

### ... FOOD VALUE?

What about food value? In a standard college text book, it says concerning alcohol: "Its chief value is to yield approximately seven calories per gram. It cannot create new tissue, nor can it repair injured tissue. It has no protective or regulating functions as have vitamins and minerals. Hence alcohol should never be recommended as a food."

### ... SOCIAL DRINKING?

The person who feels that he has to drink to be socially accepted is sadly mistaken and is on the way to a dangerous way of life. It shows lack of self-discipline and character to let down standards because of what others might think. Besides, people generally have high regard for one who has a good, high standard and sticks by it solidly.

### ... A STIMULANT?

"But, of course, everyone knows that a small amount of alcohol acts as a stimulant and increases the sharpness of body functions." WRONG AGAIN! Alcohol acts, and is, a depressant. It requires no digestion, going immediately into the blood.—The brain is very quickly affected. Reaction time is slowed even with a small amount of the beverage. Inhibitions are lost; vision is distorted and coordination is affected—Those who drink at all are encouraged by physicians not to drive.

### DANGERS...

This brings us to certain dangers involved with drinking. The drinker will have a false feeling of courage and stimulation. He feels he has more control, is witty and intelligent.

Really, the OPPOSITE is true. Coordination is hampered and reaction is slowed even with a small amount of beer or just one cocktail.

"Nearly one fourth—or 10,000—of the traffic deaths... each year are attributed to drinking drivers." As few as four beers greatly increase the chance of the driver causing serious accident and any amount of drinking is dangerous because of slowed reaction time. Even a slight mistake while driving can bring death quickly and "the moderate drinker is more dangerous than a drunk on the road," says authorities.

Drinking causes severe damage to our basic unit in society—the home. In fact, it often results in the neglecting of necessities for the family and, in many cases, is the direct cause for the breakup of otherwise seemingly solid homes.

According to medical authorities, it is dangerous to use alcohol for people in shock or needing a stimulant because of its sharply depressant actions.

The dangers involved far outweigh any benefit that may be derived from drinking.

### SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS—

Aside from physical dangers involved, there are other matters about drinking that demand your consideration.

First of all, we must be extremely careful about our appearance to others. Drinking has an evil reputation and Paul tells us to avoid even the appearance of evil. Not only does drinking have an "evil appearance" but it has definite evils connected with it.

(Continued on page 16)

# Tell Me, Please

### QUESTION:

*A group of us went for a drive in a car one evening, and a girl and boy in the car hugged and kissed most of the time we were driving. What do you think of this kind of behavior?*

### ANSWER:

Great—if the couple is married and alone! Otherwise it is tasteless, inconsiderate, foolish, dangerous, rude and shows lack of training and a complete absence of personal pride.

Next time you go for a ride, lighten your load by two unless you get a firm promise that they will behave like humans instead of parakeets.

### QUESTION:

*We have people at our church that are always getting offended at what we young people do. They don't like the way we dress, talk, or act. Because of these complainers, our parents are always telling us of things we do wrong. Is it right for them to act that way?*

### ANSWER:

I'll have to agree that there are

### Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



people in almost every congregation that complain a bit easily. On the other hand, the youth of as many churches overestimate the number of complainers. There are not many who are easily offended at the young people, even though they may raise questions.

Your parents take the criticism of others seriously, and that is good. They are concerned that you are well-behaved and give a good impression. Their love for you prompts this concern. While you want to make the most of the present, your parents are more concerned about your future.

How rapidly you mature will depend much upon your attitude toward your critics. All of us always have them. The only way to avoid criticism is to do absolutely nothing.

Learn to evaluate the criticism without regard to the critic. You cannot change a person who is easily offended. It's futile to try to act like them by being offended at them also. If they are right in their criticism, even their negative attitude is a help to you. If they are wrong and what you are doing is justifiable, remember that God loves and judges you. The critic can help himself to more bromo-seltzer.

## QUESTION:

*There are times when I would like to talk to my pastor. I can't tell whether my problems or ideas are urgent enough to bother him with. He is busy, and I would hate to waste his time. How important should a matter be before a person should approach his pastor?*

## ANSWER:

A member of any church does not "bother" a pastor by wanting to talk to him. To work and visit with the members of his congregation is precisely the pastor's job. He knows this and is delighted to talk to anyone who desires a visit.

It is true that there is always more than enough for almost any pastor to do. For this reason, he may not take the initiative to set up a visit with an individual member of his congregation. At the same time, if any member indicates interest in a visit, the pastor will rearrange his schedule to get that visit in soon.

Anything you want to tell your pastor, or any question you want answered by him is more than important enough to demand his attention. Don't be backward in approaching your pastor. It will be a help to you, and he will be grateful because such visits make his ministry more effective and worthwhile.

## JUST ONE DRINK?

*(Continued from page 14)*

Secondly, severe social problems are abounding in the land because of alcoholic beverages. Even the moderate drinker lends to the problem because of the social example and the inability of most people to control their

drinking. Disease, poverty, and crime are fed by the "brew."

One may kill his Christian witness with just one drink of alcohol about as quickly as any way I know. When one has to defend his right to drink, especially to those outside, he opens up himself to some very poor examples that could cause others to fall into the blackness of the "bottle's grip." An insistence on one's right to drink in spite of how it affects those around him gives an indication of the unchristian attitude that generally goes with drinking.

Paul, in Romans 14:21, gives the only proper attitude that we can possess. He says "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."

## BIBLE CONDEMNATIONS—

The Bible contains passages that indicate people did drink wine; some passages instruct the people concerning wine and special feasts. In spite of this, the Bible doesn't take as liberal a stand on the matter as it may appear on the surface.

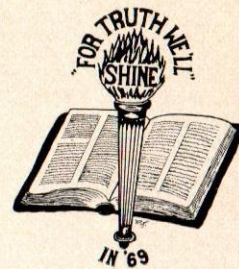
It is well for us to know that according to Doctor Willard Drabill in *Alcohol and Your Life*, the alcoholic beverages of that time were mild. It is said that the recipe for hard liquors as we know them had not been discovered. This means that drinking at that time was less dangerous because drinking too much could not happen as quickly as it does now.

Every Christian needs to remember the stern connotation that the Bible gives to wine and strong drink: **WINE IS NOT A BLESSING! The Bible says "WINE IS A MOCKER, STRONG DRINK IS RAGING"**

*(Continued on page 35)*

## Youth Doctrine Corner

*"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).*



## BAPTISM

Official Church of God doctrine—Article No. 10

... **"The terms of the gospel include faith in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ, confession of and repentance for sin, restitution (where possible) for wrongs committed, and baptism by immersion in water to signify the burial of the old life of sin and the arising to a new life of service and obedience to God..."** (Doctrinal Beliefs).

### Reasons Baptism is Required:

- ... **Jesus' example and teaching** (Matt. 3:13-17).
- ... **Peter's command concerning salvation**—"Repent and be baptized..." (Acts 2:38).
- ... **Baptism is an act of a good conscience toward God** (1 Peter 3:21).

