concern.

At a time when critical sensibilities and spiritual maturity begin to develop, adolescents need good teachers and good models. At a time when a secular society threatens to desensitize all of us to the radical call of Christian discipleship, we need to intensify our attention on Him who is the Truth, the Way, and the Life.

Do we care who teaches our children? If we do, we will not allow television to play a major role in the education of our youth.

SEEDTIME . . . .
AND HARVEST

by Miss H. J. Kuiper
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"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." II Corinthians 9:6.

Again, it is spring. Breezes carry fragrances far and wide, clouds float across a deep blue sky, flowers flaunt their myriad colors, birds cascade their songs through the air -- all speak of a renewed life after a cold, lifeless winter. Yard and garden enthusiasts compare seeds, fertilizers and plants -- and another season of growth begins.

We, as Christians, respond to this rebirth in nature by assessing our spiritual growth. We contain many seeds, some good, some bad; some are good thoughts, deeds, qualities and gifts we wish to cultivate; but they are so few. Others are of the weed variety: mischief, laziness, greed, evil-speaking, lusts, etc. These we wish to "weed out", eliminate; and they are so many. By studying God's Word and listening attentively each Sabbath as the Word is preached, we learn how to cultivate our private garden patch, how to chop out willful sins, how to grow in grace
and knowledge of our Creator. We try to instill into our children the desire for the good, and warn them against the encroachments and final choking by the weeds. We realize, and we instruct them, that we do have but a small beginning of the new obedience.

As one of our ministers so graphically puts it: "We are so prone to sow our wild oats and then pray for a crop failure." We, as well as our children, must learn that each deed and thought has its own consequence; that where a matter of choice appears, we are held responsible. The development of self-consciousness, awareness, and control is part of the daily instruction which must be given and received. For children to realize that there is a direct result from telling an untruth, being unkind to one's classmate, cheating on a test, using bad language, being disrespectful or disobedient is the first step in his acknowledging and confessing his wrong. If there is no control or curbing of these weeds, they will multiply and soon overcome the crop; when the crop is overwhelmed, then the anticipated fruit will fail to materialize.

With prayer and guidance, the various weeds of sin can be chopped down but constant cultivating is still necessary. The weeds continue to sprout and grow in this human, evil nature, and we cannot return to "days of our youth". Only as we progress through life do we more and more recognize the weeds; we constantly fight these weeds in our spiritual struggle. Careful nurture and care for the things spiritually good are necessary for an unfolding development of the Christian life.

Being more conscious of all this, may we and our children be made more aware that as we sow, so shall we reap.