

The PROJECTOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

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POSSIBLE PITFALLS FOR CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

by Dr. Dayton Hobbs

We live in a day of compromise and confusion. There are so many subtle ways in which Satan attacks the work of God. The Scripture warns us not to be "ignorant of his devices." We are instructed to be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves." There are pitfalls ahead for the Christian school movement. Satan is not going to sit idly by and not put up a fight. He will do everything in his power to keep Christian schools from coming into existence, and once they are begun, he will make every effort to divert them from God's purpose for them. This will come about by attempting to draw the Christian school down one of a number of side roads that lead to ineffectiveness and compromise of purpose.

One thing we need to remember is that there are no shortcuts in this business. If we expect to accomplish the desired results in the lives of our students, we must be willing to fight for each inch of ground we take from Satan. The Devil desires to control the lives of the young folks in our schools, and every victory we win will cost dearly. The higher the goals are that we have set for ourselves, our schools, and our students, the hotter the battle will rage. This is no place for the fearful and faint-hearted: it is best that they return to their places of rest and security before the battle begins, else they will desert in the heat of battle and weaken our forces. Remember, "You and God make a majority..." (Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.). The Christian life is described in Scripture as a warfare; the conflict for the lives of our youth is where

the flack is thickest.

Let us explore some of the possible pitfalls we must watch out for.

DESIRE FOR ACCEPTANCE BY THE WORLD

If we do our job properly, the world will possibly respect us, but it will not accept us. Our standards, our discipline, our rules, and the fervent teaching of the principles of the Word of God will ostracize the world from us. The unsaved may send us their students and they may appreciate our excellence, but we will be hated by the enemies of Christ. Settle this to begin with: Please God, not man!! We do not need man; we need God and His power and blessing. The Lord will send us friends along the way, even from the ranks of the unsaved, but we must not seek these or cut corners to please them.

COMPROMISE OF STANDARDS TO GET OR KEEP STUDENTS

The Christian school is not for everybody, and it shouldn't try to be. It should take some degree of character to attend our schools, especially at the junior and senior high school level. If the public school students do not call your school "kooky," "funny," "old-fashioned," or something of the like, it is very likely because you are none of these, and you ought to be. If in these days of sloppy dress for girls and long hair for boys you are not different, it would be better if you closed your doors or dropped the word "Christian" from your school's name. Our standards of conduct, dress, and hair



should serve to eliminate the undesirable students and to give us a much better product at graduation time. We want, need, and must have students, or we have no need to exist, but we want the students that the Lord wants us to train for Him. No school likes to lose students, and our heart is grieved when they leave us, but we must not compromise our standards in order to keep them.

DESIRE FOR ACCREDITATION

As long as the product we turn out from our schools can produce, we don't have anything to be concerned about. In some states, there may be certain legal requirements of the state that are required of Christian schools; these, of course, must be met. My policy is to go ahead and do the job and to let them inform me if there is something they require. Don't fill out unnecessary forms or forms not required by law. Accreditation is just a word, quite often with very little meaning or at best of confused meaning. Don't seek it. Just go about your business faith-

We Get Letters...

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing my personal check for \$4.00, for which please renew my subscription to the Projector for another year....I do not want to be without this interesting periodical....I like this paper very much and I thank God we have writers such as you to keep us informed.

In Christian Service,
Mrs. R. H.
Farnham, VA

Dear Sir:

We praise the Lord for all the good helpful articles by Dr. Hobbs, Peter Foxx, Dave Johnson, Mrs. Hobbs, and the other authors.

Would you please send a copy of the August 1980 PROJECTOR to: (preacher). I want him to read the article on the Moral Majority by Dr. Allen Dickerson.

In Christ,
E. G.
Papua New Guinea

Dear Sir:

Your articles in the November issue on the Word of Life, the Translation Inerrancy Question, Alberto, and New Evangelicalism at Cedarville, are all excellent. Because I feel our people could greatly benefit from all of these articles I would like to ask if you may have 10 to 15 extra articles that we might use for our people to be informed in these areas. Along with that I have been definitely pushing for our people to subscribe to your paper. I think for them to see some of the material firsthand may definitely bring about more subscription.

