

Baptist Banner

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee,
Psalms



that it may be displayed because of the truth.
60:4

VOLUME 17, NO. 4

GOODLETTSVILLE, TENN. 37072

SEPTEMBER, 1982

GIVING HEED TO WHAT WE HEAR FROM THE WORD

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip."

Hebrews 2:1.

The expression to give heed, or to take heed appears many times in Scripture, and it is a kind of warning to, not only hear, but to observe what is said. Jesus used the phrase several times in His teaching, and one of those times He said, "Take heed how you hear" Luke 8:18. Another time He said, "Take heed what you hear" Mark 4:24. The word means to see to, look to, watch, observe. With too many people what they hear is like pouring water on a duck's back, it slides right off as soon as they hear it. God's Word will feed the soul, build up, edify, and instruct us in the ways of the Lord, if we listen with an open mind and heart, and take heed to its wonderful precepts. There is no substitute for the Word of God, and if we don't watch, observe, take heed to this Word, God has no way to use us in His service. Because it is in His Word that we are instructed what to do, how to do, and what motives we must have in doing.

THE WORD IS UNCHANGEABLE

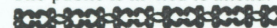
God Himself is unchangeable, and therefore, His Word is not going to be changed, even though there are men who would like nothing better than to change what God has said. God's Word is as pure as God Himself, and when men try to change a word, a sentence, in Scripture to fit their own views and opinions they are treading on dangerous grounds. It is shocking to see and to hear how that so-called ministers of our day will just try every trick ima-

(Continued on Page 2)



HOMECOMING

Harmony Missionary Baptist Church, East Trinity Lane, Nashville, Tenn. will have homecoming services on Sunday, Sept. 26. Sunday School at 10 A.M. and preaching by the pastor, Elder Clay Grizzle, at 11 A.M. Lunch will be served at noon. There will be congregational singing in the afternoon. The public is invited to attend.



Columbus, Indiana

October 4, 5, 7, 1982

Monday night - October 4 - Elder Billy Moran - The Doctrine of Repentance.

Tuesday night - October 5 - Elder H. C. Vanderpool - Authority to Administer Scriptural Baptism.

Thursday night - October 7 - Elder Darrel Hicks - History of Baptist Church Doctrine.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TIME: EACH NIGHT 7:00 p.m.



REVIVALS

SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 5

Longview Missionary Baptist Church, Elleta and Spencer Streets, Gallatin, Tenn. Services are to be conducted by Elder A. G. Gregory and Bro. Steve Perrigo. Services each night at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is invited to attend.

SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 19

Old Salem Meeting House, Middletown, Ind. Services conducted Sunday night through Friday night at 7:30 P.M. From Louisville, take I-64 to Highway Exit 135, Corydon, Ind. Go through Corydon to New Middletown. The old church building is located on the left about three miles south of New Middletown. Everyone invited to these services.

SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 26

Colorado Missionary Baptist Church, 5900 S. Parker Rd., Denver, Col. Pastor Ottis L. Jones is to be assisted by Elder William E. Massey. For hours of service, call: (303) 750-9621, or (303) 377-5050. Anyone having friends or relatives living in the Denver area are asked to contact them and invite them to these services. Everyone is invited.

Bible Study

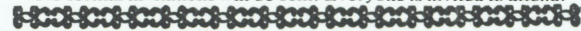
EDITOR AND MRS VANDERPOOL TO CELEBRATE

40th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Elder and Mrs. H. C. Vanderpool are to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on Sunday, September 5, 1982, at their home, 104 Hasty Drive, Goodlettsville, Tennessee. It is being given by their son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Vanderpool and daughters, Dawn and Robyn. The time will be 3:00 until 5:00 P.M.

The Vanderpools were married on September 5, 1942, in the home of Elder and Mrs. Paul Wilburn, Carthage, Tenn. Elder Wilburn performed the ceremony.

No formal invitations will be sent. Everyone is invited to attend.



Report From Bro. Tajima



(Editor's Note: I apologize for this article being late. When I received the letter, copy for the following month, which was August, had already been prepared.)

