

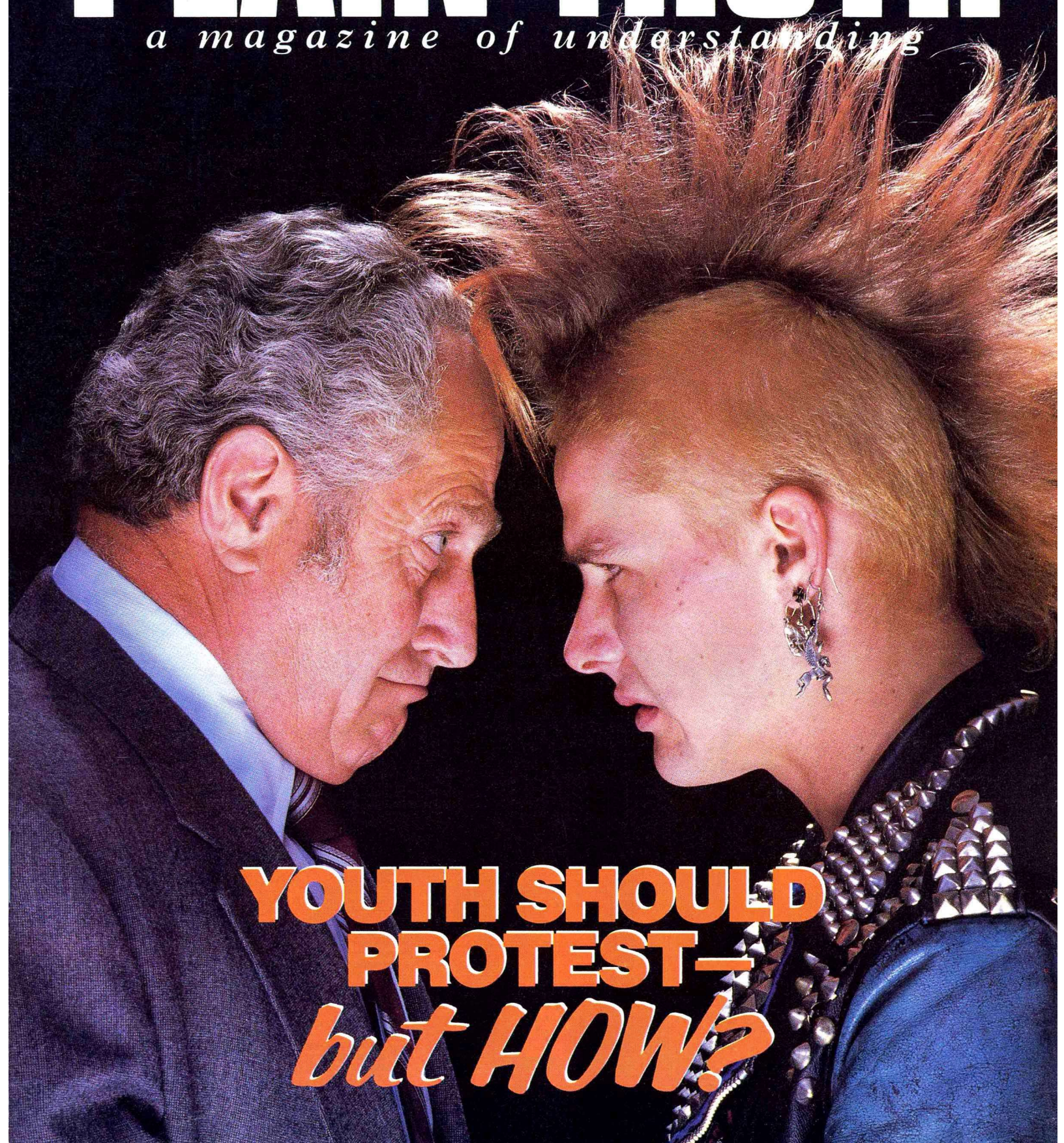
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PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



**YOUTH SHOULD
PROTEST—
*but HOW?***

PERSONAL FROM



Robert A. Roach

Mystery of the Ages

I AM writing a new book titled *Mystery of the Ages*. It will appear serially for the next several months in *The Plain Truth*.

