

standards by comparing themselves favorably with others no better than they are. But the true standard is not those who follow Christ, but Christ Himself. When we compare ourselves with Him, none of us can be smug or satisfied. He provides a standard of judgment which continually condemns and yet constantly challenges us.

Then there is the other aspect of this comparison business. Seeing persons who are better, or cleverer, or handsomer than we are, we feel uncomfortable and inferior. Not that we are in open or secret competition with these folks, but we often feel as though we are. My worth does not go up or down in relationship to the one I am compared with.

All of us are familiar with a child's seesaw. Riding it, one child goes down as the other goes up. We use a "seesaw system" of evaluation for ourselves and others. On this "seesaw," we go up when someone else goes down, and we go down when someone else goes up. Our emotional position shifts in relationship to others. Having no true inner stability of our own, our estimation of our worth fluctuates according to the person we compare ourselves with. If they are inferior, we feel superior; if they are higher, we feel lower.

Meeting a man who is cleverer than I am does not make me stupid. I am as able to think and act as I was before I met him.

His talents do not diminish mine. It is only as I compare my ability with his greater ability that I arrive at an unfavorable estimation of my powers. Must I then find a man poorer than myself to feel rich, someone less proficient so that I can feel competent? Must they go down so that I can go up?

The truth is that each of us has his own essential value, his own rightful place, his own particular talents. Comparing myself with someone more gifted or less able neither increases nor decreases my actual worth to myself and others.

To measure ourselves by ourselves is, as Paul observed nearly two thousand years ago, "not wise." The true standard of goodness, by which all men are measured, is Christ. Compared with Him, I am not as good as I ought to be. Enabled by Him, I can be better than I am.

—Lt. Colonel Bramwell Tripp  
*in War Cry*

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#### TODAY

Today is all-sufficient for  
Our brothers' sorrows share.  
Today is ours, to live to love,  
The burdens we must bear;

Tomorrow never comes to us,  
And yesterday is gone,  
Therefore today is all of time  
We have to build upon.

Tomorrow is as far away  
As yesterday, it seemed,  
So put your shoulder to the wheel  
And do the thing you've dreamed.  
—Sunshine

# Tell Me, Please

#### QUESTION:

*I'm a teenager attending high school. Even at my age my parents don't let me watch some TV programs. I think I'm old enough to select my own programs. Why can't my parents trust me?*

#### ANSWER:

Your question tends to indicate that you have lost your perspective of the situation with regard to your TV viewing privileges. Your question suggests that with the exception of certain programs you are quite free to select what you wish to watch.

Further, it is not a matter of trust, but of proper guidance. You are old enough to know that a person must be selective in what he chooses to eat. Further, what he eats has an effect on his physical, as well as mental and emotional, welfare.

What you do not seem to grasp is that what you see works the same way. You become emotionally and mentally affected by what you see. This does not mean that a single exposure is going to bring about a big change, but constant exposure will. Young minds are extremely impressionable, and they need careful and conscientious guidance.

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I suggest that you control your resentment and stop exaggerating your restrictions. This will not only help you to reconcile yourself to the situation, but it may also help you to see how blessed you are to live in the home that you do.

#### QUESTION:

*The members of our family all attend church regularly, and all except for my little brother, we have been baptized and are members. But, you should hear the hollering that goes on at our place! Is it right for Christians to always be mad?*

#### ANSWER:

Thanks, anyway, but I'd rather not hear the hollering. It may help for you to realize that not everyone who hollers is angry. Some people are louder than others, but they are not necessarily angrier. Usually when people correct others they are just loud,

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when they correct me they are *holler-  
ing!*

I agree that yelling can become a habit that is quite unnecessary. It is too easy to fall into and too difficult to correct. You can help by asking whether or not your behavior is making it necessary for your family to speak in loud tones. It is amazing how difficult it is for some young people to hear requests that are spoken in softer tones. You might make an interesting offer to the other members of your family. Tell them that if they agree to speak to you with less volume, you will promise to listen with better attention. It may be the beginning of a new kindness to your entire family's vocal chords.

Anger is not necessarily unChristian. It is the object and endurance of the anger that makes the difference.

#### QUESTION:

*This girl and I have been dating for several weeks, and I'm getting to like her. She is good company, lots of fun, and conducts herself well. When I get home after a date I feel good. She has one problem; though, that bothers me. She is always late. She is never ready when I go to pick her up. She is late when we plan to meet somewhere. She never even gets to church on time. What can be done to get her to look at the clock? I know this isn't a serious problem, but it sure bugs me.*

#### ANSWER:

Tardiness is a miserably bad habit disliked by all including those who are always late. The habit is seldom cured because it is so difficult. Some could do better. Others simply cannot get themselves organized well enough to keep up with schedules.

Depending on how much this "bugs" you, you have some interesting decisions to make. If you like her well enough to put up with her discourtesy in keeping you waiting, you may get ulcers, but you also have the girl. If you think she's curable, you might buy her a clock for her birthday. If you consider that she will not change, and that you cannot avoid clashes over the matter, let me assure you that there are plenty of nice young ladies around who know how to tell time.

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#### BE SLOW TO CENSURE

Should you feel inclined to censure  
Faults you may in others view,  
Ask your own heart ere you venture  
If that has not failings too.

Let not friendly vows be broken;  
Rather strive a friend to gain;  
Many a word in anger spoken  
Finds its passage home again.

Do not, then, in idle pleasure,  
Trifle with a brother's fame;  
Guard it as a valued treasure,  
Sacred as your own good name.

Do not form opinions blindly;  
Hastiness to trouble tends;  
Those of whom we thought unkindly,  
Oft become our warmest friends.

—Author unknown

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#### TRUEST MEASURE

Some measure their lives by days and  
years,

Others by heart throbs, passion and  
tears.

But the surest measure under the sun  
Is what in your lifetime for others  
you've done.

—Ruth Smeltzer

By Nolan Rincker

Can  
You?  
... How  
Much  
Do You  
Want  
To??

During a Bible study with a person who is well-grounded in his beliefs, even though they are not the truth, would you be able to disprove his beliefs and present the truth? As you know, many of these people read and study the Bible zealously, at least the scriptures that *seem* to uphold their doctrines. Would you be able to show the truth of the Bible to them? Have you taken the time to study the wonderful truths of God's Word so that you can "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear? (1 Peter 3:15)?