508 Jackson Ave.
Carthage, Tenn.

Dear Elder H. C. Vanderpool:

Here I am again in Carthage, Tennessee after seven years since my family and I visited in 1975. I am having a good time with blessed Baptist people, for which I am thankful.

It is also a good time of education for me to study on Baptist history in Tennessee and Kentucky, and in other states as well. I'll collect some literature on Baptist history while I am in the States and I believe these will give me more blessed idea and practice in carrying out the gospel out in Japan as an old fashioned Baptist preacher.

(Continued on Page 3)

BENEFIT SINGING

On Sunday, Sept. 12, there will be a benefit singing for Evangelist Landon C. Long, at Harvest Missionary Baptist Church, 192 Curtis Cross Roads, Hendersonville, Tenn. Elder Long is the former pastor of Harvest church, but has gone into full time evangelistic work.

Following the morning services, lunch will be served at noon and the singing is to begin at 2:00 P.M. with several singing groups to be featured. Everyone is invited. Elder Raymond Swallows is the present pastor.



HOMECOMING

On Sunday, September 12, Grace Missionary Baptist Church, Old Shackle Island Rd., Hendersonville, Tenn. will have homecoming services, beginning with Sunday School at 10 A.M. Pastor Elmer Perrigo will preach at 11 A.M. and then lunch will be served at noon.

The singing is to begin at 2:00 P.M. with the Cockriel Family of Bowling Green, Ky. and the Jackie Wilburn Family of Carthage, Tenn. Everyone is invited.

BAPTIST BANNER

Founded June 1, 1966

H. C. Vanderpool, Editor-Publisher, 1966-1981

Publication No. (USPS 041-800)

Second-Class Postage Paid At Goodlettsville, Tenn. 37072



Published Monthly

By

MISSIONARY BAPTIST LITERATURE COMMITTEE

P. O. Box 1001

Goodlettsville, Tennessee 37072

Phone: (615) 859-5780



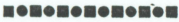
H. C. Vanderpool, Editor of Publications

Billy J. Woodard, Assistant to the Editor

Imogene Butler, Secretary-Treasurer

Jeff Denton, Art Consultant

Donna Graves, Circulation



POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to: P. O. Box 1001
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

1 Year.....\$4.00
2 Years\$7.00
In bundles to churches \$3.00 per copy per year.
100 copies or over to one address \$2.00 per copy per year.

BAPTIST BANNER

P. O. BOX 1001

GOODLETTSVILLE, TN 37072

destroy the precious Word, the holy Scriptures; but those men have long since gone, and if they didn't repent of their wickedness, they have found out that the Word that they tried to destroy will face them in the great judgment of almighty God. The Word of the Lord lives on, and on. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35.

Some men in the past rose to great heights of glory, that is, glory of men; but they, just like the ordinary man, passed on the way of all the earth. "For all flesh is as grass, and the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth and the flower thereof falleth away; But the Word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the Word which by the Gospel is preached unto you." 1 Peter 1:24, 25.

If God were to give another revelation, it would be the same, He would not change a word. He gave the Word just exactly the way He wants us to have it, and it will still be just like that when we face it in the judgment.

IT IS THE LIVING WORD

"The Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:12. The word quick in this verse means, Living, and because it is living, it is powerful, and sharp, it cuts and discerns the wicked heart. It is not a dead letter, but is the Living Word. The Holy Spirit of God accompanies the Word, It is the Sword of the Spirit. Ephesians 6:17. And herein is the means that God uses to draw men and women to Jesus Christ. Nobody can come to Him unless this force draw him. See John 6:44. So you who hear it had better take heed.

DON'T LET IT SLIP

The text says that we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, "lest at any time we should let them slip", as in the margin: "Run out as leaking vessels" Put water in a bucket with a hole in it, and the water will soon run out. Just hear the Word of God, with the natural hearing, and take no heed to it, is like putting liquid in a leaky vessel, it leaks out and is wasted. Any preacher preaching in a place for very long, he will soon find out who is taking heed to his preaching and who is not. Too many are like a leaky vessel, they don't keep the Word. Maybe some preaching isn't worth listening to, but if it is the Truth of our God, we would do well to hear and take heed. God's Word can bless our souls and lives.

