

You have been taught right from wrong because people have been concerned about you. By this time you are old enough to recognize that this has been good for you, even though it restricts your dating plans. It is too late for you to throw this over. You cannot have a good time while your conscience is hurting you. If you want an enjoyable date, be sure to select activities that will not force you to hide—from yourself and God.

There are worth-while places to go that are of cultural value. When dating, keep your tastes high. It will give greater respectability to your relationship and will add to your own broadening. Good sense used here will cause you to become increasingly more thankful as the months and years pass.

There are undoubtedly school activities which are both allowable and enjoyable. Usually, when one takes his attention from the activities which his religion does not allow, he can find other events that are quite wholesome for young people.

Not too many youthful daters seem to realize that the places they attend largely gov-

ern their behavior after the date. This is why such activities as dancing and frequenting movies can be explosively dangerous to young people dating. Base appetites and desires are so intensely aroused that propriety is disregarded.

On the other hand, time spent in more cultural, wholesome recreation or religious activity will more likely lead to cleanliness, maturity and respectability.

It is important that you counsel with your pastor about this matter. Activities which are allowable vary from place to place, and it would be impossible for me to say what might be offensive in another locality. Your pastor understands your problem, and he will help you solve it.

If I may be of further help, drop me a line.

From April '64 AIM

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.

POWER WITHIN

Life for God in public is a mere sounding brass and tinkling cymbal unless it is balanced by life with God in SECRET. It makes a great difference whether we are going out, in a kind of social knight errantry, to live for humanity on our own motion, or whether we have met with Jesus Christ in secret, and we go forth with His commission and promise at our backs, and with His love and inspiration in our souls.—*Grace and Truth*

Seven Thousand "Have - Nots"

By Dorothy Nimchuk

"Hi, Bart, come on along," called Rod. "All the gang's going over to Gene's after school. He's promised us a real cool surprise."

Bart looked genuinely sorry as he shook his head in the negative. "Sorry, Rod," he said. "I told Mom I'd pick up a few things from the store for her. She's feeling so miserable these days that she is unable to get out. I can't let her down."

In spite of Rod's continued urging, Bart held his ground and right after the last bell rang dismissing classes for the day, he headed in the direction of Shop-Well's Discount Store. Maybe if he hurried, there would still be time to take the groceries home and run over to Gene's for a few minutes.

But when Bart arrived home, his mother was worse and he stayed home and straightened the house. By the time he finished, it was nearly supper time. He peeled some potatoes and sliced cold beef from a leftover roast. His mother came out to the kitchen and set the table. She looked pale and drawn.

"You are so good to me, Son," she smiled. "What a comfort to know you are here."

Sadness filled Bart's eyes as he thought of his father. The home seemed rather empty since the funeral just a few short months before.

The ringing of the phone sharply brought Bart back to the present.

"I'll get it," he said, pushing his mother gently back into her chair. "It's likely Rod."

"... Boy, you sure missed a good time," Rod's voice was excited. "Can't tell you about it on the phone though. Meet me at the Drug Store at eight."

"I'll try." Bart was thoughtful as he replaced the receiver on the hook and made his way back to the kitchen. What could be so secretive?

Supper over and homework out of the way, Bart left the house and made his way to the corner store. Rod was there ahead of him, and there was a stranger with him. Bart had a sudden feeling that he should turn

possessions, but instead find that their wealth breeds a lust for more wealth—and peace is far from them. The man in Luke 12 built greater barns for his goods and sat back, saying, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease." Read the account and see how great peace his goods brought him, "Their silver and gold shall not be able to deliver them..." (Jer. 7:19).

Then there is the hippie philosophy which creeps throughout all "youthdom." Their lips speak of love, peace and brotherhood, but what are they doing toward these lofty goals? Their "love" means "love me," their "peace" means "Don't bug me," and their "brotherhood" means "tolerate me" and "extend to me the benefits of the establishment I despise." Many try to deny another of the needs God built into us—the need to work. The God who told us to rest on the Seventh Day said also, "Six days shalt thou labor." There is no way around it that affords peace.

We have examined some of the "no-nos." What then is the way to peace? It is stated so simply in Proverbs 3:2—"Keep my commandments: for length of days, and long life and peace shall they add to thee." God knows how we are made. Only He knows what things will bring us peace and He has written them in His commandments. There is no other way. He tells us this over and over again. "Great peace have they that

love thy law" (Psa. 119:165). "Righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Psa. 85:10).

But how can man, born with a carnal nature, keep a perfect law? God has provided for this through the influence of the Holy Spirit. And even when this is bypassed and sin does occur, He has provided reconciliation through His Son. When Christ was born in Bethlehem, the angels sang, "Peace on Earth, good will toward men," for through this child would man who had sinned become at peace with God once more.

Isaiah knew there was only one way of peace when he wrote these words of worship—"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee" (Isa. 26:3).

Young person, you are beginning a lifelong quest for peace within yourself. A psychiatrist who headed a mental institution was asked what was the most common factor among his inmates. The majority, he said, were there for one of two reasons: they were not appreciated, or they were trying to live by two sets of standards at once. It cannot be done. The decision for God or the world must be made and only the right decision will bring peace. We are at God's mercy, for He has made us; He has the victory; He cannot deny Himself.

The next time someone casually flashes you the "peace sign," remind yourself that there is only one way. "Acquaint thyself with him and be at peace" (Job 22:21).

Tell Me, Please

QUESTION:

I am dating a girl who does not attend our church. We have the problem of not knowing what to do on a date or where to go. Our church is against so many things, and my girl friend doesn't particularly like to go to our church meetings.

