

Should You Date?

(Editor's Note)

The following article is sent from the pen of Rev. George Failing, editor of the Wesleyan Methodist. It is the first of a series of eight under the title "Steps to the Altar" and we are publishing the series as a special feature for our young people. We gratefully acknowledge the kindness of Mr. Failing in giving us permission to run this series.

B. B. C.

This Question might seem as unnecessary as the question, Should water flow downward? But the answer is not a simple, unequivocal, Yes.

In some countries dating is unknown. Among many orientals—and some occidentals—marriages are arranged by parents or friends. In that instance, there is no particular quest for a husband or a wife. A person accepts the arrangements that are made, sometimes first meeting the husband or wife-to-be at the marriage ceremony.

Of course, we would say quickly that such marriages are unhappy and would seldom turn out right. But, surprise!—such is often not the case. Many happy homes do result. In fact, the Bible tells us of at least one very happy couple who had no date at all before their marriage. Isaac "loved" the woman whom his father's servant had found and brought to him. All this points out the fact that dating is largely an American custom, and that our society may stress unduly the importance of dating as we know it.

Some young people do not date because of their inclinations and purposes. Jesus recognized the fact that, for varied reasons, some people are not interested in normal companionship between man and woman (Matt. 19: 10-12). Paul evidently felt that he should not allow himself such companionship, fearing that he would be hindered thereby from giving himself utterly to God and His work (I Cor. 7: 8, 29, 32). John Wesley refused to marry while young for precisely the same reason. Their usefulness vindicates their choice; consequently those who make similar decisions should not be despised but rather commended.

But for the average young person in the later teens and upward, it is proper to say that he (she) should date. It ought to be thought of as a very useful as well as a very delightful social custom. Dating ought to be practiced with genuine interest, but neither with undue excitement nor with routine. A Christian young person of proper maturity would scarcely need to pray about this. He would indeed pray about the one whom he should date, his conduct during association, and the frequency of such dates.

But before we consider these pertinent questions we ought to inquire into the meaning of "a date." The Webster's New World Dictionary defines a date as "a social appointment with a person of the opposite sex." By common usage we make it to mean an appointment of interested persons, if not of actual friends.

The etymology of the word throws light on its true meaning. Date is derived from the pluperfect form (datus) of the Latin verb, dare, to give. In the truest sense, the person who seeks or accepts "a date" wants to share his own highest self with another. He seeks to give, not to get. And if his appointment reveals that the other was not happy in his presence, he might well judge that he had little to share with that person. He then would seek someone else with whom to share his thoughts and desires. A person who understands "a date" to be a highly personal and trusted "gift" will not seek to injure his friend or just be interested in what he can get.

Christian young people, by character and training, should be able to make "a date" a completely happy and

THE BROKEN ROPE

(Continued from Page 3)

Mr. Whympers, however, nerved them to the effort, and hours later they arrived in Zermatt to tell their sad story.

The broken rope was examined. Why had it not held? Alas, it was not a genuine Alpine Club rope! Alpine Club ropes are distinguished by a red strand running through them, and this rope did not have one. How it was that a substitute rope was carried on such an occasion has ever since remained an inexplicable mystery.

It has often been said that the saving power of the Cross of Christ runs like a red cord through the heart of the Bible.

Are you joined to the Saviour by this unbreakable cord? "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Or have you some substitute rope to which you are trusting? No other power will stand the strain; every substitute will break when it is needed most. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." Do not trust to vain hopes, to "being religious," or to a vague feeling that you "hope it will be all right at last." None of these will avail; the only unbreakable hope is a personal trust in a living Saviour. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Jesus died to save, He lives to keep, and one day He will come again to receive us into His presence for ever.

—Selected

THE PRICE OF REVIVAL

The birth of a revival is always preceded by the travail of the saints. There is a price to pay for everything that is worthwhile. Those who know the fulness of the salvation in Christ Jesus, have come to realise in a new way the prevailing power of prayer and the glorious might of the Holy Spirit. The prayers of holy men and women can do more than all the armies and navies of the nations! Prayercraft is greater than aircraft!

J. Sidlow Baxter.

WHY NOT A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRESIDENT?

(Continued from Page 5)

come when a man could "say his beads in the White House."

And every Protestant in America can pray, without prejudice and without rancor, that that time will NEVER come — in '60, or in '64, or in '68 — or beyond. Not because there is any objection to how a man prays to his God. But because the rosary is more than a chain of beads with which a Roman Catholic prays; it is a symbolic chain binding every true Roman Catholic to Rome—to Rome's purposes, to Rome's pressures, and to Rome's "infallible" pope.

THE BEGINNING OF - - - From Page One

new ministry. The Lord got me on His wheel again, and He made me again, and He has been making me again ever since. I learned that night to say "yes," and I have tried to say "yes" ever since.

wholesome occasion. Whenever it falls below that standard, certain questions ought to be seriously asked.

The King's Highway