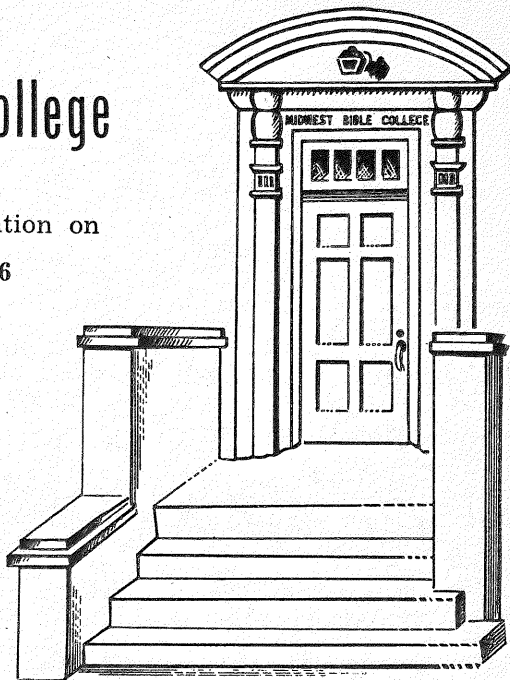


AUGUST, 1966

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doors will
open soon with registration on
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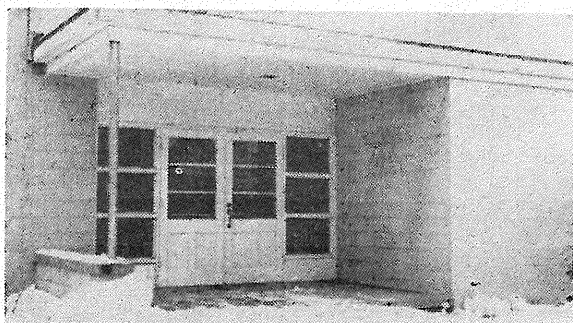
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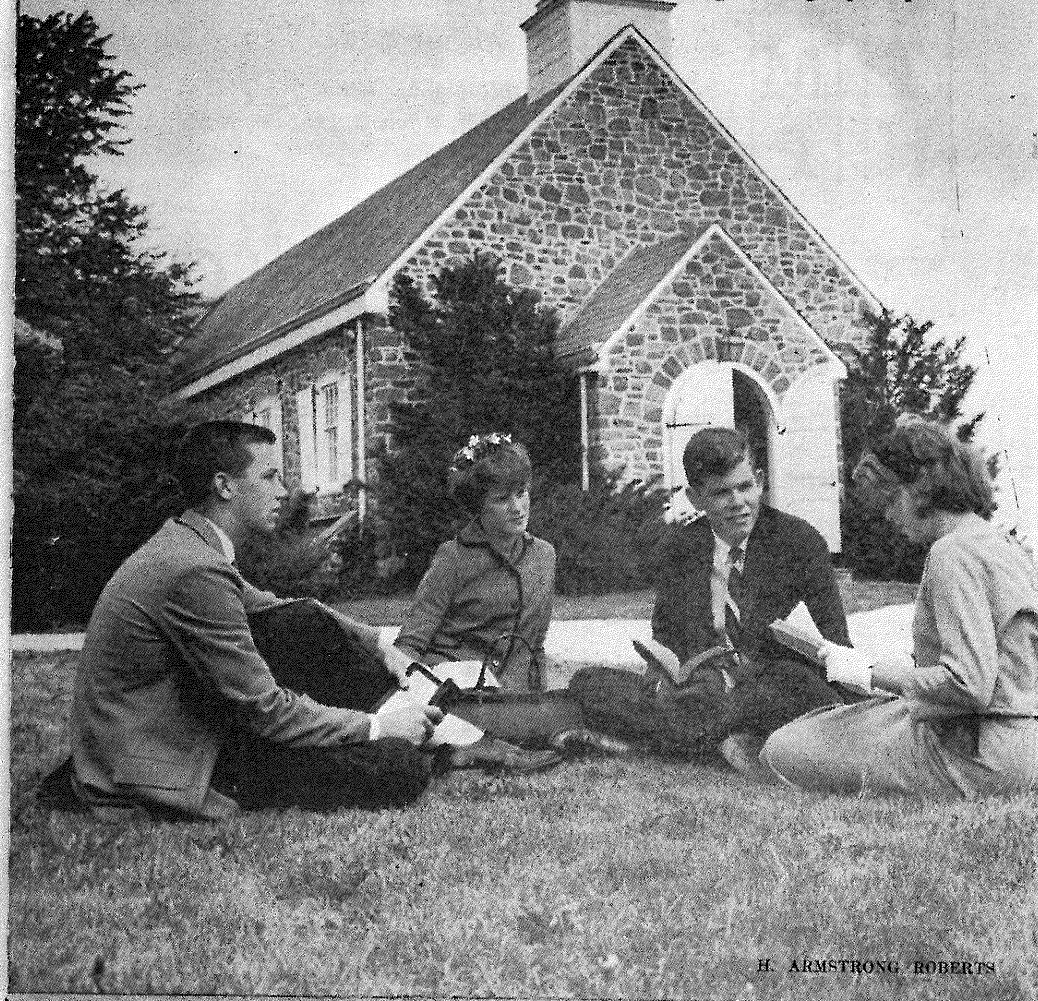
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Write: Rodney Wegermann, Principal, SPRING VALE ACADEMY, Route 5, Owosso, Michigan.

Aim

The magazine for young people



H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS

**Friendships are the purer and the more ardent
the nearer they come to the presence of God.**

Aim The magazine for young people

AIM is dedicated to the promotion of higher ideals and more challenging spiritual goals among the young people of the Church of God. It is published monthly under the direction of the Young People's Department of the General Conference by the Church of God Publishing House at Second and Willow Streets in Stanberry, Missouri. It was entered as second class matter on September 10, 1959, at the Post Office in Stanberry, Missouri, under the act of March 3, 1879.

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Vol. XXXI, No. 8

Hope E. Dais, Editor

We ask God to forgive us for our evil thoughts and evil temper, but rarely, if ever, ask him to forgive us for our sadness. Joy is regarded as a happy accident of the Christian life, an ornament and a luxury rather than a duty.—R. W. DALE

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Brownie Special



By Dorothy Nimchuk

There it lay like a shining jewel in her hand. This was her ticket to fame and fortune. This was an answer to prayer, she was sure. Then a slight doubt came to her mind, but she quickly dismissed it.