ANSWER:

This question arouses my deep sympathies, because it *does* present a problem. Some might suggest that our young people should not date those outside the church circles, but I don't consider this to be a realistic attitude. Remember, I'm talking about dating, *not marriage*.

Many of our church groups are still quite small. In some cases there are not enough young people in the local church for dating purposes. In other groups, our young people grow up together (often closely related), and are so closely acquainted that there is little desirability to date each other. Because one finds himself belonging to a small church group, he

Youth Questions
answered by
Ray L. Straub

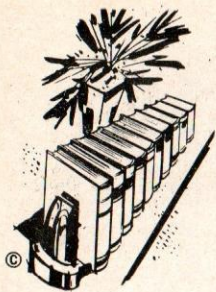


should not be denied the pleasure of dating.

The question suggests one serious difficulty. The girl friend does not appreciate church services, which I suppose would include youth meetings. What kind of girl is this? If she belonged to a religious persuasion which denied her the right to frequent meetings of other denominations, there would be less reason for concern.

If your girl friend just doesn't care about attending religious services, I would suggest that you thank her for her frank opinion and consider dating someone else. You feel you can get her interested in church? Perhaps so, but you had better find that out quickly. She is probably hoping that she can get you away from church.

You will need more activity for dates than going to church. Our church is against doing a lot of things, but for this you can be thankful! This factor has saved many young people from ruining their lives years before they have had a good chance to build them.



Book Review Corner

by Jessie Truman

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS GOD?

by Richard L. Harding; Moody Press; 96 pp.

The year of 1968 was charged with tragedy and excitement. Presidential candidate, Senator Robert Kennedy, was assassinated. Chicago rocked with the violence at the democratic convention. In the religious realm, Martin Luther King was shot to death and the Catholic Church was in a critical disagreement over the question of birth control. Can man find a formula for successful living in such a world of unrest and violence? This is the issue facing the multitudes today.

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SCROLLS OF HOPE

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a personal, daily relationship that we are motivated, not by a feeling of duty or obligation, but by a true, heartfelt desire to serve Him Who has done so much for us.

I might suggest that for some the "Evangelette" program may be a striking solution. Many have found

it so. This program sets for you goals and guidelines which can help deter your "putting off" those things which you want to accomplish.

Perhaps all that is lacking is making some sort of a plan for ourselves. We may well apply here the old adage—"Plan your work and then work your plan."

Regardless what your individual answer may be, you will find that as

you renew your relationship daily with Him and actively search for ways to serve, Christ will become such an integral part of your life and your thinking that you will be *compelled* to speak of Him and to share Him with others.

—"Communicating His Son in '71."

TELL ME PLEASE

(Continued from page 27)

an inordinate sexual hunger. I would guess that your activities are getting too intimate, and this is crowding out any sense of objectivity about what is best for you.

When you are together you would do well to stop wanting self-gratification and get back to thinking of each other as your future wife and husband. At one time you had enough respect for your proposed marriage to insist on marrying someone who was chaste. Why drop that worthy objective now?

If you continue and stumble, you

are liable to be bitterly disappointed with the experience. You will find that it was not love you expressed, but selfishness. It will be a breach of your mutual trust that is capable of bringing bitter frustration and accusation into your married life. Since you are smelling the smoke why not get away from the fire?

A DREAM COME TRUE

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and even bought an FYC sweat-shirt! Now tell me, what better witness for a retreat is there than that? This emphasizes the fact that camps and retreats are not just for the young people who are fortunate enough to attend. They are for everyone—the local FYC, the church as a whole, and, in fact, everyone with whom these young people come in contact. Truly this camp was a dream come true—the answer to many prayers.

MARK OF MERIT

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God bless each of you and have a good year in 1971. Accomplish something for your Lord this year.

"given her eye teeth" if he would have asked her for a date. But no doubt he had heard remarks of some of the fellows. Such fellows love to boast of exploits, and even exaggerate a little. Instead of giving a girl love for which she is so hungry, they inflict the worst wound she can receive.

So Gerry remained aloof. As she wondered about it, she began to take a painful re-appraisal of her life. It hurt her when he began to date Judy. Why? How could he be seriously interested in Judy? She was not as pretty as Anne—anyone could see this.

She had often accused Judy of being snobbish because she did not seem to care that she was not "in" with the crowd. But Anne began to realize that she was "in" with the most outstanding boy they knew. All the girls were casting longing glances in his direction, but he had eyes only for Judy, whom all of them held slightly in contempt.

In due time Judy and Gerry were married. Their home is today a shining example of love and dignity.

After Judy unbelievably "walked away with the prize," Anne's heart was heavy. Gerry was just the type of fellow she had dreamed of marrying. Though he never paid much attention to her (except to speak courteously), she had loved him from afar. Or, maybe she just loved his fineness. Many bitter tears did she shed in secret over lost purity, which she thought may also have been

the cause of his lack of interest. She was to shed many more through the years.

She was more blessed than some, because, in time, Jack began to notice her. Her former "friends" had long since dropped her, when she began to try to regain her lost self respect. Apparently Jack had not heard any of the remarks. Her past "friends" had no time for her now, and she was forgotten in their interest in girls who were more "fun," and less "square."

Jack was not handsome and by comparison with Gerry, was actually quite dull. But he had the quality of faithfulness and devotion. He never behaved in a way that was less than gentlemanly. But with the dream of someone like Gerry in her heart, it was a long time before she could feel anything but a friendly interest in Jack. In time, however, his faithful devotion, his consideration, his fineness began to get through to her heart.