While in the stockade at Fort Hood, Texas, for refusing to participate in the carnal warfare machine, I made friends with seven fellow prisoners who were Jehovah's Witnesses. Through our Bible discussions, I came to realize that my knowledge of Bible truth was too limited to enable me to explain these marvelous truths adequately. I knew I had the truth; I was convinced of it myself; yet, I simply lacked the deep understanding one needs to en-



of her fellow citizens. Salmon, who was close beside her, took her arm and led her along.

"Don't look," he cautioned. "We'll soon be outside the city."

The little company made its pilgrim way to the safety of the Israelite camp. Rahab's brother glanced back toward Jericho. "Rahab, look," he shouted, "the city's on fire! Such a blaze!" He nearly stumbled, trying to walk backwards in order to watch the inferno.

"Come along, son," said Salmon gently. "You must look ahead. Forget Jericho and all it stood for."

Salmon and Jason saw them all settled in a tent at the outer edge of the camp and then returned to Jericho.

When the battle was over, and the city burned, the armies returned victoriously. With them they had brought the gold and silver, and vessels of brass and iron which were put into the treasury of the house of the Lord.

Salmon brought Joshua to meet Rahab, for the great leader wished to see the woman responsible for hiding his messengers.

"It is an honor to meet you," Joshua smiled at Rahab.

"Oh, no, Sir," replied Rahab humbly, "the honor is mine." Then, after a moment of hesitation, she inquired, "Would you permit me and my family to remain with your people for a few days before we go on our way?"

"Go?" echoed Salmon, a blank look stealing over his face. "Go where?"

"I know not," said Rahab, eyes downcast. "Somewhere where I can begin life over again. I cannot im-

pose on your kindness to me. We will leave as soon as we decide which is the best way to go."

"What's wrong with staying here?" Salmon asked, strangely disturbed at the thought of their leaving.

Joshua rose and stood looking down on Rahab. "God has used you in a marvelous way to give us the city of Jericho. It would not be seemly to cast you out after you have helped us in this manner. The camp of Israel is your home as long as you prefer to make it so. You are welcome here, my child."

"Please stay," added Salmon, his eyes speaking the words that his lips might one day utter. "That would please me greatly."

A dreamy look came into her eyes. The future reached out welcoming arms to enfold her. "Praise the God of Israel," her eyes shone with unshed tears. "I will stay. I want to learn to serve Him, too."

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#### OUR DEBT

The debt which we owe to living cannot be paid by wealth;

Nor can it be paid by wishes, or through the loss of health.

The debt which we owe to life can be paid by acts and deeds—

Deeds of love and acts of mercy fulfill life's daily needs.

—Everett Wentworth Hill

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#### OUR PREACHER SAYS:

Add to the pleasure of others.

Subtract from another's unhappiness.

Multiply the joy of sharing.

Divide the good things that come our way.

# Tell Me, Please

#### QUESTION:

*How does one know when he is called to the ministry? I feel God is calling me, but I want to make my "calling and election sure." Early in my sophomore year of high school I felt God calling me. Before that I had made plans to enter another profession.*

*Developments were such that I found the call slipping from me. In college I continued to study for this other profession. Now I can no longer maintain interest in the courses I am taking and can think of little else other than serving God fully in the ministry. Do you have any suggestions to offer on how I can be sure of this calling?*

#### ANSWER:

If those of us who talk about a call to the ministry are describing this compulsion accurately, your letter is an excellent description of one who has the symptoms. I know of no one physical or emotional experience that would indicate to one and all that a divine call to the ministry has been received.

While one reads and hears much about the call to the ministry as a

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qualification for training and development in that field, the Bible does not offer a specific pattern or stereotype for such a call.

I do not mention this to minimize the importance of the call. I do suggest that it leaves one ill qualified to describe what the call is to others. Few of us have had the kind of call that the disciples received directly from the Master or the spectacular arrest of Paul on his way to Damascus. Lacking this we also lack a graphic Scriptural description of our own compulsion to serve in the gospel ministry. However, an aptitude for ministerial work, a deep burden for people in general and for God's Church, and a willingness to serve may well indicate God is calling you to full-time service in His Church.

It appears, then, that there is no way for me or anyone else to absolutely assure or deny the call that another experiences. I can only say that if I felt as strongly attracted to the ministry as your letter reflects, I would waste little time in proceeding to train for this important and rewarding vocation.

I will be watching for and awaiting information of your decision.



feel foolish before others because of their Christian life?

Some tend to feel extremely uncomfortable when declining to participate with those who invite them to a dance, to a movie, or to a party that promises to be "wild." Do you worry about being thought of as a "square" (or worse yet, a "cube")?

How about when a discussion comes up in class at school about the Bible, the church, or the origin of man? Do you meet such circumstances with courage and a kindly spoken, but firm, testimony for the truth of God's Word? Or do you live in constant dread of the day when you will be called upon to "stand by your guns" against the majority?

Does it bother you that sooner or later you will be questioned concerning your convictions on various forms of worldliness? Does the possibility of being ridiculed and called "old-fashioned" because of your standards of modesty and purity worry you?

Maybe these very things have been bothering you for a long time, but you haven't spoken to anyone about them.

Here are some things that I feel will be of help to you in gaining victory over this tendency to feel foolish before others over spiritual matters.

First of all, realize that the consecrated child of God must be willing to be looked upon as a fool for Christ's sake. The apostle Paul felt that he and the other apostles were "made a spectacle unto the world..."

That's it, young people—for the Lord's sake... for His smile of approval—for His wonderful cause—for His glory and honor—for Him we are willing to suffer the jeers, sneers, and leers of the world. We know that Christ is by our side, holding our

hand, stiffening our backbones to boldly stand for Him. I love that song that goes, "I never walk alone, Christ walks beside me, He is the dearest Friend of friends to me."

Yes, it is possible to live before others without shame through the strength which Christ gives us.

If this is a worry of yours, then pray about it. God has promised to deliver us from temptation. So take Him up on it. Pray for more love so that you will want to stand up for Him when occasion calls for it. Pray for more courage to be able to speak and live for Christ in a telling way.