"Hi, Jane," hailed a friend coming along the walk. "What are you doing—daydreaming about the bake-off?"

Jane started. She folded the paper guiltily and stuffed it into her pocket. "Oh, hi, Freda," she answered. "Of course! Who thinks of anything else these days? The winner goes to the State finals in Jefferson. Wouldn't that make an exotic trip? I wonder if my green print organza would look all right when they hand me the prize?"

Freda laughed. "You seem pretty confident that you'll win. What recipe are you going to use? Your brownie special?"

Jane frowned. "I'm not sure, Freda. I think I'll make up an entirely new

recipe," she said, fingering the treasured slip of paper in her pocket.

"Not much time left, you know," informed Freda. "Better hurry and dream up that prize winner. I'm making my own version of pecan rolls. Mother offered to help me, but I told her that wouldn't be fair."

Jane felt herself blushing as Freda reminded her that each entry must be original. The paper felt hot in her hand and she wished she had never found it there on the walk in front of the school.

"It's almost time for class," she murmured. "Gotta run. See you after." And with that, Jane hurried away.

Arriving home from school, Jane found the house empty and thought it was a good time to try the recipe. When the cake came out of the oven, the fragrance of spices filled the room. Jerry, her twin, came dashing into the kitchen. He had just come from football practice.

"Oh, boy, what smells so good, Sis?" he inquired. "Oh, I know—must be something for the contest." He discovered the cake sitting on the counter and stood back, viewing it from all angles. "It looks like a cake. It even smells like a cake. But does it taste like one?" Before Jane could stop him, Jerry picked up a knife and cut a large piece. "Umm, good," he said, with his mouth full. "You're sure to win the contest this time, Janie."

Jane smiled weakly, "Glad you like it, Jerry, but save some for supper-time please," she added as he cut another huge helping.

"Sure, kid," he smiled, picking up his books and heading for his room. "Call me when Mom gets supper ready. She should be home soon from her committee meeting."

At the supper table the whole family raved over Jane's new concoction. "Why, Jane," exclaimed father, "this is the best you've ever done, you're sure to win." Seeing father's smiling face, full of pride for his daughter's accomplishments, made Jane wince. She excused herself and went to her room to study. But she couldn't concentrate on her studies, and sleep wouldn't come. She lay there staring at the gay parade of Bible-story characters on her walls. She must remember to ask Mom to take them down. Stories were for children. At fifteen she felt too old for such juvenile decorations.

Jane lay there thinking of the many times mother had come in to tuck her in bed for the night and she had begged for stories. Mother always let her pick the story she wanted from the characters on the walls. There were her favorites—David,

killing the giant; Daniel in the lion's den; and many others. Ananias and Sapphira were there. She remembered them especially because they had lied to their God and had met death, swift and sure, as the result.

Miss Wilson's words came back to her. The teacher had been explaining the rules of the contest. "It does not matter who wins. The important thing is that all of you follow the rules. Then, in a sense, you will all be winners—winners over self and the desire to cheat a little."

"I've got to win, I've just got to," Jane told herself between clenched teeth. "This means too much to me to lose out over a few silly regulations." She turned her back to the picture of Ananias and Sapphira and settled herself for sleep. But there, on the other wall, was a picture of Christ, seeming to look right into her heart, saying, "What will you do with me?"

Several sleepless nights and busy days later, Jane found herself at the long-awaited moment for the contest to begin. The girls took their places beside the tables and stoves provided. Each table was laden with the necessary ingredients. At a given signal, they all began to mix and stir, adding a little of this and a pinch of that.

Jane stood unmoving for an instant. Then, with determination, she picked up her spoon and began.

Some time later, the judges were busy sampling the many tasty pies, cakes and cookies. After some deliberation, the head judge spoke. "May I have your attention, ladies and gentlemen," he said. "The prize goes to Sheri Mayfield, for her spice cake."

The room buzzed with excitement

as mothers and fathers crowded around to see the winning entry. "Wait a moment," exclaimed Miss Wilson, "let me see that recipe. It looks and tastes too much like one my mother used to make." After a quick glance at the ingredients, she fixed accusing eyes on Sheri.

Sheri's gaze dropped to the floor and she was close to tears as she admitted, "You're right, Miss Wilson. I copied it out of one of your cookbooks when you were out of the classroom. Then I lost the copy and I had to find another chance to copy it again. I just wanted to win."

There was a stir of excited conversation in the room. "Quiet, please," said the head judge. "We must of course disqualify this entry. Now we need to pick another winner." After a hurried consultation, the judge announced, "... and it is my pleasure to present the award to Miss Jane Hartford for her 'Brownie Special' entry."

Jane could hardly believe her ears. She had won. Deep in her heart she knew she had won two victories. She made a mental note to tell mother she had changed her mind about wanting new wallpaper.

Teen-agers are just as responsible to live a life well pleasing before men as to live acceptably before God. This may seem confusing, for how can we please God and man at the same time? The answer is in our love toward God and man.

We are familiar with the verse, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment" (Mark 12:30). Are we as familiar with this verse: "The second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these" (vs. 31)?

Some of us teen-agers may think we love the Lord with all our hearts. We feel that we are setting a fine example by showing to others that we love the Lord. We are very active in church and Sabbath school.

How many of us forget the second verse—"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself"? Our "neighbour" doesn't exactly mean the people who live in the house next to ours. It means those we rub elbows with day after day. How do we treat them? Do we act as though we love them, or do we snub them? Are we friendly with other young people in our church or school?

If there are people we do not exactly care for, let us pray and ask the Lord to give us His love for them. We can love everyone, teen-agers, no matter how unlovely he is—Gospel Herald.

THE PRICE

By Janie Strickland

While crossing a bridge, a preacher by chance met a boy with a cage full of birds. The preacher asked the boy what he was going to do with the birds.

"Oh!" said the boy. "I'm going to take them home with me."

"Yes," said the preacher, but they are wild birds. They can't live caged up."

"But," said the boy, "I caught them in the park, and I am going to take them home and have a good time with them."

"What are you going to do with them?" asked the preacher.

