

# PSYCHOLOGY FOR LIVING

MAY-JUNE 1997

**WELL-BALANCED**

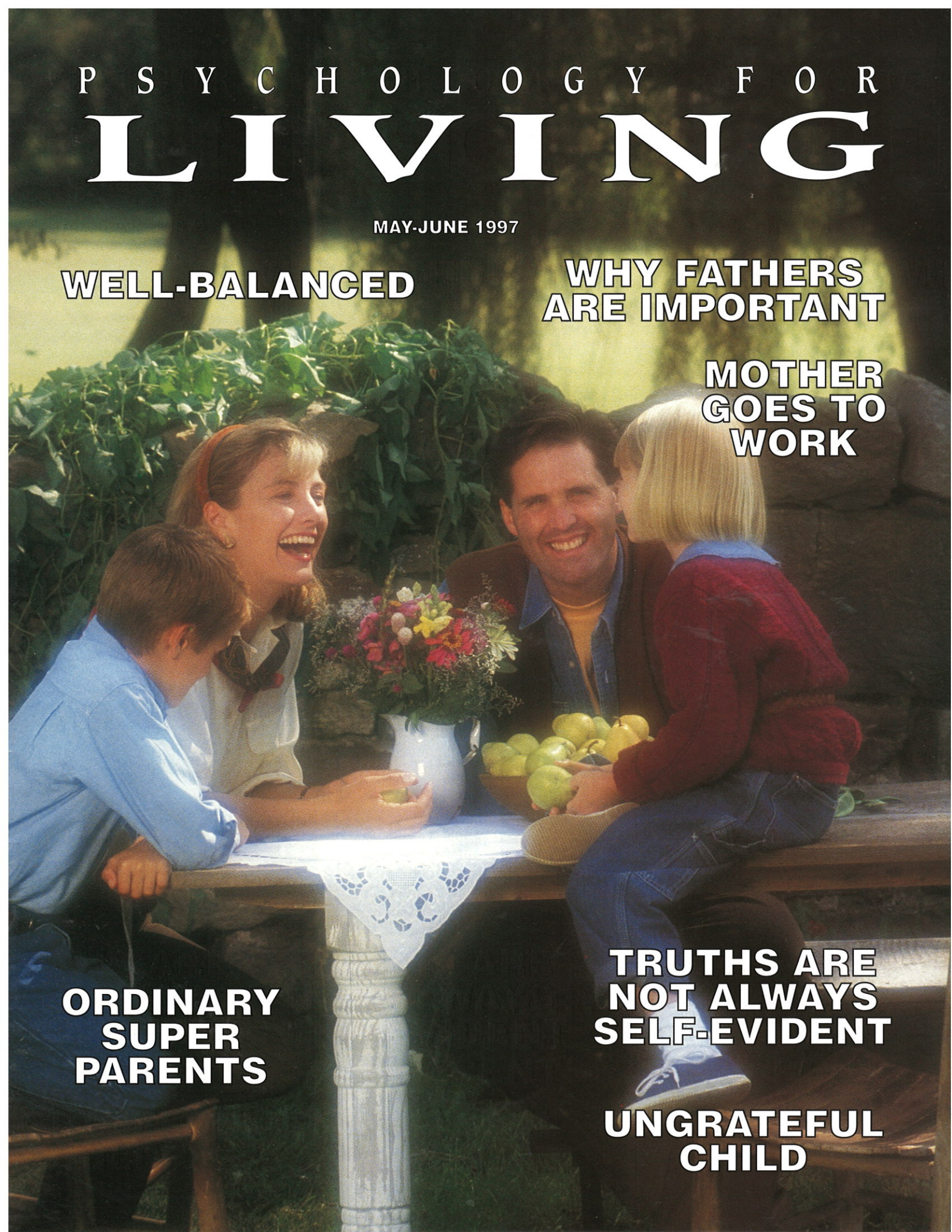
**WHY FATHERS  
ARE IMPORTANT**

**MOTHER  
GOES TO  
WORK**

**ORDINARY  
SUPER  
PARENTS**

**TRUTHS ARE  
NOT ALWAYS  
SELF-EVIDENT**

**UNGRATEFUL  
CHILD**





by Clyde M. Narramore

## CRISIS COUNSELING IN RWANDA



**W**HAT'S THE MOST TROUBLESOME spot in the world just now? Where is the greatest turmoil? Where are people suffering the most? Where are Christian missionaries at greatest risk?

Undoubtedly at this time, one of the hottest spots in the world is Rwanda.

Rwanda is a republic in east central

missionaries who are there representing the Lord. In fact, missionaries are about the only hope that many of these people have.

This is one of the most troubled places on the face of the earth. Just think of children—seeing their parents butchered before their very eyes. Knowing they will probably starve.

Having no home. Problems on problems!

Not long ago the Narramore Christian Foundation was asked to help offer Crisis Counseling in Rwanda. We soon contacted an outstanding Christian psychologist in Virginia—Dr. Karen Carr who is experienced in Crisis Counseling. Dr. Carr and an assistant went to Rwanda, ministered to a number of church leaders, had private and group counseling, and held several seminars.

Three ethnic groups make up the population of that country: About 90 percent are Hutu, about nine percent are Tutsi, and about one percent are the Twa, a pygmoid people. The total population is over eight million, making it one of the most densely populated countries in Africa. Civil war between the two largest tribes has devastated the country and its people. There have been massive killings.

The photos on this page show Dr. Carr (lower left) with a Bible class which she taught and with whom she counseled individually and in family groups.

Another photo (upper right) shows a group meeting in a church service. The other photo (lower left) shows a cross on which the suffering people had written



about their sorrows and griefs, then nailed them to the cross.

One problem that a Christian psychologist has to struggle against is the cultural tradition that one should never show any emotion or grief. Great help was given, and Karen was invited to return as soon as possible to help these suffering people some more.

Thank you, friends, for praying and giving. You're helping so many whom you may never meet until you see them in Heaven! May God bless you.

*Clyde M. Narramore*



Africa. On the north is Uganda. On the east is Tanzania. On the south is Burundi, and on the west is Lake Kivu and Zaire.

Almost every day for months, we have been hearing about Rwanda on our television sets. We hear the reports, see the starving throngs, see piles of bodies, but we may not even think about the mis-





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**TO THINK ABOUT**

by Ruth E. Narramore

**P**EOPLE ARE TRAINED, it seems, for almost any vocation...except parenting. Couples marry and have children, but all too often they are completely unequipped to handle their job assignment of being parents.

Yet, parenting is one of the most important occupations in the world. Parents are given the awesome responsibility of molding and shaping young lives into the kinds of people those children will become. Some parents have been blessed by being raised in a home with loving, wise, godly parents. Good parenting was modeled for them in their childhood, which has taught them to be good parents to their own children. But what about those who were raised in dysfunctional families? Many times when such children are grown and become parents themselves, they behave in the same dysfunctional way toward their own offspring. And unless something happens to change that cycle, it goes on and on impacting future generations

with unloving, godless, negative behavior.

But God has given all of us a perfect pattern to observe and follow. God, as our heavenly Father, has shown by His example how parents ought to relate to their children. The Lord's Prayer (which was really the disciples' prayer) begins with "Our Father" indicating a very personal relationship—one that establishes our belonging. To *belong* means closeness, acceptance, and a safe haven. Many children do not sense the security which comes from the closeness of feeling unconditionally loved and accepted by their families.

The Bible also tells children that they are to "honor their fathers and mothers" (Ephesians 6:2). This puts a responsibility on parents to be honorable and upright. They are to set a good example. It is difficult for sons and daughters



to respect parents who are not respectable.

Just as our heavenly Father is aware of the needs of His children and graciously provides for them, we too are to provide for

the needs of our children. But there is a huge difference between one's needs and his wants. Our heavenly Father does not always supply all our wants, but He is tuned in to our *needs*. While He delights in giving us good gifts, to shower us with all our *wants* could sometimes be destructive. God loves us too much for that. So also as earthly parents, while we enjoy giving gifts to our children, we must discern what is and what is not in their best interest.

God, our heavenly Father, wants us to trust Him! We learn to trust by our experiences with our earthly fathers and mothers. This spotlights

the importance of being parents who are trustworthy—who keep their word and do what is right.

