

God Is Taking Care of US!

by Sis. Anna Elise Counts (8 years old)
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God is providing for all of His creation. Jesus explains that God feeds the birds, and He will take care of us because we are of more value to Him than the birds! He goes on in Matthew 6:25-34 and tells us not to worry about anything because God will provide! If we seek first the kingdom of God and

His righteousness, He has promised to take care of all our needs!

God sends the water on the hills and on the plants, and He causes the grass to grow to feed the cattle. The Bible even says God gives the lions their meat, and feeds all the creatures in the sea! Since God takes care of the birds,

and the plants, and the beasts, and the fish, it helps us understand that He will take care of us!

God is taking care of me even now! He always sees us and hears what we are saying. He listens to my prayers, and that makes me not worry!

Answers To Why Did they Go

from February's Issue

1. They were driven out in punishment for sin.
2. To buy grain during a famine.
3. To be with Naomi.
4. For advice.
5. To fulfill her vow that the child should be dedicated to the church.
6. To plead for her people, the Jews.
7. Because Queen Jezebel threatened to kill him.
8. To find the newborn King of the Jews.
9. They were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod.
10. To save Jesus from the wrath of Herod.
11. At twelve, every Jewish boy entered into manhood and assumed certain religious duties and privileges in the Temple at Jerusalem.
12. To attend a wedding.
13. He did not want his friends to know that he believed any of Jesus' teachings.
14. To visit his friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus.
15. To keep the Passover.
16. In answer to the plea, "Come over into Macedonia and help us."
17. He was exiled.
18. To escape from God.
19. It was the land of their ancestors, to which God had promised they would return from slavery in Egypt.
20. Esau threatened to kill him, so he left home.
21. To get a bride for Isaac.
22. He was taken there as a captive of war.
23. To escape a famine in Bethlehem.
24. God told him to go to a new land.

From Freedom to Slavery

by Dr. James Dobson
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I recently saw a fascinating television documentary on the subject of elephants and their behavioral characteristics. The program was videotaped in India, where the magnificent pachyderms are trained to serve their human masters. Of course, if elephants knew how strong they were, they would never yield to the domination of anything. However, they are subjected to a stressful form of "brainwashing," which takes the fight out of them. The process begins with three days of total isolation from man or beast. Female elephants and their young are remarkable social animals, and they react to loneliness in the same way humans do. They grieve, and fret, and long for their peers. At that precise moment of vulnerability, they are brought to a nighttime ceremony of fire. Then for many hours in the flickering light, they are screamed at, intimidated, struck and ordered back and forth. By morning, halfcrazed, the elephants have yielded. Their wills have been broken. Man is the master.

Even though I understand the economic need for working elephants in India, there is still something sad about their plight. These wonderfully intelligent animals are transformed from freedom to slavery in a single evening. Their fragile emotions are manipulated to destroy their independence and curb their individuality. Somehow, I wish it weren't true.

Then as I watched the documentary, I was struck by the parallel between these elephants and us fragile human beings. We too are social creatures,

born with irrepressible needs to be loved and accepted by our parents and peers. In fact, to deprive us of this emotional support during early childhood is to risk crippling us for life.

But if our needs for love are great during childhood, they can't compare with the soul hunger we feel with the arrival of adolescence. Like the elephants staked in a distant field, teenagers are subjected by their culture to a period of intense desolation and loneliness. Even those who are moderately successful during these years often feel rejected, ridiculed and ignored. Unfortunately for the most tender and pliable among us, the pain of adolescence can be incalculable. These youngsters slink through the halls of their schools, looking at the floor and fearing the wrath of their peers. They are, at the moment, prime targets for brainwashing.

Adolescent society will do the rest. Anyone who has worked with teenagers has surely witnessed this mind-bending process at work. Television and movies hammer away at moral values and principles. Friends and acquaintances ridicule any form of self discipline or restraint. But the analogy to the conditioning of elephants becomes even more striking. Rock concerts subject masses of needy kids to deafening noises, strange lights, wild emotions and godless philosophies. Like an elephant during the night of fire, an adolescent begins to lose his grip on reality. His fight to preserve individuality slowly ebbs away. A passion for conformity rises from deep

within. His peer group becomes lord and master, until finally, the wonderful freedom of youth is traded for slavery and domination.

This conditioning process helps explain the irrationality of youth. Why else would healthy boys and girls inject wretched drugs into their veins — or give sexual favors to a virtual stranger or dye their hair orange and green or even commit suicide? Their behavior has been warped by enormous social pressures in an environment of unmet needs. Now obviously, teenagers possess a free will, and I would not excuse those who engage in irresponsible behavior. But they are also victims — victims of a peer-dominated society that can only leave them lost and confused. And my heart goes out to them.

How passionately I feel about the plight of today's children. How sorry I am for the pressures we have allowed to engulf them. How regretful I am for the sexual enticements that reach their ears during elementary school — teaching them that virginity is a curse and sex is an adolescent toy. How I grieve for the boys and girls who have been told, and now they believe, that they are utter fools and will fail in each of life's endeavors. How tender I feel toward the wounded children, the blind or deaf or retarded or cerebral palsied, who believe themselves to be cursed by God and man. Somehow, we must make a new effort to reach this generation with a message of confidence and hope and love and respect.

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