And lastly, stay in there and *try!* God will reward the faithful, diligent, persistent effort when it is for His cause.

Young Douglas Mawson was on the scientific staff of Shackleton's expedition to the Ross Sea coast in the Antarctic from 1907 to 1909. He is remembered today as the first man to reach the south magnetic pole.

In 1811 Mawson led his own expedition and during this had a nerve-racking graze with death. While on a 311 mile trek with two companions, he lost one man and most of his supplies in a deep crevasse. The other died of privation a little later.

Alone, Mawson fell through a snow bridge hiding an unfathomable crevasse. His sledge became stuck in the snow above and Mawson was left swinging, suspended on the end of a 14 foot rope. He pulled himself up to the surface only to have the snow give way and send him crashing back again.

"I hung on with the belief that all was over but the passing," Mawson recounted.

He pondered slashing the rope and  
*(Continued on page 34)*

# Tell Me, Please

## QUESTION:

*Article Number 34 of our doctrinal beliefs condemns worldliness. It goes on to say that Christians should not patronize such places as movie theaters, pool halls, etc. Can one play pool in a home or in a service club (I am in the Army)?*

## ANSWER:

It would appear that your question seeks to find out whether playing pool in a home or service club would be a transgression of the article of belief. If applied literally, the answer would be "No." The statement of doctrine does not condemn *playing pool*, it states that Christians should not *patronize pool halls*.

Before too much blood pressure goes up, I readily confess that my literal interpretation may not necessarily be in keeping with the spirit of the statement of belief. My answer is adequate, however, to someone who quotes a law to seek out his curbs and liberties.

Realistically, one must recognize that gradual changes do sometimes occur as a certain practice or sport takes on more dignity. Bowling has undergone such a change. When I was in high school, entering a bowling alley would have been a bit

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like going to shake hands with Satan. Nowadays many of our youth organizations enjoy the fine recreation that bowling offers.

However, no one ought to take this column in hand and run to a pool hall suggesting that he has backing for such behavior. He doesn't have it from me! The stigmas identified with pool halls have far from vanished.

Whether or not it might be acceptable to play pool at a service club is something I cannot answer. I know nothing of service clubs; what they are for, who patronizes them, or what goes on there. I must observe honestly and forthrightly that compared to the compromising situation in which one finds himself being a member of the armed forces in the first place, the question of whether or not he should play pool at a service center seems of relatively little consequence.

I must close my remarks with an expression of appreciation for your concern about activities that may reflect adversely on our Christian witness. I do not mean to consider it lightly. Any church is most advantaged when our young people are interested in these important matters!

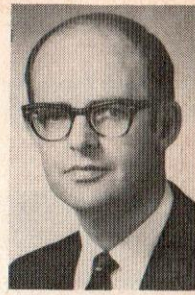


# Tell Me, Please

## Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



### QUESTION:

*I guess I'm kind of a night owl. At home I am told that nice boys and girls don't stay out until "all hours" of the night. Frankly, I can't see what the time of night has to do with being nice as long as we behave. The time of night that I'm expected to be in seems early to me, and I would like to know what is so awful about being out late. When do you think a respectable teen-ager ought to be in at night?*

### ANSWER:

It is difficult to know what you or your parents consider to be late. For some young people there is no such hour. For some parents, it becomes late soon after sundown. Both of these viewpoints are extremes, and I do not know where the viewpoint of your family lies between these extremes.

Your question which requests my opinion about what time of night a teen-age person should be required to be back home is also hard to answer. There are numerous situations which could affect this, such as the type of activity in which one is engaged, the distance from home that must be traveled, the individuals in the company, the ages of the people

involved, with their willingness to accept responsibilities, etc.

There are several important considerations involved in this rather difficult question about how late you should be permitted to be out at night. Let's consider some.

I note in your question that you may have reservations about the value of the statement that "nice boys and girls don't stay out until all hours of the night." This actually bears a certain truth which deserves your attention.

One might ask, "Just what does a nice young lady and gentleman do for some hours after most activities for the evening have ceased? What nice deeds are performed then?"

You see, at night there are a great many questionable activities that go on which would not be done during the daytime. Temptations to go astray quite normally become stronger as the hour grows later.

Parents are aware of the fact that during very late hours, businesses have shut down, most medias of recreation and entertainment have closed; that it is unlikely that you do chores between midnight and sunrise, or that you walk around innocently enjoying the muted sounds of the night. It is easy for parents to become uneasy—

and you should be thankful for that!

At night one cannot see very far, due to the darkness. You would do well to remember that this is also true symbolically. There is a tendency to commit deeds that rob untold pleasant hours and comfort from our futures. Foolish acts are done because folks are unable to see ahead to the danger that lurks. The wise person learns that darkness can be an enemy of good. In the natural and spiritual sense, nighttime is of advantage to the enemy who creeps up on us during the darkness. Do not dismiss these statements as "old folk" talk, or a mere poor attempt at poetry.

It is to be recognized that there are occasions when you will be attending worthwhile functions that are some distance away with those whom your parents know. It is presumed that you will be in late. On the other hand, it is reasonable for your parents to estimate a time when your activities for the evening should be ended and expect you in reasonably soon afterwards—quite soon when with someone your parents do not know well, and perhaps not quite as early when you are with someone in whose good discipline your parents have ample confidence.

There is another important consideration on this subject; that of our own health. While it may not seem important to you now, it is

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quite necessary for any youth to get sufficient rest. Normally, young people need more sleep than do their parents. Without it, it is impossible to be alert during studies or at work. This robs a person of his efficiency. When he does poorly, it is difficult for him to be encouraged about the future. Many attitudes most important to your future happiness and well-being are formed during high school years and those shortly following. Drowsiness and fatigue scratch ugly scars into otherwise bright futures. Many people rest so little at night that they are not awake enough during the day to enjoy it! What a sad predicament to fall into.

Perhaps it cannot be expected that you will always agree with your parents concerning a reasonable time of night to be home. But, I hope that all parents and their sons and daughters recognize that as long as they live together under the same roof, the parents may reasonably expect obedience on this matter. You may disagree, but you may not disobey—not if you consider yourself a person of good behavior.