Why have I written this book? Why is it so important *now*? In this Personal I would like to explain.

I have lived a long, active, interest-packed life covering all of the 20th century to the present and the last eight and a half years of the 19th century.

I have lived through the horse and buggy age, the automobile and industrial age, the air age, the nuclear age and now into the space age. I have seen America live through the agrarian age when farmers walked behind their horse-drawn plows singing happily, and into the urban age when Midwest American farmers are groaning and fighting for more government subsidies to prevent the extinction of farm life.

I have seen this twentieth century develop into a state of awesome advancement and achievement industrially and technologically. At the same time I have seen alarming escalation of appalling evils, crime and violence and the crucible of nuclear war develop to threaten the very extinction of the human race within the present living generation. These conditions and facts are indeed mysteries that have remained unsolved and now need to be explained.

I have traveled over the four quarters of this globe we call earth. I have rubbed shoulders with the rich

and the poor and those in between. I have visited with captains of industry, emperors, kings, presidents and prime ministers. I have seen this world firsthand at close range as have only the very few.

And through this long and pulsating eventful life I have asked myself many questions that were deep mysteries to me, and remain unanswered and unexplained mysteries to the world as a whole.

At age 5, my father said I was going to be a Philadelphia lawyer when I grew up, because I was always asking so many questions about so many things. I wanted to UNDERSTAND. I craved UNDERSTANDING. King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, desired wisdom, and God gave him wisdom above all others. After so many years I realize now that the same God has given me the UNDERSTANDING of life's deepest mysteries that remain an enigma in most minds.

How did all this happen? I was reared in a Protestant church until the age of 18, but I never heard these plaguing questions explained in church. If the Bible reveals the answers, why so many denominations of Christianity and so much disagreement as to what the Bible says?

But who can understand the Bible? I certainly never had understood it. And even if one does, can you believe the Bible? Does it speak with any authority? That question puzzled me. How I came to understand began in the year of 1926.

In that summer I asked myself: "Who am I? WHAT am I? WHY am I?" I tried to reason out the answer, but I couldn't. It was a mystery. Then, that very autumn I was confronted with a mind-boggling challenge on a biblical question and the theory of evolution. This resulted in opening my mind to amazing vistas and depths of knowledge and understanding.

It all started with the question of Sunday observance and the origin of man.

I knew that the Bible was the world's number one selling book. Yet to me it had been an enigma. I could never understand it. I said, "The Bible says, 'Thou shalt observe Sunday.'" I was asked how did I know? Had I read that in the Bible?

I answered that I knew because all the churches observe Sunday and I supposed the source of their teaching was the Bible.

But my marriage was at stake on the question. I was

forced into an in-depth study and research into the Bible and also into the theory of evolution, at that time rapidly gaining universal acceptance in the field of higher education.

My in-depth study into the works of Darwin, Huxley, Haeckel, et al led me to question the authority of the Bible and even the existence of God. I was determined to find absolute proof of the existence of God and of the authority of the Bible, or to reject both. Most people, I realized, accept or reject a belief in either on careless assumption due to whatever they have heard, been taught, or assumed without proof. I wanted to understand. And I wanted to be sure on positive proof, not on careless assumption or wishful thinking.

After many months of virtually night and day study, the answers were revealed to me with proof that was positive and absolute.

I found the Bible to be a coded book, with answers to the paramount mysteries confronting all humanity. The revelation of these mysteries was lost, even to the Church of God, although the revelation of them has been preserved in the writings of the Bible. Why, then, has the world not clearly understood? Because the Bible was a coded book, not intended to be understood until our day in this latter half of the 20th century. I learned, in this night and day study, why it is the most misunderstood book, even though it is the world's best-seller.

Vistas of knowledge and understanding were opened to my astonished eyes and mind that have remained the chief mysteries of life to most people. But it is recorded in that book that in these very days in which our generation lives, the great mystery would be cleared. And indeed it was to my astonished mind.

