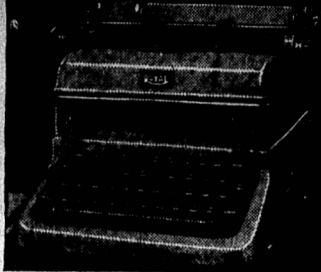


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Lenten Guideposts

Personal Messages of Inspiration and Faith Edited by Norman Vincent Peale

PARENTS ARE NOT ENOUGH

By J. Edgar Hoover

The man who trapped the notorious killer, Dillinger—the most effective hunter of criminals in America, J. Edgar Hoover—puts the finger on the crime of parents against the welfare of their children. A great advocate of Christianity, Mr. Hoover has been Director since 1924 of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice.

I have closely followed criminal activity in the United States, particularly during the last 25 years. I have seen its results. I have come face to face with those who laugh at the law, who steal, rob, pillage and kill. I have fought against them in their attempts to slash away at our national character. At times it has been most discouraging to note the apathy and indifference of many of our citizens toward the steady rises in crime. All during the war years major crime was on the upswing. It reached a 16-year peak in 1946. The fact that every 57 minutes of the day and night brings a crime of murder, manslaughter, rape or assault to kill is a challenge that should be answered by concerted action.

At the end of the recent war, age 17 led all other age groups in arrest for serious crimes. We now have a state of affairs where the juvenile offender has grown up and graduated into serious crimes of murder, robbery and assault. A general moral decadence in the United States is emphasized by the arrest in 1946 of 108,787 young people under 25 years of age for crimes serious enough to warrant finger-printing.

How shall we explain this situation? What constructive action can we take to alleviate the problem?

Answer In The Home

The answer lies for the most part in the homes of the nation. Many of the cases coming to my attention reveal the shocking fact that parents are forgetting their God-given and patriotic obligations to the little ones. In a spirit of recklessness and abandonment they are neglecting the children entrusted to their care.

How can we blame youngsters who are ashamed of their mothers and feel that their fathers do not represent honorable manhood? The conduct of many parents today is directly attributable to the breakdown in youthful morals and character.

I recall one case where four boys, aged 15 and 17, banded together and perpetrated a series of house-breakings and thefts. Three of the boys were victims of broken homes. Parental control was lacking in the life of the fourth boy. The mother of one of the youngsters had been carrying on an illicit affair with a man in the absence of her husband. Her son knew this and definitely resented the immorality of his mother. He lost the incentive to maintain good conduct and a good reputation for himself.

In another case, a boy first came to the attention of the police when he was 10 years of age. He had the questionable distinction of first testing his skill in thievery in his own home at the expense of his father. The boy's subsequent activities ranged from house-breaking to armed robbery. The youngster's parents unwittingly contributed to his delinquency by placing their employment and other interests foremost. As a result the boy was neglected.

Too Much Selfishness

The pattern of these cases is repeated over and over again. More and more children are being sacrificed upon the altar of indifference as parents throw aside responsibility. Selfishness is the keynote of the day and materialism the inspiration for living. God in many instances is not accepted in the home and concepts of morality have been relegated to the junk heap.

Can a nation exist void of all religious thought and action? Can we have internal peace without morality? Can we build homes without God or have worthy parents who know not His teachings? Who is the fountainhead of justice, equity, truth, goodness and majestic integrity? What is the reason for life, its aims and its end?

The key to these problems, to life itself, is God. He is man's first need—his final goal. Religion, the bond that binds man to God, is the golden arch that leads to happiness. Destroy it and chaos will result.

Faith Needed

My hope for the future of this nation is predicated upon the faith which is nurtured in the home. No outside influence of a constructive nature can overcome the lack of a guiding light in the home. If the trend toward crime is to be met, the spark of this light must be the knowledge of God and His love. Parents must awaken to the realization that the family is the first great training school in behavior or misbehavior. Children develop a sense of right and wrong—they are not born with it. The home becomes for them their first classroom and parents serve as their first teachers for the inspirational education of youth.

Through the medium of the home, the child must learn to appreciate the necessity for discipline and the need for law and order to guide the conduct of people in society. He must absorb lessons of

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GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT'S THAT?

good citizenship and recognize that he has the responsibility to take his place as a citizen in the United States.

Love Of God

Above all, he must be taught a love and a knowledge of God. If these qualities are exemplified and taught in the family circle, the child will be fortified with a character that will be a forceful antidote against temptation.

Our nation is sadly in need of a rebirth of the simple life—a return to the days when God was a part of each household, when families arose in the morning with a prayer on their lips and ended the day by placing themselves in His care. We should revive the beautiful practice of offering thanksgiving at meals and bring back to the family circle the moments when father or mother unfolded the beautiful lessons of the Bible to eager, young listeners.

Let us return to the faith of our fathers and reap once again the harvest of God's blessings. TOMORROW — A fascinating new experiment in business—a manufacturing company's department of Christian relations—is described by Maurice Smith, president of the Bristol Manufacturing Corp., of Bristol, R. I. (From the magazine "Guideposts" and the book of the same name Copyright 1950 by Guideposts Associates Inc., Pawling, New York).

Final Racing Millvale Driving Club

The Millvale Driving Club held their final racing meet of the season last Wednesday, March 22nd, when a large crowd of racing fans turned out to witness some keen racing in five classified events in which 14 horses took part.

British Guy Hal won the Class A event, Barbara Clegg the Class B, Trixie Kalmuck the Class C and Happy L. took top honors in the Class D. All winning horses received special prizes for the occasion, some donated by interested merchants and others by the Club itself. A special award was also presented to the winners of the Colt Race, won by Betty Taylor.

The following are the presiding officials and the results: Officials, starter, Fred Chappell; judges, Leonard McInnis, Eldon Parsons, Kenneth Duggan, Bill Hlekoz; announcer, W. Murphy.

Class B	Class D
Barbara Clegg (B. Andrews) 1 1	Happy L. (H. Buchanan)..... 2 1 1
Golden Bars (F. Taylor) 2 2	Bud Hugo (A. Weeks) 1 2 2
Winning horse owned by Blair Andrews.	Winning horse owned by Herb Buchanan.

Class C	Colt Race
Trixie Kalmuck (B. Hynes) 2 1 2 1	Betty Dale (F. Taylor) 1 1 1
Bunny L. (J. McInnis)..... 1 2 4 2	Strawberry Girl (J. Peters) 2 2 3
Betty S. (B. Gamester) 3 3 1 3	Buddy C. Clegg (A. Parsons) 3 3 2
Nellie J. (L. Gamester) 3 4 3 4	Buddy Scott (L. Chappell) 4 4 4
Winning horse owned by Bernice Hynes.	Winning horse owned by Fred Taylor.

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