Even though these problems cause struggles, be patient. I can practically guarantee that in a short time you will appreciate the opportunity to be in early, and you will wonder why you had such a yen to stay out late at night.

Feel free to talk to your pastor about this matter. He will understand your circumstances. He knows your immediate situation better than I do, and he will give you answers that will be more reasonable and satisfying to all concerned.

—Reprinted from  
July 1965 AIM



send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37, 38). I don't believe the job of winning souls to the Kingdom is just for the ministers. It is for every Christian, regardless of his or her age. Those of you who are in high school and college can witness to your classmates. Do they know you are a Christian? Do the people where you work know you are a Christian? If they don't you had better ask yourself, "Why not," and then

do something about it!

"To whom should I go with the gospel?" I should go to whomever will listen. I should tell my family, friends, neighbors and classmates that Christ died for them. I should be ready to show them from God's Word why many of my beliefs differ from those generally accepted in the religious world. If I fail to do this, their blood will be required at my hands (Ezekiel 3: 18-21).

## On With the Message

On with the Message! On with the Light!  
On to the regions still shrouded in night,  
On to the nations which never have heard;  
On with the life-giving, soul-saving Word.

On with the Message! Message of Pow'r.  
Message to meet ev'ry need of the hour.  
On with the Message o'er land and o'er sea;  
On with the Truth that can set sinners free.

On with the Message! Carry it on.  
Millions in darkness still pray for the dawn.  
Millions for whom Christ's own blood did atone  
Die in their darkness, unreached and alone.

On with the Message! Haste thee away;  
Soon cometh night, haste thee on while 'tis day  
On with the Message, by love's passion stirred  
On, till each creature of Jesus has heard.

On with the Message! Strive more and more.  
Soon will the days for proclaiming be o'er.  
On to all length, to where none have yet gone—  
On with the Message! On, on, and on!

Wesley Duewel

# Tell Me, Please

### QUESTION:

*In our doctrinal beliefs it is stated (Article 19) that one's body is God's temple and as such he should not defile it. Should we therefore refrain from drinking coffee, tea, and cocoa which have caffeine in them?*

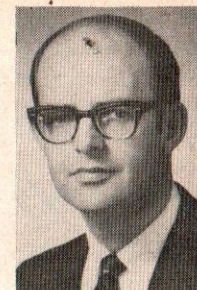
### ANSWER:

If it could be proven that the amount of caffeine taken in when drinking the three beverages mentioned in your question are defiling, no doubt the article of belief you cite could be applied. The problem would be to offer authoritative evidence that these drinks are defiling.

To make sure that I would not take your question lightly, I checked with what I consider authoritative sources concerning the effect of caffeine on the body when taken in the amounts found in coffee, tea and cocoa. Contrary to their being considered defiling, these sources seemed to imply that, taken in temperate amounts, the stimulus offered by caffeine to both heart and kidneys was probably therapeutic. I am in no position to put up any such defense for these beverages, but it does indicate a considerable weakness in the contention that they are unhealthful.

### Youth Questions

answered by  
Ray L. Straub



### QUESTION:

*Every now and then I get into a situation where someone offers me some ham or pork or bacon to eat. I don't believe in eating unclean meats, but I find it hard to refuse offers of food from friends I respect and who do not know about my belief. I hate to be discourteous. Doesn't the Bible say something about, "eat what is set before you"? Does this mean that I can eat this meat in order not to cause offence? I'm sure there are other young people who have the same problem.*

### ANSWER:

Those who *really* do not believe in eating unclean meats will not eat them even when offered under the circumstances you describe. To respectfully refuse such food is not being discourteous, especially when it is done on the basis of religious beliefs.

Please keep in mind that I am speaking of meats which are obviously identifiable. This answer does not apply in cases where someone has written to companies inquiring about ingredients. That is another matter which is barely related to your question and would demand more extensive comment.



The verse you refer to is 1 Corinthians 10:27. It has no reference to unclean meats. It has to do with meats that had been offered to idols, as is stated in the following verse. Eating meats which were offered to idols was offensive to some but not to others. Whether it was right or wrong was a matter of conscience. This circumstance differs much from that where a clear-cut prohibition is involved.

It is usually difficult only the first time to politely refuse to eat unclean meats. After that it will be much easier, and you will feel much stronger and more peaceful inside.

#### QUESTION:

*I suppose you have been to summer camps. Why is it that there are always so many rules? It gives the impression that the campers can't be trusted? Wouldn't it be better if the counsellors just trusted us?*

#### ANSWER:

You are right, I have been to summer camps. At some of them there were practically no rules. I can tell you why rules came about.

Camp rules never apply to those who can be trusted. They are im-

posed because there are those who insist on indulging themselves in behavior that is unacceptable to the group as a whole. Rules *protect* those who can be trusted.

The people who do not like rules are usually the very ones who bring them into being. They cause constant attention to be focused on them and force their rigid observance.

For example, if there were four children in a family and none ever took cookies without asking, there would probably never come a rule restricting access to the cookie jar. As soon as one member assumes special privileges by snitching extra cookies, causing the supply to dwindle too fast, causing unfairness to the others, etc., a rule arises that one cannot have cookies without asking. Who caused this regulation to come into effect? Was it the three cooperating children, or the sneak?

Camp rules come about to protect the cooperative majority from having the undisciplined few threaten to ruin the camping experience. The better the discipline, the less there is said about rules. In some camps one would hardly know rules existed because excellent behavior on the part of all campers removed the need.

#### HOW TO FEEL BETTER!

When you have nothing else to do, sit down and write a letter—a cheerful note that probably will help someone feel better. Not in reply to mail received, nor any word you owe, but just a friendly greeting as your pen begins to flow.

Remember someone, with whom you wish you were together, and tell him how you are, and what you think about the weather. Put in a little word of praise (a pat upon the back), and soon you will discover you have lightened your own pack.

You do a gracious deed each time you mail that kind of letter, and by the “act of charity” you, too, will feel much better.

# The

# "Elder Son" Generation

By Mary Holbert

Are you a member of the “Elder Son” Generation? If you are, what special consolation is yours?