She felt very unworthy of his devotion, and at times was tempted to throw aside her attempts to regain her self-respect. At such times she would think, "I am no good anyway! Why not have a 'good time'?" But Jack's patient devotion acted as a deterrent to such thoughts. He believed her to be perfection itself. She *couldn't* let him down! It would be like slapping an innocent baby! She found her heart more and more drawn to him until the night when he finally gained courage to ask her

(Continued on page 22)

Tell Me, Please

QUESTION

Soon we will be having our school prom. Actually, it is only for the seniors. My folks won't let me go because they couldn't. They also talk some about the dancing there, but I don't intend to dance. I really want to go. Would you explain to my folks why it is okay?

ANSWER:

Your question indicates that you are being willful. You don't want any answers; you are only wanting me to help you have your own way. I would advise that you apply some brakes to your determination and spend a little time listening.

Your parents are not withholding their permission just because they could not attend their high school prom. That conclusion is unfair. Your little mention about dancing gives the real basis, but you attempt to compromise this reason by promising not to dance.

When you say that you will not dance, you obviously agree that you ought not to. If you go so far as to admit that you should not dance, why do you blame your parents for asking you not to go to a dance? It seems to me that they are being reasonable, and you ought to be

Youth Questions
answered by
Ray L. Straub



mature enough to recognize it.

I see popular, attractive young people who miss their school prom. They seem uninjured by it. It will cause you no damage to miss either. In fact, since you accept the prohibition against dancing, I would think that you would be better off to drop the issue of attending the prom and give in to the better advice of your parents and your conscience.

QUESTION:

Do you think there are any young people in the church who get turned on by drugs?

ANSWER:

Young people affiliated with our church are as lively and as curious as any youth. There is widespread use of drugs among the younger set. Given these conditions, it would be reasonable to assume that some young people have at least experimented with drugs.

I have not been apprised of any serious drug problem with the young people who attend our church. I would hope that almost all of them are aware of how irresponsible it is to experiment or handle them. To begin with, it is criminal. In addition, there is medi-



Judy Jarwin and Pam Dais are enjoying recreation period.

summation of past, present, and future plans for the National FYC. The highlights of any camp are not complete without the mention of sports. We had, without a doubt, the dirtiest (or should I say, muddiest) football game ever played. Those not willing to engage in

the "mud bath" busied themselves with basketball, volleyball, and hiking.

Many times our youth camps and retreats are referred to as a spiritual rejuvenating center. Most of the time we are talking only about our young people—Church of God young people. The best testimony for the California retreat came not from one of our campers, but from the permanent director of the camp. As director of the camp for approximately five years, he has come in contact with many groups. He attended several of our services and expressed his amazement at the friendly cooperation and enthusiasm displayed by our campers. As a result, he asked the location of our nearest church

(Continued on page 33)

"Honest Abe"

When he was twenty-four years of age, Abraham Lincoln served as the postmaster in the little frontier, log-cabin village of New Salem, Illinois, for which position he was paid an annual salary of \$55.70, relates *The American Mercury*.

Although the New Salem post office was closed in 1836 it was several years before an agent arrived from Washington to settle accounts with ex-postmaster Lincoln, who by that time was a struggling lawyer who was not doing too well financially.

After a careful examination of the books, the agent informed Lincoln that a total of \$17.00 was due the government from receipts of the post office. Lincoln crossed the room, opened an old trunk, and took out a yellowed cotton rag bound with string. Untying it, he spread out the cloth, and there was the money—exactly \$17.00!

Young Lincoln had been holding it, untouched, for all these years; and when the agent expressed surprise, Lincoln commented, simply, "I never use any man's money but my own."

Tell Me, Please

QUESTION:

We got our grade cards the other day, and my mother got all shook about mine. Let's just say they were worse than others in our family even though I didn't consider them too bad. Dad wasn't as upset, but he helps my mother with the nagging. What's so important about good grades?

ANSWER:

You asked the right person. I agree that all too many parents place excessive emphasis on grades received at school. Grades alone are not an accurate indication of intelligence, aptitude nor even achievement in a given field. They do give some indication of a student's ability to get along with his teacher, his cooperation with the class, his willingness and/or ability to grasp what the teacher is attempting to communicate, the teacher's judgment concerning the student's willingness to match his achievement to his abilities, etc.

A scramble for top grades is good if a student wants them. If he wishes to go on to college and a profession, he had better want them. I don't feel that parental insistence on good grades for the sake of comparison within a family or to other families is warranted.

Youth Questions
answered by
Ray L. Straub



A student should be cooperative in the classroom and he should apply himself to his studies. He should make a reasonably good effort, even when he is not particularly fond of the subject. Your parents have a right to insist on this, and they should. Beyond that I see little need for applying pressure for the vain purpose of seeking status or glory.

QUESTION:

I am engaged. I fully intend to marry my fiance. At times we get real close to going all the way in expressing our love. While we both feel that we should wait until after marriage, it is getting to seem less and less important. We will be married in a few months, anyway. Do you consider that our situation might be different?

ANSWER:

How is it different? Does your weakening resistance turn the evil you have been avoiding into a virtue? Is it different because the devil prods others but you are receiving divine permission?

That is not love you are wanting to express. You are merely tantalizing an appetite to the point of developing

(Continued on page 33)

Tell Me, Please

Youth Questions
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QUESTION:

Don't you think that homework is important enough to miss church for? I'm referring to evening services during the week, such as prayer meetings, revival meetings, etc.? My parents usually allow me to stay home to do school work, if I am pressed, but sometimes I wonder whether I am doing the right thing.

ANSWER:

I'm pleased that you bother to ask. It seems that most junior high students and up have concluded that a church service never preempts homework—in fact, it hardly preempts anything!