"Well," said the boy, "I am going to pull their wing feathers out, and let them walk around in the back yard, and see what the old black cat will do with them."

"Oh, but you can't do that!" protested the preacher. "That's cruel."

"But the answer came back, "I had a good time catching them, and I am going to have more fun when I get home."

"I'll buy that cage from you," said the preacher.

"No, Preacher," said the boy. "I'm going to have some more fun with these birds."

"I'll give you six pence for it," said the preacher.

"No," said the boy.

"Twelve," said the preacher.

"No," was the boy's reply.

"A pound. I'll give you a pound," said the preacher.

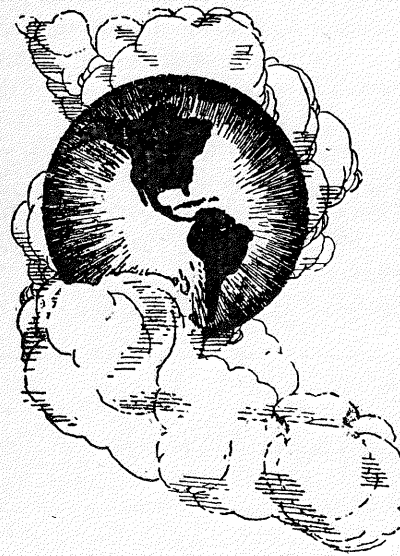
The boy began to think, *I can buy more birds, some candy, and lots*

more things with a pound. "Well, all right," he said.

The preacher then exchanged the pound for the cage of birds and went on his way, crossing the bridge, continuing on down the street, and turning up the alley. There he opened the cage door and said to the little birds, "Fly away. You are free now."

In the conclusion of his sermon the next Sabbath morning, he told this story:

There was once upon a time a stranger that lived and walked here upon this earth. One day he met a man with something under his arm. He stopped him and said to him, "Say, fellow, what is that you are carrying under your arm?"



The man answered, "The world, Sir."

"What are you going to do with it?" the stranger asked.

"I'm going to have some fun with it," the answer came back.

"What kind of fun are you going to have?" asked the stranger.

"Well," said the man, "there are a lot of people in this world. I'm going to let them do anything they want to do. They can have temper fits, murder, covet, gossip (saying things that hurt their friends), slander their neighbors, smoke their dirty old cigarettes, get drunk, go places, and do things that are wrong, destroy the family altar, and break up homes.

"The institutions are filled with men, women, boys and girls—victims of their fun. And the orphanages, hospitals and homes of different kinds, are filled with the results of fun.

"After they have had their fun and merry making, I am going to have my fun. I am going to throw

them in the fire and burn them up."

"Oh!" said the stranger, but that's cruel. "I'll buy it from you."

"No," said the man, "I'm going to have some fun."

"I'll give you all the silver in my Father's world for it."

"No, no," said the man.

"All the gold! I'll give you all the gold in my Father's world for it."

"No, no, no," said the man.

"Then what will you take for it?"

"Your Life," said the man.

Dying there for you and me

This stranger, tried and true,

Hanging on the cruel tree

Paid the debt for me and you.

Up Calvary's hill, bent and slow,

Carrying our cross, we must go.

Looking above more to know

As upward and onward each day we go.

One day we'll meet Him, face to face

With loved ones and friends so dear,

Singing and praising Him, saved by grace,

Where sin and sorrow we'll never more fear.

Children, youth, and old alike, we'll have to bow before this cross of shame, and feel His blood as it trickles down, and cleanses us from our sins and the works of the flesh.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: **adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of the which I tell you**

before as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21).

Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Philippians 3:21).

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:7-11).

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace (Ephesians 1:7). For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which

The story of the Garden of Eden is awfully up to date. Many have missed its point by asking fruitless questions. "Where is it?" they inquire, little realizing that the Genesis story is more concerned with *why* the Garden of Eden? We are not sent on a ridiculous search for places, but back to an intensified look at persons, back to ourselves eventually, to you and me... Unless there is a radical change deep at the center of what we are, we will always succeed in reducing Eden to utter shambles.

*Elam Davies in THIS SIDE OF EDEN
(Fleming H. Revell Company)*

God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10). Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us (Ephesians 3:20). With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:2), and above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness (Colossians 3:14). And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

Now this stranger gave Himself freely for you and me, shedding His precious blood that we might have a right to the tree of life and a home with Him in the earth made new.

After the man of sin has had his fun going up and down this big world he was carrying under his arm, deceiving and destroying the people, this Wonderful Stranger is coming back to this earth, and will burn it with fire, and cleanse it from all sin. Even the man of sin, the old devil, won't think it so funny when he gets his part in the lake of fire which will destroy the devil and his angels together in the fire.

An Honest, But Sad Confession

Once I was an innocent, beautiful, virtuous, ambitious girl. I went to school and had lofty ideals of doing big things in life. I hoped some day to have a good husband and a happy home. I loved my church; I believed my Bible.

Then from other folks whom I thought to be my friends, I caught the "Repeal Fever." I bobbed my hair, rolled down my stockings, cut off my skirts, penciled my eyebrows and painted my fingernails. I was made to believe that my happiness depended on being "smart"; and that only popularity, pleasure and a sporty life were ideal: and I was told that "everybody was doing it."

After hearing the cigarette "ads" on the radio, seeing them in the magazines and on billboards; and watching my so-called friends indulging, I, too, was influenced to smoke, and got a great "kick" out of sitting in public places, puffing in other people's faces.

Having lost my desire to go to church, or to be with the church folk, I went with the crowds to the dance halls, the road houses, the beer gardens, and to the cocktail rooms. I soon became brazen enough to call for a drink at the bar. Soon I learned to gamble, played the races, and had many after-midnight dates.

Now I have had my fling. I have been a "modern girl." I have had my "personal liberty." My virtue is gone; my religion is gone; my oldtime good friends are gone; my beauty is gone; my pride and holy ideals are gone. Here I am, an ugly, bleary-eyed, blotch-faced, cigarette-stinking, half-crazed drunken sot. I have repealed everything that was good, noble, refined, beautiful, moral and spiritual in my life.

The new friends I have are as miserable as I am. My body is diseased; my heart is broken; my noble ideals crushed; my motherly instincts dead; my good family name disgraced; my character ruined; my ambition gone; and my soul is damned forever. My past is evil; my present is hell; and my future dark. Here I am waiting for death to end it, for I am nothing now but just a lost girl.—**Christian Cynosure** via **Old Faith Contender**

Tell Me, Please

QUESTION:

At what age should teen-agers start dating?