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is a familiar one. (Read Luke 15:11-32.) The emphasis is upon the “Younger Son,” and his father, but there is an “elder” son too. In recalling the details you will remember vividly the younger son’s accepting his share of his inheritance, wasting it in riotous living, until circumstances reduced his status to being envious of the food he fed to the swine—feeding swine being the job he found when he was in want. In this low state he finally came to himself and realized how he had failed the test of being a worthy son.

All of the parables of Jesus evoke strong mental images. This parable does this too, for you can see the younger son, returning home expecting to ask forgiveness and to become a servant in his father’s house, only to be greeted by a compassionate father who accepted his younger son as one who was dead, but now alive; lost, but now found. The father rejoiced and felt the best none-too-good for this son.

Then came the reaction from the elder son. He frankly was angry and would have nothing to do with this—what to him seemed—an uncalled-for celebration.

To digress from the parable for a moment, let us think



Greg agreed. "But the concert stage isn't shallow. Your music can bring happiness into the lives of many people."

He was telling her she had to make her own decision. That wasn't the answer she had hoped for.

"It is my decision," Diana admitted to herself. "And no one else can make it for me." If there were only some sign, some guidepost to point the way.

Diana shuddered when Miss James told her Mr. Horn was coming to hear her play graduation night.

"I know it is a bad time, but you will be good," Miss James declared confidently.

Diana was not so confident. No matter how technically perfect she made her playing she didn't feel her music.

On graduation night she stood before her bedroom mirror looking at the girl in the beautiful white dress and prayed, "Dear Lord, help me to play well tonight."

Soon she was outside the auditorium watching the other boys and girls go in. Was she, among all of them, destined to serve Jesus?

As she sat down to play that night it was impossible to tell which of the faces before her was Irving Horn's.

She knew her music perfectly. She knew her technique perfectly. Yet she didn't know if she was playing well or not.

"I won't let it matter," she promised herself as she slipped into her cap and gown backstage for the diploma ceremony. "If he tells me I'm terrible, I won't care."

Right after the ceremony Diana rushed to Miss James' studio. Irving

Horn was standing by the piano. He was a handsome, white-haired gentleman. Miss James was not there.

"I'm sorry you had to come so far," Diana apologized. Then whispering, "Maybe it was a waste of time."

He was gruff. "Nonsense! If Mariam James says a performer is good, he is good. You play well, Diana.

Diana waited. He had given her only part of the answer.

She already knew she played well. She also knew playing "well" was not enough for the concert stage.

"Is that all?" she asked, almost afraid to hear his answer.

Mr. Horn seemed in no hurry to answer her directly. "I once knew a girl who practiced five hours a day from the time she was seven until she was nineteen," he said. "Today she has two children and considers herself just an average housewife."

"Are you trying to say my study has been wasted?"

"To be a great musician you must play with your heart," he replied kindly. "Your playing lacks that quality of greatness."

Irving Horn's face blurred before her. She wasn't good enough! She knew now that she did care.

"Your study hasn't been wasted," Mr. Horn went on, but she wasn't listening. "Your music can still be a great source of happiness to you."

Diana wavered for a moment, then she turned rudely away and ran out of the studio. Tears were rolling down her face.

It was her heart that told her where she was going. She was going to church.

When she got to the church Diana  
(Continued on page 26)

# Tell

# Me,

# Please

## QUESTION:

*What do you think about getting involved in peace demonstrations? War is not the will of God, and so I think that the young people today on college and high school campuses are right in demonstrating against war. Do you think we ought to go along with them?*

## ANSWER:

War does not represent the Will of God, to be sure! Our church stands firmly opposed to participation in it. She did so many years before any of these modern peace movements came about.

I consider that the demonstrations to which you refer are the product of a social mania and are rejected by anyone who values clear thinking. To fight for peace through producing hysteria makes about as much sense as trying to reduce by eating as much fattening food as possible.

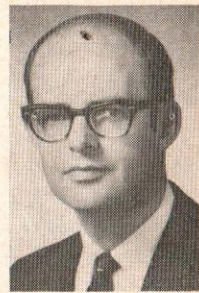
Because these young people do not think, they fall prey to hair-airy demagogues whose lusty eyes grow fat through trouble-making. If most of these young people got the kind of life they are demonstrating for, they would bitterly regret it.

Peace comes from above and then from within. People who love peace

## Youth Questions

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live that way. It is the only way to demonstrate for peace. I'm thankful that there are so many more other young people who are apparently aware of this.

## QUESTION:

*I've been going with this boy for only a short time, and the other night he surprised me by offering me an engagement ring. My parents don't like him too well, mostly because he has already been engaged two times recently. I kind of like him, but it seems to me he is coming on strong. Do you think I should accept his ring?*

## ANSWER:

It appears that this answer probably will not make it in time, but I would say, "No." You listed enough reasons in your question.

Don't worry about your friend. He is used to having that ring handed

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back to him, and he'll find others to give it to.

QUESTION:

*What can a girl do when a boy is always asking her to prove her love to him—you know what I mean? I have gone out with fellows who bring this up, and I like to go out with them—up to this point.*

ANSWER:

There is no way to prove the pres-

ence of love. Any boy who asks a girl to prove her love by giving in to an illicit relationship proves two things: (1) he does not love her or he would not ask such a costly and unreasonable favor, and (2) he is not too smart. You are better off with someone else or no one.

Hey, fellows! A lot of these "lines" end up with nooses which will tighten around your neck! You are not old enough or smart enough to start associating with young ladies until you know where to stop.

## The Contented Flowers

The flowers seem to have a great deal to say to us on the subject of "contentment." Some flowers grow in greenhouses, where great care is taken of them, and they are protected from the cold. Everything is done for them that can be to make them grow and flourish.

Some grow in gardens, some in fields, and some in strange out-of-the-way places, where no one ever sees them, and where they are never gathered, but are left to grow as well as they can, and then to fade and die.

But no matter where flowers are found, they are satisfied with the place that God puts them in, and they try to make the best of it. Sometimes a flower finds itself growing in an old broken teapot, or in a wooden box in the garret window of some poor old woman who lives in the crowded court of a great city; yet it never frets or worries about its position. If it does not get fresh air and sunshine, it can't grow much. But if it can only get plenty of these, it will try to grow, and look green and beautiful, and bear the very nicest flower that any plant of its kind can bear. And when we see the flowers growing so beautifully in strange, wild, desolate, and disagreeable places, they seem to be preaching to us about contentment. They tell us that God has put us where we are and what He wants us to do is not to fret and worry about our situation, but to be satisfied with it, and try to do the best we can in it.