### Reasons Immersion is the only proper method of Baptism:

- ... **Jesus, when He was baptized, went up out of the water** (Matt. 3:16).
- ... **The eunuch went down into and came up out of the water** (Acts 8:38, 39).
- ... **John was baptizing near Salim because of the abundance of water** (John 3:23).
- ... **The definition of "baptize" is "completely cover with fluid."**  
—STRONG'S EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE
- ... **Paul refers to baptism as a burial:**
  - "...baptized into his death" (Romans 6:3).
  - "...buried with him by baptism" (Romans 6:4).
  - "...buried with him in baptism" (Colossians 2:12).
  - ...rise to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).
  - "...risen with him through the faith" (Colossians 2:12).
- ... **There is no Bible authority for anything less than "immersion" in baptism.**

*For a more detailed study of this doctrine, write for the booklet, "The Ordinance of Baptism": Bible Advocate Press, Stanberry, Missouri 64489*

PREPARED BY M.B.C. BIBLE DOCTRINES CLASS

# Teach Him Gently, World



The following classic reportedly was written by Abraham Lincoln when his young son Tad began school. It reflects the feelings of parents when their sons and daughters venture out of the family world for the first time. It is here reprinted through the courtesy of Mr. Ray Page, Illinois State Superintendent of Schools:

World, take my son by the hand—he starts to school today.

It's going to be strange and new to him for awhile and I wish you would sort of treat him gently. You see, up to now, he's been king of the roost. He's been the boss of the backyard.

I have always been around to repair his wounds and I've always been handy to soothe his feelings.

But now . . . things are going to be different. This morning he's going to walk down the front steps, wave his hand, and start on a great adventure that probably will include wars and tragedy and sorrow.

To live in this world will require faith and love and courage. So, world, I wish you would sort of take him by his young hand and teach him the things he will have to know.

Teach him—but gently, if you can.

He will have to learn, I know, that all men are not just—that all men are not true. Teach him that for every scoundrel there is a hero; that for every crooked politician, there is a dedicated leader. Teach him that for every enemy, there is a friend.

Let him learn early that the bullies are the easiest people to lick.

Teach him the wonders of books. Give him quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun, and flowers on a green hill.

Teach him that it is far more honorable to fail than to cheat. Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone tells him they are wrong.

Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone else is getting on the bandwagon. Teach him to listen to all men, but to filter all he hears on a screen of truth and to take only the good that comes through.

Teach him to sell his brawn and brains to the highest bidders, but never to put a price tag on his heart and soul. Teach him to close his ears on a howling mob—and to stand and fight if he thinks he's right.

Teach him gently, World, but don't coddle him, because only the test of fire makes fine steel.

This is a big order, World, but see what you can do.

He's such a nice little fellow . . .

—Sunshine

# Tell

# Me,

# Please

## QUESTION:

*I was recently asked why our church doesn't believe in going to movies and dancing. After explaining that movies were bad because of the violence and sex they show, I was told that it is good to know about these things, and that we could learn about them by seeing movies. How can I answer this? Also, is there anything wrong with dancing nowadays, since there are many dances where there is practically no contact?*

## ANSWER:

The argument you were given for going to movies is a weak one. What good is there in learning about the kind of violence and sex portrayed on the movie screens? Is anyone better off after seeing someone assaulted, robbed or murdered?

Our physical health depends upon the food we eat. In order to remain strong and healthy we eat good food, so that our digestive system can easily turn it into energy. Our minds absorb information in the same way that our stomachs receive food. If we pour a lot of garbage into our minds, our mental health, as well as our

## Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



attitudes, will soon become weaker instead of better.

Contrary to the belief of some, we do not become spiritually strong by exposure to sin. To the contrary, we fight the devil best when we resist him, instead of allowing him to tease us.

Concerning the no-contact dances, I recognize that some of our previous arguments against the contact type of dances will not be effective when we try to expose the new types. My personal objection to the non-contact dancing is that it is ridiculous. All of these swivel-hipped, flop-jointed dances tend to represent a release of inhibition. One may possibly get used to watching them and be unaware of the barbaric nature of the base gyrations. That doesn't make them less repulsive.

Aside from whether or not participation in dancing is Christian, I consider that they are in extremely poor taste. They make an otherwise fine-looking young person act like he needs to learn something from a gorilla!

The contact dances are potentially dangerous because of the explosive possibility involved in persons approaching or of adult age, putting

arms around one of the opposite sex—pressing themselves against each other while stepping to the beat of music. I concede that it may not adversely affect all, but the activity is geared to produce more difficulty than good. No one needs it, and it is best left alone.

QUESTION:

*Is it wrong for a Christian to pluck her eyebrows?*

ANSWER:

I know of no moral implications in plucking eyebrows. This is probably a matter of taste. Once a young lady has grown to the age where she is concerned about her appearance, she has the right to be neat and appear well-manicured. If the plucking of a few stray hairs, or some slight shaping will improve the neat look, I would tend to approve it.

Personally, I consider that eyebrows look best when they look neat but unaltered. This may not mean the shape has not been altered, but that the change effected is not an *obvious* one.

At this point I should mention a Bible verse that may come to the attention of some in this regard. It is Deuteronomy 14:1, "Ye are the children of the Lord your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead." In response to this verse I can only advise that we all do what it says—not to make a baldness between our eyes **FOR THE DEAD**. What this might have to do with cleaning up or slightly shaping the eyebrows in order to make one look neater, I wouldn't know.

## Are You

a

## True

## Christian ?

by Sandra Moldenhauer

Are you a Christian? I have been asked this question many times even though I am still very young. I am wondering just how many people could say, "I am a true Christian."

What does being a *true* Christian mean? The Bible has the answer. In St. John 15:5, Christians are compared to fruit-bearing branches: "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

Being a true Christian is more than just saying so. In Christ, we are producing fruit and letting our light shine so others can see Christ in us.

Does being a weekly pew filler and doing nothing more, make one a fruit-bearing Christian? Is being in church every Sabbath just a regular routine or do you look forward to the Sabbath day as a spiritual renewal?

Do you, during the week, take part in all the worldly school activities or do you "abstain from the appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:22)? If we are in Christ, we will not bear evil fruit.

I have discussed my religious beliefs with some of my school friends and while talking to a friend one day, I was asked what I do for fun activities. My friend thought I must have a very dull life and days must just "drag" by. I told her that my days are never long enough. I belong to an active church youth group and our young people never seem to get caught up on all our plans for activities. We have fun times and also worship and work times. Every Friday night I go to our church young people's meeting. (To most young people Friday night is the time to go to dances, shows, etc. Being at such activities, and especially on Friday night, would not be bearing the fruit Jesus spoke of in John 15:5.) On Sabbath morning I go to church and in the afternoon we usually have some activity such as passing out tracts, singing at a nurs-

ing home, etc. We always find time to have some activity on Saturday night or Sunday.

Being busy for the Lord helps to keep us from wanting to do evil. There are temptations, but when you pray and ask God to guide, you can overcome evils. Part of being a true Christian is overcoming these trials and temptations that we meet.

Our friends will soon know whether we are Christians or not. A true Christian is witnessing and working for the Lord, producing good fruit.

---

### GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

Some three hundred years ago, a statesman who had some responsibility for world affairs could not sleep at night. His wakeful servant saw the lighted candle in his master's bedroom. Knocking softly, he entered and found the man pacing the floor. When the disturbed servant asked what he could do, the statesman shook his head, as he paced back and forth.

