Journal* editor Lane Palmer addressed a group of American agricultural editors and congressmen recently, saying that "our farmers can produce whatever food this country needs. I'm well aware of the famine . . . and of hunger elsewhere around the world. But I'm assuming that none of us any longer harbors the illusion that we can underwrite the world's food security." Why not? One reason is U.S. farm economics. The National Farmers Union secretary candidly told a Senate subcommittee that "many farmers view permanent scarcity of food as a goal that would be appropriate to their self-interest."

Food or Golf Courses?

◆ Just about enough fertilizer to supply this year's shortage in the world's poorer countries will be spread by Americans on their lawns, cemeteries and golf courses. Making this point recently to a Senate subcommittee, president of the Overseas Development Council James P. Grant said that "people in the United States should know that the way we eat—and fertilize our lawns—is affecting lives everywhere."

Garbage "Talks"

◆ What people throw away can be very revealing. Anthropologist William Rathje says: "What you find in garbage is the result of what people actually did, not what they think they did . . . or wish they did." He directed a group of University of Arizona teachers and students in a project that went through garbage from various economic areas of Tucson. One finding of their careful inspection was that white households there waste more than minorities. "Cutting down on beef waste alone could possibly save more than 100 dollars a year for a middle-class household," Rathje notes.

Oil Consumption Record

◆ Oil embargoes and production cutbacks last year did not stop the flow from reaching record levels. Consumption was up over 7 percent and production almost 9 percent over 1972, according to the *British Petroleum Statistical Review*. The United States alone used almost a third of the total.

Whole Blood "Unjustifiable"

◆ A recent medical bulletin to hospitals receiving blood from the German Red Cross advises: "For several years observations have been made . . . with regard to the use of so-called 'whole blood' for therapeutic purposes, which, because of the many avoidable

side effects, seem to make its further use unjustifiable. . . . Sad to say there is no way to avoid a possible syphilis infection when using fresh blood." Noting that the responsibility for undesirable reactions "can be put upon the blood donation service," the German Red Cross says, "we will—as other blood donation services have already done . . . deliver no more whole blood."

Churches or Homes?

◆ Rome's priests continue to lash out against the Hierarchy's traditional ties with the rich and powerful at the expense of the poor. A pamphlet circulated by "lay people, and priests of the St. Leo the Great Parish" complains: "For 25 years now we have worried about building churches which no one wants. . . . so many billions [of lire] were spent that it would have been enough to give a house to all people living in huts. . . . Are we allowed to pray to God in these temples built with 'the hire of a prostitute'? (Mic. 1:7)"

Naples' Empty Cathedrals

◆ The Italian newspaper *Vita d'Oggi* asks: "Where are the faithful of these splendid churches, which were artistically built and decorated, at very great expense, just to be empty of souls as everyone can witness today?" It has been estimated that 'if even 10 percent of Neapolitans attended Mass, all the (still open) churches in the archdiocese would not be enough to contain them.' Why are they "empty"? "It is very certain that everyone is ignorant of Christian doctrine . . . one must conclude that religious ignorance is motivated by the lacking vitality of Neapolitan Catholic education."

Outlook for Economics

◆ Seventeen of the 24 industrial nations in the Organization for Economic Co-operation

and Development are now suffering two-digit inflation (over 10 percent). The average annual rate for all is 12 percent, compared with just 3 percent during the 1960's—four times as much! Columnist Joseph Alsop writes that the "wisest and most conservative men in the economic and financial communities have begun to talk helplessly about the threat of an onrushing, worldwide financial calamity." Typical is the comment of the governor of the German Bundesbank, Karl Klasen: "Living with inflation would mean that our free enterprise system will die with inflation."

"Week-to-Week" Country

◆ "We are literally fighting to survive," says the prime minister of Sri Lanka's 13 million people. The spiraling cost of food imports has left income from tea and rubber exports about \$2 billion behind, making it increasingly hard to get loans. Now the nation, whose population has doubled in the last twenty-five years, is badly in need of rice and wheat. Says an economist: "The country is now operating on a week-to-week basis. . . . We don't think beyond the week. We can't."