As a loving Father, God also disciplines His children. "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten" (Revelation 3:19). Just as God doesn't discipline in anger but in love, we too have the responsibility to lovingly, but firmly "chasten" our own disobedient, defiant children. But it must be an expression of love—not our uncontrolled tempers!

God is a loving, generous, approachable, patient Parent. He willingly sacrificed the dearest One in the world to Him for our eternal good. As human parents we will never be called upon to sacrifice to such an extent. We could not even if we wanted to. But parenting *does* require love—lots of it. And often it involves sacrifice.

That sacrifice may be in time, money, or our own personal desires and ambitions. But when weighed against the eternal value of our children, it becomes a *sacrifice of joy*. □

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

**A SHINING LIGHT**

I've heard you on radio most of my life. I thank our Father for your faithful ministry to people in need. My family has greatly benefited from your *Living* magazine as well as the other literature you send out. You've truly been a shining light for our Savior!

Lorraine Cochran  
Montrose, Pennsylvania

**BLESSED BY NCF VIDEOS**

We ordered your video, *As The Twig Is Bent*. It ought to be given to every parent at the birth of each child! We are in our sixties and now see so many

things we did wrong—and then there were other very important things we did right!

We teach three Bible study classes. Your video was shown to each of the groups and has even been passed around some. I would like to order another of your videos titled, *Understanding Yourself and Others*. Thanks very much!

Joann Geeslin  
Odessa, Texas

**STILL IN EXISTENCE?**

Is the Narramore Christian Foundation still in existence? If so, how has it changed since Mr. Narramore's passing? I

don't hear it on the radio any more.

Myrtle Cowan  
Carmichael, California

*Editor's note: Both NCF and Dr. Clyde Narramore are alive and well, and going strong. If you're not hearing Psychology For Living on the radio any more, phone your local Christian radio station and ask that this program be put back on the air. Thanks.*

**SMOOTHING OUT THE WRINKLES**

I greet you in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior

Jesus Christ. Thank you for that wonderful book, *Smoothing Out the Wrinkles in Marriage*. I enjoyed reading it. God has blessed you with such a wonderful gift in helping those who need it. May He continue to bless you now and always.

Clotilda Hoyle  
St. Vincent, Virgin Islands

**A WORD FROM GOD**

Thank you for your articles. They seem to be a word from God at the right time. Praise the Lord for your great ministry!

Barbara J. Macaulay  
Warren, New Jersey





# ORDINARY SUPER PARENTS

You can be a super parent without any of the fictional qualities of Superman.

by Paul A. Kienel

**A** HALF CENTURY AGO some creative soul invented the fictional character, Superman. In addition to “super eyes” that could see through anything, Superman could “leap tall buildings with a single bound” and fly through the air “faster than a speeding bullet.” As far fetched as Superman was, it is amazing how he has been a source of entertainment to millions of people around the world.

There are times in the life of every parent when they have wished they had Superman’s X-ray eyes or his ability to leap over even small buildings and move about at just half the speed of a bullet. The truth is that it’s possible to be a

super parent without having any of the fictional qualities of a character like Superman.

Let’s look at some of the attributes of an “ordinary” super parent.

## 1. Tell each of your children, “I love you,” at least once a day.

Most adult emotional problems stem from a childhood in which parents failed to affirm their children with parental love and affection. Children need to know how dearly they are loved. They need to hear it from their parents over and over again. It is amazing the short range and long range family problems that can be resolved by practicing the fundamental pattern of looking your child in the face and saying,

“I love you!” It’s essential to your child’s emotional stability—as well as yours.

## 2. Even parents need “political capital.”

Political leaders talk about “political capital.” By that they mean enough personal credibility to maintain trust with their constituency. It is very difficult for parents to “govern” their household or inspire their children to follow their parental directives if they themselves have little or no credibility. Parental credibility comes from parental consistency. In other words, when we as parents say “no” to our children, our children must clearly get the idea that we mean “no.” It is like the catchy phrase,



“What is there about no you don’t understand?” “No” means “no,” and “yes” means “yes.” Parental believability is fundamental to good parenting.

### 3. **Be a model of what you want your children to become.**

If those of us who are parents are models of rebellion against God, against our own parents, against the government, and against society in general, then it follows that our children may grow up ignoring God, ignoring us, and become raging menaces to society. Thankfully, this need not be. If we are consistent, loving parents who truly honor God, it is highly probable that our children will become much like us—the adult models they have observed at home during their growing-up years.

An anonymous writer of poetic words penned these insightful lines:

There are little eyes upon you,  
And they're watching night and day;  
There are little ears that quickly  
Take in every word you say.

There are little hands all eager  
To do everything you do;  
And a little child who's dreaming  
Of the day he'll be like you.

You are setting an example  
Every day in all you do;  
For the little child who's waiting  
To grow up to be like you!

**4. Character building is “Job One” for parents.** Children are born self-centered. They are not naturally “integrity driven.” Children come into this world knowing nothing about honesty, acts of kindness, Christian ethics, responsibility, respect for others, or for the property of others. Because they are part of the human race, they are born with a sinful nature. The only way this can be changed is to lead your children to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. This should take place as early as their young minds can comprehend what it means to ask Christ into their hearts.

In addition, the fundamental qualities of a child’s character are shaped day by day in the training environment

provided by their parents and their teachers. This is an on-going process until those children reach adulthood.

The transfer of traditional, Bible-

**Parents are the primary molders of values in forming the basic character of their children.**

based values from one generation to the next has been the time-honored mission of caring parents through the years. Sadly, the evidence all around us reveals a society that is losing this valued tradition. “If children are to survive and thrive in this society,” says Thomas Lickona, Ph.D., professor of education at the State University of New York, “it’s up to parents to reclaim their authority and instill good values in their children at a very early age.” You have heard the phrase, “Character is who you are when no one is watching.” The Bible says, “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7). There’s no question but that parents are the primary molders and shapers of values in forming the basic character of their children.

### 5. **Teach your children about the “law of natural consequences.”**

If you put your hand on a hot stove, the natural consequence is that you will get burned. At that point most of us say, “I don’t want to do that again!” But in our society, too many children have watched myriads of episodes in the cartoon character Roadrunner, who one minute gets run over by a steamroller and the next, gets up and is whole again. Or they watch Rambo who shoots several hundred people and never gets hit himself. The impressions they have formulated from this type of TV viewing need to be altered.

The real world is different. There are short-range and long-range consequences to a multitude of lessons every child must learn during his or her grow-

ing-up years. If a youngster spends his monthly allowance foolishly, he will be “broke.” Christian educator Jay Kessler said, “A child learns what zero is by being given an allowance with no reinforcements when it runs out.” A child who refuses to put his or her bicycle away runs the risk of having it stolen. A youngster may experience serious academic consequences if he or she ignores homework assignments. Children must learn that life holds real consequences. And these consequences also relate to what we allow our ears to hear, our eyes to see, and what we put in our mouths or in our veins.

There are consequences for the words we speak, the friendships we cultivate, and the lifestyle we adopt. These basic laws of natural consequences must be learned. Regrettably, all too often they are learned the hard way. It takes the “wisdom of Solomon” as ordinary, super parents to carefully, lovingly, yet firmly guide our children through these hard lessons of life without alienation and rejection.

### 6. **Pray for your children.**

The older I become (I am now sixty-two), the more I am convinced that God hears and answers prayer—especially prayers from caring parents about their children. Surprisingly, there are some parents who seem to do everything right in training their family, yet their children reject everything they have been taught and choose to go the wrong way with their lives. Ultimately, children make their own choices. That is why we need to pray every day for the young ones God has entrusted to us.

Pray about the impact that other people contribute to their lives—teachers, preachers, friends, and the world in general. Pray earnestly about the major decisions your children must make. Become a relentless prayer warrior for them and their needs.

And remember that God loves those precious children He has entrusted to you. . . even more than you do! □

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*Dr. Paul A. Kienel is founder and President Emeritus of the Association of Christian Schools International. He and his family now live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.*





## TRUTHS ARE NOT ALWAYS SELF-EVIDENT

The Constitution has one basic flaw. It clearly delineates the Bill of Rights, but it nowhere states a Bill of Responsibilities.

by Tony Campolo

RECENTLY, A STUDY WAS made comparing American mothers with mothers in Japan. Among the many questions asked, the one that proved most intriguing was this: "What do you want for your children when they grow up?" Just about every Japanese mother answered this question with the same words: "To be Successful!"

