

Awake!

AUGUST 2012



**WILL VIOLENCE
EVER END?**

Awake!

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VIOLENCE HURTS US ALL



WHO has not been affected by violence? We see it constantly in news reports. We fear it on the streets and at work, and children face it from bullies at school. Even at home, where people usually feel secure behind locked doors, millions—especially women—feel unsafe. In fact, depending on the country, up to 70 percent of women report that they have been assaulted by an intimate partner.

In many countries, people fear violent political or social uprisings or even terrorism. These fears are reflected in the increased level of electronic surveillance evident in some lands, especially those that have been a target of terrorism.

Understandably, the video-surveillance industry is booming—despite the global economic downturn. Who pays for all of this? Ultimately, we do, in the form of taxes and other fees. And such costs may well increase as security measures become more invasive, pervasive, and expensive.

The disturbing effects of violence should make us reflect on ourselves—our ethics and our beliefs. The following articles will consider these questions: What part does the media play in the spread of violence? What factors can influence our attitude toward violence? How can we protect ourselves from negative influences?



INFATUATED WITH VIOLENCE

THE world today is infatuated with violence. To be sure, violence has always been featured in entertainment. However, “in recent years,” says the Media Awareness Network, “something about media violence has changed. For one thing, there’s more of it.” For another, it is “much more graphic, much more sexual, and much more sadistic.” Consider the following.

Music: Songs featuring increasingly violent lyrics “have moved into the mainstream of the music industry,” says the above source. Using filthy language, some songs glorify murder and rape, even of wives and mothers.

Video Games: “The uncomfortable fact is, videogames have an unhealthy obsession with bloodshed,” stated a British magazine for video-game enthusiasts. It added: “To some

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Our choice of entertainment may influence our attitude toward violence

degree, a love of videogames demands a love of violence.” For example, one popular game enables players to simulate beating women to death with baseball bats. Some authorities believe that video games, being interactive, may have a more powerful negative influence on children than TV does.

Movies: Studies show that violence, sex, and profanity have increased significantly in movies, and ratings may not be a reliable guide. Moreover, it is not just the “bad guys” who are violent. Nearly half the violence depicted on TV, in movies, and in music videos is committed by the “good guys,” according to one study.

News: “If it bleeds, it leads” is the guiding principle for many TV-news producers. News is big business, and newsmen know that violence attracts viewers and that high viewer ratings attract advertisers, who finance TV programming in many lands.

Web Sites: Both virtual and real-life images of torture, dismemberment, mutilation, and murder are available on the Internet. Many children visit these sites.

Can Media Violence Influence You?

Does violence in television, movies, books, music, and other forms of entertainment influence people? Granted, those profiting

from media violence often argue that their products do no harm. But consider this: To influence people’s thinking, the business world pays billions of dollars for commercials, each of which may be just 30 seconds in length. Is it reasonable, then, to assume that a 90-minute movie, the heroes of which may be immoral and violent, will have little or no effect, especially on the impressionable minds of children?

Our Creator, Jehovah God, knows human nature far better than we do. What has he told us about associating with violent people—including, in principle, those who entertain us through the popular media? Consider the following Bible texts:

● “Jehovah himself examines the righteous one as well as the wicked one, and anyone loving violence His soul certainly hates.”—Psalm 11:5.

● “Do not have companionship with anyone given to anger; and with a man having fits of rage you must not enter in, that you may not get familiar with his paths and certainly take a snare for your soul.”—Proverbs 22:24, 25.

Of course, we cannot cut ourselves off from exposure to all bad influences. But we can choose our entertainment and the people with whom we socialize. So ask yourself, “What sort of person do I want to be?” Then associate with people like that, people who have the same values and goals that you want to have.—Proverbs 13:20.

While our choice of associates and entertainment may influence our attitude toward violence, other factors may also influence us. What might these be?

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CAUSES OF VIOLENCE

VIOLENCE STARTS WITHIN

Even though violence may be triggered by a number of elements, its primary roots lie within ourselves. How so? Jesus Christ, who had profound insight into the human heart, stated: “Out of the heart of men, injurious reasonings issue forth: fornications, thieveries, murders, adulteries, covetings, acts of wickedness, deceit, loose conduct, an envious eye, blasphemy, haughtiness, unreasonableness.” (Mark 7:21, 22) We feed such wrong inclinations when we repeatedly look at, listen to, or think about bad things.—James 1:14, 15.

On the other hand, when we feed our mind with wholesome things, such as those mentioned in the article on page 8, we starve and “deaden” bad desires and nurture good ones. (Colossians 3:5; Philippians 4:8) God will then help us “to be made mighty in the man [we] are inside.”—Ephesians 3:16.



THE roots of violence tend to be complex. And often, they cannot be attributed to a single factor, such as associates, entertainment, or social environment. Many elements may be involved, including the following.

Desperation and despair. Sometimes people resort to violence when they are oppressed, discriminated against, socially isolated, or economically deprived or when they feel that they have no control over their life.

The mob spirit. As is often seen at sporting events, people in groups or mobs seem to have fewer inhibitions against bad behavior. Why? They are “less aware of their own moral standards and are much more likely to respond to violent or aggressive cues,” says the book *Social Psychology*. Such individuals, states another work, may become mindless puppets, losing “all the feelings of social responsibility.”

Hatred and jealousy. The first documented murder in human history was committed by a man named Cain. (Genesis 4:1-8) Inflamed with jealous hatred, Cain murdered his brother—even though God warned Cain to control his emotions and promised to bless him if he did. How true are the Bible’s words: “Where jealousy and contentiousness are, there disorder and every vile thing are”—James 3:16.



Alcohol and drug abuse. Substance abuse not only impairs physical and mental health but also inhibits control centers in the brain. A result is that a person under the influence may become more prone to violent behavior and respond more aggressively to provocation.

Lax criminal-justice systems. “Because sentence against a bad work has not been executed speedily, that is why the heart of the sons of men has become fully set in them to do bad,” says Ecclesiastes 8:11. Weak, incompetent, or corrupt systems of justice directly or indirectly promote violence.

False religion. Religion is often linked to violence, including sectarian violence and terrorism. But it is not just bigots, extremists, and fanatics who are to blame. During the two world wars, members of mainstream religions—“Christian” and non-Christian—slaughtered one another, often with the blessing of their spiritual leaders. Such behavior offends God.—Titus 1:16; Revelation 17:5, 6; 18:24.

In view of the many forces that advocate or glorify violence, is it possible to become a truly peaceable person in today’s world? Yes, as we shall now see.

VIOLENCE BAFFLES EXPERTS

Why do some countries report murder rates 60 times higher than others? Why have wars and other forms of violence been a constant feature of human history? Baffling questions are many; convincing answers are few.

Some researchers hold that poverty and inequality trigger violence. According to some statistics, about 90 percent of all violence-related deaths, including suicide, have occurred in the world’s less-prosperous nations; and the poorer neighborhoods of cities are often high-crime areas. But are poor people really more violent? Or do they suffer more violence because their communities cannot afford good-quality law enforcement? Then there are places like Calcutta, India, where millions live in extreme poverty. Yet, Calcutta has one of the world’s lowest murder rates.

Others theorize that the ready availability of guns makes a society more violent. Certainly, guns make violent people more dangerous. But why do some societies have a higher proportion of violent people? Again, experts cannot agree.

YOU CAN LEARN TO BE Peaceable

ALTHOUGH we may be born with certain wrong inclinations, violent behavior is usually learned. The same is true of peaceableness. Who, though, can teach us the ways of true peace? Surely, the most authoritative person would be our Creator, whose wisdom is unsurpassed. Consider the following five points and the associated gems of wisdom found in the Bible.