We'll appreciate your help in this area.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor D. S.
Wyalusing, PA

From p. 1

POSSIBLE PITFALLS

fully, and you'll do all right. Colleges and universities today go more on the basis of the ability of the individual student as shown on the score of the state and national testing programs than they do the accreditation or non-accreditation of the school that the student graduates from. They are looking for performance, and that is the direction in which accreditation standards have turned in recent years. The emphasis today is not so much on the plant or even the degrees of the faculty, but on the performance of the product. This is very good as far as we in Christian education are concerned, because we should have a superior product.

THE USE OF METHODS THAT ARE NOT CHRISTIAN

One of the most subtle attacks of Satan is through teaching methods. Recently, I spoke with the President

of a small Christian college who told me that they were unable to afford a full faculty in the Education Department, and so they gave the students the content and farmed them out to a state university for their methods courses. It is ideal, of course, for a Christian college to teach its education students both the content and the methods courses, but if I had to make the choice of the state university teaching one or the other, I would let them teach "content" and I would teach "methods." The one who designs the methods will be able to unconsciously insert his philosophy into the hearts and lives of the pupils as well as the teachers who teach them. Most Christian teachers would not purposely use methods that are humanistic and built upon a child-centered philosophy, but quite often they do so without realizing it.

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Editorial

WHIPPED TOPPING AT KANSAS CITY

When I received the impressive brochure for the American Festival of Evangelism I was struck by words which did not seem to match. The word, "festival," I understood. In our own area we have a Maple Sugar Festival, a Swiss Cheese Festival and as many Strawberry Festivals as we have small towns. A festival conjurs up visions of ferris wheels and lots of whipped cream. The word, "evangelism," I understood. It is a battle for the souls of men. It is waged by evangelists who preach the Word of God, and pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to bring men to Christ. No one but a New Evangelical would think of combining the words, "festival," and "evangelism," for ferris wheels and whipped cream don't seem to mix with preaching and prayer.

The Festival will take place in Kansas City, July 27-30. It is billed as a follow-up to the Lausanne '74 International Congress on World Evangelization ("Congress" strikes me as more apropos than festival). The national planning committee lists 27 names. Consider a sample. Leighton Ford, the left-leaning, heir-apparent to the Graham mantle, leads the way. Thomas F. Zimmerman of the Assemblies of God adds the charismatic touch. He will also be the keynote speaker. Vonnette Bright brings the talent of Campus Crusade into the planning. Theodore Raedeke brings the experience gained in the ecumenical disaster of Key '73. He was Executive Director of that


key which fit no locks. All New Evangelical promotions need a touch of scholarship. Kenneth Kantzer, intellectual in residence at *Christianity Today*, supplies that.

The program reveals the mix which has become common in New Evangelical gatherings. There are representatives from the National Council of Churches, the Southern Baptist Convention, the tongues groups and EFMA missions. The recent phenomena of the Moral Majority will bring in other churches not associated before. The tragedy is that the festival will attract misguided people from churches and groups which have formerly taken a stand against unscriptural cooperation. These people believe in evangelism. Through the lure of evangelism they will become trapped in the flypaper of the ecumenical festival.

In order to have a great dessert after you ride the ferris wheel of emotion you need mounds of whipped cream. The crowning glory of the festival is an address by Billy Graham. I was shocked by his title, "God Calls Us to Obedience." Dr. Graham's great problem has been disobedience to God's simple command, "... come out from among them and be ye separate..." Does it seem phony to have the acknowledged leader of disobedient evangelism speak about obedience? It just goes to show that you can't get genuine whipped cream at a New Evangelical festival.

— Rev. John E. Ashbrook

The PROJECTOR

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A CREDIBILITY CRISIS HAUNTS CHICAGO BIBLE TEACHER — BILL GOTHARD

LOS ANGELES — A credibility crisis still appears to haunt Bill Gothard, a Chicago-based Bible teacher whose traveling seminars have taught an authoritarian view of biblical morality to some 40,000 pastors and more than a million churchgoers.

Trouble began last spring with revelations of a sex scandal involving Mr. Gothard's brother and seven secretaries, questions about money spent on a multi-million dollar retreat center and charges that Mr. Gothard was hiding damaging information.

Nearly three dozen staff members quit or were fired by the Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts, which Mr. Gothard heads, in the first nine months of 1980.

The latest resignation came in late January from Bob Hodel, a restaurant owner who had headed the Bakersfield area committee for the last eight years.