"It is the terrific problems of the world that keep me awake. You can do nothing about them."

"Sir," the humble servant asked, "who watched over the world before you came into it?"

"Why, God, of course."

"And, sir, will God watch over the world after you have gone from it?"

"Certainly," the statesman answered.

"Then, sir, why don't you let Him watch over it just long enough for you to get a good night's sleep?"

The statesman went to bed and slept.

then and there uttered a silent petition that God would give her strength and grace to help others find the salvation her boy had lost. She would dedicate the rest of her life to this cause.

A hand touched her elbow, and it was with difficulty that Sarah rose and walked down the aisle. A choking sensation seized her. Her boy was gone—asleep—to await the Day of Judgment. Kriss could not possibly understand the agony she felt, as he had always believed death to be simply the end of everything.

"Mrs. Zelder," said a timid voice at her side, "could I speak with you a minute?" Sarah paused on the top step and waited for the youngster to continue. The lad was about twelve, freckled-faced, serious.

"Johnny was my counselor at scout camp. I sure think he was swell. The night before the accident we had a camp fire and wiener roast. All the guys were joking and laughing. Some of the fellows were teasing Frankie 'cause they found a Bible on his bunk. The poor kid was nearly in tears. He's only nine, you know."

He paused in his recital. Both Mr. and Mrs. Zelder were listening intently to the events of their boy's last evening.

"Well," continued the boy, "Johnny jumped right to his defense! Said as how those fellows would be a lot better off if they read the Bible instead of ridiculing it. Seems he knew quite a lot about it. Said his ma taught him to love the Lord, but since his dad didn't take kindly to religion he thought it was only for women and children. He wanted to become a big man like his dad, so he put away childish things."

"Excuse me, Ma'am, interjected one

of the attendants, "we're all ready to go to the cemetery. Your car is right this way."

"Just a moment," said Mrs. Zelder. "This boy has something very important to tell us. We'll be along soon." She turned back to the youngster.

"Yes, Ma'am," answered the flustered attendant, backing away.

"Go on, son," encouraged Mr. Zelder, immensely interested in the story.

"Well," said the boy, not willing to look Mr. Zelder in the eye, "he said he had discovered that his dad was wrong—dead wrong! He told us he had made it right with the Lord and as soon as camp was over he was going home and tell his dad how wrong he was." Shifting from one small foot to the other, the boy continued, "One of the fellows started a chorus and before the evening was over you'd swear we were at a church camp instead of a scout camp."

Mr. Zelder's pale expression frightened the boy. However, looking him defiantly in the eye he added, "After Johnny drowned I promised I'd finish his mission for him. Mr. Zelder, you were wrong not to believe in Jesus. He's a great guy—Johnny's best friend—and any friend of Johnny's is a friend of mine. Well, I—just—thought you'd—like—to—"

His courage waning under the intense gaze of those black eyes staring back into his own, the young fellow turned and bolted down the street.

"Johnny's all right—he's all right," repeated Sarah. "He made it right with the Lord." She was sobbing quietly.

"Sarrrie," said Kriss, using his favorite name for his wife, "it's the  
(Continued on page 34)

# Tell Me, Please

## QUESTION:

*I recently began to attend one of your churches and I like it. One of the members has suggested that I should be baptized. I don't know if I ought to. How can I tell when or whether I should be baptized, and how do I get it done?*

## ANSWER:

I'm sure that you've added measurably to the happiness of one of our churches by your attendance and your interest. I hope that you continue, because you will find it more and more worthwhile as you learn about the Church and the Creator she serves.

In order for you to determine when you should be baptized, you need to know what this ritual represents. I haven't the space to give enough information here, but I'll give brief comments that will give you something to think about. You will have questions beyond this which should be discussed with your pastor.

Baptism is a mere ritual. It presents public testimony that you have repented of your sins committed, that you believe God has forgiven you of your sins, and that you have put to

## Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



death your carnal nature. The carnal nature refers to a person's compulsion to sin. Further, while baptism represents the burial of the carnal nature, it also attests to your determination to walk after the spirit. A new being comes from the baptismal water to serve God by yielding itself to righteousness.

When you have become convinced that you have been sinning against God, and you feel sufficiently remorseful to repent to God asking for your sins to be forgiven, you are then beginning the process described in the paragraph above. Be sure to keep clear in your mind that baptism is not a ritual by which you join a church—ours or any other. It is giving public testimony that your sins have been forgiven, and that you are determined to claim God's promise of help that will enable you to live righteously.

At such a point that you want to make this public declaration, you should be baptized. This may easily be arranged by discussing the matter with your pastor.

## QUESTION:

*Several months ago I began dating*



## Youth Doctrine Corner

*"Ye shall know the truth  
and the truth shall make  
you free" (John 8:32).*

### THE SABBATH

Official Church of God doctrine—Article No. 12

. . . **"The fourth commandment of the Decalogue enjoins the people of God to observe the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, commonly called Saturday. It is to be observed as sacred and holy from sunset Friday until sunset Saturday. It was given as a memorial of creation, and is a day to be used for rest and worship, and secular work is to be excluded."**

Reasons Seventh Day Sabbath is Binding Today:

. . . **Sabbath was in effect before the Law of Moses was given.**

Instituted at creation (Gen. 2:2, 3).

Reprimanded for breaking Sabbath (Ex. 16:23-30).

. . . **Sabbath is part of God's Eternal Law.**

Part of Ten Commandments (Ex. 16:28 and 20:8-11).

. . . **Sabbath taught by Christ to be observed after the cross.**

Projected to A.D. 70 and A.D. 135 by prophecy [Jerusalem destroyed by Rome] (Matt. 24:20).

. . . **Sabbath kept after the cross.**

By apostles (Acts 17:2 and 18:4).

By Jew and Gentile laity (Acts 13:14, 42-44, 16:13 & 18:4, 11).

. . . **Sabbath change was not made in the Bible.**

No nullification of seventh-day Sabbath.

No Sunday morning resurrection.

Sunday is not the Lord's Day (Mark 2:27, 28).

. . . **Sabbath rest by God's example.**

An institution text (Gen. 2:2, 3 & Heb. 4:4, 9-11).

PREPARED BY M.B.C. BIBLE DOCTRINES CLASS

doesn't mean you have to marry him. After all, you can't marry the parents of every child you love or will love.

This man probably leaked the news of his marital status to you slowly because he knew that these circumstances would jeopardize, not enhance, a good marriage. It is too bad that you cannot feel and exercise the same misgivings and get back into circulation with a crowd more suited to your age and circumstances.

I suggest that you and your parents agree on a "breather." Take time off to back away from this situation. You can do without seeing this man for a few months, and in the meantime your parents should relax until such a time that all of you can discuss this matter with less emotion and more sense.

Talk to your pastor, your family doctor, or other men whose profession would be able to present you with an objective viewpoint. Pay careful attention to what they have to suggest.

Nothing I have mentioned will do as much good as prayer. You will be thinking about this situation often, and as you do, pray about it. You and your parents will be able to help each other if you pray about it in each other's presence. Let your impatience with each other be replaced by a willingness to love and understand. I'll be remembering you, too.