1 “Do not become envious of the man of violence.” (Proverbs 3:31) Recognize that real strength lies in such qualities as self-control and mildness. “He that is slow to anger is better than a mighty man,” says Proverbs 16:32. Like the strong wall of a dam, he is able to withstand the pressures of provocation. In fact, he responds to anger with mildness, and thus “turns away rage.” (Proverbs 15:1) A man disposed to wrath, however, explodes at the slightest provocation.—Proverbs 25:28.

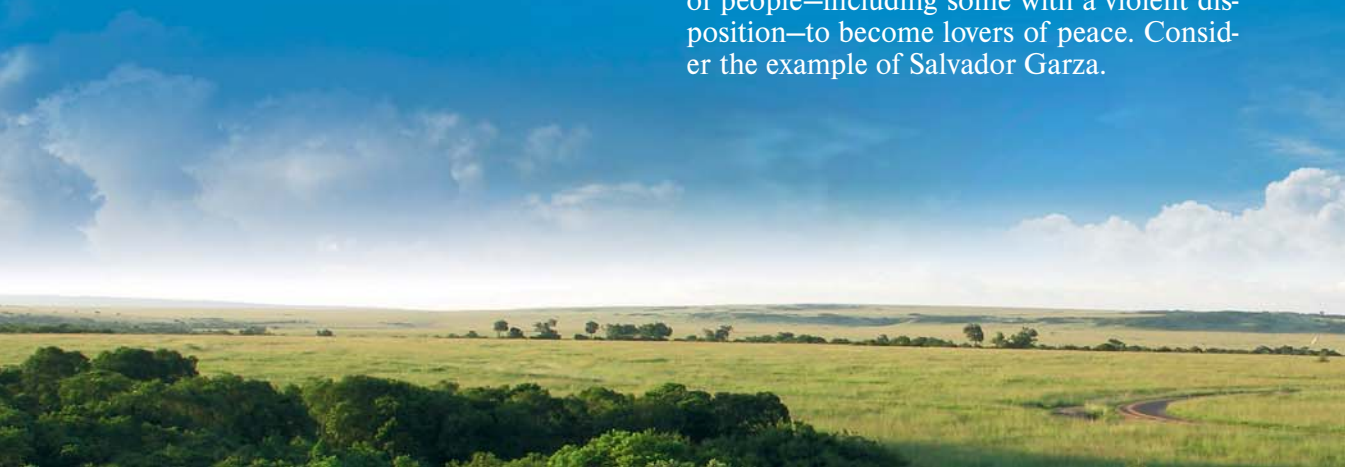
2 Choose your associates wisely. “A man of violence will seduce his fellow,” says Proverbs 16:29. On the other hand, “he that is walking with wise persons will become wise.” (Proverbs 13:20) Yes, when we associate with peaceable people who have self-control and a mild spirit, we will most likely try to imitate them.

3 Cultivate true love for others. The best description of love ever written is found at 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. In part, it reads: “Love is long-suffering and kind. . . . [It] does not become provoked. It does not keep account of the injury. . . . It bears all things, . . . endures all things.” Godlike love, Jesus said, extends even to one’s enemies.—Matthew 5: 44, 45.

4 Trust God to deal with the wicked. “Return evil for evil to no one. . . . As far as it depends upon you, be peaceable with all men. Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, . . . for it is written: ‘Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says Jehovah.’” (Romans 12:17-19) When we have faith in God and in his promises, we enjoy an inner peace that people lacking faith cannot even begin to understand.—Psalm 7: 14-16; Philippians 4:6, 7.

5 Look to God’s Kingdom to bring true peace to the earth. God’s Kingdom is a heavenly government that will soon eradicate all the wicked and take full control of the entire earth. (Psalm 37:8-11; Daniel 2: 44) Under that Kingdom, “the righteous one will sprout,” and there will be an “abundance of peace until the moon is no more.”—Psalm 72:7.

Such Bible teachings have helped millions of people—including some with a violent disposition—to become lovers of peace. Consider the example of Salvador Garza.





I LOVED VIOLENCE

AS TOLD BY SALVADOR GARZA

WHEN I was a boy, I loved violence and fought anyone who made me angry. A local boxing champion noticed this and taught me to box. In time, I was traveling around the United States as a professional boxer. Later, I worked as a bodyguard for a gangster.

My love of violence continued even after I married and had six children. By then, I was running a nightclub. Several times people tried to kill me, but I enjoyed the excitement. I once shot two men in a fight, badly wounding them. Some friends and I even planned to kidnap a prominent politician. But the police discovered the plot and arrested me. When the police caught up with the others, there was a shoot-out and my friends were all killed. So I am glad that I was in prison at the time!

Years later, I was released and found a job. On my way home from work one day, I suffered a sudden, incapacitating headache. I was so worried that I prayed for help. My wife, Dolores, who had been studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses, had told me that God has a name—Jehovah. (Psalm 83:18) So I prayed specifically to him.

Once I recovered, Dolores encouraged me to attend the meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses at their Kingdom Hall. The kindness and genuine interest of the Witnesses brought tears to my eyes. As a result,

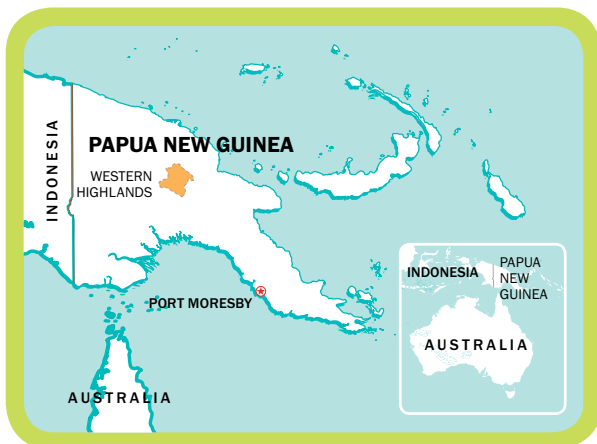


Studying the Bible helped Salvador find peace

I too began to study the Bible and my whole outlook on life began to change. I loved what I was being taught.

Learning to control my temper, however, took a little longer. To illustrate, one day while I was engaged in the house-to-house ministry with my friend Antonio, we met a man who spoke abusively to us. I was incensed, so I lunged at him. Fortunately, Antonio restrained me. Later, he patiently drew my attention to how Jesus endured much ridicule and abuse. The apostle Peter, who worked closely with Jesus, wrote: "When he was being reviled, he did not go reviling in return." (1 Peter 2:23) I took those words to heart.

Looking back at the changes I have made over the years, I regularly thank Jehovah for his holy spirit, which helps us to exercise self-control and to become truly peaceable. (Galatians 5:22, 23) My family is together and happy, and we enjoy a quiet, peaceful life. Moreover, I have the privilege of serving as a full-time minister, helping others to find the peace of God.



Where Money Walks on Four Legs

“IN OUR area a pig is a major family asset, so raising one is a big responsibility,” says Enmarie Kani, a 17-year-old girl who lives in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. “When my father asked me to look after a piglet, I was excited but anxious. It was so tiny that I thought it might die.”

How did Enmarie care for her little pig? And why are pigs as important as money to the people who live in rural Papua New Guinea? Here is what she told *Awake!*

Please describe where you live.

Along with my parents and four younger siblings—two girls and two boys—I live in a small bush house with a thatched grass roof in a remote mountain village in the Western Highlands. The village has about 50 inhabitants, all of them my relatives, and we live beside a small river that winds its way through thickly forested rolling hills.

Most people in our village farm for a living. My family has a large vegetable garden, where we grow sweet potatoes, pumpkins,



cucumbers, coffee, and other crops. I love growing vegetables and enjoy physical labor. I also care for other chores, such as cleaning house, washing clothes and, of course, looking after the family pig.

