

Love Bears Disgruntled's Answer

Boomerang!
By THE REV. JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

One of my daughters (name withheld to protect the innocent) came home from school and announced at the supper table that she had a mean teacher. "She screams at all the children," she said.

"Maybe she has a stomach ache," I ventured.

"No, she does it all the time. All the kids hate her. I wish I had another teacher."

REALIZING the wrong approach could cause problems for many months I decided on a positive course of action.

"Tell you what, Honey. Let's try an experiment." This was great. If my kids are open for anything, it's for something new. She stopped chewing and listened.

"Do you want your teacher to like you?"

SHE GRINNED shyly and nodded. "Okay, then I want you to start practicing the power of positive thinking on her."

"The power of what?" She looked puzzled.

"Positive thinking. If 'you'll do exactly what I tell you for the next four weeks your teacher will begin to love you.'"

The other kids chimed in with their yeah-what's-this-all-about-comments.

I GLANCED at my wife. She sensed I was about to

embark on something profound and winked her approval. "For the next four weeks I want you to repeat a magic formula three times a day in school. I want you to say: 'God loves my teacher. I love her too. She is a sweet, wonderful person who is trying to love me also.'"

That was three weeks ago. Last Wednesday at the supper table I asked my daughter how things were going in school. She grinned and said: "Daddy, it works. Mrs. ——— patted me on the head today and told me she was proud of me. You know, she really is a sweet person."

THE OTHER kids began to clamor for me to give them a magic formula so they could try it on their "grouchy" teachers. Also, I warned my son it might take him a little longer with his football coach, but it was worth a try. A good offense is the best defense, you know.

I've even started the same formula with this guy I know. Man, he's grouchy, insecure, fault-finding and always self-centered. He's full of racial prejudice and I know is going to vote for some guy for President who would plunge our nation to chaos. But, I'm determined I'm going to win him over — by reminding myself every day that God loves him, that I love him, and that deep down inside he really wants to love me. (I'll let you know how things turn out, regardless of how he votes in November.)