

AUGUST

Youth & 4

Friendships
Are NOT
Forever

Life on
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A Teenager's
Challenge

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Key to Human Survival
By Herbert W. Armstrong

The KEY to Human Survival!

By Herbert W. Armstrong

If you and I were discussing the matter of *what subject* I should write about, and you should say, seriously, "Mr. Armstrong, in view of the deadly seriousness and the *urgency* of this time, I think you should write on *the most urgent problem in all our lives* right now — the question of *whether*, and *how*, we may survive!"

I would agree. The one BIG QUESTION in all our lives, right now, is that of human SURVIVAL!

But I hasten to add, survival *alone* IS NOT ENOUGH! We must have survival in PEACE, in happiness, in joy, in prosperity and in abundant well-being for ALL!

And that's a pretty big order! If anyone has the answer, for the sake of humanity he'd better speak out! I am prepared to give the ANSWER — and it is going to be PLAIN SPEAKING, without pulling any punches! It's *time* for PLAIN SPEAKING! You are *betting your life* on someone coming up, in time, with the right answer!

To get to the crux of the problem immediately, realize first that these existing conditions and evils are merely the EFFECT! For every effect, there has to be a CAUSE. Our problem of immediate urgency is to find the CAUSE, not only of present evil conditions, but also of what is the not-being-used CAUSE of peace, happiness and abundant well-being! If we are going to learn that CAUSE, we need first to ask: What has made MAN as he is?

How did humanity come to be on this earth? Or, going back even further, how did the earth, itself, come to *be*?

That may seem like going a long way back. But this futile search for PEACE goes a long way back — as far as history goes — or further. Man's troubles, evils and wars extend back to the beginning — or prior to the beginning — of history. To find the right answer, we need to go back even to PREHISTORY! That takes us even to the question of ORIGINS — of BEGINNINGS!

Many scientists have devoted their lifetimes to researching and studying this question. Many scholarly books have been written, setting forth the results of these lifetime studies, purporting to tell the story of the origin of the earth and of mankind upon it. Yet is it not significant that their studies, theories and hypotheses *fail to tell us* WHY man is as he is, or HOW he got that way, WHY man seems always to be befuddled with unsolvable problems, WHY he is always in trouble, WHY humanity is harassed with so many evils and WHY these evils are fast increasing?

This is no light matter. Ignoring humanity's present dilemma will not cause it to go away. Human SURVIVAL hangs in the balance! We need the *right* answer — and we need it NOW!

And *we can know!*

Science to solve problems?

With the emergence of modern science around the beginning of the 19th century, scientists

assured the world that man had progressed to the point where he then could dispense with the superstitious crutch of religion and belief in God. Now humanity could rely on the *new* messiah — modern science.

"Given sufficient knowledge," said the scientists, "we shall solve all humanity's problems and cure all the world's ills."

To replace religion and belief in God, scientists and educators had substituted the doctrine of evolution. The tools modern science used in the production of this new KNOWLEDGE were a stepped-up use of those man had employed since the dawn of history — rejection of revelation as a source of knowledge and the use of observation, experimentation and human reason.

So the production of KNOWLEDGE increased at a constantly accelerating pace. The world's total fund of knowledge virtually *doubled* in the 1960s!

But, paradoxically, as knowledge has increased, *so have humanity's* problems, troubles and evils, at almost an equal rate of acceleration!

What's wrong with the dictum that knowledge is the sole need for solutions? We are face to face with the stern FACT that increasing evils have escalated alongside increasing knowledge! That is not to say that the increased knowledge *caused* the growing evils. It does mean that the knowledge produced *did not cure* existing evils, *or prevent new evils!*

The ANSWER becomes plain.
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The KEY

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There was *something wrong* with the knowledge being produced, or else the needed MISSING DIMENSION in knowledge was not being discovered.

To the dictum of science that, given sufficient knowledge, mankind's problems would be solved and humanity's ills cured, I add this: Solutions come from the *right* knowledge that supplies the *right* answer — the true CAUSE of both the evils and the CAUSE that would produce peace and joy and every GOOD result; and, secondly, solutions come from the application of that knowledge.

Could it be *possible* for the

most highly educated minds to have been intellectually misled or deceived? Could they, viewing only *one side* of the question, be infallible, entirely above making mistakes?

Is it not human to err?

For many years now, I have observed that errors almost always come when a person starts with a false basic premise — carelessly assumed as self-evident and taken for granted without question — and then builds on that false basic hypothesis.

Suppose we now appropriate the academic freedom to question that which educators have dismissed without examination.

Is it possible for us to find the EXPLANATION of why MAN is as

he is, WHY the world is filled with evils? Is it possible for us to discover the CAUSE of all human suffering, anguish, unhappiness and inequality? Is it possible to find the CAUSE that would produce peace, happiness, abundance and prosperity — the CAUSE that world leaders have apparently overlooked? Is it possible to find the key to human survival?

The answer to the preceding questions is YES! Yes, it is possible to answer these basic questions that have haunted man as long as he has existed. Yes, there is an answer to these questions that deal with man's very survival. If you want ANSWERS to these questions, write for our booklet *Why Were You Born?* It's free. □

READER BY-LINE

Adopting a Parent

By Monty DiGiacomo

"What right do you have to tell me what to do? You're not my real father anyway!" I said, as I ran into the bedroom and slammed the door behind me.

My mother's divorce was very confusing to me, but her remarriage affected me far more than I wanted to admit to myself.

As far as I was concerned, he was my mother's husband and nothing more. Never would I allow him to take the place of my natural father. No sir, he would never be my dad!

Well, it didn't take me long to figure out that I couldn't live like that. But what was I to do? There I was, a confused little boy with two fathers. One who never seemed to have time for me, and one I really didn't want — or did I?

It's not so easy to just accept anyone as your parent. Especially someone you don't even know that well.

Adapting to a new parent can

be difficult. It's no wonder so many have a hard time.

If you're having problems with a stepparent, or a natural parent, or both, here are four steps I've learned that can help.

1. **Learning to communicate** is the first step and sometimes the hardest. Many times lack of communication causes problems and misunderstandings. If you're having problems with your stepparent, communication can be the main key in solving them. Bring your problems to your stepparent and discuss them respectfully. Remember that arguing is not communicating.

2. **Put the past aside.** Holding a grudge won't get you anywhere. Everyone makes mistakes. Don't concentrate on past mistakes, but rather on how to solve ongoing problems.

3. **Pray about it.** I remember when I was having problems

with my stepfather, I needed all the help I could get. When I prayed about my situation, I got that help. Things worked out better for me.

4. **Don't give up.** Sometimes things don't change as quickly as we want them to, but, if you want to speed up the process, here's a hint. Meet your parent halfway. When he or she sees you putting forth effort, it will encourage him or her to do the same.

You have a choice: You can work to solve your problems, or you can add to them. A friend of mine added to his. He is now out of a home, out of money, but most of all, out of a mother and father.

So whether you have one, two or even three parents, if they're stepparents or natural, work for a better relationship with them. Don't settle for less. □

Editor's note: The author, age 16, is from Yardley, Pennsylvania. For more about this subject, see the article on page 10. If you would like to submit an article for this section, send it to: "Reader By-Line," Youth 84, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, California, 91129.