—From "Nature's Wonders," or "God's Works Praise Him."

By Richard Newton

## Gospel Around



## the World

By John Lemley

*"I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry" (Psa. 40:1).*

Since 1965, when Jewell Linville became foreign correspondent, until a few weeks ago, it has been the continual prayer of this office that our letters to India would be answered. When a letter was received the above verse came to mind and praise to God rose from our lips. At long last India has formed another link in that chain that we want to encircle the globe.

Brother Ginzamung Israel gives us the following insight into the Church of God activities in Manipur, India:

*"Manipur is situated on the border line of India, Burma, and Pakistan and is very suitable for the purpose of evangelization. Because of financial insufficiency here, we are working*

*every man as the Lord stirred him. The Church is composed of mainly poor people, e.g. the maimed, the lame, and starving ones. Though we are few in number the Lord is leading us and the country is shaken by the doctrine 'once delivered unto the saints.' We are like beams in the eyes of all denominations. They are being burdened with this small remnant as it is in Zech. 12:2, 3. The church, by the mercies of the Lord, is developing from time to time, and they are willing workers. Things are run by voluntary workers.*

*"It is hard for us to reach the southern and central parts of India. I went with Brother V. Israel once to West Godavari and Tenali. We took the trip by train by fasting six days up and down 12 days almost. Elder P. Joseph, the overseer, will know our condition, how we reached and leave*



got so involved in our softball game that they burned the soup. We're really roughing it out here at Candle Lake. They have a power unit which is in operation from about 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Elder Nimchuk keeps forgetting to shave at night. If it weren't for his car plug-in, he'd soon look like a grizzly. Elder Paul Chalus from Calgary must have a better memory or else he's used to shaving at night. A fellow camper from across the line never



saw an icebox before. We've got 'em here! This is Thursday and I'm sure we'll always remember the great "Snipe Hunt" we went on last night. It's raining right now. We had a regular storm during the meeting tonight. Winds about 60 mph; hail, rain—we had it all. You should see the whitecaps on the lake. Someone said it rained 'cause Elder Nimchuk bought a bathing suit and he wanted a chance to try it out. The rain let up a little and we had a wiener roast down by the beach after service.

Love,  
Charlie



DEAR MOM:

It's Sabbath night and the final meeting is over. We go home tomorrow. You know, I'll be glad to see you; but I'm also a little sad to realize that camp is about over. We've had fine preaching and classes all week. Elder Camero spoke to us at this final meeting. We had a youth rally first. One of the highlights of the week was the special music by the Cameros, their nephew Frank, and Orene Walker. We're going to be talking about this camp for a long time to come. And we're already planning on attending the retreat in Minnesota in December, Lord willing. I'm sure there were several kids who raised their hands stating they'd like to be prayed for and to get to know the Lord better. We had to close our eyes so I didn't see who they were. I know there was at least one, 'cause I had my hand up—way up high! We don't have many campers; but we like to think we have "quality" rather than "quantity." See you soon.

Love,  
Charlie

# Tell

# Me,

# Please

QUESTION:

*Should a girl get married before she is 18, if she is really in love?*

ANSWER:

Generally, no. It probably is not love that is causing youth at such a young age to consider marriage. It is physical attraction. Love has patience and can wait until sufficient maturity can give more assurance that a marriage is well-advised.

Young people would be better off if they would quit thinking about the possibility of an early marriage until they are old enough. Please remember that you deny yourself much more when you marry too early, than what you deny when you delay marriage for two or three years.

QUESTION:

*What is wrong with kissing on your first date, even if you do not know the friend too well?*

ANSWER:

What's right about it? This question suggests that you would rather like to kiss everyone you go out with. Soon your handshake will show more affection than your kisses!

Contrary to what many youth assume, it is *not* good to be too ex-

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perienced in the various activities preparatory to love-making. The more experience you show, the less of a prize you are. The biggest bums in the necking crowd are those who know most about it. You may not believe it now, but six months after your marriage (probably much sooner), you'll be wanting to join us in cautioning other youths about this matter.

QUESTION:

*How old should a person be before he begins necking?*

ANSWER:

Old enough to know better. Necking is a natural expression of a legitimate affection. It is no way to become affectionate, nor does this activity belong to those who like necking better than the person they are squeezing.

Forget about necking. Find a person you can appreciate and like. Be dignified and grown up in your growing friendship. Be considerate, courteous, unselfish. Culture a respectable relationship that you can let anyone watch without fear or shame. In these moments you will feel tall, clean, and adult. Too many youths are getting no more than their necks wrung by necking. (Reprint from 1965 AIM)



have something left of this "similitude" to Christ, and it is because of this "hope" that Christians continue to seek and save the lost.

Too often, however, even Christians shun the presence of certain individuals who may seem "way out" to us because of their differences in dress, hair, etc. On the other hand, we will associate with so-called Christians who are actually like the Pharisees—only pretending to be Christians (Matt. 23:25). But is this Christlike? We must be careful lest we, too, are hypocritical in our attitudes toward others by ignoring them. Would Christ have nothing to do with sinners? No! Instead, He *knew* there was hope for them since they were made in His image; so He went to them, and saved them.

One example of Christ's teaching on this can be found in Luke 18. He had more sympathy for the all-out sinner—the Publican who had rejected the "Jewish establishment" to collect Roman taxes—because he was not hypocritical. He was honest with himself and with others. This may have been his only Godly trait, and yet Christ loved him and helped him. On the other hand, He had little pity for the Pharisee who strikingly resembles modern "Christians"—very faithful to God on the outside, but maybe not so on the inside. In fact, he was too busy praising his hypocritical ways to help the searching publican.

Jesus Himself ate with sinners—even in His own home

(Matthew 9:10; 11:19). Since He is our example, should we not be willing to do the same? This does not mean we uphold their ways, but instead only realize we cannot help them if we walk past them, figuratively speaking, with an upturned nose and a "no-touch" attitude! We must not enforce a caste system!

