

Following on to know

## HIS CONCERN FOR YOUTH

Scripture Text: Exodus 3:9-12, 4:12, 15

"Behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppressions wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt.

"And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

"And he said, Certainly I will be with thee... Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say...and will teach you what ye shall do."

Since that far off day when Moses talked with God at the burning bush, this old world has undergone hundreds of convulsions of change and transition. From a primitive existence to the push-button convenience of a modern day, it has come.

Yet the conditions of today's world bear a striking parallel to those of ancient Egypt.

The Hebrews were slaves to Pharaoh. Their youth had no future to anticipate other than the brickyards <sup>of Egypt</sup> and the whip of the taskmaster.

Although we live in a land where slavery has been abolished, yet so many young people feel they must live for the moment because of the uncertainty of the future. And some are in slavery of a sort...slaves to drugs, slaves to drink, slaves to tobacco, slaves to sex, slaves to the opinions of their peers, slaves to sin. And Satan is bidding for the souls of our youth and children from earliest childhood.



God called Moses to liberate the children of Israel from Egypt's bondage; He is calling on you and me as Christian mothers and women of the church to bring liberation to our ~~children and young people~~ <sup>YOUTH</sup> from the bondage of Satan.

Moses turned aside from his duties as a shepherd to examine the burning bush and to listen to the voice of God. May we also turn aside from our daily activities long enough to hear God's call.

The pages of the Bible glow with records of women who faced impossible circumstances but, who, through God's help, were able to save their children for the Lord.

There's Sarah, the beautiful wife of Abraham, who followed her husband over mountains steep and burning deserts. In this day of mobility when one out of three Americans are changing places of residence every year, when families are uprooted and move from place to place, it may seem hopeless to build a family altar and make new church ties. But no one ever moved more than Sarah. Often the rising sun found ~~Abraham~~ <sup>for husband</sup> pulling up tent stakes and pushing further toward the horizon. And the setting sun found him building a new altar to his God. With every adverse condition, Sarah was able to plant faith and obedience in Isaac and he is listed among the patriarchs.

Jochebed had every circumstance against her in a time when all Hebrew women were losing their children to Pharaoh's sword, but she found a way to save her son. It took ingenuity, skill vigilance and faith in God, but she accomplished her task.

Today's Christian mother may feel she is fighting a losing battle in her efforts to implant Christian principles and scriptural teachings



in the hearts of her children when the educational system is ~~so~~ full of modern viewpoints foreign to Christianity's absolutes. But Jochebed's teachings were stacked up against all the pagan beliefs of the Land of the Nile and Moses was "trained in all the wisdom of Egypt." Yet, when it came time to make a choice, he chose rather to suffer the afflictions of the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

Hannah's persistent prayers brought an answer from God in the form of a son. She kept her vow to God and dedicated him to temple service at an early age.

Samuel was under the influence and training of Eli, the priest, who had been totally ineffective in training his own boys. He was so far from God that he could not even hear His voice. It took the dedicated child of Hannah to receive God's message for both Eli and the nation of Israel. And Samuel served in God's temple faithfully throughout his life.

Again, we would speak of Lois and Eunice who were able to implant the scriptures in the heart of young Timothy, who was destined to take up the work of Paul as an evangelist.

*PRIMARIES + JUNIORS*

Then there's Naomi, who, though she lost her husband and two sons, lived so close to God that she won her <sup>Ruth</sup> daughter-in-law to her religion. Through her <sup>gentle</sup> counsel and guidance, Ruth became the wife of Boaz, the grandmother of King David, and was in the royal lineage of Jesus Christ.

*We need Christian women today whose influence & love will reach out to young girls and young women to train & guide them in paths of walkways in service to God & the church.*

Moses had spent forty years in the peace and quiet of the desert, tending his father-in-law's sheep. He was far from the dust, dirt and grime of the brickyards. He could not hear the groans of his people. He had withdrawn himself from



their problem. And his concern that had once caused him in a moment of heated passion to kill the Egyptian taskmaster was no longer dominant in his thinking.