ANSWER:

Difficult question to answer! I suppose the best general answer would suggest that a teen-ager (this term indicates that the person is at least thirteen) is old enough to date whenever he is mature enough to assume full responsibility for whatever activity he engages in when dating.

If the date involves some daytime group activity such as a picnic, there would be no harm in having a young teen-ager ask another to go with him. This may be true of church functions in the evening where there is group activity and the event has adult sponsors present.

No young couple should be dating alone until they are mature enough to demonstrate the characteristics of a gentleman dating a lady. This means that they behave with dignity toward each other, and they are perfectly willing to give full respect to each other. It would be somewhat rare to find anyone in this category who is not old enough to qualify to drive an automobile.

Youth Questions

answered by
Ray L. Straub



I do not oppose the general principles of youthful dating as long as couples are not left alone with responsibilities too mature for them to accept. Parents might do well to provide activities for young teenagers which involve wholesome activity rather than to ban dating altogether at the risk of intense resentment.

QUESTION:

Is holding hands in public wrong?

ANSWER:

This is probably not a question of right and wrong as much as it is a matter of taste. There are times when it might be quite acceptable, such as in cases where one walks in a crowd and he wishes to avoid losing anyone. There may also be situations where one wishes to hurry, and he may give assistance to another, etc.

Further, it is hardly distasteful for couples who have been dating regularly or are engaged to hold hands with groups of their age in activities that might deem this show of affection appropriate. Newly married couples generally find it pleasing to hold hands, and anyone knowing their status finds it easy to forgive without

questioning whether or not it is in good taste.

Holding hands in public is in questionable taste when it is done by young people who are not old enough to become serious with each other. It is generally not in good taste to hold hands in front of parents or elderly people. It certainly is in bad taste to hold hands so much that you give the impression that you would become lost or withered if you disconnected!

As a rule, it is best policy not to hold hands in a manner that gives this interdigital activity public display. Keep it out of sight, if unmarried, and you will find that your interpersonal relationship in general will be the better off for it.

QUESTION:

How do you get the message across to a forward girl that you don't appreciate her attention and that you would like for her to "take off"?

ANSWER:

There is only one answer to this, and it always works. Be indifferent. This means that you will be courteous, but uninterested. Just act like it is not your fault the whole thing turned out the way it did, and you hope that one day it will be better for her.

Incidentally, not many fellows share your "fortune" in being chased by

Do you have a special problem, or a matter in which you wish extra advice? You are invited to write to Elder Straub for his counseling. Send to: Aim, Box 158, Stanberry, Missouri 64489.

gals they do not want. Either you are an outstanding specimen indeed, or you have done something to encourage her. In either case, remember to be courteous.

QUESTION:

My boyfriend and I are having to get married. Only our parents and our pastor know about it. In spite of the secrecy, our pastor is insisting that we have only a small wedding, and he doesn't think I ought to wear white. I don't know whether to be disgusted or disappointed, or both? Why should our pastor be this way?

ANSWER:

It seems clear that you are disgusted or disappointed with the wrong person. Who got you into this situation, anyway? Sorry, sister, I'm so much on your pastor's side that if I knew who he was I'd send a letter to congratulate him.

White on a bride is a sign of chastity or virginity. You don't qualify, and any action to the contrary would be deceptive. Further, it is just a bit of a sham for the church to be the scene of an event that is supposed to mark the beginning of a new home and family unit when you and your friend have already been indulging in husband-wife relationships.

Your pastor is guiding this misadventure of yours into an honorable direction. You ought to be grateful instead of resentful. At this point I can offer no better advice than to sober up and begin listening a bit more to your minister. If either of your parents are getting a bit riled at him, the same advice goes for them!

Has Your BIBLE Been Bypassed?

By Terril D. Littrell

We are told that a bird can go nine days without food, a dog 20 days, a turtle 500 days, a snake 800 days, a fish 1,000 days, and some insects 12,000 days! For a human being, however, two weeks is about the limit. Sooner or later, nourishment is necessary for all of God's creatures.

How long can a Christian live spiritually without eating of the honey, meat and spiritual bread of the Bible?

Have you ever noticed that we are not asked to "read" the Word of God? Rather we are asked to "study" it, "MEDITATE" upon it, and compare natural things with spiritual.

In other words, the Bible is too holy and sacred to "toy with." God wants us to put in some real consecrated effort when we approach the scriptures, for in this we will more readily assimilate its sweet nourishment and good doctrine.

TAKE TIME

A present-day efficiency expert would applaud the idea that any person wanting to make the most of his life should have a carefully thought-out time schedule. All of us should have specific ideas regarding the use of time. When wise and workable plans are made, more can

be accomplished! A proverb says, "Improve your time and time will improve you." The writer of Ecclesiastes said, "He (God) has appointed a time for every matter, and every work" (Eccl. 3:17).

Our Creator wants us to live usefully. Time, therefore, must be used properly. Jesus knew the value of time, and said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work" (John 9:4).

Five minutes a day for Bible study is not enough. If you can find time for thirty minutes with TV you can find time for thirty minutes with your Bible. MEDITATION is not a hurried act.

Stop and evaluate your activities. Think about the actual time you spend in Bible Study. Are you giving major time to what is the most important?

Feed on the Bible at least thirty minutes every day. You can not grow and succeed in the Christian life without daily feeding on the Word. Read the Bible slowly. There is no value in skimming over several chapters at a time. It is better to spend fifteen minutes on one word, on one verse—and eat of its richness—than to cover a lot of territory without getting any lasting benefit.

DIG DEEP

There is no place for shallow thinking in Bible Study. God's Word is so vast that it

is possible to keep digging in the same place for a long time—with rewarding success.

The reason so many people get very little from their Bible Study is somewhat akin to the reason why maple syrup is so high-priced. About 35 gallons of sap has to be evaporated to make one gallon of syrup, and then a great quantity has to be further boiled down if one wishes to make a cake of maple sugar. So, too, if you are going to know the Word of God, you must realize that it is not a knowledge that can be gained in laziness. There must be gallons of "yieldness" to the Word before there can be true growth in the knowledge of the scriptures. But when the end product is reached, it will be sweeter than honey in the honeycomb. In our study, we should run references. In comparing scripture with scripture, thought with thought, word with word, a reference Bible is a MUST.