It is only when we stop being hypocritical Christians, and recognize sinners as human beings, building up their good (taken from God) traits, that they will accept us. Then, and only then, can we bring them to Christ and His ways.

Let's follow Paul's example: "Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing *both* to *small* and *great*, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, *and to the Gentiles*" (even the spiritual ones!) (Acts 26:22, 23).

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#### TIME WILL SHOW

Youth may lend a pretty face,

But time will show each fault  
Like allegorical designs

Carved on an old-world vault.  
Deep inner grace in time shows  
through,

For those who love their duty  
Will find—or other people will—  
That they increase in beauty.

—Alice Franklin Bryant in  
Young People.

# Tell

# Me,

# Please

#### QUESTION:

*Where should young people go on a date?*

#### ANSWER:

See your pastor about this, or drop me a line. It is difficult to make suggestions for every area. There are a few general principles to keep in mind.

Church is an excellent place to take a date. You may not think so offhand, but it has the advantage of bringing out the best in each other. It will find you thinking and doing more worth-while things. When you part after the evening's activities, you will feel cleaner and happier.

Also, consider activities that will satisfy your better selves, such as musical concerts (good music), and other media of dignified nature. These will mature you, enlighten you, and make you feel delightful together. When young people go on dates and carry on activities that are doubtful and demoralizing, they end up feeling miserable. If you do something worth-while, you and your date will like each other better, and you will feel the date has been valuable.

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#### QUESTION:

*Should young people of our church date young people who do not belong to the church?*

#### ANSWER:

In numerous localities there would be no dating by our young people if they could not date someone outside the church. Occasional dating outside the church, though not ideal, must be expected. A youth would do well to keep his head and remember that under these circumstances, no serious courtship should develop until the matter of religious differences is resolved. If it cannot be resolved when interest in each other is new, it surely cannot be resolved more easily when the differences cause greater hurt.

Young people who have no other youth of their church to date should make special efforts to attend church events which bring our young people from various areas together, such as summer camps, camp meetings, church schools, etc. These offer excellent opportunity to meet others of their age group who are of the same Faith.

(Reprint from Dec. '65 AIM)





Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub

# Tell Me, Please

## QUESTION:

*You probably don't run into my kind of problem. I want to go to church, but my parents hardly ever get me there. They promise, but when it's time to leave for church they start arguing, or they find some excuse not to go.*

## ANSWER:

What irony! Most parents have a struggle getting their children to church. You have a struggle getting your parents there.

God knows your problem, and you can be sure that He is concerned. He is asking you to be patient only because He knows you can do it. Keep trying to get your parents to take you to church, because you are right in wanting to go, and all of you need to be there.

Keep praying. Don't let discouraging circumstances at home take away

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your faith in a Heavenly Father Who loves you.

Try to contact the pastor of the church you like to attend. I am sure that he will consider it a delight to be of service to someone like you.

## QUESTION:

*I have a real good job, and up to now, working on Sabbath has not been a problem. I just found out that I have to work on Sabbath once in awhile after receiving a promotion. I can't afford to quit, because we wouldn't make it financially. I don't think I have a choice (whether or not I work on Sabbath when asked), do you?*

## ANSWER:

Whether or not you have to work on Sabbath depends on the kind of god you serve. If yours turns his back on you when you run out of a job, you have no choice.

Some good friends of mine worship a God that promises to take care of His own, whether they are in plenty or not. In fact, He has been known to test the faith of my friends only to present them with more after the test than before! It would be great if you got to know HIM!

er Nssien's orphanage, and submit a recommendation regarding affiliation.

## FYC ACTIVITIES IN IKPA-EKET, NIGERIA

**"May God bless you in Jesus' wonderful name! This is to let you know that the Youth Materials have finally arrived. I have sent in the form with 28 FYCers who want to organize. We love to work together with you and for our youth here to be Faithful Youth Challengers with all of you in the United States. So many youth are coming to the church here that we need more youth materials and tracts too to help us evangelize. Our main project now is to try to take care of the orphans. My wife and a widowed sister are wearing themselves out with the orphans. Three of them are sick because of hunger. They have not enough food and all we can give them is loving care. Please help us with the rest."**—E. T. Nssien

## JUST TOO MUCH MUSTARD!

There is a story told about a countryman who lived way back in the mountains, who was in the city for the very first time. He went into a restaurant and made up his mind to have something fine, whatever the cost. He saw a man at the next table put a little mustard on his plate and he said to himself, "That must be fine and expensive, he has so little; but no matter what the cost, I want some."

So he told the waiter to bring him a dollar's worth of "that stuff." A plate of mustard was brought. He took a big spoonful; it bit his tongue. He spit it out and did not want any more.

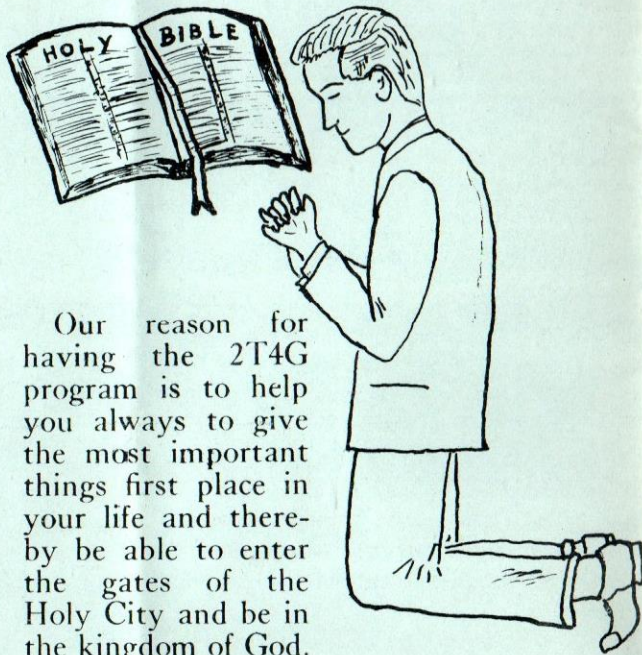
So, we too, ask for things that if our heavenly Father should give them to us, we would only be bitten by them and be glad to get rid of them. We ask for so many foolish things. If we should get them, we would not know what to do with them.

