

MY ANSWER

BY DR. BILLY GRAHAM



Dear Dr. Graham: I had four abortions before I got married, and now I have discovered that I am unable to have children at all. Do you think God is punishing me for the things I did in the past?—Mrs. H.H.C.

Dear Mrs. H.H.C.: I have had several doctors tell me that abortion can be a difficult (and even dangerous) surgical procedure which can have permanently damaging effects on the woman. It is not just a simple procedure that can be carried out without consequences—quite apart from the moral issues that are involved.

I cannot say whether or not God is using this directly as punishment in your life—although the Bible clearly teaches that when we turn our backs on God and choose to disregard his moral laws there are inevitable consequences. Furthermore it is not God who is to blame for the consequences, but the person who has broken his law. Let me use an illustration from physical laws. Suppose that you decided you would jump out of a second-story window. No matter how much you might wish it, the law of gravity is not going to be suspended when you jump. In a sense, the law of gravity is responsible for the bones you would probably break—but actually you are responsible, because you disregarded the law of gravity. Just as there are physical laws which we cannot break without harming ourselves.

But the important question at this stage, is where do you go from here? God loves you, and you need him. You need his forgiveness for what you have done in the past, and you need his guidance and help in your life every day. So far in your life you have neglected him, and all it has brought you is heartache and trouble. Now I pray that you will face honestly your need of him, and you will invite Christ into your heart by faith.

Then seek God's will for your future. God wants you to be the best wife you can possibly be with his strength. He has a plan for your life, if you will turn to him and seek to follow Jesus Christ.

Public Split On Handicapped Infants

From Gallup Polls
The U.S. public is evenly divided on the controversial issue of whether several handicapped or deformed infants should be kept alive or allowed to die.

In a survey conducted by the Gallup Poll, 43% of respondents say that if they had to make the decision, they would ask the doctors not to keep a badly deformed baby alive, while 40% take the opposite position.

While the nation as a whole is divided on this issue, sharp differences are found on the basis of race, religion, education and marital status:

- Persons with a college background lean heavily, 54% to 33%, toward letting a newborn child die if born with a serious deformity.

- Blacks are 2-to-1 of the opinion the baby should be kept alive.

- Catholics are somewhat more likely to favor keeping the baby alive than are Protestants.

- Married persons and women are more in favor of keeping the baby alive than are single persons and men.

The issue is now in Federal

court. On one side Federal law prohibits withholding medical treatment and requires hospitals to post notices warning employees that such a practice is illegal. On the other side, many in the medical profession contend that the new government rules could lead to overtreatment of handicapped infants, merely prolonging the process of dying.

Here is the question and the key findings:

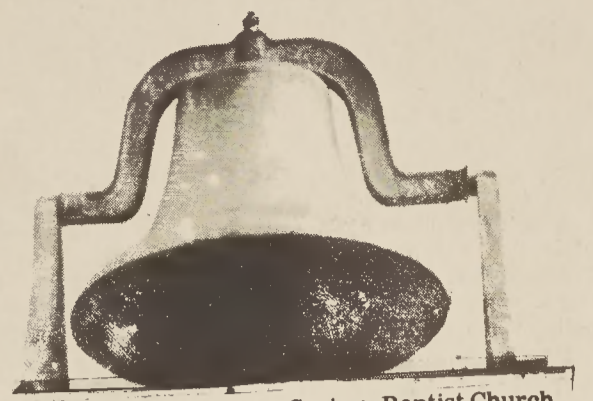
When a badly deformed baby who could live only a few years was born in a Midwest city, the parents asked the doctors not to keep the baby alive. Would you take the same position as the parents did, or not?

ALLOW DEFORMED BABY TO DIE?

	Yes %	No %	No %
National	43	40	17
College Education	54	33	13
High School	38	43	19
Grade School	42	42	16
Whites	45	38	17
Blacks	28	59	13
Protestants	43	38	19
Catholics	40	47	13
Married	43	41	16
Single	52	34	14

The results are based on personal interviews with 1,540 adults, 18 and older, conducted in more than 300 scientifically selected localities across the nation during the period May 13-16.

Boiling Springs



Church Bell At Boiling Springs Baptist Church

Community

By Louise Moore

Community sympathy is expressed to Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Greene and family in the recent death of Mrs. Greene's sister, Mrs. Ruth Hamrick Barnett of Shelby.

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Hedrick spent the weekend in Summerville, S.C. with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Edwards and twin sons Paul and Blake.

Horace Scruggs and Junie Scruggs are spending several days with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Scruggs in Madison, Tennessee.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Greene and son, Christopher Joe of Waco visited with Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Moore this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Crowe and sons Michel and Jonathan spent several days this week in Atlanta, Ga. They went to Six Flags in Georgia and attended the Atlanta Brewer Ball Game on Friday.

Rev. and Mrs. James McAlister spent Sunday in Franklin, N.C. They were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Jenkins.

Mr. and Mrs. James Greene of Belmont spent all day Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. Herbert P. Greene.

Mrs. Ethel Greene visited her sister, Mrs. Virginia Pemington in the Rutherfordton Hospital on Sunday.

Lisa Lovelace and Beth Rogers spent the week in Florida at Disney World. They also toured other places in Florida. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lovelace spent last week camping at Crabtree Meadows on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Mrs. Ada Ruppe of Forest City spent last week with Mrs. Julia McSwain. Mrs. Ruppe and Mrs. McSwain were Tuesday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davis in Shelby. They were Thursday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Winford Ruppe in Gaffney, S.C.

Pam White of Kings Mountain spent several days this week with Mrs. Julia McSwain.

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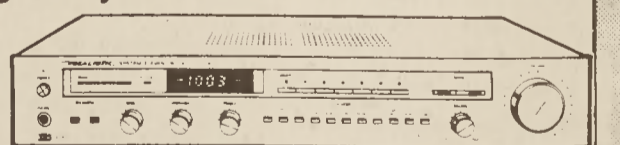
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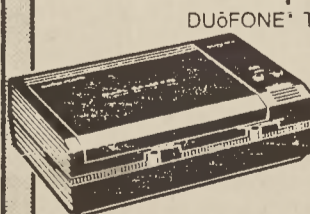
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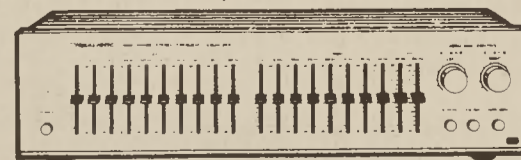
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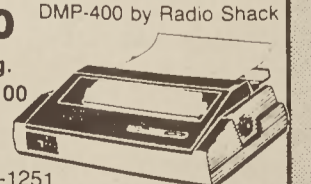
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