How do you care for your pig?

When Dad bought our pig about a year ago, it was so tiny that I could hold it in my hands. Each day, I fed it a mixture of powdered fish mixed with mashed sweet potato, water, salt, and sugarcane juice. At night, when the highlands get quite cool, it slept in an empty rice bag that hung from the ceiling near the fireplace in our house. I slept on the floor near it. As a result, the pig not only survived but also thrived!

I never gave our pig a novel personal name. I just called it Pig, and that became its name. I cared for Pig as if it were my own baby—feeding it, washing it, and playing with it for hours. Pig became fondly attached to me and followed me everywhere.

When Pig grew bigger, I introduced it to a new routine that we still follow. By means of a rope, I lead the animal down to our vegetable garden—a 15-minute walk from our house. There I attach the rope to a tree and let Pig dig around in the garden bed all day. Using its powerful neck and leathery snout, it digs for roots and worms, at the same time tilling and fertilizing the soil. At day's end, I lead it home, where I feed it raw and cooked sweet



**Time for
a wash**



**Time for
play**

PIG FACTS

- The island of New Guinea is home to at least two million domestic pigs, about 1 for every 3 inhabitants.
- More than half the rural population own pigs.



potatoes before settling it down for the night in its wooden pen.

Why are pigs so important to highlanders?

We highlanders have a saying, Money is pig and pig is money. Long before regular currency arrived in the highlands, people used pigs for money—a practice that continues to this day. For example, a car dealership in the highlands once offered a live pig with every new vehicle purchased. Tribes often settle their disputes by exchanging money and pigs. And many grooms give pigs to their bride's parents or clan as part of the bride-price.

It sounds like eating a pig is like eating an investment!

You are right! Since pigs are so valuable, we usually eat pork only on special occasions, such as funerals and other important ceremonies. That said, some highland tribes feast on hundreds of pigs at large ceremonies designed to show off the tribe's wealth or to repay past favors.

What will your family do with your pigs?

"Pigs" is correct, for Pig has had a number of piglets, one of which we recently sold for 100 kina (nearly \$40 U.S.). We used the money to travel by bus to the annual district convention of Jehovah's Witnesses in the nearby town of Banz. Dad will likely sell Pig's other offspring to care for our family's everyday needs.

Why not raise more pigs so that you can make more money?

Our goal is, not to get rich, but to have what we need in the way of food, clothing, and shelter. Our family is focused more on spiritual things. This includes serving our God, Jehovah; attending Christian meetings; helping other people where we can—materially or spiritually—and doing things together as a family. We live a simple life, but we are close and happy.

Nowadays, in fact, I do secular work—gardening and raising pigs—but only part-time. My main occupation is serving as a Christian evangelizer, sharing Bible truths with my neighbors. This work, which Jesus commissioned his followers to do, keeps me busy several days a week. (Matthew 28:19, 20) I hope one day to work at the Port Moresby branch office of Jehovah's Witnesses, where Bible literature is translated into local languages. But even if I do not reach that goal, I know that I will always find the greatest happiness in serving Jehovah and keeping spiritual things to the fore. And I am thankful for the material support I have received from the money that walks on four legs.

1. There is an apple on the front of the altar in scene 3.
2. The duck is between Abel and the sheep in scene 4.
3. 37,000. 4. A.

ANSWERS TO PAGES 30 AND 31



The Propulsion System of the Jellyfish

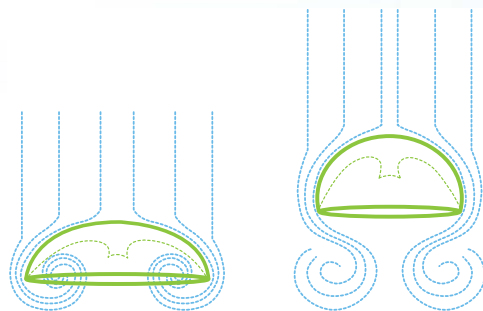
● Jellyfish are at least 95 percent water and range in size from less than an inch (3 cm) to over six feet (2 m) in diameter. Muscles propel many species along by rhythmically contracting and relaxing their bell-shaped body, somewhat like closing and opening an umbrella.

Consider: Scientists who study fluid dynamics have discovered that certain jellyfish, while not fast swimmers, have an intriguing method of propulsion. With each contraction of their body, the animals create a doughnut-shaped vortex, like a smoke ring, which they push away from themselves. The momentum of the rings creates an opposite reaction that propels the jellyfish forward, somewhat like a jet but with pulses of energy instead of a constant thrust. “It sounds simple,” says *New Scientist* magazine. “But the act of forming a vortex ring has proved very difficult to model mathematically.”

Researchers are studying the jellyfish’s propulsion system in order to build more efficient underwater vehicles. One researcher has already developed a four-

foot-long (1.2 m) submarine that creates a wake similar to that of the jellyfish. The vehicle uses 30 percent less energy than a conventional propeller-driven unit. Another possible application involves the human heart. Because the movement of blood within a section of the heart generates vortex rings, abnormal vortices may reveal early signs of heart disease.

What do you think? Did the propulsion system of the jellyfish come about by evolution? Or was it designed?



Jellyfish form a vortex ring and then push it away to create propulsion

Must You Go to a Temple, Shrine, or Church to Pray to God?

MANY people regularly go to a religious building of some sort to pray to God. Others make long pilgrimages to such places. Do you feel that you must go to a temple, shrine, or church to pray to God? Or do you feel that you can speak to him at any time or at any place? What does the Bible say?

At the start of human history, there were no religious buildings. A beautiful garden was the home of our original parents. (Genesis 2:8) From there they were able to communicate with their Creator, Jehovah God. Later, as the human family grew in number, righteous men, such as Noah, “walked with the true God”—all without the aid of religious edifices. (Genesis 6:9) They were men of prayer who loved Jehovah and merited his approval.

God Does Not Dwell in Handmade Buildings

The faithful men of old knew that the Creator of the earth and the vast universe does not dwell in handmade structures. “Will God truly dwell with mankind upon the earth?” asked wise King Solomon. “Look! Heaven, yes, the heaven of the heavens themselves, cannot contain you,” he rightly acknowledged. (2 Chronicles 6:18) Granted, the ancient Israelites had a tabernacle and later a temple where they gathered for annual religious festivals according to God’s Law. (Exodus 23:14-17) Yet, they could pray to God

at any time—when shepherding their flocks, working in their fields, spending time together as a family, or enjoying moments of solitude.—Psalm 65:2; Matthew 6:6.

Likewise, we can pray to God anywhere and anytime. Our model, Jesus Christ, often went to quiet, private places for prayer. (Mark 1:35) For example, on one occasion “he went out *into the mountain* to pray, and he continued the whole night in prayer to God.”—Luke 6:12.

Of course, as a Jew, Jesus faithfully attended religious festivals at the temple in Jerusalem. (John 2:13, 14) Nevertheless, he foretold a time when the temple would no longer be the center of true worship. When talking with a Samaritan woman near a mountain in Samaria, where her people had a temple, Jesus said: “The hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you people worship the Father.” Then he added that true worshippers would “worship the Father with spirit and truth.”—John 4:21, 23.

Yes, Jesus’ focus was, not on structures of brick and mortar, but on true worship rendered from a sincere heart. But did that mean that Jesus’ followers, who were later called Christians, would worship God only in private? (Acts 11:26) No, and for good reasons.

God’s People Are a Spiritual Family

God’s true servants are a family—a spiritual family. (Luke 8:21) A good family does



many things together, such as enjoying a meal, and this strengthens the family bonds. The same is true in a spiritual sense. Christian meetings are like a spiritual feast in that they nourish the inner person and strengthen spiritual ties. The Christian apostle Paul wrote: “Let us consider one another to incite to love and fine works, not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together, as some have the custom, but encouraging one another.”—Hebrews 10:24, 25.