(Continued on Page 3)

BAPTIST MISSION Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Dear Brothers & Sisters
in Christ,

Brother Ray Sutton and I are trying to carry on the work of our Lord and Master at the Murfreesboro Missionary Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The Mission is authorized for worship under the authority of Long Fork Missionary Baptist Church, Route 5, Lafayette, Tennessee. We are presently holding services in The Southern Methodist Church building located at 208 South 4th Avenue in Murfreesboro. The Church is very near the Middle Tennessee State University Campus. Regular services are held each Sunday morning, with Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and regular worship service beginning at 11:00 a.m.

We would appreciate it very much if you would announce this Mission to your Church. Perhaps someone in your congregation will know of a friend, relative, or loved one who lives in or near Murfreesboro and is searching for an old-fashion Baptist Church to attend. If so, please send their name, address, and telephone number to me so that we can make a personal contact to tell them about the Mission. Please be sure to include the names of college students attending MTSU. Above all, please remember

us in your prayers. We place our trust in God that this Mission will grow and that someday an old-fashion Missionary Baptist Church will be organized in Murfreesboro.

Also, please announce that a Revival Meeting will begin at the Mission on Friday night, June 11, 1982, beginning at 7:00 P.M.

Yours in the Cause of Christ,
BILL GREEN
Route 5, Box 54A
Lafayette, TN 37083
666-4350
RAY SUTTON
114 Milburn Road
Hendersonville, TN 37075
824-1905



"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Luke 5:32

GIVING HEED

(Continued from Page 1)

gineable to establish a doctrine of their making. It will be a sad day when such men come to face almighty God and give an account for the way they have tried to twist His Word for a man made doctrine. We had better let God say what He wants to say to us, for what He says are pure words, "The Words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Psalm 12:6. Why would God need to change anything that is so pure as His holy Word?

The good affect that the Word of the Lord will have to our lives depends on the attitude in which we receive it. Just looking to His Word to find something to suit our own fancy is foolish. We would do mighty well to take heed to whatever the Lord wants to say to us, even when it reproves us of wrong doing.

HIS WORD IS ETERNAL

Many, many generations have come and gone since God gave His word, and in some generations men fought hard to



CALL
GIVE US
YOUR NEWS

Phone:

(615) 859-5780



BOOKS

You are invited to write to the address below, or call the listed number, to receive a nice brochure with over 150 books listed. Many of these are reprints of old books that have been out of print for a long time. Write and ask for the brochure of their books.

Write To:

CHURCH HISTORY
RESEARCH AND
ARCHIVES

220 Graystone Drive
Gallatin, TN 37066

Write Today!

Phone: (615) 452-7077



MISSIONARY BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

Our Sunday School Literature Committee operates under the authority and sponsorship of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, Tennessee. We have been blessed with dedicated writers and staff members. We have dedicated and sincere people working from writing throughout each process until it is mailed to the churches.

Missionary Baptist Churches across the United States are now using this material. It has grown from year to year and we continue to have additional churches order each quarter. The schedule of quarterlies are as follows: **Spring Quarter:** (March, April, May); **Summer Quarter:** (June, July, August); **Fall Quarter:** (September, October, November); **Winter Quarter:** (December, January, February).

- NURSERYAges 0-3
- KINDERGARTENAges 4-6
- PRIMARYAges 7-9
- INTERMEDIATE.....Ages 10-12
- JUNIOR HIGHAges 13-15
- SENIOR HIGHAges 16-18
- ADULTAges 18-Up

Any church wishing to investigate this material and would like for us to send samples, please write to the address below, or call, (615) 859-5780.

MISSIONARY BAPTIST LITERATURE COMMITTEE
P. O. Box 1001

Goodlettsville, Tennessee 37072

TENNESSEE STATE GOSPEL SINGING CONVENTION

The 1982 annual Tennessee State Gospel Singing Convention will be held on Saturday, September 11, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Then on Sunday, September 12, beginning at 10:00 A.M. The singing will be at the Dickson County Senior High School, Dickson, Tennessee.

Everett J. Butrum is the president. Vice-presidents are: Key Dillard, Murfreesboro, Tenn. 890-0288; Danny Patterson, Lafayette, Tenn. 666-3438; Joe Millsap, Lynchburg, Tenn.; James Gladney, Franklin, Tenn. 794-6341; and Ron Lichlyter, Knoxville, Tenn. For further information you may call one of the above numbers.