The answer was not surprising, because there is no society on the face of the earth that drives its children to achieve success as do the people of Japan. I am not advising that we imitate them. Any acquaintance with the children of Japan will reveal that they are some of the most depressed youngsters in the world. Their parents so constantly push them to attain success that Japanese children, especially in their teenage years, often seem burdened and devoid of joy.

In contrast, when American mothers were asked what they wanted for their children when they grew up, the answer, not surprisingly, was: "To be Happy!"

What concerned me as I read the study was that neither the typical Japanese mother nor the typical American mother gave the answer that you would have gotten from my mother. If you had asked her what she wanted me to be when I grew up, she would have answered, "Good!"

Isn't that an interesting word? My mother would have wanted me to be successful and she certainly would have wanted me to be happy. But transcending both success and happiness in her value system would have been goodness. Her prayer for me was that "goodness and mercy would follow me all the days of my life, and that I might dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

No wonder our society is in trouble. Our society is imbued with the theme articulated in the Declaration of Independence, and we have become a people preoccupied with "the pursuit of happiness." With happiness

*(Continued to p. 14)*





# UNGRATEFUL CHILD

Difficult children can be an exercise in sainthood!

by Chris Koller

“I’M TIRED OF WEARING other people’s castaways!” my teenage daughter, Sherry, grumbled. “Other girls’ mothers take them to Penney’s or Sears to pick out their clothes. So why don’t you?”

“But Honey,” I said, “you have a closet full of clothes in beautiful condition. And look at all the pretty dresses I’ve made you—and most of them you’ve just thrown aside and complained!”

“They’re not what I want,” she said petulantly.

What could I say? Surely she knew our

financial situation. Her father had died when she was six, and I had reared Sherry by myself. Why was my daughter such a spoiled brat in so many ways, so uncooperative, so hard to please? I was heartbroken. I had extended myself for Sherry as much as I possibly could, but she seemed completely ungrateful.

I often hugged Sherry and told her how much I loved her; I had disciplined her when necessary, but never in anger. At the end of my day’s work, I sometimes helped Sherry with difficult homework. Sherry had grown up participating in all

the activities for children and young people at our church. She had made a profession of faith in Christ when she was ten.

But when she became a teenager, she began to assert her independence. Since she wanted to be slender, she’d no longer eat with me. She would only eat protein foods. She also stopped having devotions with me.

Sherry also kicked aside the many things I had trained her to do—like making her bed, keeping her room neat, and helping with chores around the house. In addition to being rebellious, she also



became verbally abusive.

I had thought that when she went to college she might develop a better attitude and become more cooperative. But she didn't change. Several times she got in trouble with the rules at the local college where she attended. After a year she quit and got a job.

"Honey, now that you're working I think it would be a good idea if you contributed something for your room and board," I suggested.

"Why should I?" she snapped. "What did you ever do for me?"

That's when my heart was really broken. How could she be so ungrateful? I had loved her with all my heart. I'd tried my best to be a good mother to her. What had I done wrong?

Many parents today are asking themselves these same questions. They have tried so hard to do the right things and be good parents. Sadly, sometimes we see Christian parents who have reared their children in God-fearing homes and brought them up in good gospel-preaching churches who are hurting deeply because of their children's rebellious, uncooperative, ungrateful attitudes. And all too often these parents will add to their own suffering by blaming themselves and asking, "What did we do wrong?"

### Stop Accusing Yourself

An easy way out is to blame parents for everything that goes wrong in their children's lives. This kind of secular psychology is often used in the defense of murderers and others who commit heinous crimes. Many people happily latch onto this pseudo-psychology as an opportunity to point the blame on someone else for their problems. Actually, in many cases, the children bring their problems on themselves.

None of us is perfect! (God's Word agrees with this.) We all make mistakes. But we don't have to make ourselves depressed basket cases by continually blaming ourselves when our willful children make bad choices. Of course, in some cases, problems may be caused by the parents. But with many others, this may not be so at all.

### Other Views

Heredity can affect a person's outlook

and character. Dr. Fuller Torrey, author of *Surviving Schizophrenia*, says, "Genetic makeup determines whether a child will be nice or nasty, whether he'll be shy or outgoing, whether he'll be a darling or a devil." Sometimes this may be true, but there are also many other causes that can predispose a child's diffi-

**When our children are too old to discipline, turn them over to God.**

cult behavior.\*

Understanding these can explain why one child in a family is so amenable, and another is a problem from babyhood. My older daughter was always a delight, but Sherry had been difficult from her toddler days. The way an individual responds to life's vicissitudes is what makes him what he becomes.

The Bible lays the blame for what a person does on the person himself. It says, "The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son" (Ezekiel 18:20, NIV).

Do you want to understand a rebellious child? Check out what the Apostle Paul said in II Timothy 3:1-5. He predicted that in the last days, people would be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, brutal, and treacherous.

### God Had Ungrateful Children Too

"I reared children and brought them up," God said, "but they have rebelled against Me...Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the Lord; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on Him" (Isaiah 1:2-4, NIV).

The Lord had showered His people with blessings. He had done miracles to deliver them from slavery in Egypt and had given them a land flowing with milk and honey.

His children repaid His kindness and mercy by complaining, turning to false gods, and breaking His commandments. This Father was perfect; He never failed. Who did then? His children did.

Sadly, He still has many ungrateful children today.

### Reject Bitterness and Pray

When someone is ungrateful to us, it's hard to keep from being bitter. But so that our prayers for our children may be answered, we need to forgive, overlook, and let Him cleanse us from bitterness and resentment. (See Ephesians 4:31.)

If our children are too old or difficult to discipline any more, we can turn them over to God. That's what I did! Thus the Lord can relieve us of the burden of

trying to talk sense into someone who resents what they consider as "nagging." So just lay off, and let God!

### The Blessings

Through having an ungrateful child I learned patience and how to hold my tongue. I learned more and more about walking with the Lord and heeding the guidance of His Spirit. Difficult children can be an exercise in sainthood! They can help us appreciate how God feels about ingratitude, thus making us more thankful and appreciative for all He does for us.