Let me ask you a question. If your girl friend (boy friend) came over to see you, would you allow an hour or so for her (him)? Or would you greet her (him) and after exchanging pleasantries ask to be excused to do your school work? If you would, you have given your school work some real priority, and your need to miss evening church services is a bit more believable.

I see a lot of young people who do lots of homework, have plenty of extra-curricular activities, get excellent grades, and still attend week night services at church. Frankly, I'll

have to be convinced that attendance at church services prevents a good student from getting acceptable grades at school due to lack of time for homework!

Going to church during the week is not for the careless, lazy, or fanatic. Let's face it. To go to church during the week takes lots of dedication, and it's tragic that so few have what it takes!

QUESTION:

Our church is really dead. When we plan a youth activity, everything is always left up to the same few to take care of. I'm getting disgusted. To make it worse, hardly anyone shows up. How can some life be pumped into our church?

ANSWER:

I would sure hate to be nearly dead only to have a *disgusted* doctor attempt to administer to me! That

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kind of an attitude might make death seem more attractive!

It sounds to me like you and the group with whom you worship are in a rut. Your activities lack imagination and enthusiasm. You are going through motions to produce a "service" that has no message, meaning or feeling. You are not serving God nor yourself; just tradition.

Begin revival with yourself. Put out the flames of your hostility, and begin doing something nice for people. Show them that you love them and are concerned about them. Pray that God will allow His love to flow through you.

Encourage the participation of others. Invite them to share their opinions, planning, and performance. While we always want to offer the

best in a church service, it is still important that each youth try. God looks on the heart more than on the performance.

Get your imagination in gear. Just because a project worked once, don't beat it to death by repetition.

Life is pumped into youth groups by activities outside the walls of the church. If you can, you should be visiting and singing in rest homes, visiting the isolated, raising funds for foreign fields, having work days at the church or the homes of those who cannot do their own chores, etc. You are not a group of performers, you are representatives of God, loving and serving His people. When you turn into this direction, you will be alive. God never forsakes those who stand ready to serve Him.

The Faith Trio

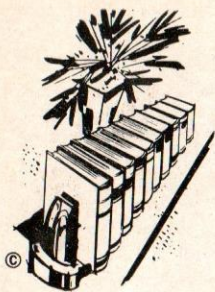


"Put Your Faith in One Pair of Hands" is the title of the new long-play album recently cut by the Faith Trio, shown on this month's cover of AIM. The record is sponsored by the young people's department, with proceeds to go to the National FYC work.

The "Faith Trio," Rita Washburn, Debi Scott, and Barbara Hendershott, toured District No. 4 last summer, bringing many blessings in song to those who heard.

Plans for "Faith Trio" this summer include evangelistic campaigns at Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and Wichita, Kansas. The trio also plans to be at Missouri

Youth Camp and at General Conference and Camp Meeting at La Verne, California this summer.



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Tell Me, Please

Youth Questions
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Ray L. Straub



QUESTION:

My problem concerns cheating in school. I have a friend whose affection and respect I don't want to lose. He is a plenty nice guy and he is part of a gang around school whose company I dig. I want to be "in" with them. These guys aren't trouble-makers. Several of them are popular and active on our sports teams. This one guy sits behind me in a class that is a bit too much for him. When exams are given, he wants me to slump down so he can look over my shoulder and "borrow" a few answers. I don't mind, and it is really he that is cheating. Do you see it this way?

ANSWER:

I hope your slumping down has not bent your spine as badly as it has your ability to recognize right from wrong! You are both cheating, and you know it, or else you would not have sought approval.

I'll let you in on something. Your friend doesn't respect you now—just your ability to give him some answers. If he would respect you, he wouldn't make you partner to his shoddy behavior. You need to show your worth-

iness to be respected by informing him that you can't "cooperate" any longer. If the group you like is worth your attention, they will respect your feelings. If they don't, it's about time you found out about them.

Exams are given so that the teacher can determine how much each student knows. With this information, the instructor can be of more specific help to the individuals in his class. Your exam should reveal what you know, and your friend's exam should reveal what he knows.

Incidentally, the teacher is probably aware of your silly little game and pities you both. When two people sitting that close together come up with the same wrong answers, it's more than coincidence!

QUESTION:

The other night after a youth meeting people were standing around in groups visiting, as they usually do. I just happened to overhear a story that was told about a good friend of mine. It caught my ear when I heard her name. I was horrified at what was said, but I didn't let on that I heard. The story isn't even

true. Do you think I should tell my friend what is being said about her?

ANSWER:

I think you need some light on what it means to be a friend. If you knew the story was untrue, you should have informed the storyteller on the spot. Instead you acted like you didn't hear.

Since you felt it was not important enough to squelch on the spot, I surely don't see what good it will do to tell it to your friend.

Remain silent until you hear the story again. That will be the time to speak up. If this gossip reaches its victim, that will be soon enough, and it will not come through a friend.

The Choice

by Mary Holbert

"...Choose you this day whom ye will serve..." (Joshua 24:15).

Joshua spoke those words a long time ago, but the choice is as vital today as it was in that age. Those people were living in the land of the Amorites and had a choice—serve Amorite gods or the true God. Joshua made a choice: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Coming down to the days of Matthew, the choice was still to be made. Matthew said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (6:24).

What is meant by mammon? Luke 9:9-13 gives us clues. Verse

9 mentions "mammon of unrighteousness." The verse eleven clue is "unrighteous mammon," and verse 13 again reinforces the conviction that "you cannot serve God and mammon."

