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ARE TODAY'S YOUNG PEOPLE TURNING AWAY FROM RELIGION?

by: Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

Isn't it about time that we stop picking on our young people?

Let's declare a moratorium on the constant complaints that our teenagers are under-achieving, misbehaving, rebelling drop-outs from church, home, and society.

We have in our midst, of course, many irresponsible rebels who are blindly lashing out at authority of all kinds. We have our slovenly hippies, our hopeless young narcotics addicts, and other juvenile delinquents. There are far too many of them for comfort, but because they represent only about five percent or so of our total teen-age population of more than 40,000,000, perhaps we should stop lumping all young people in our darkest thoughts about the younger generation....

I believe in young people. I believe in them because wherever I go--and in my travels I "cover the waterfront," so to speak--I see many young people in churches. They are nice, clean-cut, fresh looking, washed and scrubbed, not the scraggly, long-haired, un-bathed specimens so noticeable on the streets.

You won't read about them in the newspapers or see them portrayed in movies or on tv. Only the "wayout" young person is "news."

I meet upbeat young people everywhere I go, particularly on college campuses. One I encountered was the young son of a friend, who accompanied me to dinner in Europe last summer. He was working as a waiter in a Swiss hotel before entering the Cornell University Hotel School. We got to talking about young people and religion, particularly at the New England preparatory school he had attended. He had been a leader of a rebellion against mandatory attendance at Sunday chapel services, and he was curious as to my reaction.

I told him that any school that had to resort to requiring church attendance seemed to indicate a view that religion could not compete in the open market for the attention and interest of young people.

Why, I ask, don't schools find spiritual leaders who are red-blooded men who know the score and can make religion so exciting that nothing will keep students away? If religion cannot do this, how can it expect to compete in the struggle for the interest of men?

I believe in young people--because scarcely a week passes without a number of communications from young people to the Foundation for Christian Living....One of the most recent letters that came to me from a teen-ager commented:

"I am 16 years old, and, to tell the truth, I never cared much for you or your teaching. My mother receives your sermons, and I could never understand how she could read those. I had a weak faith and never really believed in God, even after eight years in a Lutheran school.

"But one day my mother insisted that I read one of your sermons. After reading it, I found out that I had made a grave mistake, It led me to the New Testament. Now, I regularly attend church and take the Holy Sacrament. Now I look forward to the day when your sermons come."

We hear complaints that boys and girls are straying from the church because they say the church is not "relevant" to the great problems of our day. The people who feel this way might stop talking about it and get busy to try to make it "relevant" on their terms.

I believe in young people--they are much better informed than ever before. They have matured intellectually, so they can handle a lot more information than my generation did as teenagers. The new crop of youngsters is pretty well up on national and world events and seems to thing a lot about the problems of the day.

A group of adolescents in Ann Arbor, Mich., for instance, are doing a wonderful job. They have organized what they call the "Gillnet Gang," after the fishermen's net used by St. Peter. With the slogan "guerrillas for good," these teen-agers secretly filter through the streets at night, painting over obscene words scrawled on public structures and performing other public-spirited deeds....

The most interesting thing about this unique activity is that the youngsters are performing their good works anonymously. They don't seek or want personal credit, and they are teaching their elders a lesson.

This is not an isolated situation. I encountered another group at Champlain College, a two-year business school in Burlington, Vt. About 1,000 young people attended a convocation at which I spoke. They were respectful, quiet, and alert. Not

a banner was waved nor an epithet shouted. After the meeting, I attended a student-faculty reception where I had an interesting chat with one of the student leaders.

"I don't see any long-hairs or farouts around here," I observed.

"Oh," he replied, "that stuff is scorned around here. We all want to get somewhere. We believe our country offers opportunity, and we mean to make the most of it. We weren't sent here by our parents. We came because we wanted to make something of our lives."

I believe in young people--such as that boy. He struck a solid note when he said he was in college because he wanted to be there. Many of our young people, particularly those in revolt, have had to contend with their nagging, overambitious parents, who wanted them to go to colleges such as Harvard, to make top grades, to be the most popular in school, to excel in athletics, and so on. How can young people survive under such pressure? Isn't that one reason we have so many dropouts?...