I learned that the Bible is like a jigsaw puzzle—thousands of pieces that need putting together—and the pieces will fit together in only one way. Then the picture becomes crystal clear to the one willing to believe what God our Creator says.

This present book merely puts the many pieces of the great puzzle together so they can be clearly understood.

As you read and reread this book, compare constantly with your own Bible. See these truths with your own eyes in your own Bible. And open your mind to God's leading you into his TRUTH as you do. It will make a lot of sense as nothing ever did before.

Time may prove this to be the most important book written in almost 1,900 years.

Not because of literary excellence or flowery language of scholarship that it has purposely avoided, but because of its plainness of speech in clarifying the most important knowledge ever revealed from the supreme source of understanding of that which has mystified all humans since man first appeared on earth.

This world's humanity has been blinded to who, what and why man is—how man appeared on earth. Man has been mystified by his inability to solve his problems, or find answers to the perplexing questions of mankind and the world he inhabits.

All these mysteries were long ago revealed by the

one supreme authority of all knowledge, but in a coded message not allowed to be revealed and uncoded until our time.

The Church was infiltrated during the first century with another gospel; many false teachings and false churches under the name of "traditional Christianity" arose. As God reveals in Revelation 12:9, the whole world has been deceived. These basic truths have been kept a mystery. Even sincere and well-meaning men among the clergy have received their teaching from other men as handed down traditionally in these churches. They have assumed these false teachings to be the true teachings of the Bible, instead of putting the various scriptures, like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, together in clarity and in truth. Even the world of a professed traditional Christianity has been deceived.

It is hoped that this book, written since God's time for it has come, will open many eyes to the truth of these long hidden mysteries.

PREFACE

D ID you ever ask *yourself*: "Who am I? What am I? Why am I?"

The world about you is a mystery. You yourself are a mystery. You have never seen your brain, the seat of your intellect and all that you are.

Your life is engulfed in mysteries. When you reflect, your very existence is a mystery. Did you simply happen by unintelligent resident earthly forces without meaning or purpose, or were you intelligently designed and created by an all-powerful God of supreme mind for a purpose that also has been hidden in mystery? In fact, the persistent tradition throughout human history about the Creator God has been such a mystery that higher education in the Western World has sought to erase the mystery by giving virtually unanimous acceptance to the theory of evolution. The evolutionary theory has been invented by human minds in an effort to explain the presence of a creation without the existence of a divine Creator.

And if the all-powerful God was your Maker, and exists as the divine Creator of all that is, then the mystery about God emerges, in order of time sequence, as the first and paramount mystery of all.

Who and what is God? That is a mystery not understood by any religion, not explained by science, untaught by higher education. God reveals himself in his Word, the Holy Bible, yet almost none has understood it. The Bible, as the writer Bruce Barton said, is "the book that nobody knows." The Bible itself is the basic mystery that reveals all other mysteries.

If the truth about God is mystery number one revealed in the Bible, assuredly the truth about angels and evil spirits is second in order. Is there, after all, a devil? Did God create a devil? If there are holy angels, what is their purpose and function? The Bible clearly states that this world is actually ruled by unseen principalities of evil spirits. Do evil spirits affect and influence humans and even governments today? Do evil spirits affect even your own life? This question seems enveloped in total mystery. (Continued on page 41)

Children of the Inner City

What's the solution for youths who live on the street?

“H EY, let's pop that old broad, cop the bread and blow some smoke. Yeah man, let's do it!”

Did you understand what you just read? Or should we interpret it for you? “Let's rob the old lady, take her money and buy some marijuana.”

Tragically, dialogue like this and the criminal aftermath occur thousands of times each day in teeming urban areas, especially in the United States. Even more tragic is that most of these crimes are committed by “children” from 8 to 18. No wonder Isaiah prophesied what he did about our day: “Children are their oppressors” (Isa. 3:12, Revised Authorized Version throughout).

Misguided children are turning our inner cities into war zones of crime and gang violence. But this installment is not about child crime, it's about how to rear crimeless children—children who will not become statistics in prisons or morgues. Straight children can be reared in a crooked environment!