True worshippers, therefore, recognize that the congregation plays an important role, for it enables each member to develop spiritual qualities that cannot be fully developed in isolation. These qualities include love, forgiveness, kindness, mildness, and peace.—2 Corinthians 2:7; Galatians 5:19-23.

Are your prayers more likely to be heard in certain locations?

Where did the early Christians gather for fellowship and worship? Often, they met in private homes. (Romans 16:5; Colossians 4:15) For example, when writing to a fellow Christian, the apostle Paul also addressed his letter to “the congregation that is in your house.”*—Philemon 1, 2.

Likewise today, God’s people do not need ornate religious edifices but places that are comfortable and able to accommodate all who attend. Jehovah’s Witnesses have such places, which they call Kingdom Halls. In fact, it is quite possible that there is a Kingdom Hall in your area. These buildings are functional and modest, and the meetings held there are simple—they include song, prayer, and Bible discussions.

Jehovah’s Witnesses cherish their private, intimate moments with God. Hence, they spend time each day in prayer, both as families and privately as individuals. “Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you,” says James 4:8.

* The original Greek word for “congregation” is rendered “church” in some English Bibles.

HAVE YOU WONDERED?

- Does God dwell in handmade buildings? —2 Chronicles 6:18.
- Where did Jesus spend a night in prayer?—Luke 6:12.
- Why do true worshippers gather together?—Hebrews 10:24, 25.



“**C**OME with me, Sir, come, a flower, very large, beautiful, wonderful,” said Joseph Arnold’s excited guide during a plant-collecting expedition on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. On following his guide, Arnold, a British botanist, saw something he termed “truly astonishing.” It was an amazing flower. Almost 200 years later, the variety of flower he saw during his 1818 expedition—the spectacular rafflesia—is still recognized as the biggest flower in the world.

There are dozens of species of rafflesia, all of which grow only in the jungles of Southeast Asia. New species, however, continue to be identified. The variety that produces the biggest bloom is *Rafflesia arnoldii*, named after Joseph Arnold and his expedition partner, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, who was founder and governor of Singapore. As beautiful as this flower is, however, it is hardly one you would pick for a bouquet.

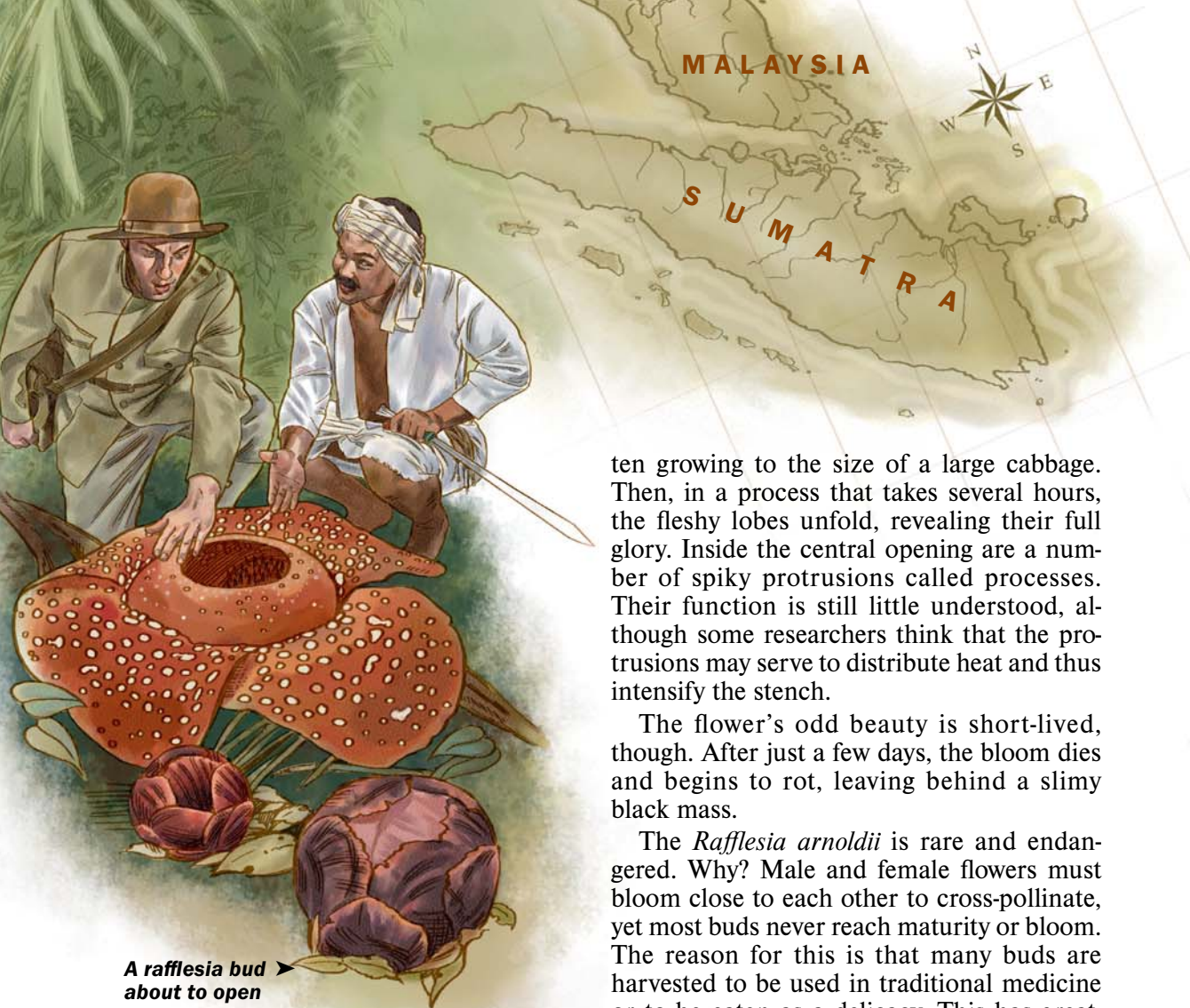
First, consider its size. The rafflesia can grow to about three feet (1 m) in diame-

THE WORLD’S **Biggest Flower**

ter—the size of a bus tire—and weigh some 24 pounds (11 kg).^{*} The flower has five thick, pinkish-brown fleshy petals covered with pale wartlike spots. The petals converge in a large hollow that resembles a pot and that can hold up to 13 pints (6 liters) of water.

Second, give thought to its odor. According to one candid description, the rafflesia smells like a “buffalo carcass in an advanced state of decomposition,” earning it the well-deserved alternative names corpse flower and

^{*} The flowers of some species of rafflesia measure only four inches (10 cm) in diameter.



**A rafflesia bud
about to open** ➤

stinking corpse lily.* Carrion-feeding flies are the flowers' main pollinators because they find the stench irresistible.

The rafflesia flower has no stem, leaves, or roots and grows as a parasite of certain vines on the jungle floor. When a new rafflesia bud breaks through the bark of a host vine, the bud takes about ten months to balloon, of-

* The titan arum flower (*Amorphophallus titanum*) is also nicknamed the corpse flower and is sometimes confused with the rafflesia.—See *Awake!* June 22, 2000, page 31.

ten growing to the size of a large cabbage. Then, in a process that takes several hours, the fleshy lobes unfold, revealing their full glory. Inside the central opening are a number of spiky protrusions called processes. Their function is still little understood, although some researchers think that the protrusions may serve to distribute heat and thus intensify the stench.

The flower's odd beauty is short-lived, though. After just a few days, the bloom dies and begins to rot, leaving behind a slimy black mass.