Belief in Devil Grows

◆ That fact shocked scientists at the recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The number of Americans believing rose from 37 to 48 percent in nine years, they were told, with another 20 percent believing the Devil's existence is probable. Scientists had thought that the evolutionary process and rationalism would gradually eliminate such beliefs. The researcher linked the belief to 'times of great stress, where things seem to be falling apart.' A recent Harris survey reports that an even higher figure, 53 percent, believe in the Devil and over a third in demon possession.

Homemade Holocaust?

◆ The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission recently released a chilling study about the "large and growing" danger of terrorists' stealing radioactive material to manufacture "simple" homemade atomic bombs. Expert testimony from Theodore B. Taylor, designer of the world's smallest fission bomb, is the basis for this warning.

U.S. Catholic Decline—Why?

◆ The latest *Official Catholic Directory* reports the following one-year net decreases for the U.S. church: Priests, 200; nuns, 3,000; seminarians, 2,400 (a 61-percent drop from 1965); schools, 236; enrollment, 185,000. Church attendance dropped 21 percent. Why the decline? *U.S. News & World Report* found that "some feel the Church has lost its 'air of mystery' or 'promise of peace and solace,'" due to the changes of the 1960's. Says one priest: "If the things the Church has said in the last ten years are true, then everything it said for the last 2,000 years is false."

Soviet Crop Damage

◆ Russian crops are suffering pest damage amounting to more than \$12 billion a year, estimates the Soviet Ministry of Agriculture. *Pravda* complains that new high-yield wheat strains lack pest resistance. "In twenty years' time, the harvests from our fields have doubled, while expenses on their protection [from pests] have gone up ten times."

Australia's Crime

◆ The United States is not alone in having a far higher crime rate than is actually reported. A new study shows that two thirds of the crimes in Sydney, Australia, go unreported. One family in four contains a crime victim. The study claimed that assaults on people are five times the number for any U.S. city with

similar population. As in the U.S., "the overwhelming reason why the crimes went unreported was lack of confidence in the ability of police to do anything about them," says *The Australian*.

Facts of Business Life

◆ What kind of environment do young people entering the U.S. business world face? Norman Jaspán, head of a New York management consultant firm, recently revealed that their chances of encountering 'sizable dishonesty' among any corporation's personnel are greater than 50 percent. A 75-percent chance of 'costly malpractice,' such as wasting paid time, also awaits. He adds that kickbacks, bribes and conflicts of interest are now a dominant factor in business. Does this affect employees? "Employee dishonesty . . . is growing at the rate of 15 per cent a year."

Murder Risk

◆ Babies born in 1974 are more likely to be murdered than an American soldier in World War II was likely to die in combat! Applied mathematics instructor Dr. Arnold Barnett of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology determined this from his studies projecting the rapidly rising U.S. murder rate into the future. He says that the commonly held idea that population growth is the reason for the spiraling murder rate is inadequate. It accounts for "less than one-tenth" of the increase that actually occurred from 1962 to 1972.

Beliefs Hinder Medicine

◆ Doctors have worked hard to try to conquer tropical diseases. Many things have hampered their efforts, such as ignorance, poor nutrition and lack of hygiene. One problem, often overlooked, is people's beliefs. Says tropical disease

expert Hildrus Poindexter of Howard University: "A common belief among many rural Vietnamese is that soil, even if polluted with human feces, cannot hurt people, because the soil is part of man. In Africa, childhood illnesses are often attributed to foul play rather than to infectious diseases, so parents seek the help of a witch doctor rather than that of a physician."

Monk's Life

◆ A recent survey of the world's 14,000 Capuchin monks shocked the Vatican. Nearly a third of the "sheltered" monks indicated that they would welcome intimate relations with the opposite sex. That proportion also approved of violence, if necessary, to "promote social justice." Four fifths of them believed that working is a better way of making a living than the Capuchin traditional begging.

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