The Challenge

It's not easy trying to point children in the right direction when everything around them pulls them in the wrong direction. Yet that's the way it is in too many neighborhoods in the inner cities.

The average child in the inner city lives with his mother who is probably unskilled and unemployed. His father has long since left the family. There are often

three or four brothers and sisters who share the three-room government-subsidized apartment commonly known as “the projects.”

He or she grows up in the graffiti-garnished, broken-glass-littered streets. In too many cases, one could say that the inner-city child is reared in the streets and by the streets—and the streets are cold-blooded ruthless teachers.

The streets teach children to survive by being cunning, devious and violent. The street “faculty members,” in the United States for example, are characters who carry names like Apple Jack, Baldy Locks, Superfly and Fast Eddie. These infamous role models are themselves graduates of the streets with graduate work in the “big house” (prison). Many have master's degrees in the gruesome fields of dope pushing, pimping, robbery and murder. They are there eager and ready to pass on their seamy skills.

These “professors of the streets” hang out on every corner dazzling their aspiring young pupils with the trappings of “success”: fine rags (flashy clothes), a bad ride (luxury car) and a head fix (high on some form of drug). This is what the inner-city child is conditioned to believe is “making it”—real success in life.

Since repetition is a good teaching technique, this street life-style is reinforced minute by minute and song by song by the sounds that blast from the “box” (large portable radio). This mechanized repetitious teacher of the streets hypnotizes and

programs the mind with the life-style and values of his or her human street teachers. The constant reinforced curriculum is inescapable: easy sex, easy money, easy high, and being a “player” (ghetto Romeo).

Yet, despite all these negative factors, it is possible to rear straight children! Whereas the details we have just described are more typical of American cities, the circumstances and the solutions are universally relevant.

Thousands of parents in the inner cities are successfully meeting the challenge. They are rearing children who, in spite of their environment, are responsible, respectful and successful young people. They are proving that just because you live in the ghetto, the ghetto doesn't have to live in you. Here is what you can do to rear your children above the shaky shambles of the streets and set their feet on solid ground.

Responsible Parents: Good Children

Parents, let's face it. If you want your children to turn out right, you must be right. You must be what you want your children to become.

Children are great imitators. As little tots they dress up in our clothes and play Momma and Daddy, “acting” like us. As they grow older it becomes more than just playacting—they live out the role of their parent or parents.

If you cheat the bill collector and lie to the government, why should you be surprised when your child

robs somebody? If you use profanity, why should you be shocked when you hear your child using filthy language with the children in the neighborhood? If you are having an illicit affair, how can you say anything when your daughter comes home pregnant, or your son has impregnated somebody else's daughter?

It doesn't have to be that way with you and your children. Maybe your parents did not know any better, but by virtue of this article you now do! With God's help, you can break the cycle—history does not have to repeat itself. Your children can be better than the generation before them. But you can't just talk that talk to your children—you must walk the talk before them. You must live a better way if your children are to see a brighter day.

your child's life? The time-consuming soap operas on television? The time you spend with friends? The extra time you spend doing your own thing? No! Nothing is more important—for a child's life is a terrible thing to waste!

Children are our future and we have the responsibility to commit our lives to make them and their future better.

Perhaps you do not realize the awesome importance God places on your rearing *his children*. That's right, they are his! God has loaned them to you to develop for him. King David wrote: "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is His reward" (Ps. 127:3).

What will God's heritage be in your children? Will it be a ruined life in prison, death at the end of a

whoever has the greatest amount of exposure with your child. If it's the negative elements in the streets, then your child will be influenced to go the way of the streets. If it's your positive example in the home, then he will be influenced to go the way of you and your home.

You must sacrifice doing "your thing" to do the things necessary to positively influence your children. Make exposure time with your child or children a top priority. Let nothing and no one rob you of these precious moments. Let your children be exposed to you as a person. Let them feel and see all that you are and all that you stand for.