Earlier in the month, amid more staff departures a longtime institute board member Samuel I. Schultz, a professor emeritus from Wheaton College, became the first board member to resign.

Mr. Schultz said he could no longer "successfully influence the future direction of the organization." Mr. Schultz said the five-member board was dominated by Mr. Gothard, 46, even though he has been technically on leave of absence since last July.

Mr. Schultz said expansion of the board to nine members, approved last August, has not been accomplished. He also said he could not win support for hiring a nationally recognized public accounting firm to conduct a thorough audit of the institute's present and past books.

In a move to counter criticism, Mr. Gothard recently introduced supplementary teaching material which says a Christian who listens to "evil reports" will be infected by disease.

Mr. Gothard likened the "disease" to the Old Testament idea of defilement.

"We're not giving evil reports but reports of evil," Mr. Hodel said. "I love Bill and my family has benefitted a lot from the teachings," he added, echoing the declarations of many others who left last year.

Nevertheless, both Mr. Hodel and Mr. Schultz indicated Mr. Gothard may be challenged on his "chain-of-command" theology which demands submission to others of authority in home, church and work.

"I believe the battle will move to the people versed in theology," said Mr. Hodel, a layman. "I believe a lot of clergy who held back on their questions before will not now."

Mr. Gothard, in a rare interview last fall, said that period amounted to "the darkest hours of my life."

He predicted then that future seminars would profit from his experience. "The basic principles of Scripture are unchanging, but the illustrations and applications come out of the success of failures God has allowed me to experience," he said.

The seminar made its semi-annual stop at the Long Beach Sports Arena in October over the objections of the Los Angeles area committee, which wanted it postponed until Mr. Gothard's "credibility was re-established."

Mr. Gothard, saying the institute had a moral obligation to appear as scheduled, said then that "many steps have been taken to ensure what happened will not happen again."

Los Angeles is the only metropolitan area which gets two seminars a year. Some of the estimated 200,000 "alumni" of the six-day seminars here attend again or recruit friends.

Len Nair, who was the Los Angeles coordinator until dismissed in December, said Mr. Gothard asked

him during the Los Angeles committee's resistance last year if he was "willing to be responsible for God not working in the Los Angeles area if the seminar did not come."

Mr. Nair said his answer was that the Holy Spirit does not come to Los Angeles only when the seminar does and that the responsibility was with the Gothard brothers.

Bill Gothard sent a letter dated July 22 to pastors in which he said his brother Steve, a top institute official, had confessed "to sin of fornication with several ladies."

The secretaries, later learned to number seven, also confessed and all involved left the institute.

Most instances of sexual intercourse took place at the institute's 3,000 acre retreat near Watersmeet, Michigan.

Mr. Nair and other top officials, however, said they were most disturbed by Bill Gothard's reluctance to acknowledge the activity or deal frankly with those working for him.

"He leaves people with the impression that he's changing his attitude and correcting wrongs," Mr. Nair said, "when in reality he is putting makeup over acne."

Al Lembke, Mr. Nair's successor as the Los Angeles area committee coordinator at the Fullerton office, said he would not comment at length.

"Things are going very well, we are getting on with the business at hand," Mr. Lembke said, "but that's all I want to say."

Mr. Lembke would make no estimate of how many clergy he expects to attend a pastors conference scheduled for March 20 at the Long Beach Sports Area. A year ago, the conference drew about 1,200 ministers, Mr. Nair said.

Stars of the Morning

By "Aunt Carolyn"

The Easy Sell-Out



Isaac and Rebekah had been praying for a baby, and God gave them a double dose. God sent them twin boys, a double blessing! What a wonderful answer to prayer!

Before the boys were born, God had told Rebekah that each of the boys would be a leader of a strong nation, but one would be stronger than the other. The younger one would rule over the elder, and the elder would serve the younger. It seemed that, even before birth, struggle and strife began between the boys.

What a joyful day it was when those little boys were born! Now instead of having no babies, Rebekah had two little wiggly fellows for whom to care. Rebekah didn't mind though, because she and Isaac were so thankful for them. They named the first boy, Esau, and the second, Jacob. What a joy it was to watch those little fellows grow. Soon they became good-sized boys, who could run and play. At last, they were big enough to help with the chores around home, and they began to develop individual differences that are so important in children. Esau became a big, strong, strapping guy with a ruddy complexion and a very hairy body. He was a crack shot with a bow and arrow and earned a reputation as a cunning hunter. It is no wonder that his father became very proud of him and even loved Esau more than Jacob.

