

thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee" (Deuteronomy 4:40).

And the reverse is true. "Seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children" (Hosea 4:6). Parent, there are *rewards* and *penalties*.

I'll tell you this. You must work *with* God. There is the responsibility to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

The family altar is nurture. Respect for marriage vows is nurture. Tithing is nurture. A disciplined temper is nurture.

Work is nurture. That is the soil that creates results.

I have observed it is even worse to allow a boy to grow without chores and home tasks to perform than it is to allow a boy to skip Sunday school and church.

You'll find God's will about this in the New Testament. "This we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). And if there is anything a boy likes to do, it is to *eat*. There can be a vital connection between stomach and soul.

It's a lot more difficult to bring a lazy, spoiled son to Jesus than it is to bring an industrious, obedient son to the Cross. The writer to the Hebrews reduced it to the right combination, not to "provoke them to wrath" (see Ephesians 6:4), "but unto love and to good works" (Hebrews 10:24).

Eli lost his sons forever by a failure to discipline them, a failure to train them. They "made themselves vile, and he restrained them not" (1 Samuel 3:13).

Proverbs 19:18 says, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

You must tie your son to yourself. "How shall I go up to my father, and the lad be not with me?" (Genesis 44:34). David did, although in remorse and hindsight. "O my son Absalom! my son, my son Absalom!

would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!" (2 Samuel 18:33). That grief will be yours someday, Dad, if you *fail*.

When you unconditionally place your son on the altar, more can be done with him and for him there than anywhere else. It is the altar that sanctifies the gift. Until you are willing to let your Saviour have your boy for any service Jesus Christ designates for your son, you will find your prayers short-circuited.

Jesus put it sharply, "Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?" (Matthew 23:19). And keep your hands off! Once you have truly placed your son on God's altar, do not cringe or object to God's manner in dealing with your gift. It is a terrible thing to try to steady the altar.

Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord! He is a better parent than you will ever be. "No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Hebrews 12:11).

Nothing worthwhile ever came without a test. You'll experience it, Dad, when you begin to "contend" for your boy. You'll feel as though you were headed toward sentencing. But believe: "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips" (Psalm 89:34).

Anchor yourself to God's Word! "Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed" (Psalm 112:1, 2).

This is a charismatic dividend provided to fathers whom the Holy Spirit is indwelling: "I will pour my Spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring" (Isaiah 44:3).

Take a new grip, Dad, and go after that boy! He has been promised to you.

The church of tomorrow began yesterday

By R. EUGENE HUNT

Missionary to the Dominican Republic

HE'S A SHOESHINE boy at the Santa Domingo airport. A big smile lights his face as he asks for business.

On his shirt is the colorful emblem of the *Exploradores del Rey*, the Royal Rangers of the Spanish speaking countries.

Throughout Latin America a strong program of Bible study combined with the camp-outs that all boys love is transforming young lives.

George Davis, international commander for Latin America, and Juan Romero, international training coordinator, have worked since 1966 to translate Royal Rangers materials and organize the program south of the border.

In the Dominican Republic, after only a year of national organization, more than 200 boys are active members. Their interest and enthusiasm