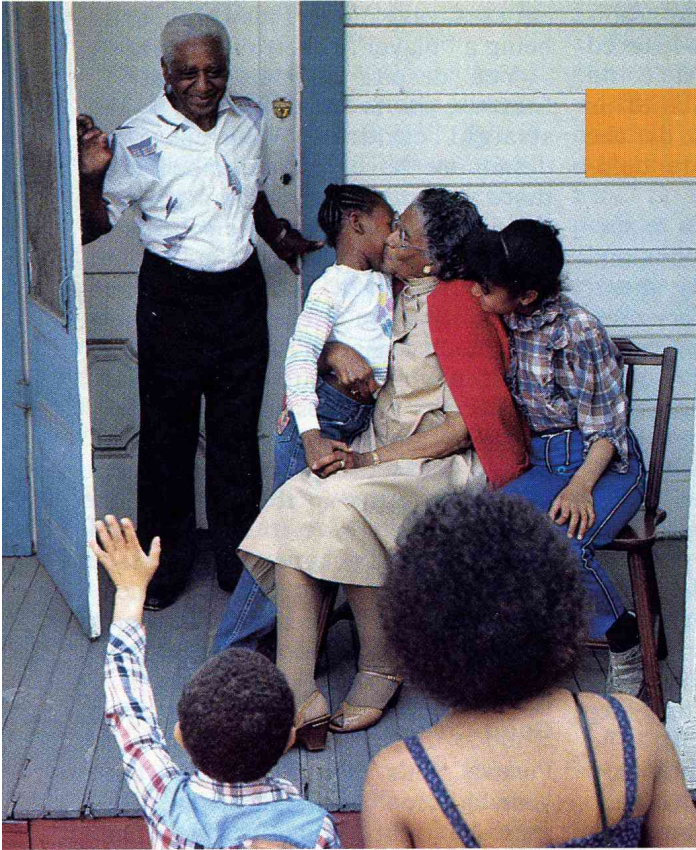
Our children learn best through association with parents. Our values are passed on to our children every second we are exposed to them. This is why God said: "You shall teach them [God's values] to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deut. 11:19).

Some single parents by themselves may find it difficult to provide enough positive parental exposure for their children. If this is your situation, turn to respectable members of your extended family for help. Grandfathers and grandmothers, uncles and aunts can provide support in the rearing of your children. Single mothers, especially, need the firm hand and masculine influence of a man in guiding teenagers.

The young evangelist Timothy was probably reared by his widowed mother. Yet through the positive exposure and influence of his extended family, in his case a grandmother, Timothy became a profitable young man (II Tim. 1:5). If the whole family works together, children can be reared successfully.

Guide your child in the selection of his or her friends. Do not just tell your child whom to associate with. Teach him how to select associates. Help him analyze the behavior of others and the end result of that behavior. Help him understand that "he who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed" (Prov. 13:20).

There is another "friend" more subtle and more negative than some of the other teenagers that hang out in the streets. If you allow your



Grandfathers and grandmothers, uncles and aunts can provide support in the rearing of children of single parents.

PHOTOS BY G.A. BELLUCHE, JR.—PT

Commitment to Win

You need a total commitment, a crusader fervency to win your child's heart and mind. You are in a battle with the negative forces around you for the control of your child's mind, and victory's price is unrelenting commitment.

What's more important than

needle, or college and a productive successful life? Your child's life is in your hands, and God holds you accountable. Make a commitment—give your all to win the battle for your child's life.

Exposure Equals Influence

Who has the greatest influence over your child? The answer lies in

child to be exposed to this “buddy,” his influence will negate everything good you’ve been trying to teach your child. Your child is probably already spending most of his waking hours listening to this destructive friend. Who is this character? The music beat that blasts 24 hours a day out of the “box” (large hand-carried radios known on the streets in the U.S. as “ghetto blasters”).

Many inner-city children are addicted to this music. The addiction is often stronger than heroin and potentially just as destructive. The constant exposure to this music reinforces the negative lifestyle of the streets. It influences children into believing illicit sex is fine, getting high is cool, and life in general is one big party.