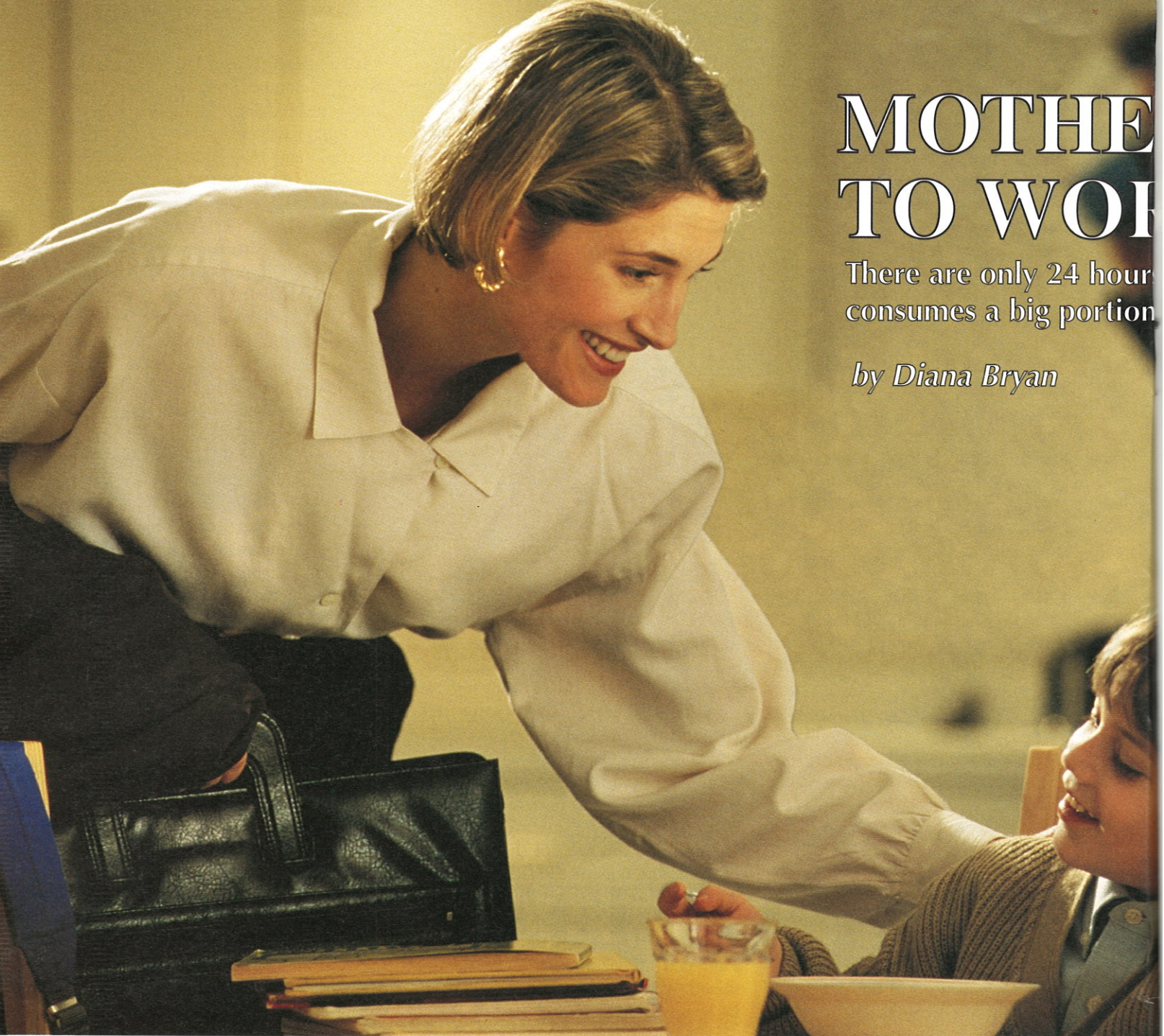
What happened to Sherry? Well, I kept praying for her. Eventually she got married and moved away from home. Many trials have changed her into a new, caring person. From one who had had few friends, she has now become an outgoing, successful career woman with many friends. She has turned into the most wonderful, appreciative daughter any mother could ever desire. Best of all, she has rededicated her life to Christ.

A certificate she gave me for Mother's Day is to "Mother of the Year," and it specifically lists things for which she is grateful. Surely, God does answer prayer! □

*Chris Koller is a pen name. The author prefers to remain anonymous.*

\*For a free copy of Dr. Clyde Narramore's booklet, "Six Things You Should Know About Rebellious Children," phone 1-818-821-8400, or write Narramore Christian Foundation, P. O. Box 661900, Arcadia, CA 91066-1900.





# MOTHE TO WOR

There are only 24 hours  
consumes a big portion

by *Diana Bryan*

**D**EPENDING UPON your age, memories of your mother's daytime activities will vary greatly. Most "thirty-somethings" and older remember Mom being at home when they finished the school day, probably with a snack waiting and time to hear a recap of the day's events. She was usually available to chaperon field trips, and when you were sick she "doctored" you at home with slight interruption in her normal routine.

Today's children face a different reality. Mom probably drops them off at school on her way to work. Some fortunate mothers secure a job schedule that allows them to pick up their children as

school dismisses, but many have to make other arrangements for the safekeeping of their kids until the workday ends.

School teachers report it's the same few mothers who chaperon school trips and parties. A child's unexpected sore throat or chickenpox can test a mother's skill at juggling responsibilities.

## **REALITY CHECK**

The argument about mothers working outside the home is usually an emotional one, but in today's world it's more often than not, a reality. Some women choose to work outside the home. They have skills and abilities they feel are helpful to

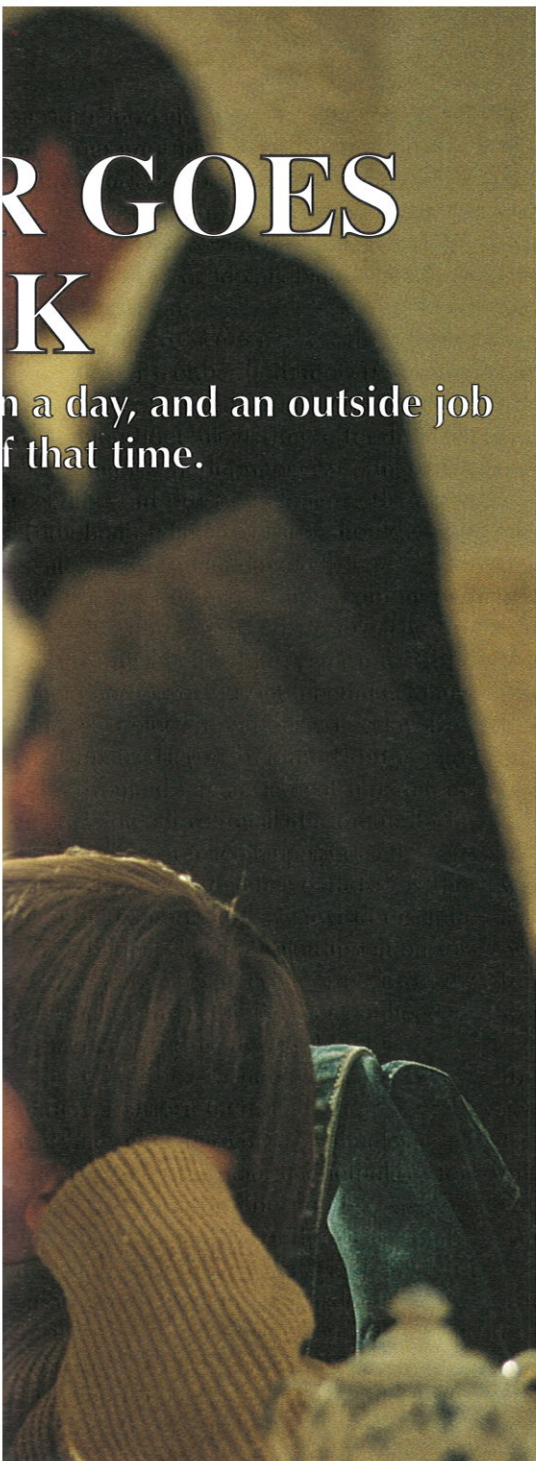
the society in which we live—nursing and teaching, for example. They believe they can be better citizens by serving in these capacities. Other women enjoy the sense of accomplishment they feel in a job well-done.

However, according to most surveys, the overwhelming reason Mother goes to work is to help supply needed finances for the family's well-being. Families are simply not able to have one income provide for all the necessities. Some need a second income if there is any hope of buying a home, sending offspring to college, or retiring without depending on the government for support.



# R GOES K

n a day, and an outside job  
f that time.



## TIME CRUNCH

Mom's employment has changed more than just the look of things at school functions. The biggest difference Mom's job makes at home is time. You have probably heard the saying, "If Momma ain't happy—ain't nobody happy!" There's another verse: "If Mom is in a hurry—everyone is rushed!"

When Mom's at work all day, there are no fewer things to be done at home—just less time in which to do them. When Mom's gone all day, there are no fewer values to teach the children, just less time to teach them; no fewer thoughts on a child's mind, just little time to listen.

With more labor-saving devices than our grandmothers ever dreamed possible, we have less time simply because we are doing a great deal more. Everything is harder when you are tired, and fatigue is a by-product of "doing it all."

## CHURCH FACTOR

The difference is also felt in the church. Busy women are much more selective about what they attend when their time is at a premium. Meetings that start late and don't end on time, or offer little of substance and relevance may not be attended regularly, if at all.

With fewer women at home during the day, churches need to be creative in scheduling events like Vacation Bible School and other special meetings. Many church activities report decreased involvement due to lack of free time on the part of the women. Sunday School superintendents know all too well the difficulty in filling volunteer teaching positions.

Another area that has suffered is the amount of time women have to disciple one another. The biblical admonition for "older women to teach the younger women" (Titus 2:4) often goes unheeded for lack of time and availability.