Is this choice of whom we will serve more difficult to make today than in the past? Many young people think so for the temptation to follow trends of their peers is strong. The communication media is constantly extolling the "now" generation with its search for a better world. The "Jesus" movement, the so-called new morality, the new freedom of speech, the new trends in clothes, the new drug scene—all this and more is confusing to the young as well as the old. True, the danger is great, that youth today can be insidiously drawn into a way

insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24).

IS IT A SERIOUS MATTER—OR CAN WE BE PART OF THIS NEW "FAD" called "Jesus Christ"? As I ponder within my own mind about the subject I am reminded of the story about the man of God who prophesied against Jeroboam as found in I Kings 13. After restoring Jeroboam's hand back to normal the prophet was asked to stay and refresh himself—to which he answered, "... If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: For so was it charged me by the word of the Lord, saying, Eat no bread nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest." The prophet refused to disobey the word of the Lord no matter what Jeroboam offered him, but as he traveled home a different way an old prophet from Bethel, who seemed to be of God, told him that he was to come home with him. Being deceived, the prophet went home with the old prophet and was later killed by a lion because he had not obeyed the commandment of the Lord.

Because the prophet was so cleverly deceived by what seemed to be a man of God, it doesn't seem right that he should die. But he transgressed the law of God; therefore he died and was not able to come unto the sepulchre of his fathers.

In considering the subject matter which we have viewed throughout the article concerning the new Jesus Christ movement and the story that we just read, I can't help but feel that you and I, young people of the Church of God, are in the same position as the prophet returning home. We know what the command of the Lord is unto us concerning our Christian lives—that we keep the commandments of God and do only that which is pleasing in the sight of God, yet this new Jesus movement which seems to be of God is trying to deceive us and keep us from doing the command of the Lord which we have been given. If we heed to this new movement which seemingly is of God and fail to keep the commandments of the Lord, then we, too, will have an ending just as the prophet—death—and will be unable to come unto the sepulchre of our fathers—or in other words "inherit" the promises which are given to those who will obey the Word of God.

IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN THIS NEW MOVEMENT or "fad," look around you and see if it is truly of God. If you have been wondering whether or not you should participate in this movement, ask yourself the questions posed in this article and "try" or "prove" whether or not the organization is of God according to His Word. And after proving all things—"hold fast to that which is good" (II Thess. 5:21).

Tell Me, Please

QUESTION:

Some graduations are held on Saturday night and the sun doesn't set until half-an-hour or an hour after the graduation program has begun. Perhaps one attends as a graduate, parent or friend of a graduate or band member. During the program prayer and admonition are given.

Isaiah 58:13 says, "... and thou shalt honor him, NOT DOING THINE OWN WAYS nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words."

Considering all these things, would attending graduation on the Sabbath be keeping the Sabbath day holy?

ANSWER:

Each child of God is responsible to establish or accept standards by which he considers he is giving proper regard to God's holy Sabbath day. These may vary slightly from time to time and place to place. Some rules have specific Scripture bases while others must of necessity be established arbitrarily. There are few Scriptural texts which clearly define which activities are acceptable on Sabbath and which are not.

Consult your pastor concerning whether or not it is a good idea to

Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



attend a graduation exercise on any part of a Sabbath. In some areas it may be offensive.

I would advise caution in the application of Isaiah 58:13. This text is often used to beat down activities which we personally regard as unacceptable on the Sabbath. I would be curious to know how often and how loudly it was quoted when Jesus' disciples were "caught" picking corn on the Sabbath! This cautions against having a festive attitude and behavior rather than to provide a criterion to determine the acceptability of our every thought, word and deed.

Personally, I would prefer not to attend such an occasion on the Sabbath. On the other hand, I would feel hard pressed to forward a good argument to those who felt that such action is justifiable. I do not think that Isaiah 58:13 is in good application here.

QUESTION:

What do you think of beards? Don't you think they give a rather bad example?

ANSWER:

A bad example of what? Beards

cal evidence that physical harm can come to both the user and his offspring.

The most tragic part of drug use among church young people is that it tends to reveal that there has been no real encounter or continuing relationship with Jesus Christ. He "turns on" the youth in such a way that there is no need whatever to look to drugs. These cause fear and guilt. Jesus satisfies.

QUESTION:

It seems to me that the church is made up mostly of cliques. Everywhere I go I run into them—at camps, camp meetings, picnics, in church—even within some Sabbath school classes. Is this right? What can be done about it?

ANSWER:

There is little question about the existence of cliques in the church. They are everywhere. You seem to be overly sensitive about them. Some people have a tendency to spot small groups who enjoy each other's company and dismiss them as cliques.

From this point on they feel only resentment against the groups. It takes some pretty hefty discipline to keep from doing such.

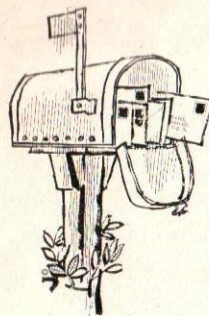
I would guess that cliques, especially within a church, are not formed to shut others out. They come about because certain families find each others presence comfortable and they go to sleep socially within that circle. This comfort can cause their social life to become shabby and anemic.

Obviously, a person is better off when he develops the ability to have many friends, and finds all kinds of people to be interesting, including those who tend to be clannish.

Don't blame people for having close friends. It is their right. Avoid labeling a group a clique until they have given you obvious, firsthand indication they are. Until such a time, don't be timid about trying to befriend others. You may be surprised at their warmth. There is no more reason they should come to you than you should go to them. If you want them, you can have so many friends that you will hardly have time to notice that cliques exist.