Jesse Jackson, the leader of a black U.S. coalition group PUSH, out of concern for the progress of inner-city youths, once stated: “Music is important to the formation of children’s attitudes because it’s such a big part of their culture.” Jesse Jackson’s comment applies to all races and to all types of music—definitely to that kind of music that has negative effects. Expose your child to the best in all types of music. Help him or her to evaluate music based on its effect and the values that the music projects. Check out what your child is listening to. Remember, exposure to bad moods in music will influence your child to be bad and exposure to good moods in music influences your child to be good.

Expose your child to positive role models. Everyone in the community is not a dope pusher or mugger. Lift his or her head high to see the positive examples of those who have really made it. Point out the ones who lived in the ghetto but did not let the ghetto live in them. Praise the ones who walked through the streets, but who did not stay in the streets. Point out the ones who went on to become businessmen, doctors, engineers, successful people in every sector of society. Expose your child to the great and he will be great.

Respect for Authority

Why do teenagers disrupt classrooms and terrorize whole schools?

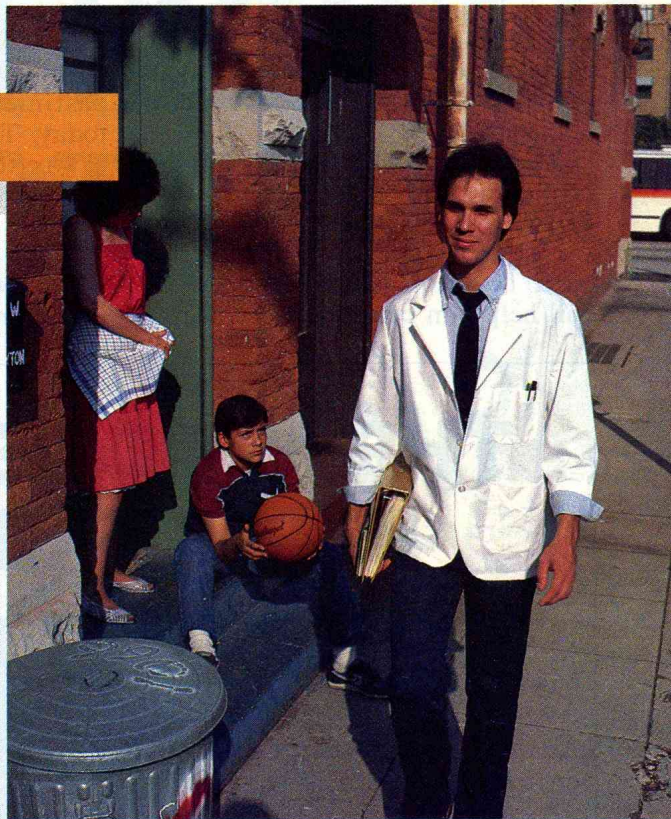
Why do they rob and then beat to death old people? One of the major reasons is a lack of respect for authority.

Respect for authority is the most fundamentally important principle a parent can teach a child. Without respect for authority a child cannot learn from God, parents or anybody else. He will become a rogue.

Parents, start early teaching your

The apostle Paul instructs children: “‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth’” (Eph. 6:2-3). As a child honors and respects his parents, so will he honor and respect others. He will respect his teachers and grow in knowledge, understanding and wisdom. He will respect the

Expose your child to positive role models. . . . Praise the ones who walked through the streets, but who did not stay in the streets.



children to respect you. Deep down inside, children want to respect authority, but they need to know who is in charge—who has the authority. Their way of seeking that authority is by challenging you—testing you to see if you really mean what you say. And when they seek, when they test, let them know in loving firmness that you are indeed in charge!

Teach them that your “yes” means “yes” and your “no” means “no” with unwavering consistency.

Train them to speak respectfully to you. Whatever happened to “Yes, sir” and “No, ma’am”? That might sound old-fashioned to some, but it’s like a breath of fresh air hearing those words flowing from the mouth of a young person. These words reflect an attitude of honor and respect for authority.

laws of the land and develop his or her talents in school, rather than going on to prison. A respectful child can acquire the skills to enable him or her to grow up to be a straight successful adult, no matter how crooked his environment may be.

Teach the Children

The word of God is the foundation of all knowledge. By teaching your children about God and his principles of living, you will be giving your children the best education possible.

