

# Youth 81



**SEP 1981-**  
**Summertime Fun**  
**for You!**

**“Certainly, Sir!”**  
By Herbert W. Armstrong

MARCH



# "CERTAINLY, SIR!"

By Herbert W. Armstrong

"I WOULD LIKE another pat of butter, please." "Certainly, sir," replied the busboy as we breakfasted in a San Francisco hotel.

It was not so much what he said. It was the manner in which it was spoken that started a train of thought.

"Why is it," I began philosophizing to my wife, "that we Americans are so ill-trained in good manners and the use of the English language? This busboy is evidently English. I doubt if one in a hundred college seniors in America, ready for graduation from college, could speak and act with the grace and culture of this English busboy. Yet in every other phase of education they would all probably show much further advancement than this young man.

"In other words, he probably has no more than a high school education, yet because he has been reared in an English home he *appears* to have more education than the average American college graduate."

## Judged by our speech

"Remember when we were in England?" I continued. "Even servants and people with very little education, in the more humble stations of English life, spoke and acted with better speech, more poise and culture than most Americans of considerable education.

"Did you notice the *manner* in which this busboy said 'Certainly, sir?' It bespoke a developed, experienced *personality*. It wasn't said in a

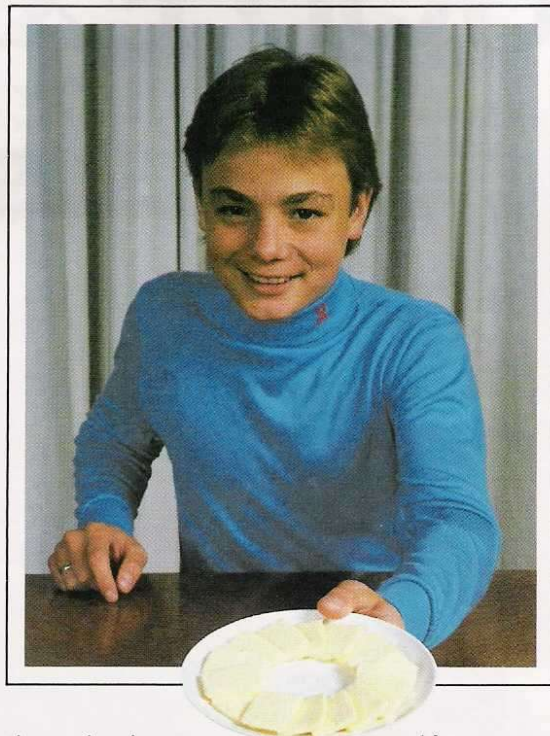


Photo by Warren Watson

hesitant, self-conscious manner. It was spoken in the manner to which he is accustomed by long experience. Back of it, and reflected in his voice, was a personality habitually trained in easy, courteous, respectful and fluent self-expression."

This type of self-expression — this personality development — this training in good speech and good manners, cannot be instilled in the school classroom alone. The English example demonstrates that it must be developed in the home — in a happy, cultured, well-mannered family life, where certain restraints are enforced by the parents, and slipshod carelessness, undue familiarity and general letting down of the bars is not tolerated.

This requires careful diligence on the part of parents. When they, themselves, let down the bars, become careless about personal

appearance, cocking feet on tables or chairs, speaking crossly, losing tempers, scarring the furniture or moving it out of place, they may expect their children to mature into uncouth, ill-trained, ignorant-appearing men and women.

Even when young parents firmly resolve to start out their family life with the most careful training, it is exceedingly difficult in an America with its public school playgrounds, where young children come into daily contact with ill-trained youngsters from other homes. I remember when our boys, along about the second or third grade, were heard saying, "Aw, that ain't no good."

"Where on earth did you learn that kind of language?" I asked. "Why, at school, Daddy."

I was amazed. But of course they didn't learn that kind of grammar in the classroom. They got it from other children on the playgrounds.

When students who have graduated from high school come to Ambassador College, with most grades in the *As* or *Bs*, proficient in mathematics, history and other subjects, but are not so well-trained in their English, we require them to take a special course in remedial English. We want Ambassador students not only to be well educated in the sense of possessing a large fund of knowledge, and sound understanding, but we want them to *appear* educated by the way they express themselves — in personality, in speech and in manners. It is our most difficult task.

