



RELIGION

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Religion Editor, Portland Observer
P.O. Box 3137
Portland OR 97208

The Family Situation

by Rev. V. R. Brown

Many of our American families are in trouble today. We read about the statistics on family problems—but we also know that many families manage to stay strong and happy despite the inevitable ups and downs of life.

Members of strong families are dedicated to promoting each other's welfare and happiness. Their love, support, and loyalty for each other is steady and lasting, through good times and bad. Strong families cope with the pressures of life by reminding themselves of what is truly and lastingly important.

Our strong couples are committed to sexual faithfulness and feel it is one of the most important factors contributing to satisfaction in their relationship. Some couples express the general feeling: "When one partner has an affair, it damages the self-esteem of the other."

So many of us today are living in new family situations: restructured families, step families, foster families, adopted families, whatever you want to call them, and some of us have little or no experience with living that way.

When I look around in our community and see broken homes and broken hearts, I realized that we are faced with many problems today in the realms of marriage. The statistics teach us that in 1870 there was one divorce out of every 33 marriages. In 1964, we find one divorce in every three marriages. Currently, over half the marriages end in divorce.

The increased divorce rate and the rapid increase of juvenile delinquency go hand in hand: when parents don't get along, the home doesn't provide the security children need. When divorce occurs, the children are torn emotionally. It's hard for the children to relate to both parents when they know they don't love each other enough to stay together.

When parents are church members or profess to be Christian, the children in such a home will often abandon the church and question all biblical standards of morality and look upon marriage as an institution that no longer has meaning or purpose in our modern society. Only in a home where husband and wife live harmoniously can all the family members find fulfillment, warmth, and security.

The ingredients that go into making a strong healthy family are good communication between husband, wife and children. When communication breaks down, or is never established, the process halts. Communication is not always through speech. To communicate is to share, to have communion, to have fellowship, to understand.

A strong, healthy marriage is marked by at least four desirable characteristics: 1. a lifelong fidelity; 2. a pattern of Christ-like love in which both husband and wife sacrifice their own interests for the happiness of the other; 3. being affectionate, polite, and more caring in what you say to one another; and 4. a mutual respect for one another.

Allen Temple hosts welcome

The Allen Temple family invites the Portland metropolitan area to come and join us in welcoming the Rev. Phillip Nelson and family to the city

of Roses. The tea will be held Nov. 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. at 4236 N.E. 8th in Fellowship Hall.

South African leader warns of possibility of civil war

A state of civil war exists in South Africa because the government can no longer maintain control in Black townships without force, the Rev. C. F. Beyers Naude, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, told the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries Oct. 25 in New York.

"If someone were to say we are moving into a state of revolution, I would say that's a reasonable prediction," added Dr. Naude, a Dutch Reformed cleric and a leading Afrikaner opponent of apartheid. He said he had just received word of the detention of 50 anti-apartheid activists in the Western Cape, including the lawyer defending the Rev. Allan

Boesak, and several clergy, among them the Rev. Charles Villa-Vicenzio, a Methodist teaching religious studies at the University of Capetown, and an African Methodist Episcopal cleric.

Coinciding with Dr. Naude's address, the Board of Global Ministries intensified its plans for divestment of stock in companies and financial institutions doing business in South Africa. The board's directors promised total divestment by the end of 1986 in all U.S. corporations that provide products or services to the South African police or military, play a significant role in that nation's economy, or produce products which support apartheid.

AIDS suffers: "the new lepers"

Individuals suffering from AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) "have become the new lepers," and pose a critical test for the love and ministry of the church, in the opinion of United Methodist Bishop Woodie W. White.

"Such persons are isolated and rejected," said Bishop White in a recent issue of the Central Illinois Conference edition of the *United Methodist Reporter*. "Those who know no one personally with the disease frequently view them as a category, or a statistic, or even as a sinner."

Further, writes Bishop White, "many who want to be open, understanding, and even 'Christian,' need more medical evidence and assurance that the disease cannot be transmitted by casual contact. It is a complex, ambiguous, frightening and heart-breaking situation."

Noting that Jesus "specifically instructed" his disciples "to heal the lepers," Bishop White asks: "How would Jesus translate that command

today for us, his modern disciples, with these contemporary lepers?"

The Illinois area bishop also asks whether children with AIDS should be denied admission to Sunday school, as has been the case in some public schools.

"... all these for whom Christ died need the loving compassion of the church," he continues. "Each is a member of some family, someone's son or daughter—each precious, who perhaps requires the love and acceptance of the Christian community more now than ever before."

Bishop White voices the hope that government, private citizens and foundations will provide the financial resources needed for research, and adds:

"And I pray that we in the Church will not be found lacking when and should these our brothers and sisters with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome appear at our gates, seeking the ministry and love of the Church."

ALLEN TEMPLE CME CHURCH
Corner of 8th and Skidmore
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Christian Youth Fellowship 6:00 p.m.
(second and fourth Sundays)
Phillip S. Nelson (Pastor)

THE MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH
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John H. Jackson, Minister, M. Ed., M.D.
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11:00 A.M. Congregational Worship
5:00 P.M. Vesper Service
10:00 A.M. Baptism Fourth Sunday
11:00 Communion Each First Sunday
The American Baptist Convention, American Baptist Churches of Oregon; Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention; National, Oregon, Portland Ecumenical Ministries, American Bible Society, M. & M. Board.

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7:00 p.m., Evening Worship
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Y.P.W.W. 6:30 p.m.
Evangelistic Worship 8:00 p.m.
Tuesdays Friday Noon Day Prayer
Friday "The Pastor Speaks" 7:30 p.m.
Saturday Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.
"Sword of Blessing" 10:00 a.m.
Sundays morning 10:00 a.m.
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YOUR WATER: IS THERE MORE THERE THAN MEETS THE EYE?

FACT: Millions of gallons of toxic waste have been spilled for contamination. But when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) randomly checked 466 municipal wells in 1981, it found that 99 contained toxic chemicals.
FACT: Chlorine reacts with organic material in water to form Trihalomethanes (THMs). The EPA reports that THMs are not considered dangerous at the low levels found in most municipal water systems. But THMs are suspected cancer-causing agents.
FACT: In 1980, the U.S. Government's Council on Environmental Quality reported that chlorine added to water increased the risk of urinary tract and gastrointestinal cancer.
FACT: Bottled water isn't regularly monitored for some toxic chemicals, except in states like New York where monitoring is required. In 1982, the Sullivan County, New York health department tested bottled water sold in the county and found potentially hazardous chemicals in 46 of 110 brands.
FACT: The EPA has identified serious groundwater contamination in 34 states.
FACT: The United States Geological Survey pinpoints sources of contamination in every state.
Once a groundwater supply is contaminated, it can take generations to clean it up. And though government, industry, and municipalities are doing a better job, many of us want the best possible water now—not sometime off in the future.
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Come and learn direct from God's word that it is his will to heal you and to meet all your needs.
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There will be a question answer time.
Saturday, November 16, 1985
From 2:00 to 5:00 P.M.
COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL
1030 N.E. Union Avenue Portland, Oregon