THE CONQUEROR

Here's to the man who can hide with a smile
A day of ill-temper and words that are vile.
Who can refrain from uttering words in a tone
That may leave their sting when years have flown;
Who is cautious and tactful not to offend
His neighbor, or those who may be his friends.
Here's to the man that can feign jollity,
Whatever his trials and tribulations may be.
When the tempest has passed and the sun starts to shine,
Hats off to the man who has conquered his mind!



Dear Teenager

Dear Teenager,

Are you "doing your own thing"? How many teenagers are? We see everywhere the youth of today blindly following what they are told is the "thing" to do. Like sheep following a leader to death in a deep chasm because they do not THINK, we see thousands of young people today blindly following what they are told they should do—following to their own destruction.

We see a psychopathic painter dabbing globs of color on a canvas and calling it "art." It nauseates anyone who has an appreciation for beauty, yet because it is considered the "thing" to do, it is acclaimed as a masterpiece.

We hear raucous sounds made by instruments that were fashioned to produce musical sounds. They deafen the ear and make the senses reel, but because someone with a perverted sense of what constitutes "music" pronounced it "art," the weak follow this fad. We see supposedly rational thousands accepting the theories of the mentally ill Sigmund Freud as Truth. His teachings have torn to shreds the real love God's Word teaches. He sullied every beautiful, clean feeling anyone has for another, even the love a baby has for his mother, yet he is held up as a wonderful example. He could have no power if everyone would think for themselves and go to the Living God for instructions on what is right to feel and do.

You are not doing YOUR thing when you blindly follow what another says you should do, just because they say it. You have been given the gift of life by the Creator. He has warned of the pitfalls for those walking the road of their own choosing. Satan says it is not a good life when we choose the way God points. He tells our youth that sex, drugs, and anything that keeps them from facing reality is what you should chase like the will-o-the-wisp. After you accept Satan's invitation to taste of all the gold-plated pleasures he offers, what will you have? What will you have after you discover that the so-called pleasures are only tinsel? Where

are grown by men on both sides of the broad religious spectrum. There are ultra-conservative religions whose males grow beards, and the most uninhibited in our society do it.

This is not a moral issue. It is one of taste. I would not mind growing one, but I consider that the exercise of such taste would arouse too much adverse sentiment to justify it. I do not think that others need to be guided by my own opinion on this matter. If someone wishes to grow a beard, and he has the physical capacity to do it, it is his own business.

You may question whether it is a good example because there are those who consider that every one who grows a beard is a hippy or a dissident. This kind of prejudicial thinking needs healing, not confirmation.

Zest for living is personified by a person who not only does his best, but is always learning a little more than he needs to know. Or doing a little more than the job calls for. Or having a faith beyond its own needs so he can share it with others. Such a person usually receives rewards he deserves, plus a little more.

—Sir Oracle.

VICTORY

by Lee J. Best, Jr.

Does it matter much if you win or lose,

If you know you really tried?

What counts the most is honest effort,
Not whether you laughed or cried.

You'll find that when you've played
the game

And done the best you can,

You'll be a victor, win or lose,

Because you'll be a man.

He That Winneth Souls Is Wise

by M. R. Keim

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30).

"And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men" (Mark 1:17). "And he brought him to Jesus..." (John 1:42).

It is people who win souls that are wise—not those who earn money, or get education, or gain political power, or win fame by notable achievement; though Christians with money, education, political power, and even fame can be soul winners.

What significant words! "He brought him to Jesus" (John 1:42).

How many of us reveal the same concern as Andrew did for his lost brother? Have you discovered our purpose of Christian opportunity and responsibility leading to fields "white already to harvest" (John 4:35)?

Soul-winning is the heartbeat, the alpha, the omega of Christianity. Soul-winning is the work of helping men and women to believe on Jesus Christ; of leading people into the knowledge and experience that man cannot live by bread alone. Personal soul-winning is the Christian bringing his personality and true Christian life in touch with a sinner's inner life. It is realizing God's "who-soever will" upon the individual by laying upon his heart claims of Christ for the individual's trust and life.

We must believe that men are either saved, or lost, born again, or still in their sins, on the road to eternal life or on the WAY TO HELL. Men are

either Christians or are doomed. It should (a must) be our aim and purpose to show and lead them to Christ. With urgency, we should warn men to flee from the wrath to come.

Oh! Wonderful it is to be a great musician, to be an orator, to be a learned scientist, to be a painter, to be a writer, or to be great in some other way. But to be a soul-winner IS GREAT-ER. Great work it is to turn the hearts of the young to receive Christ as Saviour, to turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the just.

If in winning the unsaved to faith in Christ, we flow as a river and not trickle as a feeble, dried-up stream, if in bringing men to Jesus we are to be faithful, compassionate crusaders, not gay tourists, if in fishing for folks we are to be effective, thoroughly proficient, and not stumblers as amateurs, we must have correct conceptions.

We all must have a conception of the greatness of the work Jesus called "fishing for men."

Tell Me, Please

Youth Questions
answered by
Ray L. Straub



QUESTION:

I am becoming serious enough about a certain girl to consider marrying her. I love her, and I am convinced that she will make a good wife for me. Our religions are very similar. She has let me know that she will not leave her church. Can you see anything wrong with my going to church with her and joining hers since we believe a lot alike anyway?

ANSWER:

Often it is when religions are similar that the greater hostilities arise. Being able to agree with someone on many opinions or teachings does not automatically do away with those areas in which differences of belief exist. There are several churches that are similar to ours, but I consider them no more acceptable than those which are more dissimilar.

It seems to me that your girl friend is answering your question as well as I could. She seems to reject the possibilities of leaving her religion even though yours is much like hers.