First help your children to develop a personal relationship with God through prayer. Encourage them to talk to God about their problems, their hopes and their dreams. They will soon discover that they have a friend that “sticks closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24).

Your children need God with

them as they face the many difficult challenges of life in this crooked society. There are threats from addicts, gangs, molesters and muggers. There are temptations from peers, pushers and prostitutes to go the wrong way. But if your child has God as a friend, all these things can be overcome.

Then teach him the living principles contained in the Bible. Make the word of God relevant to life and the daily situations a child faces. If the Bible says to do something, explain the why and the how of it, and the blessings that come from doing it.

Then show him the other side of the coin: the consequences that come from disobedience. Let him see in the wrecked lives around him what disobedience produces. This will help him consider more deeply

the end results of his own actions.

As he lives by the revealed principles of God, he will enjoy the happiness and success in life that will lift him above his peers.

Also, we have a monthly magazine entitled *Youth*, specially written for teenagers. This magazine makes the laws and principles of God understandable and livable. It helps youths solve problems God's way. And it's free of charge.

Get Him "High"

Getting high on drugs is a popular pastime among many teenagers today. To some it's an escape—it's a way to feel good about yourself when everything around you seems bad and hopeless.

You want to get your child "high," to give him a high that will give him a true way of worth—a

high that will really make him feel good about himself and his future—a high that will last?

We are talking about the high that comes from accomplishment. Young people have drive and energy—they want to accomplish. But that drive and energy must be channeled in the right direction.

Encourage your child to think about what he wants to be when he grows up. He may change his mind several times while he is growing, but the important thing is that he has a goal to aim toward.

Help him set and achieve intermediate goals as well—things that he can accomplish now. If your child is busy accomplishing, he will be less likely to get into trouble.

Help him discover his abilities and talents by allowing him to try different things he expresses an interest in. Whether it's art, music, study or sports, give him the opportunity. He will stick with the things he does well in and, with a little bit of encouragement and praise from you, he will excel. The more he accomplishes, the higher he will get and the better he will feel. And the better he feels, the better he will live. And though we use for convenience the masculine pronoun, we mean to apply these principles equally to every girl.

Yes, you can rear your children to be outstanding among young people. If you begin utilizing the principles outlined in this article, your children will be beacons to the rest of the community. They will give the neighborhood a foretaste of how children and old people will live together in happiness and peace in the streets of tomorrow's cities.

Look at this beautiful picture of children and old people living and playing together in tomorrow's inner cities: "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets'" (Zech. 8:4-5).

So start now rearing your children the right way—and remember, only you can rear straight children in a crooked environment.

The final installment explains the truth about day-care centers. □

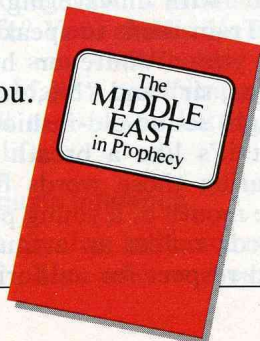
THE MIDDLE EAST IN PROPHECY



GUICHARD—SYGMA

BIBLE prophecy reveals the final crisis of this age will be sparked by a superpower's intervention in the Middle East. Our free booklet makes plain *which* superpower will set off this crisis! For your copy, mail the request envelope in this issue or write to our address nearest you.

FREE Booklet Offer!



God's kingdom is established on earth (Phil. 3:20; I Pet. 1:4).

A Christian is, in effect, an ambassador for Christ and his coming kingdom (II Cor. 5:20). He lives on earth as a *representative* of that kingdom, obeying human governmental authority and, where there is a conflict with the higher laws of God, submitting to the penalties of man's law (Acts 5:29), but taking no part in its politics.

This magazine is a product of the publishing arm of a globe-girdling,

God-ordained work of witness and warning to this world. It represents the coming kingdom of God, soon to be enforced on this earth. In that capacity, it must remain—and *does* remain—strictly nonpolitical.

Thus, *The Plain Truth* is government affiliated, but not with any human government of this world. It represents and announces the coming of a *new* age, a *new* civilization and a *new* government, when all peoples will learn the way that brings peace and prosperity.