The inequity seemed to balance out, though, because Rebekah loved Jacob better than Esau. Jacob was a quiet boy. He was rather plain and didn't like rough work in the fields or woods. He loved to work quietly around home. He even learned to be a pretty good cook. All these things made Jacob such a big help to his mother that she seemed to love him more. Gradually, the rivalry between the brothers grew.

Time passed, and one day when the boys were nearly grown, Esau, the hunter, came in from a hard day in the field. It was late, and

Esau was hungry! He was so hungry that the hunger pangs cut all through his stomach. He thought, "Oh, I must get home. I have to get something to eat, or I am going to starve to death." Holding his forehead, he felt faint and became anxious.

Nearing the tent, a delicious aroma drifted through the evening breeze. It smelled so good to Esau that it made his knees weak. You guessed it, Jacob had something cooking! He had a fire going and a big pot hanging over it full of wonderful pottage—delicious, hot stew with vegetables and meat gently cooked to tenderness and seasoned just right. It smelled so good, Esau nearly swooned. He stumbled in and said to Jacob, "Oh, I smell it; give me some. Give me some of that pottage. I'm starved to death!" (Boys will exaggerate!)

Brother Jacob replied coolly, "You are, huh?" Then a thought struck him. He said to himself, "Here is my chance to get the birthright, that special advantage that belongs to the eldest son." Slyly he said to Esau, "I'll tell you what I'll do, buddy. I'll trade you a mess of pottage for your birthright!"

"My what?"

"Your birthright!"

"Do you mean you want me to trade my inheritance as the oldest son for — for — for a bowl of your stew?"

Jacob didn't flinch. He continued, "Well, either starve to death or sell it to me! I am not going to give you food free. No birthright; no pottage!" And Jacob stood his ground.

"Man, you drive a hard bargain! But I'm so hungry! What good is my birthright if I starve to death? ...All right, it's a deal!"

Jacob didn't trust him and double checked. "If I give you some food, are you really going to give me your birthright?"

Anxiously Esau reassured him. "Have it; have it!" Esau declared. "Just give me some food!"

"Do you promise you are going to give me your birthright?"

"I promise! Now give me some food before I starve to death!"

At last, Jacob served up a big, delicious bowl of stew and traded it to Esau for the precious birthright. Jacob smugly thought, "Well, that was one stew worth cooking, because now the birthright is mine!"

The birthright with the blessing of God and the family inheritance was a great treasure, but do you think Esau cared about it? No! That rich stew tasted so good and felt so warm in his stomach that the birthright meant little to Esau in comparison. He ate and drank until he was filled and then left the table and went on his way. He cared only about his immediate needs and desires, his comfort and satisfaction. He had no concern for spiritual values or God's blessing. He had no concern for eternity, only for "now."

Esau's trouble is still with us today. Many boys and girls are busy going their own way. Isaiah tells us, "We have turned everyone to his own way" (Isa. 53:6). That in itself is sin — going your own way, wanting your own will whether it is right or wrong. It happened to be food to satisfy his body that Esau wanted at any cost, but it could have been other things. Some young people want worldly pleasures. Some crave popularity at any price. Some desire money and earthly luxuries. They are willing to throw away their lives, their health, their testimony, their name, and their reputation — all on something that they want right now. They have not learned to discipline themselves. They have not learned to say "No!" to wrong and evil. They scoff and throw away salvation, the blessing of God, and the will of God for their lives for immediate satisfaction and pleasure. Oh, don't throw your life away. Give your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ. Turn from your way to His way. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Trust Him as your Savior; then do His will — not yours, but His. That is the way of satisfaction and joy!

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The Other Side

with Dave Johnson

MORMONS

For several years now, I have been on the mailing list of Rev. John Smith's ministry, Utah Missions, Inc. The main thrust of this ministry is exposing Mormonism, and I know of no better source of materials on the subject which can be obtained on a regular basis. Obviously, everyone is not called to expose a particular cult. Some are not even interested in this type of ministry. However, there is a place for Brother Smith's specialized field in the Lord's vineyard. The proof of John Smith's success is in the response of the Mormons to his latest endeavor.