FOUR COUNTY SINGING

The four-county singing (Macon, Smith, Sumner, Trousdale) in Tennessee, is to be held at Victory Missionary Baptist Church, Gallatin Road, Hendersonville, Tenn. in Sumner County. The church is located on the east side of Hendersonville going toward Gallatin. The singing begins at 2:00 P.M. The public is invited to attend. The date: Sunday, September 5.

Homecoming

Old Paths Missionary Baptist Church, Watertown Rd., Lebanon, Tenn. will be having homecoming services on Sunday, Sept. 26. Sunday School at 10 A.M. and preaching at 11 A.M. by the pastor, Elder Edgar Copeland. Lunch will be served at noon. There will be singing in the afternoon by The Beckwith Singers. Everyone is invited.



ATTENTION

Any Missionary Baptist Church, minister, laymember, who has an announcement, article or report, is invited to send the same to the BANNER for publication. Get it to me by the 10th of the month previous to publication. - Editor

OLD FASHION GOSPEL

HOURLY FINANCIAL REPORT

June 30, 1982

Contributions	Expenses
April \$2,246.82	April \$2,698.30
May 4,087.83	May 3,458.28
June 1,259.05	June 2,773.00
Totals \$7,811.70	\$8,929.58
Balance in the Bank - 6-30-1982	\$1,059.26
Expenses Itemized:	
Ashland Ave. Baptist Publications.....	\$ 29.45
CATV-9 Huntsville, Ala.	552.50
Com-World Video Services.....	74.68
Fuse Box and bulbs from G.E. Supply	133.68
Hartsville Printing Co. - Financial Report.....	23.00
5,000 T.V. Schedules	210.10
Independent Producers Corp - 2 tapes.....	30.74
Miscellaneous expenses	46.51
Transfer money to new equip. program	250.00
Pierce Communications - WTSG-TV, Albany, Ga.	2,422.50
Eld. Bob Pitt, Expenses.....	446.21
Postage	20.00
Sainte Corp. Cha. #19, Modesto, Calif.	1,020.00
Sainte Corp. Cha. #35, Modesto, Calif.	663.00
Technical Industries - Recorder repair	47.50
Teleprompter Cable TV, Oakland, Calif.	540.00
Tenn. Telephone - Rutland Church	106.80
Middle Tenn. Electric - Rutland Church	48.33
Theta Cable TV - Los Angeles, Calif.	127.50
West Wilson Water - Rutland Church	19.08
WJNL-TV, Johnstown, Pa.	660.00
Special Collections to pay on equip. loan	1,458.00
Total Expenses	\$8,929.58

Elder Bob Pitt
Co-ordinator
309 Andrews Ave.
Hartsville, Tn. 37074

J. C. Frye, Treasurer
Hartsville, Tn. 37074

Revival Reports

Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn. One profession of faith with six additions to the church. Pastor D. W. Story was assisted by Elder Paul Bryson.

Colorado Missionary Baptist Church, Denver, Col. One saved and three additions to the church. Pastor Ottis L. Jones was assisted by Elder Kenneth Davis.

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Carroll County, Tenn. Five saved and five additions to the church. Pastor James Stewart was assisted by Elder Landon C. Long.

Old Union Missionary Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. Ten professions of faith with eleven additions to the church. Pastor Paul Bryson was assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey.

Madison Missionary Baptist Church, Madison, Tenn. Three professions. Pastor L. W. Smith was assisted by, Elder D. W. Story.

Harmony Missionary Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn. Two saved. Pastor Clay Grizzle was assisted by Elder Hilman Duncan.

Old Paths Missionary Baptist Church, Lebanon, Tenn. One profession of faith. Pastor Edgar Copeland was assisted by Elder Hilman Duncan.

Gateway Missionary Baptist Church, Donelson, Tenn. Two professions of faith with ten additions to the church.

McFerrin Missionary Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn. Five professions of faith with four additions to the church. Pastor Howard Taylor was assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey.

