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Look At It This Way: Questions Youth Are Asking Today

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DOUG BALDWIN

WHO STARTED THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH?

We have been studying different religions at the youth meetings at our church, and I have been assigned Seventh-day Adventists. Can you give me a brief history of your church? Especially could you tell me who started it and when?

I am happy to recommend a short history which I wrote this spring and which has just been published by Pacific Press, the publishing company that produces *Signs of the Times*. It is called *Moving Out* and costs less than three dollars.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church grew out of an interdenominational awakening that flourished in Europe and America in the early nineteenth century and spread to mission stations around the world. Six hundred ministers of the Church of England and several hundred ministers of other British churches



ERIC KREYE

were proud in those days to preach Adventist sermons. In America the great advent awakening was led by 1,500 or 2,000 ministers and leading laymen of the Methodist, Baptist, Quaker, Christian Connection, Anglican, and other denominations.

Their deep love for Jesus and their longing for His return led a particular nucleus of these Adventists to

study their Bibles more deeply than ever, and in the process to discover the happy obligation of the seventh-day Sabbath and other important truths about Jesus and His ministry for sinners. They organized the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1863 with 3,500 members. Today the Adventist Church has grown to 2,400,000 in nearly 200 countries. Last year it grew faster in America than any other church of its size.

PLEASE CALL MY PARENTS OFF

I hate my home. My parents nag at me all the time. They won't let me do anything. They yak at me about my clothes, about my friends, about almost everything I do. They make me mad. Doesn't the Bible say, "Parents, don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful"? Ephesians 6:4, Living Bible. Won't you please write them and tell them to get off my back?

Yes, I'll be glad to write your parents. It is likely that they are really upset with you and that this has made them scold you too much.

But what about you? Have you noticed that the Bible also says, "Children, obey your parents; this is the right thing to do because God has placed them in authority over you"? Ephesians 6:1, Living Bible.

I think I can picture what is happening at your house. Your parents ask you more or less pleasantly to live in harmony with decent moral standards, and you ignore them. It is because you do not obey them the first time that they ask you the second time. And the third time. And the twentieth time.

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY

Mervyn Maxwell

QUESTIONS YOUTH ARE ASKING TODAY

You know, if you will do what the Bible says you should do, they will find it easier to do what the Bible says they should do.

And you will have a happier home.

SHOULD I REMARRY MY EX-HUSBAND?

I am a little older than a "youth," but my problem goes back to my youth. I married early and worked hard to put my husband through college. Then what did he do? Run around when I got pregnant, shout at me, and swear a lot. Finally I divorced him, and he moved away. Now he writes to say that he has been converted and baptized and that he wants me to marry him again. I know Christ could change him and make things work out, but I am afraid he may not be sincere. There is also our little girl to think about.

Forgive him you must; to live with him again is something else.

There should be a brand-new courtship—in person, not by correspondence, lasting several months, without sexual relations. If possible arrange a joint visit with your former husband and the pastor who baptized him to discuss mutual problems and to probe evidences of change.

If he is impatient with these procedures, you will know that his conversion is not very deep. If he shows a wholly new kind of appreciation for you, start ironing your old wedding gown.

I DON'T WANT TO BE CONVERTED—YET

Everybody's trying to get me converted. My mother talks to me about it until she cries. A couple of weeks ago the minister of the church my parents attend tried for two hours. I got

so disgusted that I stayed up till three o'clock reading a book I knew he wouldn't approve. I'm in the rebellious age, and I mean to do some things for a while that I couldn't do if I were a Christian. When I get a little older, I'll settle down. Why don't they leave me alone until I'm ready to be

DOUG BALDWIN



converted? It isn't going to do any good to force me anyhow.

One week ago I stood at the edge of Niagara Falls and thought about people who have been swept over the edge.

Suppose you had been standing there with me. Suppose we had seen someone swimming a few hundred yards above the falls. Probably you would have shouted at him as loudly as I would have and tried to get a life preserver out to him in time to rescue him.

If you are putting off con-

DOUG BALDWIN



DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

Would you like to ask Mervyn Maxwell to help you find an answer? If so, send your question to:

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"Signs of the Times"
1350 Villa Street
Mountain View, California 94042

It is not possible to answer all letters in the "Signs"; and publishing procedures being what they are, answers published in this column may not appear until several months after you send in your question. If you want to be sure of receiving an answer to your particular question, be certain to give your address when writing.

version, you are swimming on the edge of Niagara, and, to be perfectly blunt with you, you are being a fool. It takes only a minute to get swept into drug addiction, venereal disease, a lifelong habit of smoking, an unwanted pregnancy, or a police record.

After the prodigal son in the Bible had made a mess of his life, he came home when he "came to his senses." If you have any brains—and you certainly do—do the sensible thing. Let Jesus save you now from terrible mistakes and regrets.

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