Utah Missions, Inc., has for several years published a paper, The UTAH EVANGEL, which is designed to alert Christians to the dangers of Mormonism. However, more recently they have decided to publish a smaller paper which is to be sent to Mormons. They get addresses from the LDS directories which are sent in by subscribers to The UTAH EVANGEL. This action has caused the LDS leaders to take notice.

In a recent letter from a LDS attorney, Smith was informed that he would have to change the name of his paper because of a copyright infringement. A second point of protest was the use of the directory of LDS leaders. It seems that some of the LDS leaders are getting a little upset when they learn that their rank and file members are getting the truth concerning Mormonism. Who knows, Smith may even cause the defection of some of the LDS leaders when they come face to face with the truth.

The first issue of this new paper was called LIAHONA. In the future, it will carry the title, The KOLOB COURIER. Now if those names don't mean anything to you, it is because you are not a Mormon. These names are taken from the BOOK OF MORMON in order to catch the attention of Mormon readers. By the way, Kolob is the name of the planet which is allegedly nearest to the residence of God. Now if you didn't know that, it is because the planet has not yet been discovered! (I think

that scientists at BYU are still working on that one.)

The KOLOB COURIER is being sent free of charge to Mormons (non-Mormons must pay \$3.00 per year). If you have friends or relatives who are in danger of being swallowed up by Mormon doctrine, you may wish to send their name to John Smith, P.O. Box 348, Marlow, OK 73055.

As I have already mentioned, The UTAH EVANGEL is published to warn Christians of the dangers of Mormonism. By the way, LDS membership is nearing the 5 million mark, with an average of 578 converts per day. Mormonism is not only dangerous; it is subtle. Many people read Mormon literature and don't even know what they are reading. The June 1981 edition of The EVANGEL points out that many Christian conservatives have been reading the Mormon publication, The FREEMEN DIGEST, which is edited by Cleon Skousen. Skousen is a "Moral Majority" conservative who-

is promoted by Jerry Falwell.

Another Mormon publication is RUFF TIMES, edited by Howard Ruff. This paper sells for \$125.00 per year and goes to an estimated 160,000 subscribers. Ruff is a devoted Mormon, and those who take his financial advice are playing right into Mormon hands. The Mormons teach that when the tribulation comes, the Mormons will be the only survivors (because of their food storage, etc.), and they will rule the world from Salt Lake City. Howard Ruff was on Pat Robertson's TV show recently. After the show, Ruff declared that his being able to imply to the TV audience that Mormonism is Christian was "worth more than all the money I've made, many times over."

Beware of Mormonism! If you need information on the subject, John Smith and his staff can be of help.

FEDS GIVE HIGH MARKS TO PRIVATE SCHOOLING

Compiled by Robert McCurry

A searing new criticism of public (government) education is raising once again an emotional debate: Do private and parochial schools outperform public schools?

One of the most comprehensive surveys of American schooling ever undertaken answers that question with an authoritative "Yes."

The U.S. Department of Education has just released its report prepared by University of Chicago sociologist James Coleman that says private and parochial school students learn more and behave better than their counterparts in public (government) classrooms.

The 58,728-student study cited these reasons for higher achievement in nonpublic schools: Fewer disciplinary problems, tougher courses, lots of homework. The study finds the results true even when family background and affluence of many private-school students are discounted.

A National Education Association spokeswoman retorts that the study's results were skewed because private schools "can choose to admit students who are motivated to learn, while public schools by law must be open to all."

Private schools are booming. By some estimates, there are 10,000 Christian-fundamentalist schools around the country, and some observers say they are currently appearing at the rate of three a day, as

parents flee declining academic standards and disciplinary problems in the public (government) schools.

Worried public-school officials have coined a new term to define the phenomenon: bright flight. The private-school boom is skimming off many of the nation's most gifted and motivated students. This drain is occurring during one of the biggest baby busts of this century.

In the last ten years public enrollment dipped 11 per cent in the West while private enrollment climbed 19 per cent. In the South the number of students in public schools declined by 6 per cent while private enrollment increased by 31 per cent. Some educators are afraid that if the defections continue unchecked, they could erode financial and political support for public education.

A *Newsweek* poll seems to support their fear; 54 per cent of parents with children in public schools say they have considered the private alternative; 23 per cent say they would be likely to switch to private schools if Congress approved tuition tax credits of \$250 to \$500 a year.