We, too, in our sheltered existence in the church often fail to realize the <sup>1/29/16</sup> conditions surrounding us. We tend to withdraw ourselves from involvement with the problems and concerns of today's world.

*The News reports of Riots, Marches, violence, & drugs seen for etc.*

But if we are to save the youth of our homes, our church, our community, our city, our nation, we must become involved. If we are to fulfill the Great Commission, we must turn our prayers, energies and concerns towards our youth.

For, do you realize that over half of today's population is under 25 with the teenage population growing 300% faster than the total population.

We have a TV generation--a generation of children and teens who have their thoughts, desires and <sup>concepts</sup> perceptions almost completely shaped by TV. Do you realize that by the time the average child starts to school he has between three and four thousand hours of TV viewing. Eighteen year olds have spent 15,000 hours watching TV as compared to 11,000 hours in the classroom. *TV has usurped so many family activities - sometimes even allowed to dominate mealtime, thus replacing family discussions.*

There is a permissive atmosphere in ~~the~~ home and school. Teens have more freedom, more money to spend, less adult supervision and less responsibility.

In the educational system, there is more emphasis on self-expression than self discipline on self-gratification rather than self denial. Young people who have had every desire gratified ~~xxxxxxx~~ find it difficult to follow the way of the cross.



Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley, had this kind of concern.

Although she was a fraid<sup>l</sup> woman, giving birth to 19 children, living in poverty with hardly enough to feed her children, yet it was said of her that she arose two hours earlier every morning than her household to spend the time in meditation and worship.

In addition to her multitude of household tasks, she sent aside ~~some time each day to spend with each child, and spent~~ six hours a day teaching her children their lessons which included the regular school subjects as well as the Word of God.

Her concerns did not stop with her own family. John Wesley said that one of the things that most inspired him in his ministry was the memory of the Sunday night services his mother held in her own home for friends and neighbors. It was said that she often spoke to as many as 200 at a time crowded into her humble home.

Such a task would have looked too great for most women, but Susanne Wesley saw with eyes of faith and was willing to give of her time and efforts to fulfill what she believed to be God's will.

The results--her two sons, John and Charles Wesley, thoroughly convince of the doctrine of Holiness as taught and lived by their mother became the mighty founders of the Methodist church. Charles Wesley gave to the church over 3,000 religious songs and hymns.

*Dr. Truette preached to his congregation about soul winning, saying that every person could win souls. A seamstress*

Concern? Yes, that is what we need--a concern that will get us moving to accomplish the impossible for God.



Young people are encouraged to live by experimentation rather than by parental standards. They are taught to analyze, criticize, to raise questions about life, about social and moral behavior, about religious beliefs and national decisions. The doctrines of pragmatism, relativity and situational ethics lead a young person to feel that he can do what is right in his own eyes regardless of its effect on himself or others.

The lines between right and wrong have dimmed and the deity of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Bible have been minimized.

Our teens have everything stacked against them. When we do our best to save them, train them and lead them in the way of righteousness, the instruction of godless teachers, the desire for approval of their peers, and the endless temptations of Satan tend to draw them away from us, from God, and from the church.

It is time to become concerned. Moses' ~~concern~~ concern was renewed with God's call. He became so concerned until the liberation of God's people became his very life. At one time he even asked God to blot his name out of the book of Life rather than to destroy the children of Israel *for their wickedness.*

Let us ask God to place within our hearts a concern that will possess us, motivate us, activate us and cause to reach out arms of love and concern for our youth.

We look about us at today's problems facing our youth, and like Moses we feel our inadequacy. We feel like saying, "Who am I? What can I do?"

But like Moses we have God's promise, *with* "Certainly I will be with Thee...I will be with



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thy mouth and teach thee what thou shalt say...  
and will teach you what ye shall do."