---

*If you have a problem, you are encouraged to write to: Aim, Box 158, Stanberry, Missouri 64489. Questions requesting a personal answer through the mail are honored, as well as those for print.*

*a man who is eight years older than I am. I am 19. After several dates, he told me that he was divorced. Not many weeks later, he let me know that he had a daughter. He has custody. For some reason I still wanted to date him even though there might have been doubt whether I should have. Now he has asked me to marry him. My parents are terribly opposed, and we argue a lot about it. They can't stand my friend. I want a man like him that is settled down, and I love children, especially his girl. Could you please say something that will calm my parents down before we all have a nervous breakdown?*

ANSWER:

I think that perhaps you could do this better than I. You could tell them that you have decided to get a new hold of your reasoning powers and very carefully think over your decision to marry this man before going ahead—if you do.

There is a hint in your own question that ought to cause you to reflect very carefully. It is the phrase, "I still wanted to date him even though there may have been doubt whether I should have." It is probably at this point that you abandoned your good sense and proceeded to bury yourself deeply in self-justification.

Where have you been and how fully have you loved, since you want to marry a man that is ready to "settle down"? Too many young ladies in your position find that they really wanted a husband more than they wanted to settle down.

It's nice that you love children. What young lady does not? Even if you love this man's daughter, that

The church service had concluded by this time and the church quickly emptied of its congregants. All fourteen of Brother Ford's riders were inside and he was carefully driven out of the parking lot behind Sister Volkswagen and ahead of Sister Cadillac. A smile crossed his radiator and he chuckled, "My, what two extremes I am between. Sister Volkswagen can hardly carry anyone to church. She's so small she hardly makes a dent in all the church work to be done; and speaking of dents, she is all banged up and hardly makes a good witness with such a shabby chassis. And on the other hand," he nearly laughed out loud, "ol' snooty Mrs. Cadillac thinks she's the queen's carriage. Why, she even has a chauffeur to drive her around. Maybe she does do a lot of good work but that's only because people respect her appearance. She is so neat and polished and yet she doesn't park separately from the rest of us cars. Talk about false humility! I'm going to explain these faults to Elder Buick. I'm sure that he will know what to do."

The next Sabbath was again very cold, but this time the church parking lot was brimming with vehicles. Many of the cars, which weren't willing to start the previous Sabbath, chagringly chugged into the church lot this morning. The lot was so full that a few cars were parked right up next to the pastor's.

Brother Ford was overjoyed,

"Now's my chance to inform Elder Buick of the problems." When the opportunity presented itself, Brother Ford poured out his grievances to Elder Buick.

"I really appreciate your concern, Brother Ford. I'm sure these two cars could do more work for the Lord, but couldn't we all? It's very easy to notice someone else's faults. You know as well as I do that the other car's headlights always appear more glaring than our own."

"Yes, I see now. We should forget about what the other car is or does and concentrate on being a punctilious and faithful vehicle ourselves."

"That's right! Remember, a car may not have a polished outward appearance or may not seem to be humble and worthy for service, but under its hood may beat a motor of gold. That's the vehicle fit for service in the Lord's work."

"...for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7).

#### FAITH

"I don't believe"—I've heard it said

By those whose faith is nil—  
But they are blind to April

That blossoms on a hill.  
The miracle of springtime—

Each year a new rebirth!  
Our faith in resurrection

Is the dearest thing on earth.  
The magic of a flower

Blooming from the winter sod—  
How can they look at springtime

And not believe in God?

# Tell

# Me,

# Please

#### QUESTION:

*How long do you think the average minister's sermon should be? Our pastor preaches past noon almost all the time, and we get out quite late. I thought ministers were supposed to quit preaching at 12:00 on Sabbath morning.*

#### ANSWER:

Your question touches a subject on which I prefer not to commit myself!

It is difficult to know what an average sermon is. Further, I don't know how much time your pastor has to preach before noon arrives, because your question doesn't state when he gets started.

I detect that you spend most of your time in church waiting for noon to arrive so that you can get out and go home, or to wherever else you plan to go after church services. Should you decide to think about what your pastor is saying instead of worrying about when he is going to quit, you might find that the minutes past noon are not nearly as agonizing.

For the record, I suppose an average sermon should run from 25 to 40 minutes. How long a pastor speaks is of less importance than whether

#### Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



or not he has something important to say. If a minister has a message he feels his congregation ought to hear that extends a bit past closing time, those attending should stay and listen carefully. If, on the other hand, what needed to be said was given before closing time, there is no need to keep talking and repeating until closing time.

I must admit that some pastors habitually speak too long. It can be a faulty habit. Perhaps your pastor isn't aware of your feelings. Why not talk to him about it? The experience may do both of you some good.

#### QUESTION:

*This girl and I have been going out some, more often lately. We didn't want to go steady because we are hung up on our religious differences. Now she is saying that it isn't fair to her to expect her to go with me all of the time without some understanding. Am I being unfair? or should I consent to get more serious?*

#### ANSWER:

It seems to me that the more you are going out together, the less in-

(Continued on page 34)

LOGICALLY, in relationship to God's will or desire, there are some important things to notice. God in great wisdom made us as He wants us to be. It is illogical to think that we can improve on that creation by adding artificial color to such an extent that natural, God-given beauty is covered. The stated purpose (to make one look nice) is quickly lost as one becomes artificial looking; thus, rather than looking nice, one looks gaudy and made-up. We should keep in mind that God knew what He was doing when He made us and we need to accept His desire for us.

SOCIALLY, there are implications that we sometimes fail to recognize. Even though the use of make-up which gives artificial color has become somewhat socially accepted in our society, we should keep in mind that our society has not entirely shaken the concept that an overly made-up person represents immorality. Many times I have heard young men (both in and out of the church) remark, as they viewed a person wearing lipstick, eye shadow and "the works": "She looks like a prostitute." Keep in mind that this remark is not too out-of-place, because God uses these things to portray both spiritual and literal harlotry.

BIBLICALLY, we find opposition to make-up. Where? It is easy to feel there is little Biblical basis for opposition to lipstick, eye shadow, rouges and other forms of make-up. However, there is more in the Bible about this topic than meets the eye. The Jezebel story, which you no doubt tire having brought to your attention, is just *one* incident of "painting" that adds to the rest of the Biblical examples and overwhelming evidences against "make up."

Did you ever notice that God in several cases uses "painting" of the face and eyes to depict Israel when she had gone into whoredom? God uses this to show both the spiritual and literal harlot. Have you ever considered the reason Jezebel "painted her face" and decorated herself as she did? She made herself up as an immoral person in a last effort to save her life because Jehu was destroying all the house of Ahab, her husband. She wanted to entice Jehu by playing a harlot. Read 2 Kings 9 and especially notice verses 30-35. What about other Biblical examples? Jeremiah 4 describes the destruction of Jerusalem by a heathen nation. This catastrophe was to come upon them because of their spiritual harlotry, their idolatry. In telling of the fall of Judah, Jeremiah compares their wickedness to a harlot and her lovers. Notice the description of the harlot's made-up condition: "And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life" (Jer. 4:30).