The Plain Truth and those who

produce it are concerned for *all* peoples, everywhere. Our mission, as ambassadors of Christ—as advance emissaries of his kingdom—is to put this world into perspective and proclaim to all nations the *good news* of soon-coming global peace and prosperity. The petty personal and political squabbles and issues of the present day are largely *irrelevant* to the great message of hope this magazine announces!

That is where *The Plain Truth* is "coming from"! □

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 2)

Certainly third in order is the mystery of your own life—of humanity as a whole. What and why is humanity? Is man an immortal soul? Do the dead know what the living are doing? Is man a flesh and blood being with an immortal soul within? Is there meaning and purpose to human life? Did we evolve through unintelligent material forces without meaning or purpose? Why are humans beset with seemingly unsolvable problems?

Fourth in line of the not-understood mysteries is the civilization that has developed in man's world. How did it develop? Why do we find a world of awesome advancement and progress, yet paradoxically with appalling and mounting evils? Why cannot the minds that develop spacecraft, computers and marvels of science, technology and industry solve the problems that demonstrate human helplessness?

Next, in the development of human society on earth, is the mystery of the Jew and the ancient nation of Israel. Why did God raise up one special nation of Israel? Why are they God's "chosen people"? Are they God's favorites? Does God discriminate against other nations? Is God a respecter of persons? What is Israel's purpose in the divine order of things?

Come now to the mystery of the church. Why should there be the institution of the church in the world? Is there some purpose for it, not understood even by the religion of traditional Christianity?

Finally, why the mystery of the

kingdom of God? Jesus' gospel message was "the kingdom of God." Is the kingdom of God something within each person? Is it something that may be set up in men's hearts? Is it the institution of the church? Or is it something else altogether? Why this mystery of the very gospel of Jesus Christ?

These are the SEVEN GREAT MYSTERIES that concern the very lives of every human being on earth. The PLAIN TRUTH of all these mysteries is revealed in the Bible, but none of the churches or theologians seem to have comprehended them.

WHY? The Bible is the basic mystery of all.

If one begins reading the Bible continuously from beginning to end, one becomes bewildered. The Bible simply cannot be read like any other book. It is a mystery because it is a coded book. It is like a jigsaw puzzle, with perhaps hundreds of various pieces of different forms and shapes that can be fitted together in only one precise pattern. The truths of the Bible are revealed here a little, there a little, scattered from beginning to end, and revealed only through the Holy Spirit within those surrendered and yielded to God, willing to have confessed error and wrongdoing, and yielding to BELIEVE Christ, the Word of God. Jesus was the Word in Person. The Bible is the same Word in print.

No one can have the Holy Spirit, which alone can open the human mind to understanding of this Word of God, without a complete repentance and an implicit belief in Christ as well as believing what he says. Repentance can only follow admission of being wrong—of

wrongdoing and wrong believing. The most difficult thing for any human seems to be to admit being wrong—to confess error of belief and conviction.

Is it any wonder, then, that the Bible is the book that nobody knows or understands?—or certainly almost nobody.

God deliberately coded his book so that it would not be understood until our modern time. In the 12th chapter of Daniel we read even that devout man of God could not understand that which was given to him to write as part of the Bible. He said he heard, but understood not. The revealing angel said, "Go thy way, Daniel. The words are closed and sealed until the time of the end."

Today we have reached that time. God has opened to understanding his Word to those he has chosen, who have yielded and surrendered to him and to his blessed sacred Word. In the 12th chapter of Daniel, it says at this time of the end the "wise" would understand, "but none of the wicked shall understand." Who, then, are the "wise" who may understand the Bible?

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Ps. 111:10) and "a good understanding have all they that do his commandments" (same verse). Yet traditional Christianity has generally denied God's commandments—says they are done away, nailed to the cross. The clergy and theologians of organized "Christianity," therefore, cannot and do not understand the Bible.

How, then, can we, in this book, understand and reveal to the reader these boggling mysteries? That question will be answered in the Introduction next month. □