I believe in young people--with parents such as the father I encountered in a Fifth Avenue bus in New York. The man boarded the bus with his 12-year-old son, who was supposed to have dropped their 40 cents in fares into the coin box. After they sat down by me, the boy confided to the father, "The driver didn't notice me so I didn't put in our fare."

"What's great about that? My son is a thief," the father responded. "But how is the bus company ever going to miss 40 cents?"

The father replied: "When you got on this bus, you were buying a ride. You were supposed to pay for it. If everyone did the same, they would go out of business."

And then the father told him: "What I want you to do now--and if you don't, I'll whack you until you can't sit down--is to get right up there and tell the driver you tried to cheat him. Tell him you are sorry and then pay the 40 cents."

The boy sheepishly did as he was told. When the father and son left the bus, I could not resist the impulse to follow them.

"I'm glad to see there is at least one absolutely scrupulously honest American left," I told the father.

"Well," he answered, "when I was a boy, my father set an example of honesty for me. I don't think I can do any less for my children."

The young people I believe in have a chance, when they become parents, to raise their children in a way that will revive the

meaning of the Scriptures. I elaborated on this in a recent sermon by making the point that youngsters who are not disciplined by their parents today may have to be disciplined--and severely--by society later. Children really want to be disciplined--when there is love. It frees them from the necessity of making some decisions....

Whether you have too much or too little wealth is not really the important thing: it is whether you are rich or poor in resources--and how you handle them that matters.

In expressing my belief in the young, I try not to preach at them or talk down to them. This is the greatest era in history for talking to young people. They have been talked down to and talked down at for so long that it is surprising that more of them have not lost both self-confidence and self-respect.

We have to do more than tell them how great we think they are. We must show them, too.

(Source: Family Weekly, April 6, 1969)

May 15, 1969

Dear members of the Unified Family all over the world:

First of all, thanks to our Heavenly Father that our Parents and their party are safely back home in everybody's Homeland.

Heartfelt greetings to all of you from your Far-East Home! Far physically as we may be from one another, distance means nothing especially when we so miss one another that we always live together in spirit.

Since we visited you this time, you have been constantly and most vividly a part of our life. Every fragment of our memory in which you participated has been repeatedly told to the whole of the Unified Family in Korea through several gatherings. You are introduced to the very heart of the members in Korea; and all of you are remembered in our ardent prayers.

We believe that news have already been shared among yourselves of what took place during our visit in those countries where we have the Unified Family. The names, "The United States," "Portugal," "Spain," "England," "Germany," "Holland," "France," "Switzerland," "Austria," and "Italy," are so dear to us because there we have the members with whom we enjoyed the memorable days together.

But other countries are just a list of names and empty number included in our schedule to cover the twenty-one countries. In those countries, we have no sweet memories except: embarkations and disembarkations of the planes, writing of forms and going through the formalities in and out at the customs,

sending and drawing of the baggage, money exchanges in the banks, packings and unpackings at the hotels; and, just one-day sightseeing in every country that we visited so confused us as to which is which and what is what. One most important thing we did in each country was, of course, to locate the Holy Ground and pray there for the country.

However, in Jerusalem we forgot all about our fatigue and had a forced march of two days' sightseeing including Mother who was in such a delicate condition. There, we did not only see things with our eyes but also with our hearts, praying and weeping so many times at so many places. We felt it was not the professional guide that showed us around but Jesus himself in spirit.

On Gethsemane, Calvary, and in the Holy Sepulcher, we found that our Master was so solemnly quiet and grave-looking. We knew that he was talking in meditation with his sad predecessor. On the Mount of Olives we found our Holy Ground which was an out-of-the-way place and prayed in choking tearfulness.

After the two days of violent spiritual and physical strain, Mother was found to be completely exhausted and helpless. Everybody then, in utter ignorance, began to worry about there being another manger of Bethlehem. (You understand!) But Father seemed to contemplate the blessing of the Japanese boys and girls which might possibly be postponed in case of Mother being forced to leave for Korea earlier than planned.

When we arrived in Iran, Mother had even to quit the sightseeing. So we finally agreed to leave straight for Japan skipping the rest of the countries on the schedule, for which we offered a special prayer.