Don't be afraid to mark your Bible with underlines, marginal notes, and personal interpretations. In this way you will pay more attention to what you have read, and get more out of it.

Always before you read, ask God to, and expect Him to, open your eyes, that you may behold wonderful things out of His Word. "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (Psalm 119:18).

It is also necessary to find out who is writing to whom. Find out when, why, and under what

circumstances. Look into backgrounds. Study personalities. Probe character. Find out what other people have said about the passage at hand in Bible commentaries and dictionaries and reference books.

The Bible is God's Word and not man's. Therefore, believe what you read... not because you understand all there is to know... but because God said it. In all your digging, searching and curiosity, do not be critical of divine authority. God's thoughts and ways are far above ours.

BE OBEDIENT

Take it personally. Obey what you see in print and what you sense in your heart. Pause and pray amid your studies. Avoid the purely intellectual. Ask God to apply His Word to your heart by the power of the Holy Spirit, and lift you to a higher level of living. "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2).

Perhaps the greatest need of our modern society is a rediscovery of God's Word today. It has been obscured by our disbelief—it has been bypassed by our disobedience—it has been ignored by our intellectual sophistication. It is not enough to have a Bible hidden away in an attic trunk, or gathering dust as a display relic. God's Word must be studied and obeyed in our daily lives if it is to have an impact.

P r o m i s e s

By Mary Holbert

THE Bible contains many thousands of different promises. 2 Peter 1:4 describes them, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises..." The scope and extensive quality of these "exceeding great and precious" promises make it difficult for us to comprehend unless we remember that our God is omnipotent, merciful, loving, and kind.

We cannot always depend upon the promises of our fellowman, but we can depend on the promises of God. "God is not a man, that he should lie;..." (Numbers 23:19). "...He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations" (Deuteronomy 7:9). God, then, has told us by His promises that He is eager to bless and help us along life's way. In fact, the

promises cover every phase of our life.

For example, amid all kinds of troubles, we have these promises. "He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee" (Job 5:19). "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the Lord; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him" (Psalm 12:5).

About material blessings we need not fear for Philippians 4:19 says, "But my God shall surely supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

One great promise of God is to forgive us our sins. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

Many of God's promises are related to virtues that we have

within us. If we have a forgiving spirit, God promises that we are His children. If we are pure in heart, we shall see God. If we humble ourselves before God, He will exalt us. God has promised to guide in judgment and teach His way to the meek. See Matthew 5:44, 45a; Matt. 5:8; 1 Peter 5:6; Psalm 25:9.

There is a special set of promises for those who live a victorious life. To obtain these promises perseverance on the part of each one is needed. According to Matthew 10:22, living a life of victory is not easy: "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." He that endureth to the end is called an overcomer. This word describes a person who has obtained mastery over sin, has conquered evil, overpowered Satan, surmounted every temptation and is victorious in living a life pleasing to God.

A Week at Gospel Ranch

By Carolyn Clements

A Christian youth camp is many things. What it is or becomes to campers depends entirely upon that individual. The attitude with which each young person comes determines to a great extent what he goes away with. In the light of what I have just said, I know that not every camper has the same opinion that I do; but I can truthfully say that Bible youth camp was certainly one of the most meaningful weeks of this year to me.



Every morning we began the day with "morning praise" which consisted of choruses and a short talk relating nature and our spiritual lives. This was followed by a time when each camper could find a quiet spot to read his Bible and pray. These morning meditations were both profitable and enjoyable.

After breakfast classes were held in the chapel until noon. Elder O'Banion, assisted by Elder Kauer and Elder Caswell, taught Church History; Elder Sweet taught Bible Doctrine, and Elder Camero taught Bible Prophecy.

Although I found all the classes interesting, I share the feeling of many that Bible Prophecy was the most fascinating and informative. We could have listened to Elder Camero all morning!

Recreation consisted of swimming, boating, badminton, volleyball, softball, tetherball, and horseback and burro riding. Needless to say, everyone enjoyed recreation, and no lack of enthusiasm or fun was noted! But what we all enjoyed the most was the All Star games between the campers and the staff at the end of the week. During the last few days, signs appeared in the dining hall, speeches were made, a poem was read, and even a victory song by the campers was presented. The results pleased the campers very much; they won the softball game with a 2-1 score, and they tied the football game.



Among our entertainments were films of last year's camp, slides of M.B.C. and S.V.A., a trip to the mines in Hibbing, and a celebration in honor of Dr. Carlin's birthday.

But the most wonderful part of camp to me was the evening services and the campfires. Each camper could participate at campfire by suggesting a song, giving a testimony,

or leading in prayer. Those times are the ones I remember the most; because through them I know that my faith in God was strengthened, and I realized just how little we praise our Father in comparison with how much He gives us. I'm thankful that we have youth camps, and I hope that many more of our young people will be able to attend next year.

Make a Mark of Merit

By Nathan Lawson

We want to express our sincere thanks to our FYC groups that are working through this program to support the NATIONAL FYC. The National FYC offers many worthwhile programs for the youth of the Church of God. Most of our FYC's are carrying on real active programs for their local churches. We certainly thank the Lord for this. Many of our groups sent in 15% of their income to help support the National FYC projects. We know that God is going to bless our Young People if we continue to be so diligent in our service to Him.