## THE WILL OF GOD

While many agree that Mom being at work all day is not ideal, nonetheless, for many it is a fact. So how do we make the best of the situation? The decision to seek employment must first be laid before the Lord and His wisdom sought. If the Lord does not give peace about working outside the home, don't be deceived by the world's insistence that you have no choice.

God honors obedience and can provide in any way He chooses. Recognize that there are options. Honestly define "necessities" and the cost of working. With clothing, transportation, child care, and lunches out, we may not reap as much financial benefit from an outside job as we had expected.

## CONSIDER OPTIONS

Staying at home, at least until the children are in school, allows for precious time necessary to teach the children by example. Many moments in a child's life cannot be planned—they will happen whether we are there to share them or not. They learn much through our unspoken words by watching our actions and

reactions to daily events, and by discovering what things are a priority to us.

Part-time work can be found, jobs that allow Mom to be home when the kids leave for school and back home when they return. Perhaps there is work you can do from your home.

Computers provide an excellent opportunity for this, either tied into a system at an office or on your own. Possibly you have a talent that allows you to teach or tutor at home, or perhaps you can care for the children of other working mothers in your home. This decision should only be made with the guidance and creativity of the Lord.

## DEVOTIONAL LIFE

If you do go to work, remember that time alone each day with God is a necessity, not a luxury. Even if some things have to be dropped due to lack of time, do not allow your devotional life to suffer. Careful attention to your spiritual well-being will spill out into your daily activities. God can and will give wisdom when you ask for it, enabling you to better organize and manage your day, as well as delegate responsibilities.

Some women say that working has forced their families to become more accountable in performing tasks at home. Ephesians 5 teaches the concept of submitting to one other; if you are helping your husband to support the family, he can help you with the duties of the home.

Women in the workplace can also have a ministry. When working in a secular environment, contact with needy, unsaved people will be constant, with continual opportunities to model the love of Christ.

Life is a series of choices, and all choices have consequences, whether good or bad. There are only 24 hours in a day, and a decision to go to work means a big portion of that time will be consumed on the job. The decision not to be employed outside the home often means less money and perhaps a delay in major purchases until another season in life. If the decision has been made honestly before the Lord, seeking His guidance, He will be faithful to take care of the consequences. □

*Mrs. Diana Bryant is the working mother of two children. She works on a computer out of her home. Her husband, Randy, pastors a church in Vero Beach, Florida. Reprinted from CONTACT with permission.*





# WHY FATHERS ARE IMPORTANT

The involvement of fathers is vital to families and to our nation's health.

by Marlin Howe

FATHERS MUST BE INVOLVED with their children. Sociologist Margaret Mead stated that while women are biologically connected to their children, men are culturally connected. When a man feels he is no longer needed or valued in his home, he simply walks away. For this reason one-third of all divorced fathers have not seen their children within the past year. This article is a call for fathers to "turn their hearts toward home."

The prophet Malachi says that when the hearts of fathers are no longer turned toward their children, God Himself will visit the land with a curse. The involvement of fathers is vital to our families and to our nation's health. Professor David Popenoe in *Life Without Father* said, "Depriving children of fathers has become the most prevalent form of child maltreatment in America today." Why are fathers so important? I surfed the World Wide Web in search of answers. Here is a brief summary of my findings:

1. When a child does not have a close and sustaining relationship with his or her biological father, it is unlikely that this child will have such a relationship with any adult male.

2. Fathers protect their daughters from abuse, protect their sons from violence, protect their wives from rape and assault, and protect their neighborhoods from intrusion and disorder.

3. Fathers are the primary providers. Even though many mothers work, fathers are still expected to earn the lion's share of the income.

4. Sons learn about male responsibility, achievement, suitable assertiveness, and independence best from their fathers. A father's authority and discipline in rearing sons, particularly teenage sons, is difficult for a mother to achieve.

5. When a daughter enjoys her father, she experiences a healthier femininity, she feels love-worthy, and she is able to trust. Daughters who are able to trust men normally grow up and marry trust-worthy men.

6. Fathers provide stimulating and exciting "rough and tumble" play, but within limits. Children learn that biting and kicking and other forms of physical violence are not acceptable. They learn when enough is enough. A study among Texas prisoners showed that 90 percent of inmates did not play as children, or played abnormally. The majority of pris-



oners also have little or no relationship with their fathers.

7. Fathers stress the survivor skills of competition, challenge, initiative, risk-taking and independence. In contrast, mothers emphasize social integration, relationships, and personal well-being. Fathers focus on their children's long-term development, while mothers focus on their children's immediate situation. Fathers set limits. Fathers stress justice, fairness, and duty (based on rules). Mothers stress sympathy, care, and helping (based on relationships).

8. Fathers help children differentiate their gender roles. Gender-typed children grow up in homes where the sex roles between their parents are not blended but are differentiated. Children learn the healthy use of strength from father and gentleness from mother. Researchers Westley and Epstein (1970) found that only this kind of parenting "produces predominantly emotionally-healthy children."

9. Fathers' involvement plays a unique and irreplaceable role in older children's

intellectual, emotional, and social development. Children can expect improved verbal skills, problem-solving ability, academic achievement, proficiency in math, and reading. The most striking effect, particularly for sons, is a child's increase in empathy and compassion. Males who exhibit anti-social and criminal behaviors have seldom had good relationships with their fathers.

10. Not just any man will do. It is the biological father who is needed in child rearing. Children who are living with their biological fathers exhibit the least delinquency, while children living with stepfathers exhibit the most disordered behavior.

11. Fathers who relate well enable their daughters to accept personal responsibility for their own actions. In contrast, daughters who lack this relationship show a precocious sexual interest, but also a derogation of masculinity and males in general. These daughters also tend to possess a poor ability to maintain sexual and emotion-

al adjustment with one male.

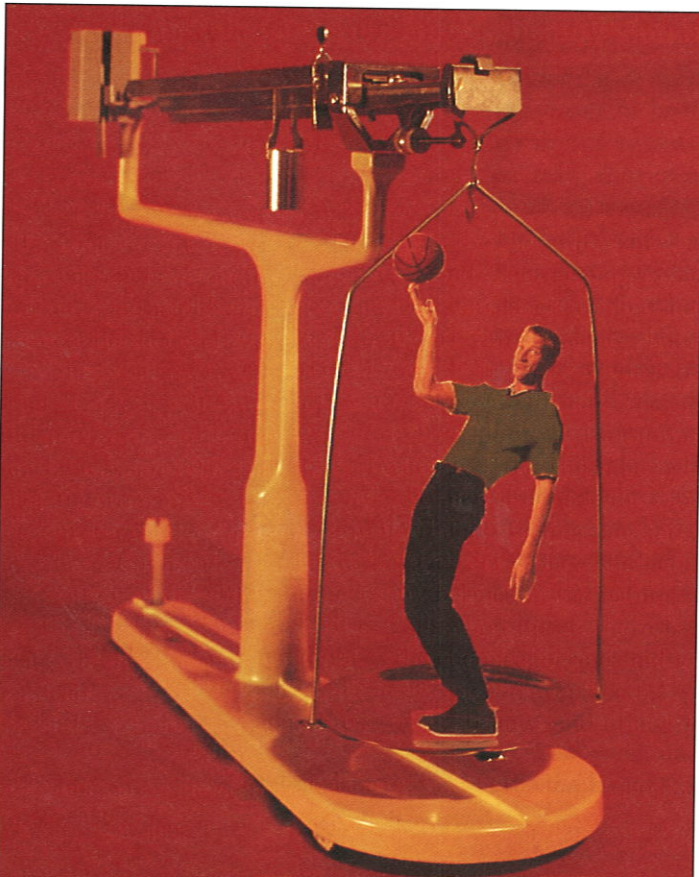
12. God's intention is for fathers to provide spiritual leadership in the home. Without this, the spiritual balance of the family is at risk. The Christian training of the children is not just the mother's responsibility. Boys who do not see the example of a godly father have no role model for leading their own family when they are grown and married. And girls who have been denied this kind of role model are lacking in guidelines when choosing the right man to marry.

Thus, fathers are far more than just "second adults" in the home. Involved fathers, especially biological fathers, bring positive benefits to their children that no other person is likely to bring.