The *Rafflesia arnoldii* is rare and endangered. Why? Male and female flowers must bloom close to each other to cross-pollinate, yet most buds never reach maturity or bloom. The reason for this is that many buds are harvested to be used in traditional medicine or to be eaten as a delicacy. This has greatly reduced the number of plants growing in the wild. Ongoing destruction of the flower's tropical rain-forest habitat poses another serious threat.

Seeing a rafflesia is a unique experience. Its size is impressive. Its smell is memorable, to say the least. And its form and color are striking. Of course, the world's largest flower is just one of our Creator's countless astonishing works. Says Psalm 104:24: "How many your works are, O Jehovah! All of them in wisdom you have made. The earth is full of your productions."



This eight-part series in “Awake!” is examining an outstanding feature of the Bible—its prophecies, or predictions. The articles will help you to answer these questions: Are Bible prophecies merely the work of clever humans? Do they bear the hallmark of divine inspiration? We invite you to weigh the evidence.

The Bible Foretold That the Christ Would Suffer and Die

WHEN Jesus Christ was on earth some 2,000 years ago, he knew that he would die a cruel death at the hands of his enemies. Why did Jesus know this? He was thoroughly acquainted with the prophecies concerning himself in the Hebrew Scriptures, or the “Old Testament.” A number of those predictions were written by the prophet Isaiah more than 700 years before Jesus was born. How can we be sure that Isaiah’s words were written aforetime?

In 1947, in the West Bank, a Bedouin shepherd found scrolls hidden in a cave at Qumran, on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea. Those scrolls, along with others found in nearby caves, came to be called the Dead Sea Scrolls. They include a copy of the entire book of Isaiah.* This copy has been dated to about the second century *before* Jesus’ birth. Therefore, what Isaiah wrote was, in fact,

* The only complete scroll contains the entire book of Isaiah. The other scrolls are fragments.

prophecy. What did he foretell about the sufferings of the Christ, or Messiah?*

Consider two of Isaiah's prophecies.

Christ's Sufferings Foretold

Prophecy 1: *"My back I gave to the strikers."*
—Isaiah 50:6.[#]

Fulfillment: In the year 33 C.E., Jesus' Jewish enemies brought him before Roman Governor Pontius Pilate for trial. Recognizing Jesus' innocence, the governor tried to release him. However, because the Jews relentlessly clamored for Jesus' death, Pilate "gave sentence for their demand to be met" and handed Jesus over to be impaled. (Luke 23:13-24) First, however, "Pilate took Jesus and scourged him," or had him severely flogged. (John 19:1) As Isaiah foretold, Jesus offered no resistance but 'gave his back to the strikers.'

What history reveals:

● History confirms that the Romans commonly scourged their victims before executing them. According to one reference work, "flogging was done with a whip made of a number of leather strips weighted with pieces of lead or sharp metal. The victim was . . . beaten on the bare back . . . until the flesh was torn open. Sometimes death resulted." Jesus, however, survived this initial ordeal.

Christ's Death Foretold

Prophecy 2: *"He poured out his soul to the very death."* (Isaiah 53:12)[△] Adding more

* See the July 2012 issue of *Awake!* to learn of additional Bible prophecies that help to identify the Messiah.

[#] The context indicates that the "I" in this prophecy refers to Christ. For instance, verse 8 states: "The One [God] declaring me [Jesus Christ] righteous is near." When on earth, Jesus alone was righteous, or without sin, in God's eyes.—Romans 3:23; 1 Peter 2:21, 22.

[△] Isaiah 52:13–53:12 contains many prophetic details about the Messiah. For example, Isaiah 53:7 states: "He was being brought just like a sheep to the slaughtering . . . He also would not open his mouth." Verse 10 adds that he presented his soul "as a guilt offering."

information, Psalm 22:16 states: "A band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet."—"New International Version."

Fulfillment: "After having Jesus whipped, [Pilate] handed him over to be impaled," says Mark 15:15. In Jesus' case, this cruel form of capital punishment involved nailing his hands and feet to a stake. (John 20:25) Some hours later, "Jesus let out a loud cry and expired."—Mark 15:37.

What history reveals:

● Although secular accounts say little about the nature of Jesus' death, respected Roman historian Tacitus, born about 55 C.E., wrote that "Christus, from whom the name [Christians] had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus."* Tacitus' words fully harmonize with the Gospel accounts, which also mention Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, and other officials.—Luke 3:1; 23:1-33; John 19:1-24.

History also confirms that the Romans impaled slaves and people they viewed as despised criminals. Sometimes the Romans tied their victims to a stake. At other times they used nails. "Nails were driven through the hands and feet," says a reference work, "and the victim was left hanging there in agony," experiencing "insufferable thirst, and excruciating convulsions of pain."

As mentioned earlier, Jesus knew well ahead of time that he would die a cruel death. Hence, as his end drew near, this courageous man could say to his loyal followers: "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man will be delivered up to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death,

* Other ancient chroniclers also mention Christ. These include respected Roman historian Suetonius (first century); Pliny the Younger, governor of Bithynia (early second century); and Jewish historian Josephus (first century), who refers to "James, the brother of Jesus who was called the Christ."

and will deliver him up to men of the nations to make fun of and to scourge and to impale.” (Matthew 20:18, 19) But why, some ask, did Jesus have to die? The answer to that question involves us all, and it provides the very best news we could ever receive!

“Crushed for Our Errors”

As imperfect humans, we often do wrong. The Bible calls this sin. Sin might be likened



CHRIST'S SACRIFICIAL DEATH FORESHADOWED

God's Law to the nation of Israel included regulations that foreshadowed, or served as a model of, what the Messiah would later do. For example, after an Israelite sinned, or disobeyed God, he had to offer up a sound animal. (Leviticus 17:11; 22:21) Could sacrificial animals fully atone for sin? No. (Hebrews 10:4) But they could, and did, prefigure the sacrifice that would cover sin—the sacrifice of “the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29; Hebrews 10:1, 5-10) All who exercise faith in that figurative Lamb, Jesus Christ, have the precious hope of everlasting life.—John 6:40.

to grit in an engine. Eventually, grit will cause that engine to wear out and stop. Similarly, sin causes us to grow old, get sick, and die. “The wages sin pays is death,” says Romans 6:23. Christ's death, however, makes it possible for us to be set free from this tragic condition. How so? In another amazing prophecy, Isaiah wrote concerning the Christ that he would die “*for our transgression*,” or be “*crushed for our errors*,” and that “because of his wounds there has been a healing *for us*.”* —Isaiah 53:5.

Isaiah's prophecy calls to mind Jesus' words found at John 3:16: “God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life.”

How can you develop faith in Jesus? By learning about him. Jesus said in prayer: “This means everlasting life, their *taking in knowledge* of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ.” (John 17:3) That precious knowledge is found in the Bible.—2 Timothy 3:16.

Understandably, Jesus wants as many people as possible to gain everlasting life. Accordingly, he made this remarkable prediction shortly before his death: “This good news of the kingdom [God's government, which will administer the benefits of Christ's sacrifice] will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations.” (Matthew 24:14) As we shall see in the next two articles in this series, that prophecy also proved to be most accurate.

* Jesus “committed no sin” and thus did not forfeit his life. (1 Peter 2:22) Instead, he gave it for us, paying the penalty for our sins and redeeming us from death's grip. Thus, Jesus' death is called a “ransom” sacrifice. (Matthew 20:28) For more information on this topic, see the book *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* accessible at the Web site www.jw.org.

Who are my role models?



In this article, you
will learn

WHY *you need role models*

WHERE *to find them*

HOW *to follow their example*

WHY *you need them*

FACT OF LIFE: *You tend to become like the people you admire. That can be good—or bad—depending on whom you admire.*

What you need: Role models who are worthy of imitation.—Philippians 3:17.