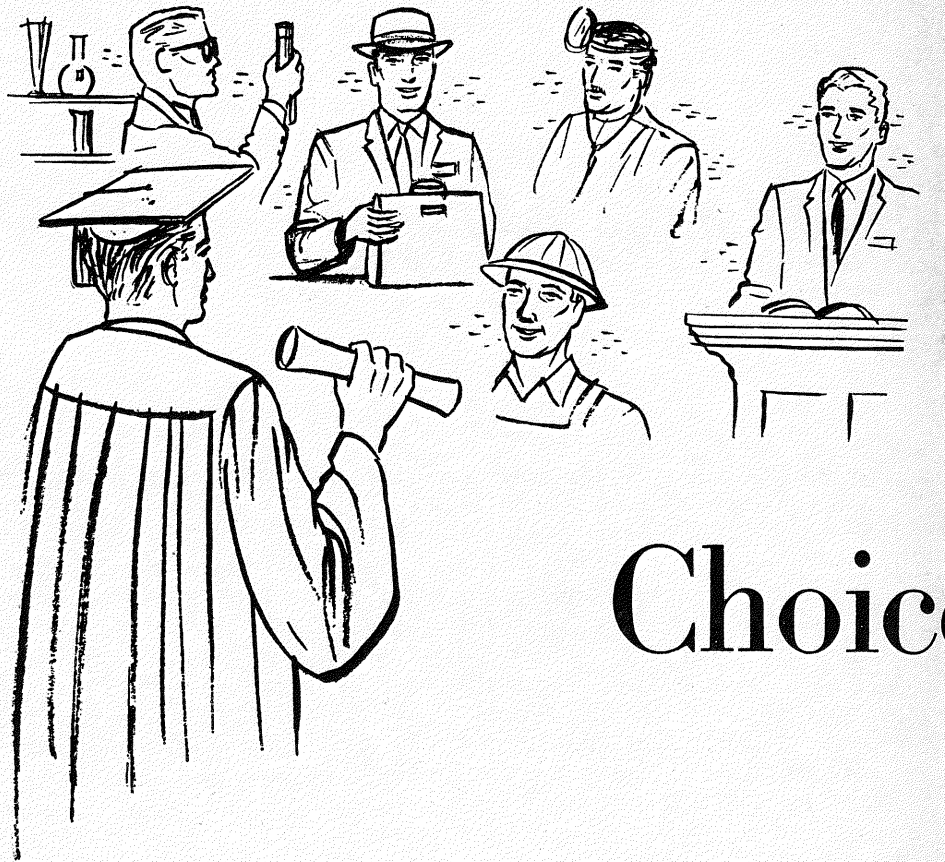
Report blanks for the second quarter have been sent out to all groups who sent in their first quarter reports. Some of these have already been returned. Has your report been filled out and sent in yet? We are expecting some very good reports for the second quarter. REMEMBER, the projects you carry out will

help to lead precious souls to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to carry on His work.

Let's make this year a year of real service for Christ. Don't get discouraged and slack off in your Christian life and work. Discouragement is one of the greatest weapons the Devil uses to lead us away from the Lord and to get us to be lukewarm. When he gets the young people of the Church of God in this condition, it really hurts the work. We need to be on fire for the Lord, ready to serve Him wherever He leads us. This is why the National FYC wants to help our Local FYC groups be active in the work.

Make your group active by working through the MARK OF MERIT PROGRAM.

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17).



By Lorraine Faubion

"Miss Faubion," a deep voice by my desk spoke, "I just wanted to say goodbye—I finally graduated!"

It was Jerry. He was almost twenty and finally graduating from high school. But don't feel sorry for Jerry. He had a quick, bright mind and, in spite of a heart condition which had put him behind in his studies, he had an equally strong physical capacity. Now he was out of school into what I often refer to as the "free world."

"Where are you going now, Jerry?" I asked, barely looking up from my work. But the answer I received made me stop and listen.

"I really don't know—not college, I didn't take the right classes, and I'm not really trained for anything. I guess I'll find some job somewhere."

A job somewhere! What a dismal future this could be when my friend had every opportunity to have a brilliant future. We live in a country where everyone has a chance to do what he most likes and can do best if he has the fortitude to work for it. Here was a normal,

causes this problem? Why is it so common?

Perhaps it's idealistic of me to say this, but I see no reason why each one of us should not begin each year with a goal in view. Perhaps this is a long-range goal, perhaps it will never be attained, perhaps it will be changed, but without it there is little or no way to chart a course.

Look at yourself. What are your strong points? Are you bet-

Choice, Not Chance

talented, gifted boy who had never taken time to find that spot God made for him. Somewhere the opportunity for polishing his talent had gone by, and left in its place a frightened boy with little or no idea where to turn next.

Everyday this same scene takes place all over our land. Young people, blessed with the promise of a rich, happy future, leave our schools and colleges to embark on their life's work only to find that they have not even the slightest notion where to go now. With few exceptions many have become so lost in the "now" they have neglected to look into the future. What

ter in any one subject than in others? Do you like some studies better than others? Is math fun for you while English is sheer torture? These are the things you need to look at. (And don't feel bad if you aren't a genius in all your subjects—neither was Einstein.) Where does your talent lie? Then begin to read up on this field—explore its many phases. Start now to *plan* a career, to find a place for yourself.

Many studies have been made recently of the relationship between the job a person holds and his mental health (his degree of self-satisfaction and hap-

(Continued on page 32)

A Paraphrase on The Acts of the Apostles

(Continued)



By Nathan Straub

AN ANGEL SPOKE TO PHILIP 8:26

The Lord's angel spoke to Philip, saying, "Get yourself ready and go to the south on the route that goes from Jerusalem down to Gaza, which is in the desert."

Philip got up and started on his mission, and he looked and saw an Ethiopian man who was an eunuch with great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had charge of the queen's treasury; and had been in Jerusalem to worship. As he was returning from Jerusalem, he sat in his chariot reading Isaiah, the prophet.

The Spirit said to Philip, "Approach the chariot and get close to it."

Philip ran toward the man and heard him read from the prophet Isaiah. Philip then said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The Ethiopian replied, "How can I understand unless someone guides me?" Then he asked Philip to come into the chariot and sit with him.

The part of the scripture which the Ethiopian read was this. "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and as a lamb is quiet before his shearers, so he did not open his mouth. In the time in which he was humiliated, justice for him was denied. Who can point out his children? His life is taken from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "Please tell me, whom is the prophet describing? Is it himself or some other man?"

Then Philip began to explain. He started with that same text and taught the eunuch about Jesus. As they went on the road, they came to a body of water and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water here. What would prevent me from being baptized?"

Philip answered, "If you believe with your whole heart, you may be baptized."

The eunuch declared, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." He ordered that the chariot should stop. Both of them went down into the water, Philip and the Ethiopian, and Philip baptized him.

After they came out of the water, Philip was caught away by the spirit of the Lord. The eunuch did not see him anymore, but he went on his way joyously.

Philip was next seen in Azotus. Passing through the country, he preached in all the cities of the area until he reached Caesarea.