"Ye ask and receive not because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:3).—*Horace Walker*



## THE PURPOSE OF 2T4G

The most important thing in any of our lives is for us to stay close to God—and never stray from His wonderful way, and miss His glorious Kingdom. If one thinks that this statement is not true, he should be cautioned that less important things may be taking the place of the most important things in his life. However, it still remains that the eternal things of God and His Word belong to first place in the life of each of us.



Our reason for having the 2T4G program is to help you always to give the most important things first place in your life and thereby be able to enter the gates of the Holy City and be in the kingdom of God.

Reading your Bible every day and praying to God will keep your spiritual life strengthened and will help you to be a real overcomer. Earnest participation in such a program as this will certainly be of special benefit to you.

We invite you to join us in the 2T4G program. If you have any questions or problems, feel free to write to us or ask your pastor.

## Tell Me, Please

### QUESTION:

*I hate school and want to quit. There would be nothing illegal about it. I'm old enough, but my parents won't let me. Why do I have to go to school when I don't want to? It's not doing me any good, and I'm just wasting my time.*

### ANSWER:

You may think you are wasting your time! If you quit school you will know you are not only wasting more time but a lot of your life as well. Most young people are not real excited about having to go to school, but they have the maturity to accept it as being necessary.

Apparently, you have made the mistake of allowing yourself to dream about getting out of school to make some money. You may have become enchanted with this prospect while school has become progressively disenchanting. It is too bad that you allowed this to happen to you because you are steeped in thinking that is not realistic. You have your eye on some dream bubble that will burst as soon as you try to step into it.

Someone who lacks the responsibility and stamina to make it through

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school will hardly hold the kind of job that will get him anywhere. The misery you may experience now is but a fraction of the misery that will haunt you if you drop out.

I suggest that you recognize school for the necessity that it is. Make the best of it. Quit struggling with your parents because they are right. Get some fiber into your existence and will, and show a few people in this world what you can do. You may well be the most surprised.

### QUESTION:

*I am strongly attracted physically to members of my sex. It scares me, if you know what I mean. What do you think I should do about it?*

### ANSWER:

I urge you to discuss your feelings with your doctor soon. You need professional help in analyzing these feelings.

*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.*

stand by the rod, and increased in heights was higher than any fore. Her face shone so it must have caught it angel, who smiled so I really envied little everyone had kind of Betsy before. As the the book he said, 'I poor in spirit, for the dom of heaven.' The on and our minister under the rod.

"I knew he would and he did. The an beautiful are the fee bringeth tidings of god eth salvation. They t unto righteousness sl the stars forever."

"Then I began to for I knew that I had ample to others and turned anyone unto rig ter I had joined the somehow lost my inte things, but I thought on going to church said my prayers every the Bible when I cc then I would be doir necessary for a your had never concerned growing in grace so I ble, lest my name sh next.

"But just then Harry was called and I tho mark would be alm mine for I had never h up for Christ or to p the way of righteousn ways a quiet kind of fe in for another surpris ured nearly as high as



ings. There is a good possibility that your fears are unfounded.

If your fears are confirmed, you need to know as much as possible about the life you face. There are complexities involved that can lead to much grief if you get hold of bad information. Be careful about accepting advice from anyone, including members of your family and ministers, unless you are sure they are sufficiently knowledgeable about this matter to qualify them to advise you.

If you are not satisfied with the information given by the doctor, either ask him to refer you to another doctor or find another yourself. This may take some courage, but it will be worth it to you.

#### QUESTION:

*Our youth class in Sabbath school is dull! What can be done to make it more lively and interesting?*

#### ANSWER:

A class is dull because of the behavior of the people in it. If those who compose the class liven up, your problem will be solved.

It is true that youth classes, especially, are more subject to becoming uninteresting. Young people need a good relationship with their teacher so that they will feel at ease in asking questions and offering opinions.

How about discussing this with your teacher? I am sure that he would welcome any suggestions that the members of his class may have that will contribute to the value of the time spent in Sabbath school.

If you are hesitant to do this, or if it accomplishes too little, talk to your pastor. He will not be content to settle for a dull youth class, if he is aware of the situation.

## Look Around You...

By Judy Renz

"Until tonight, I was unable to figure out why everyone thought Stanberry Youth Retreats were so great. It seemed like any other retreat... inspiring sermons, fireside services, admonitions to remain active and alive, moments of quiet meditation. Of course, these mean a lot, but something was lacking to make the retreat outstanding. Tonight made the difference—there was an overflow of the Spirit in testimonies that touched the hearts of all."

The miracles of God often-times seem insignificant and unimportant except to those experiencing them. What is a miracle? Many defined that word in a short and simple testimony

without even realizing it...

A miracle is God's healing touch providing relief from an "incurable" affliction. A miracle is receiving a letter concerning attending Midwest Bible College on the very day of a prayer asking God's guidance in one's life. A miracle is finding the truth in a world of sin and corruption. A miracle is being freed from the web of worldliness. Life, with all its beauty and mysteries, is God's miracle.

But God's Spirit did not leave the group after these testimonies; it only brought a keen awareness to all of His *daily* miracles.

Laughter, something few regard as a miracle (but could any other word better describe the smile that lights an entire room?), filled the youth at the retreat. Feathers drifting lazily to the floor testified of a recent radical pillow fight. Boys hang-

ing from the rafters rescued blankets and other items draped there by mischievous girls. Ketchup splattered the walls as several engaged in a good-natured (?) feud. Two figures were seen dashing up a large tree. Is it not a miracle that God has given us freedom from the doldrums of life?

God's miracles surrounded our very being. His nature was ours to behold in every move—especially as several undertook a hike to the lake. Barbed wire fences, muddy streams, and briar bushes guarded it carefully. But we knew the trip was worth all the hardships as we gazed at the sky lit by diamonds and their twinkling reflections in the calm water. So peaceful—truly a miracle.

Miracles... Look around you... If you fail to see any, make plans to come to the Stanberry Youth Retreat next year.



*In the warmth of a "fireplace" atmosphere, young people sing praises to their Heavenly Father.*