God knows that children without dads face disaster. So, come home, Dad! □

*Dr. Marlin Howe, a conference speaker, writer, and marriage and family counselor, is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary. His doctoral studies were taken at Eastern Baptist Seminary. Dr. Howe and his family live in North Little Rock, Arkansas.*

# WELL-BALANCED!



**Balance assures order, beauty, and utility.  
Imbalance means trouble!**

*by Vernon C. Lyons*

ON SATURDAY, JULY 24, 1915, the excursion boat "Eastland" tipped over in the Chicago River; 812 people were drowned. Too many passengers stood on one side of the boat and the imbalance resulted in the disaster.

People have problems with imbalance, but not God. All God does is marked by perfect balance. Night is balanced with day, summer with winter, spring with fall. There is not only land, but also sea; there are valleys and mountains; prairies and forests. The God who gives the sunshine balances it with the rain. He who made the man also made the woman.

The more advanced and exacting our knowledge, the more we understand what God has done. The naturalist describes a delicate and necessary balance in the natural world. When it is maintained, all is well; when upset, there is destruction. The physician describes the chemical balance in the human body. Its disruption results in disease and even death.

Balance assures order, beauty, and utility. Imbalance means trouble!

In art, imbalance results in the grotesque; in architecture, it is



dangerous; in accounting, it can lead to bankruptcy. When the athlete loses his balance, he sprawls on the ground and may lose the contest. When the musical instruments are not balanced, there is cacophony instead of symphony. When the mind is unbalanced, we call it insanity.

As God is the author of balance, so Satan is the originator of imbalance.

In addition to getting a person from earth to heaven, salvation brings balance to an individual's life. Just as surely as Christ saves us from sin, He delivers us from imbalance in our lives. In fact, the Christian life lived according to the Word of God is the only life that has the possibility of being truly well-balanced.

The born-again person has a balanced concern for his soul and also for his body, which has become a temple of the Holy Spirit. The believer balances a week of work with a day of worship; is concerned not only about getting *from* God, but about giving *to* others. As a growing person he has learned to spend quiet time alone in the presence of God, but he also knows the value of interacting socially as he regu-

larly fellowships with other believers.

The real believer sees employment, family, and church responsibilities not in competition with one another, but each in its place complementing the other and providing balance in his life. Because he is a good steward, he has a proper appreciation of material things, but balances this with a wholesome attention to the spiritual. He weeps, but he also laughs (Ecclesiastes 3:4; Romans 12:15). He balances his times of silence with times of speaking (Ecclesiastes 3:7).

We who are true Christian believers have an adequate appreciation for the past, our Christian heritage; but we give proper attention to the present, and also plan for the future without being so overwhelmed by one that the others are neglected.

God offers this life to everyone who will repent of sin and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is a wholesome, healthy, well-balanced life when lived according to the Word of God.

Next time life seems to go amok, look carefully and see if it may not be a problem of balance—a problem that when

one lives according to the Word of God will correct itself by restoring balance. After all, who doesn't want a well-balanced life? □

*Rev. Vernon C. Lyons has been senior pastor of the Ashburn Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois, since 1951. Through the years he has also had a ministry in writing, radio and television.*

## IN WHICH HOUSE DO YOU LIVE?

"I got two A's," the small boy cried; His voice was filled with glee. His father bluntly asked him, "Why didn't you get three?"

"Mom, I've got the dishes done," The girl called from the door. Her mother very calmly said, "Did you sweep the kitchen floor?"

"I've mowed the grass," the tall boy said, "And put the mower away." The father, looking at the rug, "You didn't clean off the clay!"

The children in the house next door Seem happy and content. The same things happened over there, But this is how it went:

"I got two A's," the small boy cried; His voice was filled with glee. His father proudly said, "That's great! I'm glad you belong to me."

"Mom, I've got the dishes done," The girl called from the door. Her mother smiled and softly said, "Each day I love you more."

"I've mowed the grass," the tall boy said, "And put the mower away." His father answered with much joy, "Son, you have made my day!"

Children deserve a little praise For tasks they're asked to do. If they're to grow up feeling good, A lot depends on you!

—Author Unknown

## Truths Are Not Always Self-Evident

(Continued from p. 7)

as our goal, we give up on our marriages at the first sign of unhappiness. We are a people who embrace any new form of entertainment, whether moral or immoral, as long as we think it will make us happy. And we are ready to hold down two jobs and neglect the really important relationships of our lives in order to earn the money to buy the things that somebody on a TV ad promises would make us happy.

When I mentioned all of this to a friend, he quickly turned on me and said, "First you question the basic theme of the Declaration of Independence. I suppose the next thing you'll do is to raise questions about the values set forth in the Constitution."

After some thought, I had to say, "Yes, I do! I do question the values laid out in the Constitution. While I think it lays down the principles that make for the best political system ever devised by men and women, the Constitution has one basic flaw. It clearly delineates the

Bill of Rights, but it nowhere states a Bill of Responsibilities."

I went on to make the case that a government that insures people of their rights, but fails to clearly spell out their responsibilities, fails to call them to be the kind of people God wants them to be. Americans are quick to scream if their rights are violated in any way, but all too few of us sense the deep responsibilities we have to each other as fellow citizens. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are among the greatest documents ever devised by the human race, but they do not measure up to the divinely inspired Scriptures. The Bible calls us to the goodness, namely godliness, that exalts a nation, and to the mutual responsibilities that we have if we are to truly be a people of God. When all is said and done, we must yield to the Word of God, because next to it, even the best words of people prove inadequate. □

*Dr. Anthony Campolo is president of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education. He is a popular speaker and author. Dr. Campolo and his family live in St. Davids, Pennsylvania.*



by Kevin Narramore

## TRUE CHRISTIAN CHARITY

(Part 2 of 2)

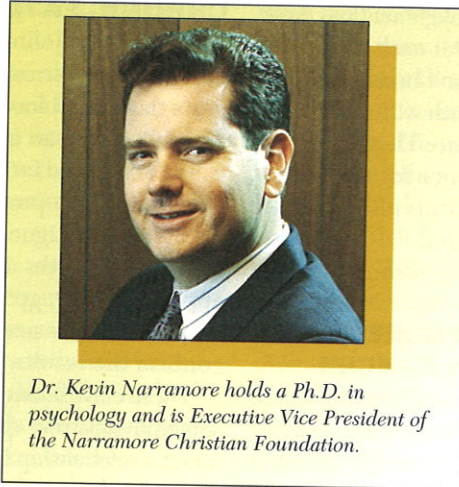
**D**ID YOU KNOW that nearly 40 percent of America's so-called poor actually own their own homes? In many cases these homes are larger than typical middle-class European dwellings. Unfortunately, the U. S. government's definition of the word "poor" does not always represent the truly needy who are unclothed, homeless, and malnourished. In the late 1700's and 1800's, the predominate engine of charity in America was the Church and private community groups. Volunteers separated the deserving from the undeserving needy, and took a personal interest in each case.

Today many impersonal government handout programs (that are actually creating poverty) have replaced the key role once held by devoted church and community members. A recent study by the Cato Institute reviewed the benefits of just six out of 77 of the most common types of federal welfare entitlements. These include food stamps, Medicaid, housing, AFDC, nutrition assistance, and energy assistance. It found that in 39 states, the welfare package pays more than an \$8-an-hour job. In 16 states, welfare payments provide more than someone with a \$10-an-hour job. So where is the incentive to work?

Dr. Michael Bauman, director of Christian studies at Hillsdale College, writes, "We forget that giving good gifts is an exceedingly difficult endeavor and that poverty itself is not always the problem.... If the lack of money (poverty) were all that ails the poor, supplying vast amounts of money surely would alleviate it. But after 30 years of the Great-Society-style 'War on Poverty' welfare programs— programs that have transferred (in 1990 dollar value) more than \$3.6 trillion to the poor— poverty is still winning."

### WHAT CAN I DO?

✓ **Know your personality bias toward helping the needy.** The *soft-*



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*hearted personality* will literally feel others' pain and feel compelled to assist those in need, often without considering the logic of a situation. Giving others the benefit of the doubt, a soft-hearted person may need help with being discerning and analytical. In this way he is not so easily duped.