However, our plane stopped by all those countries on its way to Japan, and we had plenty of time in each place to leave the plane and pray for the country on her own soil. So we visited every country on our schedule except China; but, in going into Israel we stopped in Cyprus, which we found was a small nation with her own government under the president. How grateful we were to our Heavenly Father, who had so worked as for us to cover the twenty-one countries, which is the number of divine significance!

In Japan, the members were overjoyed to see us safely back. To our surprise, there was a great event awaiting our Master. One of the top political leaders of Japan was going to meet a Korean top scholar and expolitician; and as soon as the news of our Master's arrival in Japan was brought to them, they invited him to the meeting the following day. Our Heavenly Father also arranged this meeting by bringing us to Japan ahead of schedule. Crops were great out of the meeting, you will see. Our parents blessed twelve young couples and ten married couples in Japan within less than a week's time. You will no doubt be seeing the pictures of this beautiful occasion.

After we returned to Korea, we had meetings and meetings and meetings, where reports were made on what happened in Korea and in other countries during those three historical months.

In our absence, all the members in Korea had the evangelistic campaign, witnessing to the Words in redoubled efforts and zeal so that they might be able to show us some fruit of their toil. (The total of 817 new membership was gained.) So many new faces stared and gazed at our Master with bright and expectant eyes as he talked before the congregation.

Among them was a most extraordinary figure, of whom you will read in the newspaper to be sent you by separate mail.

Father said that our trip would terminate only after we have visited the families in the local provinces. I was going to write you after this trip because I was supposed to accompany him. However, Mother is expecting a baby at any moment and I remain with her in Seoul. So I write this letter now, as Master wanted me to when he left Seoul on the trip (May 12-20).

We are extremely sorry for the members of the countries which we could not visit this time for some reason or other, and we most fervently wish that they too might share this news!

Our best regards go to every one of you. President Eu and all the members of Korea join in sending love to you all.

In the name of our True Parents,
Sincerely yours,

Won Pok Choi

NEWS BRIEFS

Seoul, Korea

Mr. David Kim received a cable from Mr. Y. W. Kim, Director of Administrative Affairs, Holy Spirit Association, Seoul, Korea, on our Master's and Real Mother's new Prince Hyun Jin. He was born on May 25th at 8:30 P.M. Congratulatory cables were sent from the West to Seoul Headquarters by blessed couples:

- Vern and Maxine Pearson from Portland, Oregon
- John and Marie Schmidli from Oakland, California
- David Kim and his wife from Clearfield, Utah

So far our Real Mother has had 3 Princes and 3 Princesses.

Princess Yei Jin
Prince Hyo Jin
Princess In Jin
Prince Heung Jin
Princess Eun Jin
New Prince Hyun Jin

Recent information from Korea indicates that Seoul Headquarters has re-organization of regional structure to bring more effective evangelism to local districts. Twenty three new districts are now established instead of the old nine districts in Korea. New District heads were appointed accordingly.

Oakland, California

Three sons of Mr. David Kim have at last arrived at San Francisco on May 18, 1969--Sung Soo, Hyun Soo and Young Soo. Sung Soo, the eldest son, is a graduate of the University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, Korea. Hyun Soo and Young Soo, 2nd and 3rd sons, are high school graduates and plan to enter Junior College in Oakland with the fall semester.

On May 27, Mr. David Kim made a trip to Oakland to see his 3 sons who have not seen their father for nearly 10 years. During his 5 day stay in California Mr. Kim visited Joan and Bob and invited them to the Oakland Chapel for Memorial day to a Korean dinner, at which they welcomed a new family member, Jim Coover. On the 31st of May Mr. Kim, his wife and 3 sons drove to Utah to stay for awhile.

Sook Hee Kim, daughter of Mr. David Kim, is now out of the hospital and at almost complete recovery from her car accident. She plans to get a job as an IBM operator soon.

Joon Soo Kim, youngest son of Mr. Kim, graduated from West Lake Junior High School as an honor student on May 12, and has joined his brothers and his parents in Utah for the summer.

In the Oakland area regular meetings are held every Tuesday at Joan & Bob's place. Meetings are held on Wednesdays at Gerald Johnson's place. Gerald helps at Joan & Bob's chapel with his music.