By these examples we do not intend to say that every person who wears make-up in any way is immoral but these examples do show God's estimation of artificially coloring the face. Neither do we condemn cosmetics as a whole because there are many that may be used beneficially without causing one to add artificial coloring to one's countenance. We do, however, realize that God has given these things in His Word for a purpose and we should understand that purpose and apply it to our lives.

With these Biblical examples, along with the social and logical implications, we can clearly understand the Bible admonition as found in 1 John 2:15-17, as being relevant to the topic. It says: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. The world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Romans 12:2 must be our guiding principle in all things, including this matter of whether or not children of God should join the world in the use of make-up. "AND BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: BUT BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT, WILL OF GOD."

## Tell Me, Please

Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



### QUESTION:

*The Church won't allow the ladies that belong to it to wear the kind of skirts and cosmetics that will cause men to notice them. Yet, the men look at the other women who do wear make up and miniskirts. Is this the way it ought to be?*

### ANSWER:

Is that *really* the way it is? I wonder. It looks to me like some of the women of the Church have been and are still being noticed without the "tools" you mention.

Besides, are you sure that you would want the kind of attention that miniskirts and cosmetics attract?

If the men of the church notice the other ladies, as you suggest, it is probably a look of disapproval—if you'll forgive my tongue-in-cheek observation. Perhaps you have finally come up with an idea for a sermon on worldliness that can be directed at the men!

Try to believe me when I suggest that you probably are not going unnoticed. Should it be that you are, the short skirts and heavy cosmetics probably would not get for you what you think you want. The Church is really not that cruel. In fact, if you try to understand her position, you may soon come to recognize that she is doing you quite a kind favor.



himself. *No one will know.*

"Sure! Just a second. I'll put Dash in his yard first."

Randy swung the gate shut and ran to his waiting companions. They roared down the road. About half way down the big hill Buzz shifted into reverse and the transmission whined as the car swerved and started backward. Black marks stood out on the pavement where they laid rubber. The performance brought loud acclaim, so it was repeated again and again.

"You should see it take the curves," Buzz bragged as he swung into the ranger's trail that led deep into the forest area. There'd be no traffic nor patrolman on this stretch to spoil their sport.

At first Randy was exhilarated in the excitement of the ride. The laughter and wise-cracking added to the merriment and kept pace with the mounting speed of the car. Now Buzz was showing off. He shifted into second at the turn-around and started back toward the settlement at a reckless speed.

"Say Buzz, ease up a little," Randy began to squirm. "The road is narrow and you can't see very far ahead along these curves."

"Whatsa matter, kid? Scared? You ain't seen nothin' yet. Has he, Punk? Let's give him a ride to remember." Buzz's laugh was hoarse, almost fendish.

"Yeah, man! Let's go! We'll find out if he's got guts or not," squeaked Punk.

The car leaned into the curves. Loose gravel clattered against the back window. Buzz wasn't going to be talked out of his act now. He's going too fast—too fast for this road.

Suddenly a deer leaped across the road ahead of them. Shadowy figures followed close behind. The last one was distinctly black and white.

"Look out!" the boys screamed together.

"Stop! Stop!" Randy pleaded.

The car swerved and Buzz fought to keep it in the road. It careened from shoulder to shoulder. Finally he brought it to a halt. Randy threw the door open and sprang out.

"Go on," he shouted as he raced back up the road.

"Dash, here Dash, Come on, boy," he screamed out into the woods. Buzz and his pals took off and Randy was alone in the dark, mysterious woods. He alternately called and whistled for his dog.

Would Dash hear above the noise? Would he come back if he did hear? If the pack killed the deer and Dash got a taste of warm blood, would he be ruined? Old-timers said that if a dog started chasing deer, there was only one cure for him. Shoot him. Would all his love and training be lost—along with his dream of someday entering the dog trials? Why was Dash here anyway? Randy's mind went back to his hasty departure. He hadn't taken time to fasten the chain on the gate. Now he was standing there on the eerie woods trail, calling for his pet.

The barking was fainter now—farther away.

What a waste! All these months of discipline and companionship down the drain in just a few moments of hasty, careless disobedience on his own part. How could he ever have been allured by the shallow, immature prodding of Buzz and his cronies?

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Tell Me, Please

## QUESTION:

*I am a college student who feels that he is not accomplishing any purpose at this university. The university is doing nothing more than teaching me a profession so that I can enter the human rat race and try to earn a decent living. There is something more to life than just learning a profession in order to obtain worldly possessions. My life would be wasted, if I merely received a college degree and joined the struggle for worldly gain and riches, when there is such a great need for spreading the Word of God as there is today. What I am trying to ask is this, how can one know if he is really being called by the Lord to further His work here on earth?*

## ANSWER:

I presume that you are asking how one can know whether he is being called into the *ministry*. It goes without saying that every Christian is expected to "further His work here on earth."

Your use of this general statement is good indication that you have probably been wrestling with this question for a little while and have been shying away from what you

## Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



feel to be a call to the ministry. Your reference to the ministry, specifically, by the use of a general term is consistent with misgivings or indecision you probably experience.

It should be pointed out that a college student is frequently plagued with a restlessness that results from continual pressure. These demands give rise to terms like "rat race"—feelings of futility. It causes a youth to assure himself that there must be better things in life.

But, I will not dismiss your question as a mere and simple restlessness. I think that you have a dissatisfaction with your previously announced goals. You are fortunate, considering the many young people who seek the pitifully unrewarding goal of making enough money to have what they want.

I would suggest that you make plans to pursue the active ministry.

---

*If you have a problem, you are encouraged to write to: Aim, Box 158, Stanberry, Missouri 64489. Questions requesting a personal answer through the mail are honored, as well as those for print.*

## GROWING WITH DASH

(Continued from page 8)

—*Guess I should have drilled some of that dog-training advice into my own head,* thought Randy, turning dejectedly to start the long walk back home. —“If he falls in with bad company, he may come to no good;” —“Never let a command go unobeyed, not once.” What a knothed I’ve been . . .

A twig snapped nearby.

“Dash,” he called hopefully. “Is that you, boy?”

The familiar black and white figure trotted out of the underbrush and with drooping ears and tail, stopped a few feet from his master. Randy dropped to his knees.

“Come here, Dash, you rascal.”

The dog rushed into his arms, licked his face, whined and nuzzled his nose under Randy’s arm. Randy patted and hugged him unashamedly.

“We’ve had a close call, boy. Both of us. Come on, let’s go home. It’s a long walk, but we’re headed in the right direction.”

# The Flag

While every American citizen should know the proper methods of handling and displaying “Old Glory,” as a timely reminder we offer the following:



1. When the flag is displayed other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat.

2. The union (that portion which contains the 50 white stars in a blue field) should be uppermost, and to the flag’s own right; that is, to the observer’s left.

3. When displayed over the middle of the street, as between buildings, the flag should be suspended vertically, with the union to the north in an east and west street, or to the east in a north and south street.

4. Never use the flag as festoons or drapings; instead, use bunting.

5. Do not place any other flag or pennant above or to the right of the flag of the United States.

6. Do not let the flag touch the ground or floor, or trail in the water.

7. Do not put any lettering of any kind upon the flag.

8. Do not use the flag in any form of advertising, nor fasten any advertising sign to a pole from which the flag is flying.

