From Where We Stand . . .

The Real Cause of Farm Accidents

The news story reads, 'The tractor overturned, crushing the driver"

Rarely is there a mention of the real cause of the accident "He was slightly intoxicated by the inhalation of gasoline fumes'

Yet all too often the facts of a farm accident center around what is commonly known as a "naptha jag", the symptoms of which closely resemble alcoholic intoxication And enough fumes from gasoline can be inhaled by a farmer in the act of filling the tank of his tractor.

The operator of a tractor may not feel inebriated when he takes the tractor out into the field A stone lies in the path of the tractor. Ordinarily he would automatically react and stop the tractor or avoid hitting the stone, but with his coordination and reflexes below normal, he hits the obstacle and the tractor overturns. Another tragedy is reported, but no mention is made of the real cause.

The farm is an exceptionally hazardous place with regards to chemical poisoning This is especially true since exposure to chemicals is coupled with use of highly complex machinery and the absence of safety engineers to keep constant watch on machinery or procedures

Symptoms of chemical poisoning may include acute excitation of the central nervous system followed by depression and can occur following exposure to several of the chemicals used in the manufacture of insecticides and other pesticides, solvents, cleaners, paint removers and petroleum products. Other symptoms such as anxiety, jitters, tremors, disturbed behavior, exhaustion, lethargy, weakness, and sleepiness, also associated with chemical inhalation, can increase a person's accident liability.

The exposure to toxic chemicals does not necessarily have to be severe, nor the symptoms disabling On the contrary, a symptom produced by a chemical may be so mild that it is unrecognized for what it is and may often prove all the more insidious and harmful because the victim is unaware of the danger

If you are working around any kind of machinery, we urge you to be on constant lookout for symptoms, no matter how slight, and ask yourself if there has been an exposure to a poisonous chemical through inhalation or eating of food that might have come into contact with a poisonous material.

If there has been any such exposure, we respectfully suggest that all hazardous work be stopped until the symptoms have been checked or are gone

Otherwise there may be another farm casualty added to the statistics that make up the appallingly high morbidity and fatality rates due to farm accidents

At least that's how it looks from where we stand

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Familiarity Breeds Contempt

If we alter the phrase "familiarity breeds contempt" to familiarity breeds carelessness, we have the basis for a large percentage of our farm accidents.

We see it on the highway, at work, at play, and even at home According to the National Safety Council, drivers in 65 per cent of all fatal traffic accidents in 1960 were less than 25 miles from home Mechanical failure was a factor in only 5 per cent of Ohio tractor fatalities in the last three years About 400 persons drown on farm property each year, and falls remain the greatest killer in the farm home.

It is reasonable to assume that most of the persons involved were familiar with their surroundings — perhaps too familiar

In driving the same automobile or tractor over the same roads countless times, we tend to become overly confident of our ability to handle any situation. We let down protective defenses, become less alert, and begin to take chances.

It isn't necessary to experience an injury to learn the necessity for caution and alertness even in the most routine tasks It's the surest and most painful way, but who can be certain there will be a second chance?

Let's use the opportunity of National Farm Safety Week to take a critical look at the way we do things The extra margin of care will pay off.

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Complete Responsibility

Farm mothers who would scream if they saw the baby of the family standing on the edge of the kitchen table stand calmly by while the five year old brother climbs aboard a moving, lurching, jerking hay wagon for a ride to the field.

Farm fathers, who caution sons and daughters to keep away from the cages at the zoo, think nothing of sending a young child into a pen with a fresh cow, potentially as dangerous as the wild animals in the zoo.

Parents who would not think of allowing their children to play in the street will send children out to work in a distant field with a tremendously dangerous piece of machinery behind a powerful tractor

And we have seen parents shake with fright when the baby chews on a piece of stick he picked up in the yard, but not look twice when the five year old brother plays in the wagon shed where dozens of deadly poisons (or the nearly empty cans which contained the poisons) are within easy reach

Safety consciousness is something we have to learn Young children must be taught to "think safety," and they can not be taught safe farming by words if they continually see unsafe practices all around them

We believe farm children should learn to enjoy farm life, we believe farm children must learn to do the work on a farm, we believe farm children must learn to care for farm animals and handle farm chemicals, but we believe there is an age at which it is dangerous for children to be given complete freedom or complete responsibility.

At least that's how it looks from where we stand.