Richmond, California

John & Marie Schmidli

We have been having weekly meetings in Oakland, at the home of Bob Sparks, Joan and Chris Iserts home, with Gerald playing his guitar and all singing. We have a new member to the family--Jim Coover, who is quite an inspiration to each of us.

Witnessing is usual, no new methods. Bob Sparks accompanied John one day in witnessing on campus, where Bob--with his tremendous enthusiasm--sold Mr. Kim's book on Fathers' Coming Kingdom.

Mr. and Mrs. David S.C. Kim's three eldest sons have at long last joined their parents and sister and youngest brother. Mr. Kim is at last united with all members of his family. We are so happy for you--for all of you. We feel so fortunate to have enjoyed many happy times with the boys, Mrs. Kim, Sook Hee and Joon Soo--a picnic and tour in and around Golden Gate Park. A tour around and across the Oakland, S.F. Golden Gate and Richmond San Rafael bridge and the scenic points of interest.

Mr. Kim arrived from Layton, Utah. His reunion with all of his family was marred only by his severe hay fever, which was greatly relieved after a few days here in the bay area. The Kim family is quite a group! We spent many happy moments together, visiting and picnicking. Then, Mr. and Mrs. David Kim and their three eldest sons departed for Layton, Utah. It was most enjoyable being with them while they were all here together.

Joon Soo graduated from Westlake Junior High School, the 12th of June. The graduating ceremonies were most impressive--the searching minds and such insight in the youth is quite remarkable. Our congratulations to Joon Soo upon his graduating and also for his merit of achievement in receiving the Silver certificate for his excellant academic endeavor. Joon Soo was off to Layton on the 13th of June. Happy summer to you Joon Soo.

Our love to each of you, one of these days we will get your letters answered. Time is so precious--there just is not enough hours per day.

Clearfield, Utah

David S. C. Kim

On June 12th Mr. David Kim and his oldest son, Sung Soo, made a special trip to Portland, Oregon to attend a special Board of Directors Meeting which was held for the purpose of re-organization of United Movement and for new appointments of executive Directors under the new name "United Faith, Inc."

During their trip they made special visits to several Sacred Grounds in the West which our Master blessed in 1965 at His first coming to the U.S.

- (1) Ensign Peak Park, Salt Lake City, Utah, blessed on
March 26, 1965.
- (2) Greenough Park, Missoula, Montana, blessed on
March 27, 1965.
- (3) Mt. Tabor, Portland, Oregon, blessed on
March 29, 1965.
- (4) Hendricks Park, Eugene, Oregon, blessed on
March 29, 1965.
- (5) Julia Davis Park, Boise, Idaho, blessed on
March 26, 1965.

During their stay in Oregon they visited several historical places from pioneer days of our movement, such as:

Western Baptist Theological Seminary
Mrs. H. A. Daniels' House
University of Portland
St. Helens old and new chapels
Eugene old chapel
University of Oregon

Portland, Oregon

Vernon & Maxine Pearson

A series of three meetings was held at the YWCA on May 23rd, 24th, 25th, with Vernon lecturing. Dianne and Galen came down from Seattle to give support to the meetings.

Mr. David Kim and Sung Soo arrived at the Portland chapel on Friday, June 13, and stayed until Tuesday, June 17. Dianne and Galen came on Saturday to be with Mr. Kim, and to meet Sung Soo, and be with the Portland family.

Appointment of Department Directors
Under New Organization

(X) In order to advance our United Faith Movement to an international level, the name of "United Chapel of Portland, Inc." was legally changed to "United Faith, Inc." as of June 5, 1969. The Board of Directors had a special meeting at the Portland Chapel concerning the new organization and structure. The following Department Directors were appointed as of June 15, 1969.

1. Department of Administrative Affairs
Director: Maxine Pearson
Assistant Director: Sarah Witt
Committee Member: Joan Isert
2. Department of Home & Foreign Missions
Director: Dianne Pitts
Assistant Director: Sung Soo Kim
3. Department of International Cultural Exchange
Director: Galen Brooks
Committee Members: Marie Schmidli
Gerald Johnson
4. Department of Enterprise:
Director: John Schmidli
Assistant Director: Bob Sparks
Committee Member: Lothar Blankenberg

These offices will be filled for 1 year, and at the end of this time the officers will be reviewed by the Board of Directors

More information concerning these various departments will appear in the next bulletin.