

## "The Tongue"

Subject: "How to Communicate Effectively with your Teenager"

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 1990

1. The name of teenage years is "Change"
  - (a) Boys: They want to be men but cannot quite make it, want their independence but can't afford it and suddenly they become interested in what they formerly hated, namely, girls!
  - (b) Girls: They begin to worry and they become extremely self-conscious and the mirror becomes vital. And clothes? We are talking daily nervous breakdowns! The pressure of television commercials and magazines convince teenage girls that they are overweight, ugly and hopelessly condemned to a life of embarrassment unless . . . !
  - (c) Peer pressure is an ever present beast.
2. Home, the place where life makes up its mind:
  - (a) Parents must be able to say "follow me" not just "do what I say".
  - (b) What is caught?; Parents should be role models for attitudes, character traits, tastes, ways of solving conflicts, handling money, having a relationship with God.
  - (c) What is taught, by words?; Skills are taught by verbal directions, so are traditions, and truth. When a survey was done amongst students the vast majority, when asked where they got their major ideals in morals and spiritual matters answered "The conversation at family meal times".
3. Four major questions teenagers ask:
  - (a) Who am I?
  - (b) What attitudes will I choose?
  - (c) Whose rules will I respect?
  - (d) What lifestyle will I adopt?

P.T.O.

*"Could I climb the highest place in Athens, I would lift my voice and proclaim; "Fellow citizens, why do you turn and scrape every stone to gather wealth, and take so little care of your children, to whom one day you must relinquish it all?"*

*Socrates, 469-399 B.C.*