Knowledgeable Christians know that the Scriptures prohibit them from participating in public (government) education.

References: Atlanta Journal, 4/4/81; U.S. News & World Report, 4/20/81; Newsweek, 4/20/81; Exodus 22:21; 23:9; 20:15; Jeremiah 10:2; Colossians 2:8.



**Focus
On
Religion**
BY

PETER J. FOXX

**DR. WENIGER ON
ROAD TO RECOVERY**

Most of our readers are now aware that Dr. G. Archer Weniger, pastor of Foothill Baptist Church, editor of *The BLU-PRINT*, and staunch fundamentalist leader, suffered a massive heart attack on May 12 of this year. Two days later, his doctors stated that the outlook was very bleak and gave him little or no chance of recovery. In fact, at one point on May 14, Dr. Weniger was given only two hours to live.

It was indeed a great blessing to talk with Dr. Weniger this July morning and hear first-hand of the Lord's grace and mercy in sparing this good man. Each day brings a little more progress, and now the doctor's prognosis is for a full recovery in six months to a year. On July 5, Dr. Weniger was able to attend Sunday morning services in his church for the first time since the attack. The special occasion was made even more special as it marked Pastor Weniger's 39th anniversary at the church. Regular church attendance is a few weeks off, but Dr. Paul McCullough is capably filling the pulpit at the present time.

Dr. Weniger expressed a very deep appreciation for the outpouring of love and concern from Christians all over the world. Dr. Weniger had words of special praise for Mrs. Weniger, referring to her as an "angel of mercy" and the "best nurse in the world." The Wenigers are looking forward to their 44th wedding anniversary on July 28.

Dr. Weniger is a staunch defender of the Faith. His mighty pen and strong preaching serve to keep Fundamentalists informed and forewarned concerning current religious issues and trends. The prayers of God's people are obviously still very much needed for his full and speedy recovery.

From p. 2

POSSIBLE PITFALLS

Methods reflect the philosophy of those who design them. An educator who believes that the child is not a sinner will not have discipline and order built into his methods. His methods will allow the child maximum liberty to choose for himself what he wants to learn and will let the child go about that learning in the way and at the speed he chooses. The emphasis of such methods will be upon discovery rather than the teaching of facts. A great deal of time will be spent with the study of "helpers,"

"neighbors," and the culture of the peoples of the world instead of Reading by Phonics, Mathematics (including the memorization of the multiplication tables), and excellence in Penmanship. Be sure of this: the methods of the progressive state-operated schools of our day reflect the basic concept held by those educators that the child is basically good; therefore, his choices and decisions will be right for him. Be sure you use methods that are proven and tried. Don't

See p. 7

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HOURS CHILDREN WATCH TV

Over 97% of all American households have one or more television sets; many in children's bedrooms.

Most children watch TV an average of 34 hours per week, or 1768 hours per year; (Dr. James Dobson, Psychologist, University of Southern California).

Hours school age children most frequently watch TV:

(Monday-Friday: 4:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.)

(Saturdays 7:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.)

(Sunday: 9:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.)

Pre-schoolers watch an average of 37 hours per week.

By the age of 12, a child will have watched more than 22,000 commercials per year or 264,000 hours of commercials in this life span:

By the age of 18, the average child will have spent 31,824 hours watching TV, including more than 1000 commercials per week. (*U.S. News and World Report*, Jan. 19, 1981 and 1972 Surgeon General's report on TV violence.)

Between midnight and 2:00 A.M. "there are something like 750,000 children throughout America watching television every day. (*U.S. News and World Report*, Jan. 19, 1981).

Most TV programs are directed to late teenage and early twenty year old audiences. (*U.S. News and World Report*, Sept. 3, 1979.)

Census statistics show that about one of five (13 million) children under age 18 is living with one parent, and almost half of all children born today in this country will spend at least a year living with one parent. Almost all one-parent households function on a daily schedule such that the child is left alone at home for several hours. Such hours are usually spent watching TV programs selected by the child. (Education U.S.A., January 19, 1981.)

"Youngsters first begin to understand TV images and sounds at two and a half to three years of age. We believe that young children learn a series of cues as part of the process of becoming active, selective TV viewers. There is a highly active, complex transaction going on between the child, the TV and the people and objects in the surrounding environment." (Daniel R. Anderson, Prof. University of Massachusetts *Science News*, Vol. 117.)