CHAPTER 9

SAUL, TO DAMASCUS 9:1

Saul continued to breathe out threatenings and slaughter against the followers of the Lord. So, Saul went to the high priest and asked him for a letter, addressed to the synagogues of Damascus, which would give him (Saul) the authority to seize anyone, of this Way, whether he be man or woman; to bind them and bring them to Jerusalem.

As he traveled and as he neared Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven shined around him.

Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

The Lord answered, "I am Jesus, the One you persecute. It is hard for you to kick against the pricks."

Amazed and shaking, Saul asked, "Lord, what will you have me do?"

The Lord answered, "Get up, go into the city and you will be told what you must do."

The men who were traveling with him stood, speechless. They heard a voice but saw no man.

Saul got up from the ground and when he opened his eyes he could see no one. His friends led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. Saul could not see for three days. In this time he did not eat or drink.

In Damascus there was a specific disciple named Ananias. In a vision the Lord said to him, "Ananias."

Ananias answered, "Lord, I am right here."

The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street named, Straight, and ask at Judas' house for a man called, Saul of Tarsus. I am sending you to him because he is praying.

"Saul has seen in a vision, a man named Ananias entering and putting his hand on him so he could regain his sight."

Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard many things about this man. He has done a great deal of harm to your saints in Jerusalem. He has authority from the chief priests, to bind everyone in Damascus, who calls on your name."

The Lord said to Ananias, "Get on your way. For me, he is a chosen vessel, to carry my name to the Gentiles, to kings and to the children of Israel. I will show him what great things he must suffer for the sake of my name."

Ananias went on his way and entered the house. When he put his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord, the same Jesus that appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me so that you can regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

— Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes. He regained
(Continued on page 23)

Your Place in the Harvest

By Verna McCoy

We hope that by studying and memorizing the assigned verses from month to month that you have been better able to meet Satan's attacks, and have been richly blessed in your spiritual growth.

There is no better way to make Scripture memorizing practical than to share what you have learned with others through personal witnessing.

"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2). This verse clearly indicates our place in the harvest.

Personal work is very important because (1) it was a method employed by Jesus. (2) it can be done by all who are truly dedicated to God. There certainly is a need for more than just preachers and piano players. If you cannot "shine like the sun, twinkle like a star." (3) it can reach all classes of people. There is no command that says, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel in your well appointed churches and from behind your nicely carved desks," but we do read, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Luke 14:23). (4) it can be done anywhere—in homes, at school, places of business, while traveling, etc. (5) it meets the exact needs of the individual case. People are seldom converted by a sermon alone. It takes the personal touch to meet particular needs.

M I N U T E M A N

If we would be successful reapers in God's harvest fields so white, we must be able to quote the Word of God.

The following brief outline (adapted from the book, *Scripture Memorizing for Successful Soul-Winning* by Oscar Lowry, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan) will be helpful in learning how to lead others to Christ.

1. Show men their need of a Saviour.
Rom. 3:23 ***Isaiah 53:6**
and **how** to accept Him.
***John 1:12**; Rom. 10:9, 10; Matt. 10:32, 33.
2. Show them that without Jesus Christ they are condemned and lost already.
John 3:18; John 3:36
3. Show them that just moral goodness will not save them.
Matt. 2:37, 38; Gal. 3:10; ***James 2:10**
4. Show them that without Christ there is no peace.
Isaiah 57:20, ***21**
5. Show them what Christ has done for them.
Isa. 53:4, 5; ***1 Pet. 2:24**; John 3:16
6. Show them the final consequences of sin, and warn them of coming judgment.
Heb. 10:28, 29; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; ***Rev. 20:15**; Matt. 25:41
7. Show them that there must be a willingness to confess and forsake sin.
***Isa. 55:7**; Acts 2:38; Heb. 7:25
8. Show what it means to believe.
Acts 16:31; ***Rom. 1:16**.
9. Give a new believer Scripture passages on which to rest his faith.
Acts 10:43; Acts 13:39; John 5:24

You will notice that some of the verses listed here have already been assigned in earlier months and we hope learned. You can now see how they will help you to point others to Christ.

For August, memorize the starred verses.

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (Continued from page 21)

his sight immediately and got up and was baptized. After he had eaten some food, he began to regain his strength. Then Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

SAUL BEGAN TO PREACH 9:20

Without delay, Saul began to preach, in the synagogues, that Christ is the Son of God. All that heard him were amazed. They said, "Is this not the one who destroyed those in Jerusalem, who called on this name? Is not he the one who came here with that same intention; that he would bring those who call on this name, bound to the chief priests?"

2T₄G - Take Time for God

By Vivian Hall

Our chapters for this month are every bit as exciting as any modern day story we can read, or that we might watch on television. They are full of adventure, and one of the greatest love stories anyone could ever wish for. You don't think adventure and love stories can be found in the Bible? Then you haven't read these chapters.

When I was a little girl and before I could read, I would ask mother to tell me the story of Esther or tell me the story of Ruth. I had heard them many times along with the stories of Daniel, and David, and Samson and all the other people who played so important a part in our Bible histories. But they were favorite stories and I never tired of hearing them. Mother would tell the story and then open her Bible and read the parts not too difficult for me to understand. I used to wonder why certain parts always made tears come to her eyes, but now that I'm older and can read for myself and to my little girl who is just learning to read, I know. One can feel the heartache and trials some had to go through but by remaining faithful to their God they were able to rejoice in victory that only God could give them. For some, things looked very black and perhaps they felt there was no hope, yet they were willing to trust God fully. Esther was such a person. She had been reared by her cousin after her father and mother had died.