The problem: Many people look up to individuals who are famous—musicians, sports heroes, or movie stars—even if these have sordid reputations.

To think about: The Bible compares our personality traits to a garment. (Colossians 3:9, 10) If you were shopping for clothes, would you let a poorly dressed salesperson tell *you* what to wear? Why, then, let some shady celebrity dictate the kind of person *you* should be? Instead of doing that or just following the crowd, choosing good role models will help you to (1) select the traits you want to acquire and (2) imitate people who excel in displaying those traits.

Why let some shady celebrity dictate the kind of person ***you*** should be?

WHERE to find them

Mark the following statements **true** or **false**.

1. *A role model must be someone you have met face-to-face.*

☐ **True** ☐ **False**

2. *A role model must be perfect.*

☐ **True** ☐ **False**

3. *You can have many role models.*

☐ **True** ☐ **False**

Answers

1. False. You can even choose role models from the ancient past. The best of these can be found in the Bible. For instance, if you read chapter 11 in the Bible book of Hebrews, you'll find that the apostle Paul names 16 men and women whose faith was exemplary. Most important, in the next chapter, Paul urged Christians to "look intently" at Jesus and follow him. (Hebrews 12:2) Jesus is our best role model.—John 13:15.*

2. False. Other than Jesus, Adam had no perfect descendants. (Romans 3:23) Even the heroic prophet Elijah was "just as human as we are." (James 5:17, *Contemporary English Version*) The same may be said of such people as Miriam, David, Jonah, Martha, and Peter. The Bible candidly reveals the errors of those men and women. Still, they were exemplary in most aspects of life, and thus they can be good role models.

3. True. You can have as many role models as you want. One might be especially hardworking, while another may excel at being patient. Perhaps a third maintains a positive outlook in the face of problems. (1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11, 12) Look for the good in others, and you'll find qualities they have that are worthy of imitation.—Philippians 2:3.

* Of course, many people of the present can also serve as good role models. These might include a parent, a sibling, a spiritually mature member of the Christian congregation, or another exemplary person you know or have read about.

WHAT YOUR PEERS SAY



Layla—My friend Sandra looks at the positive side of things. She is also very familiar with her Bible. Because of that, she always seems to have at her fingertips the solutions to problems. I can confide in her whenever I have problems, big or small.

Terrence—My friends Kyle and David never minimize the feelings of others. They are always available to help people with their problems, while they put their own anxieties on the back burner. I view them as great examples.



HOW to follow their example

1. Observe your role models. The apostle Paul told first-century Christians: “Learn by watching those who are living the way we showed you.”—Philippians 3:17, *Holy Bible—Easy-to-Read Version*.

2. Connect. If possible, spend some time with those you have chosen as modern-day role models. The Bible says: “He that is walking with wise persons will become wise.”—Proverbs 13:20.

3. Reflect your role models’ praiseworthy traits. Hebrews 13:7 says: “As you contemplate how their conduct turns out imitate their faith.”

Ready to get started? Fill out the role model action plan below.

Action Plan

Pick a trait that you would like to acquire. (Would you like to be more outgoing? generous? hardworking? resilient? dependable? trustworthy?)

.....
Pick a person who demonstrates the quality you would like to develop.*

.....
When you choose a good role model, your goal isn’t to *become* that person. You’ll still have your own unique good qualities. Nevertheless, having good role models will help bring out your best as you grow to adulthood. Not only that, by following their example, you will become a good role model for others.

.....
* You can also do this exercise in reverse. First, pick a person whom you look up to. Next, ask yourself, ‘What particular quality makes that person admirable?’ Then, using that person as a role model, strive to imitate the quality you identified.

Emmaline—*My role model is my mom. She knows her Bible like the back of her hand, and she always looks for opportunities to talk to people about her faith. She fully believes that the ministry is a privilege, not a chore. I admire her for that!*



READ MORE ABOUT IT!

Do you need help finding good role models? Read Hebrews chapter 11 and pick one of the men or women named there. Start a study project with the goal of imitating that one’s admirable traits.

You can find more Biblical role models in Volumes 1 and 2 of *Questions Young People Ask—Answers that Work*, published by Jehovah’s Witnesses. See the “Role Model Index” on the inside back cover of each book.

More articles from the “Young People Ask” series can be found at the Web site www.watchtower.org/ype

WHY NOT ASK YOUR PARENTS?

Talk to your parents about *their* role models—the ones they had when they were your age and the ones they have now. How have your parents benefited from having role models in their life?

Gout

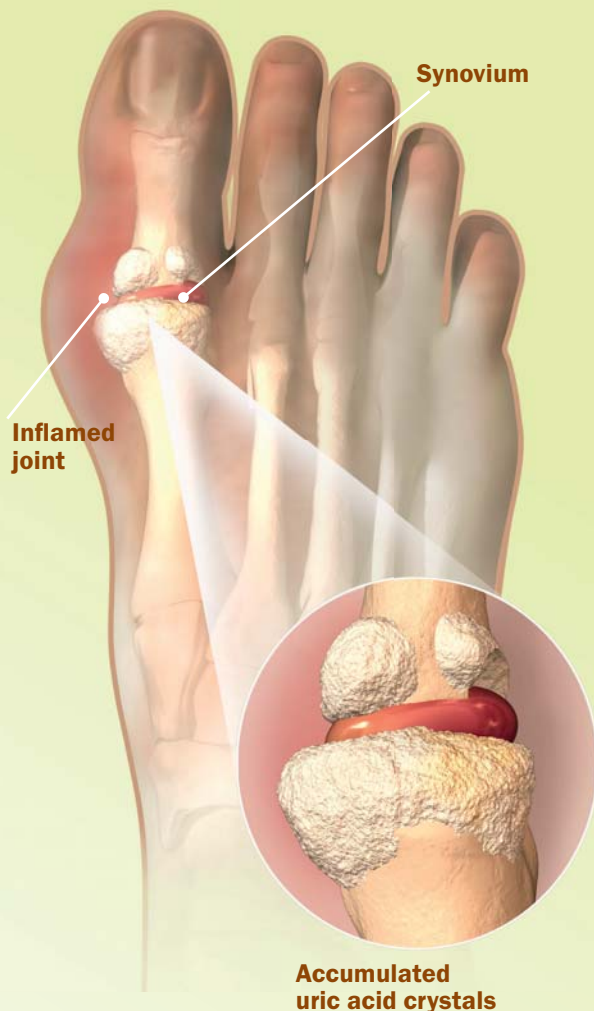
CAUSES AND RISK FACTORS

GOUT is one of the most common forms of arthritis and can be extremely painful. “Gout is a disorder of the metabolism of uric acid,” says the book *Arthritis*. What is more, it “is a disorder with a clearly identified cause—the presence of uric acid crystals in the synovial fluid of a joint . . . , particularly in the big toe.”

Uric acid is a waste product circulating in the blood, and it results from the breakdown of substances called purines. When uric acid builds up, usually from insufficient elimination in urine, needlelike crystals can form in the joint at the base of the toe, although it may strike other joints. The joint may become inflamed and swollen, hot to the touch, and excruciatingly painful.* “Even just a slight touch causes an unbearable stabbing pain,” says a sufferer named Alfred.

“Without treatment, a gout attack usually lasts about one week,” states an information sheet published by Arthritis Australia. “Another attack may not happen for months or even years. If gout is not managed well, the time between attacks may get shorter, the

* Similar symptoms may occur when calcium pyrophosphate crystals form in the joints, in particular the smooth cartilage lining the ends of bones. However, this “pseudogout” is a different ailment and may require different treatment.



attacks [may become] more severe and the joints can be permanently damaged. Sometimes gout can progress into a chronic (long term) condition.”