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION TO CONVENE

The Bethel Missionary Baptist Association is to convene in its 25th annual session with Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 1032 S. Holmes, Indianapolis, Indiana, on September 17, 18, 19. Services are to begin on Friday night, Sept. 17, at 7:00 P.M.

Officers elected last year were, Elder Calvin Perrigo, moderator; Bro. Jeff Moran, clerk; Elder Carlos Gammon, treasurer.

The Introductory Sermon on Friday night is to be by Bro. Steve Perrigo. Elder Charles Chapman is to preach the Memorial Sermon on Saturday, and the Doctrinal Sermon on Sunday is to be delivered by Elder John Keen, Jr. All who can attend are invited to do so.

BRO. TAJIMA

(Continued from Page 1)

I would like for you to pray for me, for my family, and for our work back in Japan. I am leaving for Japan first week of July, Lord willing.

May God bless you all
Yours truly,
Koji Tajima

Following is the report of donations received with so much thanks for the first quarter of the year.

Jan. - Mr. Pete Branstetter, Summer Shade, Ky., 10.00; Mr. Henry H. Smith, Carthage, Tenn., 25.00; North Carthage Baptist, Carthage, Tenn., 208.47; Mt. Tabor Baptist, Pleasant Shade, Tenn., 112.76; Plunketts Creek Baptist, Carthage, Tenn., 393.11; Faith Baptist, Nashville, Tenn., 63.88; South Carthage Baptist, Carthage, Tenn., 148.75; Calvary Baptist, Carthage, Tenn., 50.00. Total \$1,011.97.

Feb. - Plunketts Creek Baptist, Carthage, Tenn., 378.82; Beckwith Baptist, Mt. Juliet, Tenn., 75.00; North Carthage Baptist, Carthage, Tenn., 151.36; South Carthage Baptist, Carthage, Tenn., 114.86; Faith Baptist, Nashville, Tenn., 59.55; Calvary Baptist,

Carthage, Tenn., 50.00. Total \$829.59.

March - Plunketts Creek Baptist, Carthage, Tenn., 412.56; Beckwith Baptist, Mt. Juliet, Tenn., 75.00 & 75.00; North Carthage Baptist, Carthage, Tenn., 199.40; South Carthage Baptist, Carthage, Tenn., 127.90; Faith Baptist, Nashville, Tenn., 77.84; Jared Baptist, Buffalo Valley, Tenn., 100.00; Calvary Baptist, Carthage, Tenn., 200.00; Kokomo Baptist, Kokomo, Indiana, 90.00. Total \$1,357.70. To Koi Baptist Church: Jan. - Lyons Baptist, Louisville, Ky., 200.00; Summer Shade Baptist, Summer Shade, Ky., 45.00; McFerrin Baptist, Nashville, Tenn., 104.05; Mt. Calvary Baptist, Nashville, Tenn., 20.00. Total \$369.05.

Feb. - New Friendship Baptist, Russell Springs, Ky., 536.15; Mt. Calvary Baptist, Nashville, Tenn., 20.00. Total \$556.15.

March - McFerrin Baptist, Nashville, Tenn., 108.30 & 122.09; Summer Shade Baptist, Summer Shade, Ky., 45.00; Mt. Calvary Baptist, Nashville, Tenn., 20.00. Total \$295.39.



GIVING HEED

(Continued from Page 2)

It is so easy for us to let the affairs of this life push their way into our thoughts, to the extent that the Word of God slips away from us, and we don't get its precious benefits. We must always be on guard against those things that will hinder the Word. The apostle Paul requested prayer regarding this matter, when he said, "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you." II Thessalonians 3:1. This certainly tells us that there are things that can obstruct the Word of God, something can get in its way, so it doesn't have free course, and it slips from the one who could be benefitted thereby. Notice, that Paul in his request for prayer said, that the Word might be glorified, "even as it is with you." The Word was glorified in the Thessalonians because they didn't let anything get in its way. Quite often Isaiah 55:11 is quoted and not explained, where God said that His Word would not return to Him void. Certainly His Word will not return to Him void, that is, as far as He is concerned.

But this doesn't mean that everytime and everywhere we preach the Word of God that there will be a great revival and souls saved. In many cases preaching will seal the doom of sinners, but God will be honored and glorified in His Word, nevertheless; and so the Word doesn't return to Him void.