9. Do not display or fasten the flag in such a manner as will permit it to be easily torn or damaged.

10. Remember, the American flag represents a living country, and is itself considered as a living thing, and should be so treated.

—Selected

This will mean more college work, of course, but it will be a pursuit of goals that will give you more satisfying reasons to study. The Church of God (Seventh Day) needs the services of more of her youth. I believe God is calling more of them, but too many are hesitant to listen. I doubt that there was ever a time when more satisfaction could be gained from serving God and His Church. Leadership is desperately needed and received with appreciation. The mood of the Church is excellent to those who have fresh ideas and approaches. Progress serves well those who love it.

Write to Midwest Bible College about your sentiments and tell them your status at the university. If you would like to correspond more with me personally, I would really like to hear from you. Please send your name and address, and I will be happy to establish a personal correspondence with you. If you are seeking a meaning and happiness in life that exceeds what riches can give you, you might as well have it. You are looking into the right direction.

---

## IN THE WORDS OF PAUL HARVEY . . .

The more of today’s school agers who abuse their bodies and misuse their minds, the less competition tomorrow for those who do not. The students who flee into sex, drink or drugs . . .

. . . The others who accumulate jail records . . .

. . . The others who link their names to dishonorable organizations . . .

All those who consume themselves with their own excesses are going to leave a lot of room at the top for the disciplined, dedicated, hard-working handful.

I wish every youngster could know the degree to which his today will shape his tomorrows.

—Selected

the dross, dissolve the barriers of selfishness, and promote in God's people courage, soberness and that greatest of all things, living Hope.

It is permissible for me to quote again, in this way: "What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are not nearly as important as what lies WITH-IN us." I don't recall the author or source, but it seems to me

to be a very important message, and especially to one in prison, where there is so little to sustain the spirit of goodness that all thinking persons would nourish.

May each reader of these few words take heart: when adversity strikes, accept it calmly, face it bravely, and try with all your heart to learn from whatever the situation.

## God's Great Love to Me

By Carol Coulson

In this great big world of ours there is much wisdom and power with men. In my short experience in life, I have found that there is even One that is greater than these—the Lord God is the greatest of all.

I can testify that God does love me and has loved me throughout my life. One experience with my God was at the age of eleven. The doctors said that I had an acute attack of rheumatic fever. I was quickly taken to the hospital and upon arrival was given my first shot for this illness. In the next two days several tests were taken and I received more shots.

After all this, there was no change in my condition. So three of our ministers came and laid hands on me and prayed for me. Someone in that room

had faith, because the next day when the doctors came to check me they could not find anything wrong as my God had healed me. The doctors, still in doubt, ran more tests and continued with the shots—23 shots to be exact—all in the one week in the hospital. After coming up with negative results the doctors said that I might as well go home, for God had truly healed me.

At the time of my illness, I hadn't thought much about God; but four years later at the age of fifteen, I repented of my sins, accepted my Lord and was baptized. In this God truly "did a wonderful thing for me one glorious happy day; God did a wonderful thing for me when He took all my sins away!"

# Tell

# Me,

# Please

Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



QUESTION:

*As I send this question, the time for the opening of colleges and universities is quickly approaching. I doubt you can answer this question in time, but it might be helpful for future reference. This boy I have been going with and I attend the same university which is more than a day's drive from here. We would like to ride together in a car, but it will mean that we will be on the road overnight. Do you consider that this is proper?*

ANSWER:

While I recognize that times change and many stuffy taboos are falling by the wayside, I must respond to your question by saying that I do not consider it proper for two young people who have been going together but are unmarried to take a two day's trip together in a car without any other passengers. You would be well advised to make other plans, either to get other passengers or to take the trip separately. What you gain in convenience here is hardly worth what you might lose otherwise.

QUESTION:

*A short time ago a Youth Team came to our church to present a program, and I was really impressed with the quartet. One of the members caught my eye, in particular, and I'm wondering if you could help me get in touch with him so that I could get to know him better. He can really sing!*

ANSWER:

I probably could, but I won't since this kind of activity is not in keeping with the purposes of the column. However, since it is his singing that impressed you, I would advise that you buy one of the quartet's records which can be had by writing to the Youth Department, Stanberry, Missouri 64489. A donation of \$4.00 will get you back in touch with the music.

*If you have a problem, you are encouraged to write to: Aim, Box 158, Stanberry, Missouri 64489. Questions requesting a personal answer through the mail are honored, as well as those for print.*

## QUESTION:

*I would like to have you comment on a problem that you have surely seen before. It happens all too often in our youth activities, including summer camps, outings, etc., that there are always two or three boisterous people whose behavior is uncomfortable and makes it look bad for the rest of us. We never have as much fun as we might because they can't control themselves. Because they always get into trouble, the rest of us lose liberties, and while they act like they are having more fun than anyone, they are really ruining everything for most of us. Is there any answer to this kind of problem?*

## ANSWER:

If there is an answer I would like to see or hear it. You describe people who are more of a problem to themselves than they are to you. Until their inner conflicts can be worked out, they will continue to involve others.

Most of these people are inner weaklings. They don't have the strength to respond to the discipline of those around them, so they try to make up for it by trying overly hard to impress others with their "courage" by ignoring rules and authority. They are sure that no one likes them, and so they constantly behave in such a way that their mis-

The most Christian thing anyone can do is strictly to mind his own business in regard to the private affairs of other folks. Nosey people just don't realize that their morbid curiosity about other human beings' behavior screams to enlightened minds about them, that these "snoopy" individuals are always "missing the bus" in their own pattern of living.

—Dr. Galen Star Ross

deed will prove their point.

The most effective cure lies with the group itself. Most of these boisterous youth delude themselves into thinking that the group appreciates their behavior, that it is only those in authority that disapprove. They conclude, that everyone feels like they do, that supervisors and counselors are only there to keep everyone from having a good time. So, they try to show their courage and gain acceptance by exposing their leaders.

Too often the groups are too hesitant to show their disapproval of the misdeeds of the unbehaved. If those who really appreciate orderly activities would make it real clear that they agree with the leaders, and that they do not appreciate the rowdiness, it would do much to curb this unpleasantness.

Young people who want to see camps and other activities run smoothly should get together and discuss amongst themselves how they can help to keep order and to support the leadership. They should determine how they can approach the boisterous young people themselves, assuring them that they are welcome and accepted without having to pull all of the silly shenanigans that only make things worse for everyone. If some of the overactive can be given positions or assignments of responsibility, it often helps.

# Teen Guidelines

## Forbidden Love

By Dorothy Best Rains



LINDA LOVED CHIP deeply. She knew he loved her too. But did this love bring her the natural joy which accompanies love? Did it give her satisfaction and a sense of fulfillment? Linda's love for Chip did none of those things. Instead it brought a sense of guilt, of secret shame. For Chip had been to reform school twice. His friends were older, rough fellows. Linda's parents forbade her seeing him. Even her girlfriends said she was *crazy* to fool around with him.

Love under a cloud is a difficult thing to deal with. Linda couldn't understand her attraction for Chip, and she was so ashamed of disobeying her parents that she couldn't talk about her problem to the adults who might have helped her.