The *tough-minded personality*, on the other hand, is calm under pressure and shows less sympathy to the plights of others. A variant of the tough-minded personality is the "once-burned" person who becomes overly skeptical and shuns giving any help to the needy out of fear of being taken and made to look foolish.

✓ **Be careful about giving money to the prideful poor who are too arrogant to work.** Rather, remind them that they can become better persons than they are today *only* if they are willing to work. In the book of Ruth we read how landowners helped feed the hungry by leaving the corners of their fields unharvested and the upper, harder-to-reach branches of fruit trees unpicked. In II Thessalonians 3: 10-12, the Apostle Paul is very definite in declaring to church members, "If a man will not work, he shall not eat.... We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat."

This often means starting at the bottom of the ladder and taking jobs others do not want. The value of mastering English and math must also be stressed.

✓ **Contribute and volunteer your services in a church or Christian ministry that practices effective compassion by ministering to the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of the truly needy.**

Organizations that show effective compassion help people on an individualized basis by carefully assessing their needs, abilities, and special problems. Aid given without discernment is poor stewardship.

✓ **Make a point to be personally involved in helping at least one less-fortunate person or some needy family over the next year.** Pray and seek direction for finding people to help who are truly deserving and desirous of change. Consider sharing this responsibility with friends, relatives, or co-workers. Stress the importance of work over dependency and how work itself is rejuvenating in and of itself. Show how in your own life, obedience to God can bring about radical transformations.

### TRUE COMPASSION

God's Word teaches us to be charitable. But true compassion calls for personal relationships characterized by a mixture of charity and spiritual challenge. Henry Raymond, founder of the New York Times, said that "before a cure can be applied or devised, the cause of the evil must be ascertained." Because of the "sinfulness in the heart of man" it is necessary that the "heart must be changed." How different this is from the feed-and-forget mentality of most government programs.

*"He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, And He will reward him for what he has done."*

—Proverbs 19:17 □



by Eva Hallam Solberg

## SAFE AND LESS EXPENSIVE

A safe and less expensive alternative to an antibiotic ointment such as Bacitracin, is petroleum jelly (Vaseline) in caring for a clean, minor cut. The rate of infection is equally low for both treatments, and petroleum jelly is less likely to cause an allergic reaction, according to a study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. In addition, healing progresses at a similar rate with both treatments.

(The Johns Hopkins Medical Letter)

## INTERNAL BREATH FRESHENERS

People don't need to fight bad breath "from the inside out," since the odors seldom come from the gastrointestinal tract, but rather originate in your mouth—especially the back of the tongue. Mints and

mouthwashes can quell bad breath temporarily; they cannot cure the underlying problem behind chronic bad breath. Make sure to practice good dental hygiene: floss daily and brush after each meal. When you can't brush, rinse out your mouth with water.

Bottom line: There's no scientific evidence for any "natural" anti-halitosis pills now being marketed.

(UC Berkeley Wellness Letter)

## UNFAITHFULNESS AND CERVICAL CANCER

Women are five to 11 times more likely to develop cervical cancer if their men frequent prostitutes or have many sexual partners, according to a study at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The cancer is directly linked to human papillomavirus or HPV, commonly spread by sexual inter-

course. Up to 97 percent of cervical cancers are infected with virus. (Times Leader)

## TREATMENT FOR CHRONIC FATIGUE

Research at Johns Hopkins and elsewhere strongly suggests that poor blood pressure control may be an underlying cause of chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS)—profound, unexplained fatigue that lasts at least six months and appears before age fifty-five. Further study is needed to confirm the results.

These early findings have led some physicians to speculate about a relationship between generalized fatigue and blood pressure findings that are consistently lower than normal. In the United States, the prevailing view is that there is probably not a connection, and that low blood pressure need not be treated. Practices in other parts


of the world (most notably Germany) sometimes differ. (The Johns Hopkins Medical Letter)

## VINEGAR IN EAR—OATS IN BATH


If you are prone to ear infections and your ear begins to itch after swimming or even showering, you can use antiseptic ear drops, available without a prescription at any drugstore. But you can also make them yourself: mix equal parts of white vinegar and rubbing alcohol, and put one or two drops of this solution into each ear with a medicine dropper. Use three times daily.

For an extensive sunburn, scatter a cup of dry instant oatmeal in a tub of cool water and soak for awhile. The oatmeal soothes the skin and reduces inflammation, as does cornstarch.

(UC Berkeley Wellness Letter)



# Living Memorials



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## COMING NEXT ISSUE

Giant Deception

Fun! Fun! Fun!

The Roar

Marks Of False Teaching

Divorce: Hurting Hearts and Devastated Dreams

Understanding and Dealing With Depression

Please Listen!



by Clyde M. Narramore

## WHY WOULD ONE CHILD IN A FAMILY BE A “BLACK SHEEP?”

### QUESTION:

*There is something that I have always wondered about, but I've never heard a good answer for it. How is it that even when all the children in a family seem to be brought up in about the same way, sometimes one of them becomes a “black sheep”? Why?*

### ANSWER:

From time to time I hear people label someone as a “black sheep.” Then I begin to wonder if my concept of a *black sheep* is the same as others. So I asked a number of people to describe their versions of what a *black sheep* might be. Here are their responses:

“I think a *black sheep* is someone who doesn't conform to the family's structure. He does his own thing and doesn't follow the ideals of his parents.”

“A *black sheep* is a person who is looked upon with disfavor when compared with his brothers and sisters. He's the one who is always in trouble.”

“When I think of a *black sheep* I think of someone who never does right—sort of a thorn in the flesh.”

I was interested in these responses. And the others I questioned all said much the same thing. It seems that most people consider a “*black sheep*” as someone who not only doesn't get along well in a family, but who is noticeably *maladjusted*.

### GENETICS

Even siblings growing up in the same home can expect to have some significant differences. Each of us is born with certain genetic factors drawn

from a large number of people in our background. It's true, of course, that the traits we inherit come primarily from those who are closest to us: our mothers and fathers. But we're not limited to the characteristics of our parents.

Grandparents and great-grandparents and others on the sides of both parents also contribute to the genetic mix that makes a person the way he is. Children in the same family may have inherited different talents and natural abilities. Because brothers and sisters may be different genetically, they may react and behave quite differently from one another.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### *Sibling relationships:*

When two or more children grow up in one family, we tend to think of them all as being raised the same way. But this is not necessarily true. An older child, for example, may receive much stronger discipline and be given more responsibility than a middle or younger child. The youngest child may be thought of as the “baby” and be treated with more leniency. Sometimes one child is jealous of the other. Also, one child may be treated quite differently by his *siblings* than another child who is younger, or older, or more aggressive, or more withdrawn. How a child is treated by his brothers and sisters makes a difference in that child's personality development.

#### *Parental influences:*

Another reason one child in a family may be quite different from the others is because **he fills a different role in the**

**life of his parents.** He may meet the needs of his mother and father so well that they favor him. Another child may be resented because he resembles a relative against whom his mother or father harbors ill feelings. Still another child in that family may be very strong-willed; another, more affectionate. So they may receive quite different treatment. This has an effect on how a child feels and acts.

Then too, **parents go through different life experiences and levels of adjustment** as they move through their 20s, 30s, 40s, and 50s. As a result they react differently to the child who is developing significantly at that particular period. All this makes a difference.

I knew a man who grew up under extremely adverse circumstances. His parents were unsaved and very unhappy. They fought a lot. Money was scarce. You can imagine the difficult, negative experiences this child was subjected to from the time he was born. But as the years went by, the parents underwent a great change. They accepted Christ as their Savior. They got their financial situation together. They had professional counseling and learned to live happily together. The son and daughter who were born to them later in life had a very different family situation from the oldest child. The younger children grew up to be well-adjusted, happy, productive young people, while the older sibling still struggles with many hang-ups and insecurities.

### SPIRITUAL FACTORS

Another reason a child may

grow up to be quite different from his siblings is because of his own *spiritual commitment*—or his lack of it. The others may be following the Lord, but one child may be rebelling against God. This makes all the difference in the world.

I am thinking of two brothers. At the age of twelve one boy trusted Christ as his personal Savior. Immediately he began to yield his life to the Lord. He made Christ-centered choices which led him into paths of blessing. His brother refused to trust the Lord, made unwise and sinful choices. His life was a tragedy by the time he was twenty. Indeed, **the spiritual commitment of a particular child or of his family makes a great deal of difference** in a child's attitude and behavior.

### PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

In discussing the *black sheep* in a family, we cannot overlook special problems that may afflict certain children. Through no fault of their own, some children have a severe physical difficulty (such as a neurological impairment) which has never been diagnosed or properly treated. As a result, they often suffer throughout their lives.

In summary, when you see someone who is not doing well—someone who seems to be a “*black sheep*”—remember there is a reason. **All behavior is caused, and causes are always multiple.** If you and I can develop this attitude, life will not only be more meaningful and happier for ourselves, but we will also be able to help those around us who are not doing well. □



by Lee and Gloria Bendell

## WHILE WE WAIT ...

**I**N OUR FAMILY, May and June are very special months. Both Gloria and I have birthdays in May. Our daughter was married in May. Two of our five grandchildren were born in May. Our son was married in June. Two other grandchildren were born in June. Our daughter-in-law has a birthday in June. In May we also celebrate Mother's Day, and in June we celebrate Father's Day.

May is also the month in which we usually remember the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ (on May 8 this year). It's date is always related to Easter. Acts 1:3 tells us: "After His suffering, He showed Himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God." Moving on to the ninth verse, we read, "After He (Jesus) had said this, He was taken up before their very eyes and a cloud hid Him from their sight."

God's Word continues: "They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven'" (Acts 1:10-11).

In the conclusion of the Gospel of Mark we are told: "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and He sat at the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19).

Even now, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Savior, is

sitting at the right hand of God. One day He will return in all His glory. "For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever" (I Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

We also know that as believers who have placed our faith in Jesus Christ, if and when we experience physical death, our souls or spirits shall immediately be in the presence of the Lord. "We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord" (II Corinthians. 5:8). Then at the time of our Lord's return, we will be given resurrected, glorified bodies... and "be with the Lord forever" (I Thessalonians 4:17b).

**What differences should these promises make in our thoughts, attitudes, and behavior?** How do these promises affect the way we view our circumstances today... and our future tomorrows?

The return of Jesus Christ, is often referred to as our "blessed hope." Titus 2:11-14 tells us how we are to live as



we wait for that time to arrive. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. **It**

**teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness** and worldly passions and to live self-controlled upright and godly lives in this present age, *while we wait* for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good."

Not long ago I heard a wonderful sermon that also partially answered these questions. The central point was that **we are to take our eyes off of our current circumstances and focus them on the glorified, risen Christ.** Of course, this may be easier said than done. I don't know your circumstances. They may include poor health, broken relationships, children who are not walking with the Lord, the loss of your job, financial setbacks, the death or serious illness of your life partner...or of a close family member (mother, father, brother, sister, son or daughter). In James, chapter one, we are told that **these trials are for the testing of our faith;** as we respond correctly, trusting in the Lord, we will develop

perseverance. Our response, of course, should be based on the conviction that **God loves us deeply and wants the best for us.** ( See Jeremiah 29:11 and Romans 8:28, 34-39.)

A Bible study group that Gloria and I participate in was sharing on this same subject. One said that the promise of a glorified Christ sitting at the right hand of God interceding for us (Romans 8:34) gives us encouragement and hope. **It may not change our circumstances, but it can change the way we view them.** Another pointed out that these promises also influence the way we look at death—our own death and the death of our loved ones.

Despite pain and suffering, we know that we will be ushered into the very presence of God when we depart from our earthly bodies. And, we will join our loved ones who preceded us. "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain" (Revelation 21:4). We can look forward to an eternity of joy and peace.

Yes, we are pilgrims in this world waiting patiently for the day when we will be called to join our Lord and Maker. God's Word instructs us as to what we should be doing *while we wait*: "Therefore, my dear brothers, **stand firm. Let nothing move you.** Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord. Because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (I Corinthians 15:58). "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:57). □

All Scripture is quoted from the N.I.V.





# OUR WORLD TODAY

by Eva Hallam Solberg

## CAMPERS BEWARE!

The American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers (ASCAP) is at it again. This time it's campfire songs. Beware if the song is copyrighted and you use it; you might have to pay for it! ASCAP has threatened to sue for fees upon use of such typical camp songs as "This Land Is Your Land" or "God Bless America." Don't dare sing "Happy Birthday" either; it's also off-limits.

Many organizations, including camps, have eliminated copyrighted songs from their programs to avoid the extra costs. So don't be surprised the next time you go to a restaurant for your birthday and you hear something other than the normal "Happy Birthday" song. Well, at least they're forcing people to be more creative. (*Discovery*)

## STATISTICS ON THE HOMELESS

A survey by the International Union of Gospel Missions revealed that of 14,000 homeless men and women, one in four are under twenty-five, half under thirty-five, and 80 percent are under forty-five—quite different from the stereotypical fifty-five-year-old alcoholic drifter. For 60 percent of America's homeless, this past year was their first on the streets or in a homeless shelter.

Principal reasons for being homeless included addictions, broken relationships, job loss, military-related traumas, and mental illness. Blacks comprise 38 percent, and Hispanics, 11 percent of the homeless. Nearly 70 percent said they plan on remaining in the city

**The greatest thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.**

where they currently reside, dispelling the myth that homeless people are transients.

Sixty percent admitted to having received government assistance during the past two years. The survey also revealed that the vast majority of missions that are helping the homeless are given no federal or state funding, but must rely solely on volunteers and charitable contributions.

(*The National Psychologist*)

## A LOAN FOR FIXER-UPPERS

Are you interested in a middle-priced house that needs renovation or repair? Ask your lender about the FHA's 203(k) loans. They provide enough money to cover both the cost of the house and the repair, with a down payment of as little as five percent. You can borrow up to the FHA's loan limits, which vary by geographical area.

(*Good Housekeeping*)

## GIRL BABIES MORE OFTEN ABORTED

By 1992, 119 boys were born in China for every 100 girls. In South Korea it was 114 boys, 112 in India, and 110 in Taiwan for every 100 girls—strong evidence that baby girls are the most often aborted. Some experts fear social upheaval if this trend continues, inasmuch as such societies will have large popu-

lations of young males without a corresponding number of females to be their wives.

"How ironic," comments Robert Dugan, editor of *NAE Washington Insight*, "Feminists aggressively promote 'freedom of choice' as a fundamental right for women, while those most frequently killed by this deadly procedure are little girls. Modern pro-abortion women, who themselves have been granted the right to life, are denying that very right to their unborn daughters."

(*NAE Washington Insight*)

## CELL PHONE HAZARD

What's worse than another driver who cuts you off in traffic? How about one who does so while blithely chattering away on a cellular phone? One study determined that driving while phoning quadruples the risk of having a car accident. It was also found that the main factor in this risk is the driver's limitation in attention, not a matter of dexterity.

(*Los Angeles Business Journal*)

## ON-LINE WITH JESUS

A computer program that lets users confess their sins and receive appropriate penance was condemned by Germany's Roman Catholic Church which said, "You cannot have sins forgiven by the push of a button." The "Confession by Computer" lets users pick from a list of

200 already-programmed sins, or enter their own if they've been particularly creative. The program searches its database for an appropriate penance, then gives instructions for contacting a pastor on the Internet.

(*EP News Service*)

## FACTS ABOUT ALCOHOL

Ten percent of drinkers consume an estimated 60 to 70 percent of all alcohol. Without problem drinkers, the profits of the alcohol industry would plummet.

In Canada, more than half of all deaths among Native Americans are alcohol-related.

In Papua New Guinea, more than 85 percent of all fatal road accidents involve drivers or pedestrians who are drunk.

In the United States, someone is killed by a drunk driver every 24 minutes.

(*World Vision*)

## MISSING ATHEIST, MISSING MONEY

Early rumors following her disappearance were that famed atheistic leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair was dead and that her death was being kept quiet by her followers. William Murray, O'Hair's estranged son, now a born-again Christian evangelist and an advocate for school prayer, filed a missing persons report, and later filed a court petition to become guardian of the estates of his missing family members. The IRS was seeking \$750,000 in allegedly misdirected funds from the atheist groups; since then, more missing funds have been discovered.

(*EP News Service*)



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