CONCLUSION

What does the Word of God mean to you, dear reader? What are some of the excuses that you offer for not giving heed to the things which you hear from God's servants, as they preach the Gospel of Christ to you? Remember this: You have just one life to live, and it will be short, even if you live to be a hundred. There is something in the Word of God for all of us, whether saint or sinner, and we had better take heed to what God wants to say to us. Don't let His Words slip!

AN APOLOGY

We wish to apologize to the churches and brethren of Polk County Missionary Baptist Association in Missouri for the omission of the announcement of the associational meeting in August. This was an oversight.

-Editor

By Clifford Berman

I can't remember exactly when I took my first drink," Carol told a group at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. "It was too long ago... Alcohol used to cheer me up, I guess, but then it really got bad... You lose your self-respect, that's the worst part. But no matter how hard you try to stop, somehow you can't." The age of this confirmed alcoholic? Fifteen.

Shocking, yes, but not that unusual. Carol, the child of middle-class parents who drink socially, is the tragic product of teenage alcohol abuse. Like other young alcoholics, she often arrived at school drunk, sneaked drinks in the school washroom, and hid bottles under her bed at home. Only after she was caught shoplifting was she referred to AA for help.

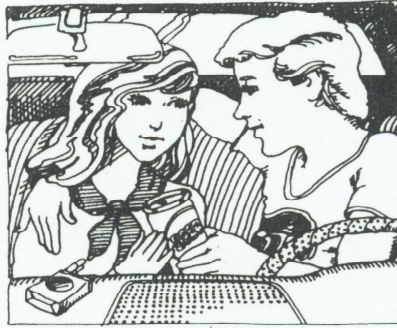
Almost 75 percent of teenagers drink to some extent, and though relatively few are full-fledged alcoholics, one study shows that 19 percent of boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 17 are problem drinkers. Alcohol abuse by teenagers and even pre-teens has been overshadowed in recent years as public attention focused on the use of drugs, especially marijuana. But alcohol is, and always has been, the drug of choice among teenagers. Heavy use is on the rise, there's been a drop in the age of first use, and for the first time, girls are catching up to boys in consumption. Nearly one out of every six students in the tenth to twelfth grades call themselves "heavy drinkers" — taking five cans of beer or mixed drinks at least once a week. And a recent survey in Maryland found that one out of five eighth-graders drinks some form of alcohol several times a week.

By far the most serious problems stem from binge drinking and sporadic drunkenness, leading to violence, vandalism, and suicide (the third leading cause of teenage death). And when a drunk 16 year old gets behind the wheel of a car, teenage drinking becomes everybody's problem.

SPECIAL HAZARDS FOR YOUNG DRINKERS

Teenagers drink to feel grown up. Buying liquor and having it at parties when their parents aren't around gives them adult status in the eyes of their peers. Like adults, teenagers drink to have a good time, to be part of a group. And like adults, they sometimes drink to escape from problems and the stress of school or a job. But unlike most adults, who drink to relax, teenagers often drink for the express purpose of getting high, even drunk. "They also have a tendency to underestimate the potency of alcoholic beverages," says Dr. Wallace Mandell, director of Johns Hopkins Hospital Alcoholism Service, "and to overestimate their ability to drive after drinking."

Is Your Child an Alcoholic?



Because alcohol use is either illegal or forbidden by parents or school authorities, many teenagers drink surreptitiously and in a hurry, often without food or mixers, causing the alcohol level in their blood to suddenly shoot up, producing intoxication. Low body weight is another factor in their becoming intoxicated more quickly than adults. The smaller the person, the sooner the effects of alcohol are felt.

DRINKING AND DRIVING

Any intoxicated driver is a menace on the highways, but intoxicated teenagers have a higher rate of accidents than adults — not surprising, considering they are combining inexperience in drinking with inexperience in driving. Each year, half of the almost 10,000 teenagers killed in auto accidents are found to have been drinking. In every state, without exception, the legal drinking age is the age at which the most auto accidents occur.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Although peers play an important role in a teenager's use of alcohol and in specific drinking episodes, the biggest influence, says Dr. Patricia O'Gorman of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, is the example set in the home by the parents.