If you wish to have a good marriage, do not treat your differences as though they don't exist. They certainly exist in the mind of your friend! Dis-

cuss these differences in your religions and try to come to some agreement. Go to the church that you both feel teaches the most truth. Appeasement on religious matters is a poor way to begin a marriage, no matter which partner does it.

QUESTION:

I am ready to be married, but my fiance has not been baptized. My minister will not perform the marriage unless he is baptized. Do you agree with this?

ANSWER:

I presume that your pastor has good reason for setting forth this stipulation, and I do not question his judgment in doing so. It deserves your respect.

I do not think that your fiance should be baptized just so that your pastor will marry you. You need to be cautious about this. Baptism never was and never should be a ritual that qualifies one to get married. Baptism is our answer of a clear conscience toward God. It follows our repentance and the death of our carnal nature.

This is a matter that you need to discuss with your pastor thoroughly. I suggest that you get at it promptly.

The Heart of a Christian

by Denis Burrell

"He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love" (John 4:8). This verse shows the importance of love in a Christian's life. Many times Christ taught His disciples and us to love one another. He made it clear that if we don't show love to our brothers and our enemies then we can not love God.

One of the hardest things for most people to do in this life is to forgive those who trespass against us. Many times people offend and embarrass us, but Christ said that we should forgive people no matter what they do to us and to forgive as often as they offend us. We should always pray as Christ prayed: "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12).

Although we live in a world of war and fighting, Christians are to be peaceful and gentle (Gal. 5:22, 23). To our friends we are usually peaceful and gentle but sometimes we do have differences. Even though we do have problems with our friends these do not end our

friendships. In Matthew 5:43, 44 Christ tells us that we have to love our enemies and not just our friends. It is easy to love and respect someone who loves us, but to love someone who treats us unfairly demands a lot more from us.

Finally, we are commanded to be witnesses to everyone. Christ said before He went into heaven that we are to be witnesses to all the world (Acts 1:8). Many times we fall short of this command by not witnessing to those with whom we work and to those with whom we go to school. We should not be afraid to talk to people about Christ and His Commandments. Christ said if we do not confess Him before people then He will not confess us before God (Matthew 10:32, 33).

We Christians should always strive to be gentle and peaceful, loving, forgiving, and inspiring in our witnessing to others. If we possess these attributes, we will show others that we are putting Christ first in our lives.

Tell Me, Please

Youth Questions
answered by
Ray L. Straub



species. No valid proof exists that there has ever been a change from one species to another. Changes have come about only within the species.

4. The best argument against evolution is to get to know the Creator personally.

QUESTION:

You are a pastor of a church. Tell me honestly, do you think a person needs to attend church "every" week?

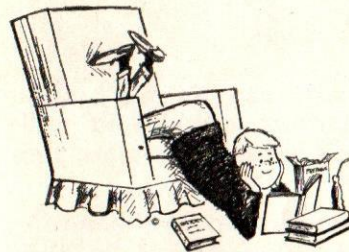
ANSWER:

I *honestly* do! What else do you plan to do on Sabbath? This is a holy day. Observing it as such is a moral issue. If you are physically able to be in church on the Sabbath, that is precisely where you belong!

I am aware that you are doing much better than a lot of other people even when you attend less than each week. Nonetheless, by missing any service without good reason you are making a compromise, and that is costly. Remember the proverb: "A long journey begins with the first step." An unexcusable absence once in a great while may seem innocent, but the direction that this careless decision takes you can bring tragic harm. You need to quit looking

at others around you for your religious standards and begin looking into God's Word and then heavenward for your answers.

Absenteeism from church services is a harmfully serious problem. Don't make it worse. Get on the other side and fight it!



Book Review Corner

by Marilyn Current

DESIGNED FOR DUTY

by Jeanette W. Lockerbie, Moody Press, paper, \$1.00

Though this book of 124 short devotional readings was intended especially for student nurses, it is ideal devotional material for any student—junior high, high school, or college. I read it in high school and found it to be very inspiring. Titles such as "First Day Fears," "Formula for Wisdom," "How Honest is Honest?" and "Adding and Multiplying," show how fitting it is for the average student.

Those of you who attend public schools, and maybe are the only professing Christian in your class, will find special encouragement from these readings: "Your Attitude is Showing," "Alone in Your Class," "Ambassador You," "The Gospel According to You."

Here are some more interesting titles, just for the record, "Shadows Can't Hurt," "Dead Flies," "Charging Your Battery," "Promises—Promises—," and "Why, Why, Why?"

Each devotion in the book is one page long. First there is a suggested Bible reading (and a key thought on a few). After some of the devotional readings there is a short poem or well-known quotation applying to the subject.

One reading a day wouldn't take up much of your time—maybe five minutes—. But it could mean the difference between a successful, happy day or a "flopped" day. (The difference, you know, is in your outlook—and starting your day out with Christ is bound to give you a better outlook.)

QUESTION:

What is a good argument against evolution?

ANSWER:

1. It is not logical to believe that the cosmos came out of chaos. Any masterpiece in planning and organization results from intelligence. It takes a precise amount of measuring, beating, and baking to make a good cake. It takes precise chords to compose good music, and it takes a correct alignment of words to write a good thesis or book. Understanding this, how can one believe that anything as beautifully organized as this universe came about through accident?

2. There is no known explanation for beginnings. The mind can only go so far until its incapacities leave it dangling. Experiencing this, it leaves us with only one believable explanation—way back God existed "in the beginning." I admit, readily, that this is no proof that God exists. However, believing He existed in the beginning, it is logical that He created the earth and set the universe in motion.

3. There is neither agreement nor proof supporting the evolution of the



All-Day Meeting in San Augustin, Hidalgo, Mexico

what we must do as a Christian people—to do good, and to do missionary work.