Gout is one of the most treatable forms of arthritis. The treatment usually focuses on nonsteroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs or, in recurrent or very severe attacks, on allopurinol, which helps to prevent the formation of uric acid. Can recurrence of gout be prevent-

ed? Possibly, if the sufferer is aware of the risk factors.

Risk Factors for Recurrence

The primary risk factors are age, gender, and genetics. According to some authorities, more than 50 percent of sufferers have a family history of the disease. “Both my father and my grandfather had gout,” says Alfred, quoted earlier. Moreover, gout mainly affects men, targeting especially those between the ages of 40 and 50. In fact, men are three or four times more likely to get the disease than women, who rarely develop it before menopause.

Obesity and diet: The *Encyclopedia of Human Nutrition* states: “Dietary management of gout no longer seems to be focused on restriction of foods with a high purine content but, rather, on the treatment of metabolic disorders commonly associated with gout: obesity, insulin resistance syndrome, and dyslipidemia,” or abnormal blood levels of lipids, such as cholesterol.

Nevertheless, some authorities also recommend cutting back on foods that contain high amounts of purines, such as yeast, certain fish, and various red meats.*

Drink: Excess alcohol consumption can inhibit the excretion of uric acid, causing a buildup.

Medical conditions: According to the Mayo Clinic, in the United States, gout may be triggered by certain medical conditions, including “untreated high blood pressure (hypertension) and chronic conditions such as diabetes, high levels of fat and cholesterol in the blood (hyperlipidemia), and narrowing of the arteries (arteriosclerosis).” Gout is also linked to “sudden or severe illness or injury, and immobility due to bed rest,” as well as kidney disease. Evidently, the big toe is a prime target of gout because of its poorer

circulation and lower temperature—two conditions that can promote the buildup of uric acid.

Medications: Products that increase the risk of gout include thiazide diuretics (drugs that promote the release of water from the body, commonly used to treat high blood pressure), low-dose aspirin, antirejection drugs given to transplant patients, and chemotherapy drugs.

Five Keys to Reducing the Risk of Recurrence

Because gout attacks have been linked to lifestyle factors, the following suggestions may help sufferers reduce their risk of further attacks.*

1. Because gout is a metabolic disorder, sufferers should strive to maintain a healthy weight by limiting their calorie intake. Moreover, excess weight adds stress to weight-bearing joints.

2. Beware of crash diets and rapid weight loss, which may temporarily elevate uric acid levels in the blood.

3. Avoid excessive amounts of animal protein. Some recommend a limit of six ounces (170 grams) of lean meat, including poultry and fish, a day.

4. If you drink alcoholic beverages, do so in moderation. If you have a gout attack, it may be wise to avoid alcohol altogether.

5. Drink plenty of nonalcoholic liquids. These help dilute uric acid and flush it out of the body.†

The preventative measures above may remind us of the Biblical injunction that we be “moderate in habits” and not given to “a lot of wine.” (1 Timothy 3:2, 8, 11) To be sure, our loving Creator knows what is best for us.

* According to an article published in *Australian Doctor*, the consumption of purine-rich mushrooms and vegetables, such as beans, lentils, peas, spinach, and cauliflower, “has not been shown to be associated with a similar increased risk of acute gout.”

* This article is not intended to be a medical guide. Each sufferer may require personalized medical management. Also, he should not stop taking prescribed medications or make major dietary changes without first consulting his doctor.

† This information is based on recommendations provided by the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research.



Is It OK to **CHEAT** to Get **Good Grades**?

ARE you a student? If so, likely you know of fellow students who cheat in class to get good grades. Indeed, the problem is very widespread. In 2008, the Josephson Institute surveyed nearly 30,000 high school students in the United States, and 64 percent admitted to cheating on a test that year. The actual figure, however, is estimated by others to be even higher—more than 75 percent.

In Europe too cheating has become a serious problem, especially plagiarism. “Websites that sell student essays, master’s theses and doctoral dissertations as ready-made commodities are a new and increasingly worrying problem,” says an article published in the e-journal *Digithum*.

Why has cheating become such a major concern? Does cheating really benefit those

who do it? Is honesty—even if it means lower grades—still the best policy?

Why the Plague?

An erosion of ethics. “Many educators say the rise in cheating is due to an erosion of ethics in a self-centered culture,” says the *American School Board Journal*. Concerning those in her high school honors classes, one student admitted: “All of us . . . cheated; we needed the grades to get into good schools. We were good, moral students; we weren’t like unethical people . . . We just needed to get into good universities.” Even some parents have “caught” the plague. Anxious to see their offspring “succeed,” they either approve of cheating or turn a blind eye to it, thus further undermining their children’s ethics.



Modern technology enables students to cheat with new levels of ease and sophistication

The pressure to succeed. According to Donald McCabe, founder of the International Center for Academic Integrity, students who cheat believe that honesty puts them at a disadvantage compared with others who cheat and get away with it.

The help of technology. Modern technology enables students to cheat with new levels of ease and sophistication. They can download term papers and answers for their homework from the Internet and share them with others. Often, only a small percentage get caught, and this emboldens others.

The influence of bad examples. Cheating has become commonplace in the adult world—in big business corporations, in politics, in sports, and often even at home, where parents cheat on income tax or insurance claims. “If

people in positions of authority or role models are cheating,” says David Callahan, author of *The Cheating Culture*, “then I think it sends a signal to young people that cheating is OK.” But is it? Does the pursuit of better grades really justify cheating?

Why Choose Not to Cheat?

Ask yourself this, “What is the goal of a good education?” Is it not to equip students for many of life’s responsibilities, such as analyzing problems in the workplace and solving them? Students who get into the habit of cheating may fail to learn those valuable skills. Thus, people who habitually cheat mask their weaknesses and undermine their chances for success in many areas of life.

What is more, “people who cut corners early in life—such as cheating a lot in



Students who cheat are like a fake brand-name wristwatch that only looks good

school—may bring that habit to the workplace,” says Callahan. In a way, such ones are like a fake brand-name garment or wristwatch that looks genuine but eventually disappoints.

Of course, cheaters also risk getting caught and suffering the consequences. At the very least, this may involve embarrassment and shame. But it may also lead to expulsion from school or even more severe discipline. The Bible frankly warns: “Whatever a man is sowing, this he will also reap.” (Galatians 6:7) Fear of getting caught, however, should not be the main reason for being honest. There are far more noble reasons.

Honesty—The Real Key to Success

Wise young people strive to develop qualities that will stand them in good stead, not just for exams but for the rest of their life. Hence, they work hard at school and strive to nurture values that foster self-respect, that will earn the gratitude of future employers, and that will lead to lasting happiness.

Those values can be found in the Bible, and young people who live by them are not disadvantaged. On the contrary, as 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17 states, they become “fully competent, completely equipped for every good work.” A ninth grader named Jorge says: “My classmates cheat because they want to get good grades without any effort. But I want to please God. At Proverbs 14:2, the Bible states that ‘the one walking in his uprightness is fearing Jehovah, but the one crooked in his ways is despising Him.’ I know that we can’t hide anything from God. So I don’t cheat, and I don’t help others to cheat.”

Students who strive to live in harmony with Bible principles may or may not be the brightest students in class. But they are the wisest, for they are building a rock-solid foundation for lasting success in life. (Psalm 1:1-3; Matthew 7:24, 25) What is more, they can be assured of the Creator’s approval and support.

PRINCIPLES TO THINK ABOUT

- “It is the lip of truth that will be firmly established forever, but the tongue of falsehood will be only as long as a moment.”—Proverbs 12:19.
- “A man of faithful acts will get many blessings.”—Proverbs 28:20.
- “The true God himself will bring every sort of work into the judgment in relation to every hidden thing, as to whether it is good or bad.”—Ecclesiastes 12:14.
- “We wish to conduct ourselves honestly in all things.”—Hebrews 13:18.

