

Heart Disease Less Frequent Among Churchgoers—Study

Baltimore—(RNS)—A study by a Johns Hopkins University medical researcher has revealed that the risk of fatal heart disease for men who attended church infrequently was almost twice as high as for those who attended once a week or more.

Persons who live the "clean life" and attend church regularly just might have a ticket for a longer life, according to Dr. George W. Comstock of the Department of Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health here.

Dr. Comstock noted that piety also appears to be statistically

related to a dozen other important diseases — including cancer, cirrhosis, tuberculosis and respiratory maladies — "and may be as significant as cigarette smoking."

Any number of explanations, including style of life, may be given for the piety-disease relationship, the researcher observed. He added that whatever the explanation, "going to church is a very favorable input."

Dr. Comstock's study involved 189 Caucasian males between 45 and 65 who had died of heart disease between 1963 and

1966 in a western Maryland community.

The study was designed to termine the relationship between drinking water and arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease. Other factors measured in the questionnaire included cooking fuel, number of bathrooms in home, years of schooling, cigarette use in 1963, use of cigars and church attendance.

The questionnaire revealed piety as an unexpected but "tantalizing" variable, Dr. Comstock reported. Of the characteristics measured, church attendance was found to have the most significant correlation to heart disease.

Average annual death rate per 100,000 for weekly churchgoers was found to be about 500 compared with nearly 900 for "less than weekly" attenders. About 600 non-smokers died of heart diseases compared with nearly 900 cigarette smokers. No significant correlation was found in the "hardness" of drinking water.

Jewish Scientists Warn Against Permissive Abortion

New York — (RNS) — The Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists has condemned "permissive legislation on abortion" and warned against a campaign to make abortion as "acceptable as childbirth."

A statement from the 1,000-member association declared that young people are being subjected to the indoctrination of values "diametrically opposed to those of their family and heritage," that "the privacy of home and family is being invaded" and that "utilitarian ethics" are being advocated to "justify actions until recently considered immoral and unethical."

The association said that "the reliance on such utilitarian ethics threatens the ethical foundations of our society."

"The Jewish attitude permitting abortion only when the health of the mother is threatened, must be presented as an alternative view held by the all too silent majority."

"The Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists," the statement concluded, "urged the rabbini and lay leadership of our country to join it in presenting this view."

An organization devoted to the "orientation of science within the framework of the Orthodox tradition," the association unites the common interests of Orthodox Jewish scientists throughout the world. It has a thousand members in the U.S. Affiliate associations in Israel, Great Britain and Australia have memberships totalling 700.

Biafra Conversions Reported

Addis Ababa — (RNS) — Evangelists of the Sudan Interior Mission (SIM) say that the number of converts to Christianity in the former war zone of eastern Nigeria (Biafra) is so great that pastors are caring for three or more congregations there.


According to a report in Africa Now, a SIM publication, a recent evangelistic campaign brought about 1,176 conversions, including two tribal chiefs who publicly burned their idols.



Chavez Jailed


Farm worker leader Cesar Chavez sits crosslegged in the Monterey County Superior Court corridor in Salinas, Calif., awaiting the start of his contempt hearing. Chavez, whose United Farm Workers Organizing Committee successfully staged a boycott of table grapes, was jailed for refusing to call off a boycott of non-union lettuce, aimed at winning contracts between his union and growers after being ordered to do so by the superior court to curb the boycott. (RNS)

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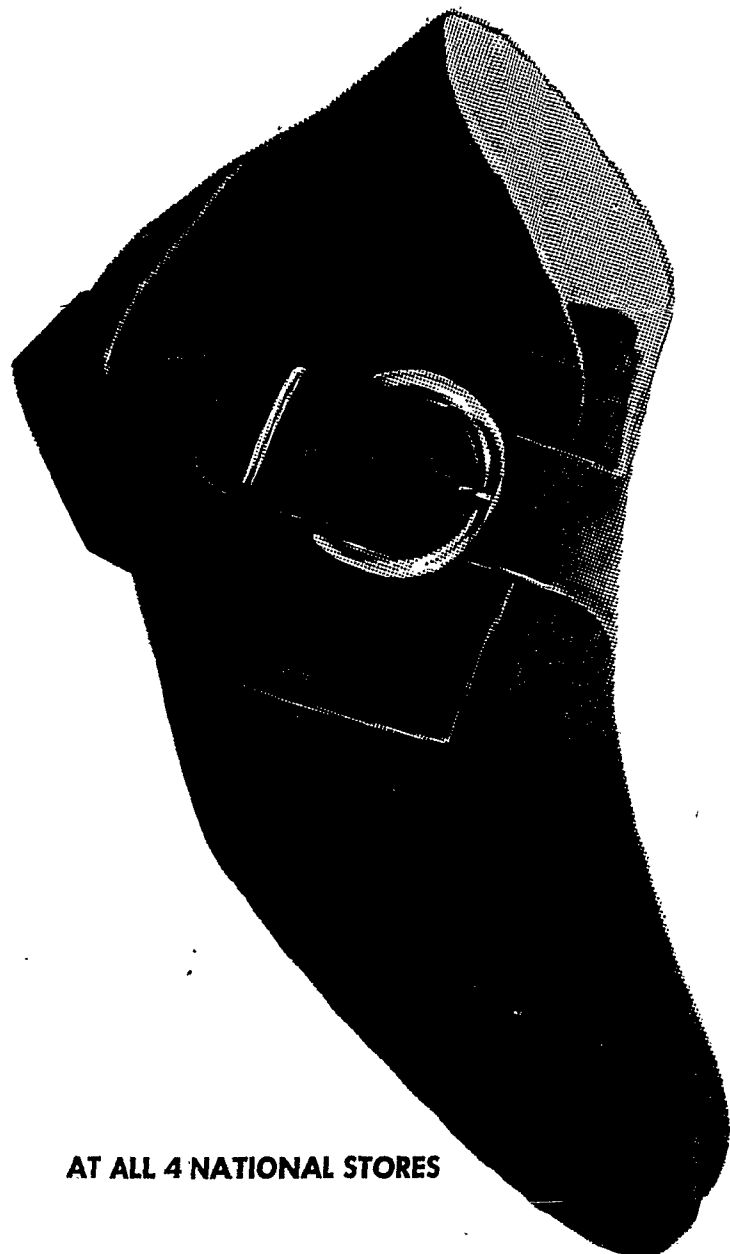
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