They study English, and composition, and public speaking, and use of the voice in speaking, and foreign  
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## DOES GOD EXIST?

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uniqueness of planet earth. How did it all happen?

Maybe you'll have a chance to travel in the world and view ruins of places such as Babylon, Ekron, Ashdod, Ashkelon or Sidon. Don't think, "These are interesting ruins," and let it pass from your mind. Consider the prophetic significance of these places and realize God has the ability to foretell the future and make things come to pass.

Maybe you're studying physics or experimenting in biology. Don't approach it merely as a class assignment. Connect those physical laws you see at work, that caterpillar you see change into a beautiful butterfly, those frogs you dissect — all the experiments you do — with a greater question. Did this just happen? Was it accidental? Did it just evolve?

Maybe your interest lies in computers. Think about how fascinating these machines are. But understand as well that the most complex computer is still greatly inferior to man's brain. Tie that in with the thought that man has never been able to create anything that is superior to himself. Then ask yourself if you believe that any power or force of less intelligence than your mind produced you!

These are just a few examples. In other words, if you take time to really look at life, you see those proofs in action around you. They become *living* proofs. God becomes more real in your understanding.

You'll find that when God is more real to you, you'll draw closer to Him in your prayer, your Bible study, your listening to His Word on the Sabbath and your observance of His way of life.

As I Thessalonians 5:21 says, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." You can read about the proofs God exists, but go one step beyond that. Prove them in your life. Make them real through the things you experience.

Whether you are 13 or 18, you can prove God exists — and you can prove it so deeply to yourself that you will always hold fast to the belief and nothing will ever shake it. □

## "CERTAINLY, SIR!"

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languages, under very competent professors. Still, we find, it takes constant diligent drill, and it takes time, and it takes patience.

But I must add, there is a great deal of satisfaction in the realization that progress is really greater than we usually realize, watching the day-to-day development of students.

I would recommend to all parents whose children are still young that they take some reputable and approved correspondence course in good English and good speech. Take inventory in your own home.

Ask yourselves, "Do we eat at our

family table with the same manners we would if we were visiting some friends or relatives? Do we speak softly, or do we yell? If we wish to speak to another of the family in another part of the house, do we remain where we are and shout, or do we go to the other room and speak quietly?

Remember, God is not the author of confusion. A real Christian home will be one that is neat, clean and orderly, and where the family speaks softly with good manners. Otherwise you are breaking some of the commandments of God, living in disorder and confusion and doing serious harm and injury to the future of your children. In all things, let us be circumspect and walk orderly. □

## BY THE WAY...

By Dexter Faulkner

**D**ID IT EVER occur to you that you will never be old?

Two weeks after you were born, you were two weeks "old." But you were very young. There you were, asleep in your mother's arms, small and innocent.

For the newborn, 7 years "old" is a long way off. But is 7 really "old"? No. You enjoyed playing with tiny cars and plastic dolls. At 7 you were only about 3 feet tall. You were still young.

What about the teen years? Toys gather dust or are discarded now. The stereo becomes important, along with the label on a pair of jeans. Voices change. Bodies grow tall. To a toddler you've become a giant. But you don't consider yourself "old," do you? Of course not. You are still young. Just ask anyone who has reached 21.

Age 21. You're finishing college, or maybe you're already out of school and earning a living. You are a responsible adult. Does this make 21 "old"? Not to people in their 30s. And just ask somebody in his 40s whether he thinks 30 is old. He'll probably tell you a few things he *used* to do years

ago when he was "only" 30.

And those who are 50 can say the same about those who are 40. And on and on it goes: 60, 70, 80, 90, 100. You are still younger to anyone who is older.

Well, when do you stop being "young" then? The answer is, never! God and His angels will always be older than you are. In God's Kingdom, when you are 100 million years "old," you will still be young — compared to God and His angels. God is the "Ancient of days" (Dan. 7:13). In the Bible He addresses all Christians, no matter what their age, as "little children" (I John 2:1, 3:18, 4:4).

The oldest person on the face of the earth today could walk up to a majestic redwood tree and try to stretch his arms around a giant that saw 900 summers and winters before he was even born. And when that redwood was but a tiny sprout poking its head up through the forest floor, the gnarled bristlecone pines had already endured the elements for 3,000 years.

We are really newcomers to life! All of us. Each day we are *older*. But we are never *old*. □