"Even though TV-watching has become the national pastime, few Americans have developed the 'critical skills' necessary to gauge the flickering box's impact on themselves and their families. . . Too many Americans—especially children—are accepting behavior

on television as the norm, rather than a dramatized or humorous depiction of life." (Stewart M. Hoover, Television Awareness Training, *Christian Science Monitor*, Feb. 4, 1977.)

"With the exception of work and sleep, Americans spend more time watching television than they do performing any other activity." (Stewart M. Hoover, *Minneapolis Tribune*, May 22, 1977.)

"By the time a child is 20 years old he will have watched nearly 1 million commercials, at the rate of about 1000 per week. Almost all commercials convey the message that whatever problem or frustration is faced can be solved with a product that appeals to man's physical aspect." (*Prevention Magazine*, July, 1978.)

"A poll taken of American homes revealed that only two-fifths of the parents had rules about which programs their children watch and less than a third of the parents with children under twelve prohibited viewing after the family hour ended." (*Children's Television Viewing - Vital Speeches*, Oct. 15, 1976.)

"Surprisingly little control is provided in the home.

Despite mounting publicity and the growing public awareness of television hazards, viewing time has continued to increase. In the average home, the set is turned on for the equivalent of almost two days a week. Many viewers not only neglect any sort of quantity control, they don't attempt to control content quality either. *Newsweek* reported that 'a recent survey showed that a lethargically loyal 33 percent of the video audience will stick with just one channel between 8 and 11 P.M.—no matter what is on.' In other words, millions of viewers won't even bother with the simple regulatory action of getting up and changing stations.

Even parents of young children, who should be most concerned, seem disinclined to regulate TV in their homes. *In one study of children's viewing habits, only 16 percent of the mothers of first-graders restricted their children's viewing.*

After studying a number of other surveys, George Comstock, head researcher and editor of the Surgeon General's report on 'Television and Social Behavior,' concluded, 'Television for young persons is an experience largely devoid of direct parental influence. Parents typically do not attempt to control quantity or character of viewing. Even in a sample of nursery-school children, 40 percent said they

made their own program selection.'

The morning after the 1977 rerun of 'Helter Skelter,' one preschool teacher asked a table of ten middle-class four-year-olds how many of them had watched it the night before. Four of the ten raised their hands to indicate they had watched this movie version of the blood-curdling brutal and sordid Manson murders. And this was the rerun—after the well-publicized protests and public outcry that accompanied the first showing.

'My student teacher was shocked,' reported the veteran preschool educator who conducted the informal survey. 'But from my experience, I'd say the four-out-of-ten ratio was fairly representative.'

Such a lack of parental sensitivity and control may be particularly alarming in the case of a program like 'Helter Skelter,' but it fits the general pattern. *Various studies and audience surveys indicate children spend more time watching adult-type programming than they do viewing shows designed for children.*

The president of American Broadcasting Companies, Inc., Elton H. Rule, talked about the role of parents in controlling children's television viewing in a speech he delivered to the Rotary Club of Los Angeles. He discussed a Roper Organization poll on parental rules in the home. The poll found that a sizable majority of parents had strict rules about what their children ate, when they went to bed, when they did homework, when they left the house, and where they were going.

But the poll also discovered that only two-fifths of the parents had rules about which programs their children could watch. *And less than a third of the parents with children under twelve prohibited viewing after the family hour ended.*" (TELEGARBAGE, Pages 112-113, Thomas Nelson Publishers.)

—White Paper On Factors Relating To Cable TV, February 11, 1981. Prepared by Ronald E. Johnson, Ed.S., Educational Consultant (Rt. 1, Box 114, Lewisville, TX 75067 — Phone 214-462-1776).

From p. 6

POSSIBLE PITFALLS

get caught up in the progressive web.

These are a few of the pitfalls facing Christian schools today. There are very likely other snares of which to be aware, and new ones will be coming on the scene in the days ahead. We must be vigilant lest they creep into our Christian schools and make us ineffective in the vital job we have been given—the job of training the youth in our care so that they will be prepared to stand in their generation if our Lord tarries His coming.

— This article first appeared in the June, 1973 edition of The PROJECTOR.

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