Sometimes you may think yourself in love with someone with whom you should not be. If this happens to you, ask yourself honestly these direct, pertinent questions.

*First*, is this really love, or is it simply a youthful crush? During his sophomore year in high school, Jim considered the girls his age pretty silly. They

wore hair in exaggerated high fashion, and giggled over everything. In contrast, his American literature teacher, Miss Thompson, was a wonderful person to know. She read poetry to the class with her lovely low-pitched voice, and she opened to them new areas of thinking. Jim read more books that year than he had in all the former years put together.

Sometimes he stayed after school just to talk to Miss Thompson, and he found himself thinking about her nearly all the time. Jim wondered if this could be love. The follow-

will pile up in the busy schedule of college unless you have a definite plan. Be sure you do your share—and a little more. Live up to your part of the agreement. If your roommate is not a Christian and you wish to be a testimony to him, you'll want to be extra careful at this point.

Nancy came from a disciplined, orderly household. She hung up her clothes promptly. She dusted and dry-mopped her room at home every morning with the same regularity she employed in brushing her teeth. At college she roomed with Marybeth.

Marybeth's family had been very active in an evangelical church. They considered all other activities more important than housecleaning. Casual, relaxed living gave them more time for doing Christian work. Unfortunately, Marybeth's testimony was spoiled for Nancy. Even the sight of her roommate on her knees having her morning devotions infuriated Nancy. For the dust curls under the bed, and yesterday's wearing apparel on the chair were a sign of shocking untidiness to Nancy.

If at home you left your bed unmade some mornings, and if your mother had to hang up your clothes, mend your ways quickly. You're in college now. Neatness and good housekeeping habits count.

Families differ in other ways, too. In some homes, doors are slammed, voices are raised, and no one ever says "Excuse me," "Please," or "Thank you." Certainly they love each other. They just don't practice politeness within the family circle. Unfortunately, when a young person from this type of home goes to college, he may jar his roommate without even being aware of it.

Learn to be considerate of the person with whom you live. Don't type, play the radio, or eat an apple if your roommate is napping. Do you prefer to study late at night and sleep late next morning? College isn't scheduled that way. Better adhere to conventional hours.

Allow your roommate some privacy, too. Do *some* of your studying in the library. Don't read her mail, use her hand lotion or borrow her clothes. Maybe you and your sister sort of owned everything together. Well, your roommate isn't your sister.

Also remember that you're only rooming with this person—you aren't marrying him. Married couples frequently spend all their spare time in each other's company. They plan how to spend money together. They plan leisure time activities, rarely including others.

College offers an open door to all kinds of friendships. Don't limit yourself to nurturing one friendship to the exclusion of all others. Certainly you and your roommate should share some "fun times" together. But include others, too. Invite the kids who room across the hall to come over for a "feed." When the allowance permits, take the kids next door to the drug store for a malt.

Spend some leisure hours in the company of others without your roommate. Be as loyal to him (or her) though, as you would if you were related. Maybe your roommate has faults. Serious faults. Others have noticed. "How can you STAND Betsy's baby-talk!" a group of girls demanded of Betsy's roommate. "It's nauseating!"

Betsy's roommate concurred in—  
(Continued on page 29)

# Tell Me, Please

## QUESTION:

*Do you approve of wearing wigs?*

## ANSWER:

I know of no argument that strikes me as being valid against them. Some improvements shown in the use of them has me thinking that it can't be all bad!

## QUESTION:

*Do you approve of playing pool in a home? If so, it should be all right to play in a pool hall, and if that is acceptable, it would be hard to say anything against playing poker in a gambling establishment.*

## ANSWER:

I've run into your kind of reasoning before. It finds its success in two ways; first by categorizing it with behavior well outside the boundaries of acceptance, and secondly, by graduating it from possible innocence to atrocious repulsion. Let me state frankly that it is dishonest and unworthy of a Christian.

Do you think it is all right to kill a fly inside your neighbor's house? If so, if your neighbor's dog becomes a pest. can you kill him? Since a dog is man's best friend, can you kill your neighbor's friend if he should

## Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



happen to be human? This is the kind of reasoning you are using. If you say I can't compare the killing of a fly to the murder of a human, I contend that you cannot compare playing pool in a home to playing poker in a gambling establishment.

I say all this to let you know that unless you can approach this matter more reasonably, I'll have no comment to offer.

## QUESTION:

*I would like to know what is wrong with exchanging gifts, cards, or having children participate in Christmas plays at Christmas time, even though we do not believe in celebrating Christmas.*

## ANSWER:

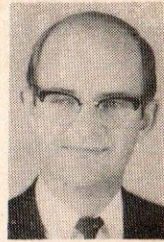
It appears to me that you answered your own question. If you don't believe in celebrating Christmas, then you ought to live up to that belief by not celebrating! I suspect that you find yourself in a position of wanting someone who shares your theological viewpoint to give you endorsement to make the compromises mentioned in your question, freeing you from having to stand by your decision by yourself. I cannot give this endorsement.

# Tell Me, Please

## Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



our sins, expressed deep regret to God for having committed them and have prayed to Him for forgiveness. It also witnesses to the fact that we are no longer going to continue our life of sin. Most young people, by the time they enter their teens, can understand this meaning of baptism.

The business of the Church is much like the business affairs that families carry on. It means that we must take great care in the financial obligations we assume, making sure that there are sufficient revenues to cover them. It has to do with the selection of people who can and will offer constructive leadership to a group. To do this he must have certain emotional and intellectual qualities that are recognized by those who have had responsible dealings with him. These matters must be taken care of by people who have had experiences that enable them to make good decisions. Those who are quite old enough to understand the meaning of baptism may not have had opportunity to be responsible for their own business affairs; and they have not had sufficient dealings with people who recognize one who has the qualities for good leadership. It is true that not even all adults have this kind of wisdom, but it is more likely found

among those who are older.

In the meantime, you are eligible to vote in your Sabbath school class or in your local F.Y.C. Here you can gain good experience in the exercise of your rights to help govern. You will be 18 and then 20 all too soon. Perhaps you might save this answer until then, and I'm quite sure that when you read it you will nod your

head in agreement.

I admire your eagerness to want to help govern the church. There are so many business meetings where I wish that there were dozens of older church members who would share your zeal instead of manifesting their regrettable indifference toward their responsibilities to help conduct the important affairs of the Church.

### QUESTION:

*At what age is a member of the Church eligible to vote? I understand it is 21. It seems to me that if a person is old enough to understand baptism, he is old enough to help govern the Church.*

### ANSWER:

Voting age for General Conference sessions is 20 (See the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), Article I, Section 4, last sentence). The Church Manual, under "The Local Church," Part I, Number 5, informs us that a member of the Church may vote in local business sessions beginning at age 18, although he may not hold a church office until he is 20. This does not apply to Sabbath school officers.

Your opinion that one who understands baptism is old enough to help govern the church is based on the conclusion that it takes about the same amount of maturity to understand baptism as it does to take part in the business affairs of the Church. I think you would find this conclusion open to serious question.