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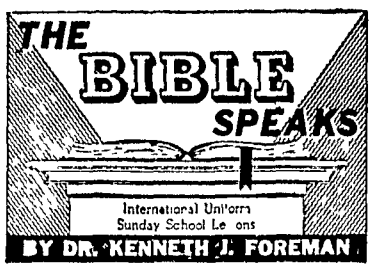

Bible Material Jeremiah 18 through 19 20 1 2, 27 through 28, 37, 38 1 6
Devotional Reading Psalm 33 8-12

Patriotism

Lesson for July 22, 1962

PATRIOTISM is called love of one's country, but it means more than that. "Country" can mean hills and valleys, rivers and mountains, as we sing in our hymn "My Country, 'tis of Thee . . ." But while these physical surroundings can stir our hearts (and even plain and ugly landscapes can seem beautiful if they spell Home), real patriotism means a love and loyalty to the people who live in the land, our fellow-citizens.

Dr. Foreman

Patriot in Jail

In our time the accusation is sometimes brought against the Christian ministry that it is unpatriotic, which in the present situation usually means "communist" This accusation is wildly false, but it is not new. Men of God—just because they were true men of God—have been called bad names like traitor, more than once A notable example is the Biblical prophet Jeremiah. He was easily the most unpopular man in the country. Few believed him or believed in him From the ruling class right down to the masses, he was considered to be a bad character. More than once he was put in jail or under house arrest as a dangerous character. Yet he was, as history acclaims him, one of the great patriots of the Jewish people.

How do we know he was a patriot if his contemporaries could not see him in that light? For one thing, we now know, as his contemporaries would have known in time, that he was right What he said would come true, did come true

Realism

Another reason why we can see that he was a real patriot was that he did not pretend that all was well with his nation He was brave and clear-sighted enough to speak out against abuses in church and state. He swung a strong axe against the trees of evil that overshadowed the land. He talked very plainly about the sins and crimes of men at the top. He did not even pretend to believe that his country could come out victorious after any war they chose to get into He did not agree that God loved the children of Israel better than he loved any other nation, or that only in Israel could servants of God be found. He even publicly called Nebuchadnezzar, an invading king, a servant of God. About the future of his country he had no illusions. He saw that their only hope was to yield to Nebuchadnezzar and to become a part of their empire; but this the Israelites could not think of doing. Their recipe for national security was military alliance with Egypt, a suicidal policy as Jeremiah tried to tell them. So they accused Jeremiah of being an enemy of his country. But how much is a country helped by people who can never see anything wrong in it?

A True Patriot

In all the hullabaloo over Jeremiah, people in his city either did not know, or would not notice, some facts that marked the man as a genuine patriot. For one thing, he went to some trouble to buy land, in an area already controlled by invading armies. The prophet thus expressed in a practical (and expensive) way his conviction that (so to speak) there would always be a Judah. Furthermore, though we know he had opportunities to do so, he never went over or "defected" as we say, to the Babylonians. And at the end, so as to stay with his own people, he chose banishment, poverty and death rather than live in comfort in Babylon. In the one-sided war between his country and Babylon, he could see that Babylon was stronger by far; but his own people were his own, and he loved them.

Prof. Harold Berman once said: "If we really want to defeat communism there is only one way to do it . . . It is the one thing that people who talk about fighting communism generally fail to mention. We must construct a social order in which the goals of justice, mercy and morality take precedence over economic security, political power and technological progress." Some would call the writer of such lines no patriot; but what he says is in the noble tradition of Jeremiah the prophet.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U S A Released by Community Press Service.)

Now Is The Time . . .

BY MAX SMITH

MAX M. SMITH

To Renovate Old Pastures

'Graze pasture extra heavy and then destroy old sod" is a very common recommendation in renovating an area to prepare for a new pasture seeding However, due to the dry weather this summer the old pasture is ready to renovate at any time Disc or plow the area in order to kill all present growth and then apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test Seed the new grass mixture during late August or early September

To Plan For Extending Grazing Season

Temporary pasture crops may be seeded during August and early September in order to provide livestock grazing into late fall; we could have a very late fall with lush pasture conditions that would relieve the stored roughage conditions. Winter rye, Redcoat or Dual wheat, domestic ryegrass, or field bromegrass may be seeded for late fall pastures.

To Inspect Livestock Away On Pasture

Some cattlemen who rent grazing land away from home may find their animals not getting adequate grass from drough-stricken pastures, young stock requires ample forage when no other grain or roughage is fed With dormant pastures many of these animals need to be fed hay or silage daily

To Control Peach Tree Borers

Many peach trees and other stone-fruit trees are infested with peach tree borer. Control on non-bearing trees requires one spray during mid July and the second one about the middle of August; use either 2 pounds of 15% WP Parathion or 1 pound of 50% Thiodan WP per 100 gallons of water On bearing trees make one application after harvest but before September 15th using 4 pounds of 15% Parathion or 1½ pounds of 50% Thiodan per 100 gallons of spray All fruit growers are urged to apply these sprays