The chairman of the youth work in Guatemala is Brother Rodolfo Chacon Paiz and his assistants are Elder Artemio Soto, Brother Carlos Rodanes, Sister Salazar and Sister Nathaniel Argueta. One of the suggestions I made was that they could adopt the name of FJC (Fraternidad Juvenil Cristiana) and Brother Chacon said he believes that it can be done.

Encouragement . . . and a Challenge . . .

Some of the delegations that attended the council attended a youth meeting in Guatemala City. They were greatly encouraged by what they saw and demonstrated that they want to organize their young people. Just as the church as a whole is moving at an exceeding pace, so

are the youth in Central America.

Both of the youth departments in Mexico and Guatemala on behalf of all their young people send their Christian love to the rest of the youth that read AIM all over the world. They also request to be remembered in prayer by the rest of God's youth.

We as Faithful Youth Challengers are youth who claim to have faith and who are ready to challenge others—and accept a challenge. Here in this article I challenge you to recognize the needs of that youth—more workers and financial assistance. What are we going to do? Just pray about it, and then tell them to work it out for themselves (James 2:14-16)?

If you have any suggestions or feel the burden to help, write to Elder Calvin Burrell or to me, Daniel Davila, 1611-A N Hayes, Springfield, Mo. 65803.

Tell Me, Please

Youth Questions
answered by
Ray L. Straub



Dear young friends,

This will be my last time to communicate with you via this column, at least for the foreseeable future. To be asked to write such a column is an honor first class! I think it offers one of the best platforms available to discuss that which matters most.

In visiting various parts of this and other countries, I have run into friends made through this column. How good this feels every time it happens! Further, I suppose my contact through AIM has given me opportunity to address you at camp meetings, youth camps, special church services, etc. I am hoping that the disappearance of my face from this page will not seriously cut out my chances of continuing to communicate with you at these special functions.

I requested release from writing this column due to the press of other work. Just recently, I was asked to fill in, on an interim basis, as speaker of the FAITH FOR OUR TIME radio broadcasts. I hardly needed this on top of my responsibilities as

pastor of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in Sacramento, California, and serving as overseer of the West Coast District. On the other hand, it opens up new challenges and new adventures. It opens doors to the kind of evangelistic outreach a minister finds difficult to pass up. If FAITH FOR OUR TIME is broadcast in your area, we may be in closer contact with each other than ever!

My closing comments seek to gain your special appreciation for two men. The first is your pastor. Get to know him better. He is a nice man. He wants to be more than your friend. He wishes to be helpful to you in every way possible.

Sometimes young people shy away from their pastor because they feel that he disapproves of them. That is a tragic conclusion. He may not be entirely happy about everything you do. Big deal! Neither are you happy about *everything* you do! That doesn't mean that your pastor does not want to get to know you better. He's big enough to separate the person you are

from the flaws he sees in *every-one's* behavior.

Too many young people allow the image of their pastor's being a judge to rob them of the beautiful relationship they might otherwise have with one of the nicest and most concerned of men. Not all pastors fit the description, but chances are no less than excellent that yours will.

The next man I want you to appreciate is Elder Dale Lawson. He will be answering your questions through this column.

Driver's Seat

by Katherine Benion

Two women were sitting in back of me on the bus. One had traveled widely and was telling the other many interesting highlights of her experiences.

"I've done all this traveling in the month's vacation I get each year," she explained.

"I rarely go any farther than from Lewisburg to Sunbury," said the other. "I used to have a job on which I had to travel a lot, but I got a nervous breakdown from it. Maybe I wouldn't have if I'd enjoyed riding as you seem to. I'm always on edge in a car, a bus, in anything that moves. I guess it's the possibility of an accident that keeps me uneasy. How do you overcome it?"

The woman hesitated a mo-
(Continued on page 23)

He is a mighty fine selection. The change of personnel here will be an improvement.

Somewhere—at camp meeting, summer camp, your church, your home, my church, my home—I hope to see you again soon. You add a lot of laughter and "zing" to my life.

It's been fun—lots of it! I'll see you again!

If you aren't big enough for criticism, you're really too small for praise.



Mini Oaths

By Kenneth Lawson

We are influenced by many things in the world around us—either directly or indirectly. This influence often causes us to act and live according to the way people around us are acting and living.

We are influenced in the way we dress. We want to look like our friends. We want to dress so we will be accepted in society. (And this desire is okay, to an extent—as long as modesty prevails.)

Another area in which we are easily influenced by environment is our use of words. Words can gradually slip into our conversation without our even being aware of it! We need to *become* aware of it! **THE WORDS MANY OF GOD'S PEOPLE SPEAK ARE NOT WORDS THAT ARE PLEASING TO HIM!!**

This is something about which many of God's people are not at all concerned; and it is certain that there is reason to be concerned. NOTICE Jesus' own words in Matthew 12:37: "... **BY THY WORDS THOU SHALT BE CONDEMNED.**" We must accept the fact that there are certain words that a Christian is not to have in his or her vocabulary! Yet in our church today we find many people who speak words that are neither wholesome nor enlightening! The way Satan has worked is quite underhanded—and yet successful—for he has won many people, even professed Christians—to talk like he wants them to!

Let us notice one more text of scripture; then we will examine some words that are considered "OKAY" even by many "Christians." **THE THIRD COMMANDMENT!** "*Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy god in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain*" (Exodus 20:7).

We all agree that this commandment is still for us to obey, and we certainly frown on anyone who uses "GOD" or "JESUS" or "CHRIST" as an oath! And yet—let us notice some of the words that even YOU may be using as substitutes for these—words that are condemned along with the original word itself.