Baptism is a rite which signifies that we have put to death the man of sin. In practical terms, it is a testimony that we have recognized

## The Tour in a Nutshell



### TOUR ATTENDANCE

First-Night Programs	5,204
*Second-Night Programs	1,346
Total	6,550
First-Night Average	95

### INCOME

Offerings	\$3,445.18
Record Sales	2,430.00
Sweater Sales	1,551.50
Total	\$7,441.10

### EXPENSE

Gas	\$ 720.65
Mileage	600.00

### TOUR MEETINGS

First-Night Programs	56
Second-Night Programs	34
Total	80

Car Expense	300.00
Salaries for Elders Patchen and Lawson	1,500.00
Food	466.18
Motels	81.50
Dry Cleaning	175.35
U-Haul	185.00
Cost of Records Sold	729.60
Cost of Sweaters Sold	1,061.90
Misc.	264.00
Total	\$6,084.87

\*Second-night attendance was usually restricted to young people.

# My Calling to the Ministry

By Ken Merriam

My life on this earth consists of only a few short years. During these few years I have probably had more experiences in the ways of the world than many people twice my age. While I was out in sin I saw some things that made such an impression on my mind that I will never forget them. I have done some things in my own life that would make many people in the Church of God shudder in disbelief and horror.

My conversion means very much to me for two reasons. First, because it was so wonderful—a very real and unusual experience. Secondly, Christ did so much for me when He saved me that I will never be able to repay Him. After living in such sin and misery, I can appreciate more what Christ has done for me.

When I went back to school last fall, I had plans on going into a life of music. I was going to go to college, major in music, and become a teacher of music. I had thought of even forming my own band. One would think that with plans such as these, the ministry would be the farthest thing from my mind, but it wasn't. Every once in a while the thought of being a minister would pop into my mind but I would quickly shove it aside.

I enjoy music and singing very much; this is why I willingly joined the Challengers Quartet. When I joined the quartet I had no idea that we would be the group chosen to go on the Youth Tour this summer.

When Elder Lawson asked if we would consider going on the tour we naturally felt honored, and, seeing an opportunity to serve our Lord, we accepted his offer.

While on tour I felt the call even more strongly. I saw a great need for ministers in the Church of God. One night I was thinking about my plans for the future. While I was thinking, my thoughts wandered to my past. I thought about my friends back home who are still in the same situation in which I had been. I thought of all the churches we had visited that had no pastor, and again the thought of my being a minister came to my mind and this time I found that I could no longer push it aside.

My old friends need someone to come back and tell them of Christ and the happiness that comes from serving Him. The Church of God needs ministers, and I owe a great deal to my Lord. I feel that the only way I can even begin to repay the debt I owe to God is to become a minister. This is why I am here at Midwest Bible College.

# Tell

# Me,

# Please

## QUESTION:

*Everybody tells me that I should date Christian boys in the Church, and I would do this but there aren't any attending any of the nearby churches. The boys that interest me at summer camps and camp meetings usually live 500 or more miles away, which means that you get to see them once a year and spend the rest of the time waiting for the year to pass. I am 16 years old. I would like to date boys in the Church, but how can I if there aren't any?*

## ANSWER:

You share this problem with a sizeable percentage of the young people of dating age in our Church. This makes the problem real and sizeable!

I think that at 16 you have a right to date boys more than once each year. If there are no eligible boys to date who belong to one of the churches in your vicinity, you may have to accept dates from young men who do not belong to our church. But, this privilege carries with it some responsibility. If these are overlooked, you are courting heartbreaking difficulties.

1. Please make sure that your par-

## Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



ents meet the young man you date and know something about him. They should also know where you plan to go and when they may expect you to return from your date.

2. It is your responsibility to see to it that your relationship does not become serious. Your contribution to an evening's enjoyment should be a cheerful and grateful attitude, courtesy and interest. You are not obligated to show affection or to become involved in activities that lead to such.

3. If you sense that the boy you are dating is beginning to get a gleam in his eye that betrays some "planning," make it clear to him that anyone who aspires to win your affection must accept a package which includes your religion. This should not suggest that he join the church just to win you, but it is legitimate reason for him to attend and develop an interest. If this initial motive to become acquainted with the church does not lead him to full fellowship, you can always decide from there. In such a case, you must keep in mind that his rejection of the Church is a rejection of YOUR religion. A marriage built on that kind of religious difference stands little chance of working out.

4. Keep in touch with the church

boys you meet and like at summer camps and camp meetings. 500 miles is a relatively short distance for a romance to survive when the time is right. At 16, the time has not yet arrived.

I close this answer with what I consider to be a rather important clarification directed in a large part to parents. It is the thinking of many that any date should be considered a potential marriage prospect, and so they tend to be judged on that basis. In many instances this is unfair. There are occasions when it is appropriate for young people to have company

with members of the opposite sex without considering the escort(ed) to be a logical prospect for marriage.

There is assuredly a point in the process of dating at which one needs to consider the possibility of the relationship's leading to marriage, but it is not necessarily at the first date.

---

*If you have a problem, you are encouraged to write to: Aim, Box 158, Stanberry, Missouri 64489. Questions requesting a personal answer through the mail are honored, as well as those for print.*

---

## FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

# ... Into Every Nation



By John Lemley

As this year of 1969 draws to a close, I would like to share a very inspiring and informative letter from Sister Leila Henry, an active FYC'er in Kingston, Jamaica.

*"Precious greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus whose coming we are earnestly awaiting.*

*"There are sixteen local youth groups that I know of in Jamaica. The amount of people in each group varies; for example, Kingston has about thirty-five young people, while other churches have only two or three. The names and addresses of group leaders which I know are on pages three and four.*

*"I would like to give you a hint of the group in Kingston.*

*We meet every other Sabbath at 4 o'clock and every second Friday. Our program is made up of sermonettes, Bible drills, testimonies, and always a Bible study. This is always taught to us by a minister or adult member of the Young People's group. We usually have visitors who take part in our services. Letters are read in the meetings and group plans are made. We have a committee which comes at intervals to select officers and make big plans such as for our Rallies and Anniversaries.*

*"I am going to try my very best to encourage the Young People to write articles and testimonies to be published in AIM. I have received the package with the booklets and youth material. Thank you very much. I have been reading the booklets and they are very helpful in working to please God. The Manual is alright, unfortunately we can not get together for a meeting right away, but I spoke to the leader of the group here and he too plans to do something for the betterment of the group. Please let me have twelve 2T4G folders just now.*

*"Starting a leadership committee in foreign fields will help to bring us closer together. But, you see, Jamaica is not so much a fast-moving place as America. It is sometimes hard for one to get from place to place, especially in the country parts. If we go out on Sabbaths we will somehow have to get back to our home by Sunday to prepare for our work. So in Jamaica we would need quite a few people to do as much as one person in America, because we cannot get from one place to the other so easily.*

*"God bless your soul really good. Keep constantly in prayer for us."*

Your faithful sister,

Leila Henry

---

## SPRING VALE RECORD

A long play Hi-Fidelity record of music by the Spring Vale Choir, Boys' Quartet, and 2 Girls' Trios.

Send \$4.00 to Spring Vale Academy, Route 5, Owosso, Mich. 48867.

## SPRING VALE ANNUALS

1969 Spring Vale Yearbooks are available for \$2.00 from Spring Vale Academy, Route 5, Owosso, Mich. 48867.