While there are no early warning signs to indicate if a son or daughter is likely to misuse alcohol, certain patterns have been observed. It is well known, for example, that the children of alcoholic parents are at high risk of later having drinking problems. On the other hand, teens who don't drink most often come from parents who drink little or abstain.

But most adults are neither alcoholics nor complete abstainers, so statistically at least, many teenagers with drinking problems come from homes where parents are moderate social drinkers. These are the parents who may well be preaching one message about drinking to their teenage children but inadvertently sending quite another with their drinking behavior. Those who work with teenage problem drinkers have these

suggestions for parents:

Watch for signs of secret drinking, such as defensiveness when questioned about alcohol use, or behavior changes including tiredness, moodiness, falling school attendance.

Keep tabs on where your children are going and with whom.

Be present if your son or daughter is having a party. (You don't have to be in the room, but be in the house.) See to it that parties are kept small. Larger ones are apt to become wild.

Make a pact with your children that if they're ever out with the car and feel they've had too much to drink to drive safely, you'll pick them up or send a taxi — without recriminations.

If your son or daughter ever comes home intoxicated, refrain from any immediate harsh treatment, but bring up the matter calmly the next day, working toward teaching, not merely punishing.

Include small children in family discussions about alcohol, especially if an older brother or sister comes home intoxicated — behavior that they might otherwise look up to.

TEENAGE DRINKING AND THE LAW

Unfortunately, the legal drinking age, 18 to 21 depending on the state, is easily circumvented. Young teenagers wait in front of stores and get older patrons to buy alcohol for

Whereas, the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is productive of pauperism, degeneration, and crime, and believing that it is our duty to discourage that which produces more evil than good, we therefore pledge ourselves to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage. —Pledge written and signed by Abraham Lincoln

Does it make sense, for a few dollars to give one man the privilege of selling strong drink, then spend thousands of dollars convicting and punishing another man who commits a crime while under the influence of the stuff?

If all the officers united in setting the soldiers an example of total abstinence from intoxicating drinks, it would be equal to an addition of 50,000 men to the armies of the United States. —George B. McClellan

them, or they buy it illegally from a willing liquor store or market.

Recently, in an effort to reduce teenage auto accidents, 12 states have raised their legal drinking age by a year or more and another eight states have such legislation pending. In Michigan, where the legal age was raised from 18 to 21, auto accidents have dropped by 17 percent. States are also putting pressure on neighboring states where the legal ages are lower to raise the age limits so teenagers won't cross state lines to find a place to drink — then drive long distances home intoxicated.

In the meantime, grass roots movements, such as a parent-teacher group in Brooklyn, N.Y., called "Alternatives," are touring their neighborhoods to convince liquor stores not to sell to minors and to report those that do. In New York State last year, over half the licenses revoked because of illegal sales stemmed from citizen reports.

Alcohol possession (i.e., being seen drinking in public or just carrying an alcoholic beverage) is an offense for which a teenager can be sent to juvenile court. Punishment varies. In some areas juvenile-court judges are taking a hard line on alcohol possession and related offenses. If a serious drinking problem exists, most judges will refer the youth to a treatment organization.

WHEN HELP IS NEEDED

There's plenty of help around for teenagers who have a real drinking problem. Some national programs have adapted services for adults to the special needs of young people. Often youngsters are referred to these centers for treatment by the courts, schools, or parents.

AA now has groups in many areas set up specifically for young people under 30, including teenagers, though anyone with a drinking problem can attend any AA meeting, free of charge.

Another organization, Al-Anon, conducts Ala-teen, which holds free meetings for the children of alcoholics. It has more than 2,000 chapters. A number of peer-counseling programs — teenagers who give a helping hand to other teenagers — have been established in some areas through community organizations, such as the Boys Club of America, or through programs set up in public schools by state or local governments.

Services offered privately or by public health agencies vary widely, so it's best to look in the Yellow Pages under "Alcohol" or "Alcoholism" to see what's available. —Suburban Woman

Week of September 21, 1981

I have better use for my brain than to poison it with alcohol. To put alcohol in the human brain is like putting sand in the bearings of an engine. —Thomas A. Edison