Self-Control Is a Key to Stability

“Research suggests that a lack of self-control during youth may predict health problems, less financial stability and a criminal record by adulthood,” says *Time*. Over 1,000 people were studied from birth to age 32. By adulthood, “those who [as children] were more impulsive and easily frustrated and had the most trouble with delaying gratification or waiting their turn” were about three times as likely to report that they had poor health, had low incomes, were single parents, or had committed a crime. Yet, “self-control can be learned,” says the magazine, adding: “School and family interventions that teach kids to self-regulate early on may lead to healthier and more stable adults.”

Teaching Bad Drivers a Lesson

Authorities in India are trying new ways to deal with the worst traffic offenders by making them work as traffic police. The goal is to help drivers grasp what it means to manage the kind of chaos they cause. Now, instead of just pulling over offenders and fining them, police in Gurgaon, northwestern India, are also requiring drivers to join the constables in directing traffic for a half hour or more. Some drivers admit that the lesson has changed their attitude. “We issue a thousand [fines] for traffic offences in Gurgaon every day,” says Bharti Arora, the local deputy commissioner of police. “We could have 1000 extra ‘constables’ every day.”



In the Republic of Georgia in southeast Europe, **“the number of divorces has nearly doubled in the last ten years.”** Most of those getting divorced are under 20 years of age.—*FINANCIAL*, GEORGIA.

In Ireland, 17 percent of 11- to 16-year-olds **“have given their full name to someone online whom they had never met.”**

Ten percent also gave their “email address, mobile number or photo.”—*THE IRISH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN*.

Only about **4 percent of forest fires worldwide have natural causes.** In all other cases, the fires are started by man—either negligently or willfully.—*PRESSEPORTAL*, GERMANY.

“Nearly one in 10 Americans [aged 12 or over] report **regularly using illegal drugs**, including marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants or prescription drugs used recreationally.”—*USA TODAY*, U.S.A.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM . . . Cain and Abel?

HAVE YOU EVER BECOME ANGRY AND WANTED TO HIT YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER?

- Color the pictures. • Read the Bible verses, and summarize them as you fill in the missing dialogue.
- Find the hidden items: **(1)** an apple and **(2)** a duck.
- “FOR FAMILY REVIEW” answers on page 12

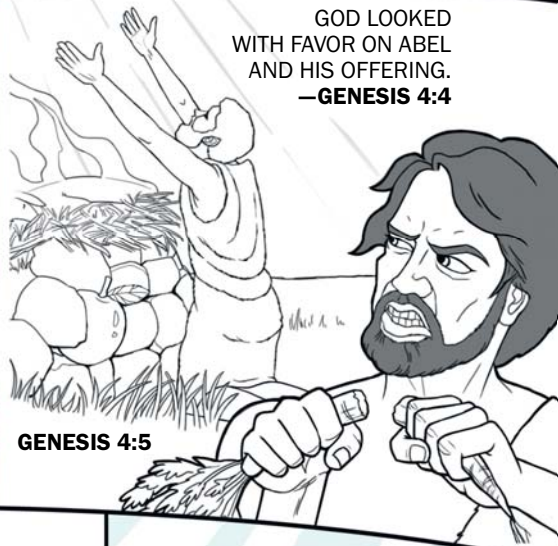
GENESIS 4:2



GENESIS 4:3



GOD LOOKED WITH FAVOR ON ABEL AND HIS OFFERING.
—GENESIS 4:4



GENESIS 4:5

GENESIS 4:8



LATER, GOD ASKED CAIN: “
..... ?”

—GENESIS 4:9



Why should you control your temper?
CLUE: Proverbs 14:29; Ephesians 4:26, 27, 31.

What can help you to control anger?
CLUE: Proverbs 14:30; 19:11; Ephesians 4:32.

What have you learned from this account?

What do you think? Read Genesis 4:7. How should Cain have reacted when God corrected him? CLUE: Luke 14:11; 1 Peter 5:5, 6.

To print out additional copies of “For Family Review,” go to www.jw.org

GENESIS 4:10-12



Collect and Learn

Cut out, fold in half, and save



NOAH

BIBLE
CARD

20



QUESTIONS

- A. Noah lived to be ____ years old.
- B. What were the names of Noah's three sons?
- C. Complete this Bible verse: "Noah proceeded to do according to . . ."

98 C.E.

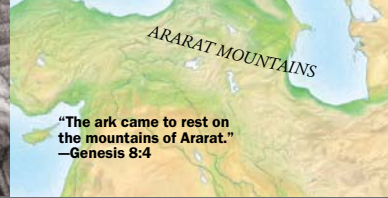
Last Bible
book written

1 C.E.

Born 2970 B.C.E.

4026 B.C.E.

Adam
created



"The ark came to rest on
the mountains of Ararat."
—Genesis 8:4

NOAH

PROFILE He taught his family to obey Jehovah's instructions. In obedience to God, he built an ark to preserve his family and the animals through a great flood. (Genesis 6:5-22) Despite ridicule, he faithfully endured as "a preacher of righteousness."—2 Peter 2:5; Hebrews 11:7.

ANSWERS

- A. 950.—Genesis 9:29.
- B. Shem, Ham, and Japheth.—Genesis 6:10.
- C. ". . . all that God had commanded him. He did just so."—Genesis 6:22.

Peoples and Lands

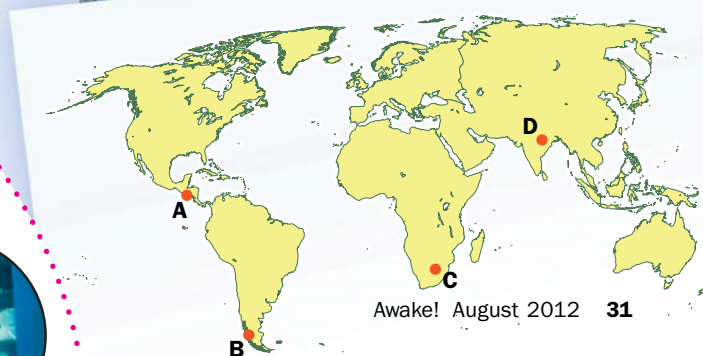
3. Our names are Andres and Ana. We are both 11 years old, and we live in El Salvador. About how many of Jehovah's Witnesses live in El Salvador? Is it 10,000, 20,700, or 37,000?

4. Which dot shows where we live? Circle it, draw a dot where you live, and see how close you are to El Salvador.



Children's Picture Search

Can you find these pictures in this issue? In your own words, describe what is happening in each picture.



Awake! August 2012 **31**

When Should You Start Teaching Your Child?



● A man in Summerville, South Carolina, U.S.A., wrote that starting when his wife was only three months pregnant, he would lie close to her each night and read from the Bible study aid *My Book of Bible Stories*. “After our baby girl, Bethiah, was born,” said the father, “we continued in this same routine—one story per night, until we had read the book through three times.”

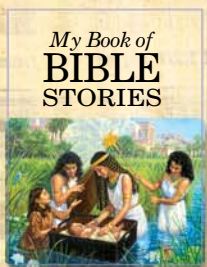
He continues: “When Bethiah could barely talk, she was already able to identify many of the Bible characters and reenact several of the Bible accounts discussed in the book. She had also learned to recite several Bible stories from memory.”

The 116 stories in this beautifully illustrated, large-print publication appear in the order in which the many Bible characters lived, thus also giving the reader insight into the Bible’s chronology. If you would like to receive this 256-page book, fill in the accompanying coupon and mail it to an appropriate address listed on page 5 of this magazine.

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