One of the greatest love stories ever told is that of a young woman for the great love she had for her mother-in-law. We hear all manner of mother-in-law jokes, from radio, television or word of mouth. They give us the idea that mothers-in-law must be horrible people. But Ruth didn't seem to agree with anyone about that. Her mother-in-law meant more than family, friends of her region, or

Date	Chapter
Aug. 15	Job 32
Aug. 16	Job 33
Aug. 17	Job 34
Aug. 18	Job 35
Aug. 19	Job 36
Aug. 20	Job 37
Aug. 21	Job 38
Aug. 22	Job 39
Aug. 23	Job 40
Aug. 24	Job 41
Aug. 25	Job 42
Aug. 26	Ruth 1
Aug. 27	Ruth 2
Aug. 28	Ruth 3
Aug. 29	Ruth 4
Aug. 30	Esther 1
Aug. 31	Esther 2
Sept. 1	Esther 3
Sept. 2	Esther 4
Sept. 3	Esther 5
Sept. 4	Esther 6
Sept. 5	Esther 7
Sept. 6	Esther 8
Sept. 7	Esther 9
Sept. 8	Esther 10
Sept. 9	Lam. 1
Sept. 10	Lam. 2
Sept. 11	Lam. 3
Sept. 12	Lam. 4
Sept. 13	Lam. 5
Sept. 14	Hosea 1

religious differences. She chose to return to Naomi's homeland with her, and when Naomi entreated Ruth to return to her own people, she replied "... whither thou goest, I will go; where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

"Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." Naomi let Ruth remain with her after that declaration, and they returned together to Bethlehem. In Bethlehem, Ruth met Boaz, a near kinsman to Naomi, and as was the custom in those days Boaz purchased Naomi's inheritance and took Ruth to be his wife. It was through descendants of this family that Jesus was born.

Esther is also the record of a beautiful love story, and the miraculous way in which God works to protect His people who love Him. Esther was an orphan who had been reared to young womanhood by her cousin. She was a beautiful young girl and when King Ahasuerus sent throughout his provinces for young women to be brought to his palace, Esther was among those selected. They were given living quarters and instructions in court manners and beauty treatments that their appearance before the king would be the very best. Esther was so beautiful, she didn't need the extra adornments they could use if they wished. She found favor with all those with whom she came in contact. When King Ahasuerus saw her, he loved her, and he set the queen's crown upon her head. She did not reveal her lineage because the Jews were a captive people. By keeping her identity a secret, she was able to learn of a wicked plot to destroy her people. She and her nation prayed and fasted, and then she risked her life for her people. The king had not summoned her, and to appear in the inner court without summons was a very great risk. If the king did not hold out his golden sceptre to her it would mean death. But God was with Esther and the sight of her pleased the king; he held out his golden sceptre to her. Her faith and trust in God saved Esther and all of her people from certain death. Just because she was in a position of importance, her loyalty to God was not forgotten.

Sometimes man today is prone to forget God and His many blessings, when he is given a position of importance. Man thinks he doesn't have time to devote to daily worship, but if we only stop to think about it we cannot afford to neglect our daily worship. Maybe only fifteen or twenty minutes each day, but devoted to God—Bible reading, prayer and meditation. What a wonderful lift to tired spirits and bodies! Try it!

HOW DO YOU OCCUPY SPACE?

We must take the world as we find it; there is no avoiding that. But we ought not to leave the world as we found it. There would be no excuse for that. A large share of our proper work in life ought to be in the line of seeing to it that the world shall be better when we leave it than it was when we entered it.—*Selected*

Editorial

"While in that place, we had opportunity to witness to a certain family" This phrase recently caught my eye as I read a church reporter. You have heard similar phrases as a lay member or minister shared some experience with you and other Christians.

It is cause for rejoicing when we hear words similar to this because we know what they are saying is that they not only *had opportunity* to witness to someone—but that they **DID** witness. (Otherwise they wouldn't be telling it.)

My thought as I read this report was this: What would our reaction be if we were required to report how many opportunities we had to witness to someone? Would we be embarrassed because we would need to admit that we let opportunities slip by, not taking advantage of them?

Why is it, I wonder, that it would embarrass us to admit this to our fellow-Christians when God knows about it all the time?

These thoughts may emphasize to you again the value of our FYC programs, Take Time for God (2T4G) and Minuteman. With a faithful daily Bible meditation as encouraged in 2T4G, you will experience keen awareness of God's presence with you throughout the day as you have allowed Him to speak to you through meditating on His Word at the beginning of each day.

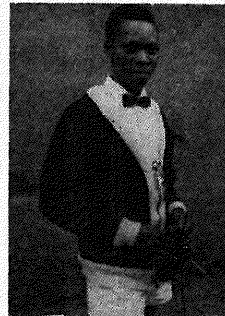
In the Minuteman program you join with other FYCers in memorizing pertinent, potential verses which will aid you, when the opportunity arises to be a "minuteman" in witnessing for the cause of Christ.

We can't expect results if we are not diligent enough to put some effort into preparing ourselves to be witnesses for Christ.

We would do well also to give some thought to *making* opportunities—not just *waiting* for them.

Can you think of any joy that would be more satisfying or abundant than the joy you may experience in leading a soul to Christ?

From Across the Seas



Jewell Linville

BROTHER ORIE REPORTS FROM OMOKU . . .

The quarterly report which follows covers the last quarter of 1965. It is delayed due to the slowness of regular mail from Nigeria to the U.S. However, I believe it will be of particular interest to all.

REUNIFICATION . . .

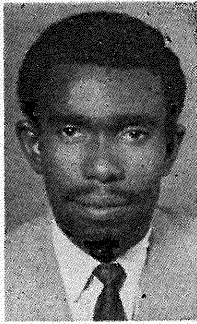
"After the General Conference of the Church of God, 7th Day, held the second time at Ahiaba, Aba District, which I attended as a representative of the Ogba District F.Y.C., I returned back on the 2nd day of December, 1965. On the 4th Dec. being the Sabbath day, I visited a combined all-day meeting of the other section of the Church of God under the leadership of Pastor R. O. Orukwovu.

"I was accompanied by Brothers W. N. Wokocha and Pepheth Orie. After the usual service, we had a private meeting with the Pastor—the leader of that section of the Church. Our visit was mostly concerned with the reunification of the two factors of the Churches of God. Pastor Orukwovu welcomed the idea of reunification but doubted if our leaders would be pleased if that was done. I made him understand that our General Overseer would be too happy to welcome him back to the fold. We ended our meeting after asking us how

possible it would be. But he said before giving final consent he was going to discuss it over with his committees. Before we left we were permitted to address the congregation, which Mr. Wokocha did and was welcomed by both male and female members of his Church. We took many pictures of the groups before returning back. We shall send some of these snapshots in a short period of time. May we pray fervently for the reunification.

YOUTH RALLY FAVORED WITH PRESENCE OF LEADER OF NIGERIAN FYC . . .

"On the 11th of Dec., 1965, we held our last Youth Rally meeting at Omoku Town. Brother Smile Dimkpa presided as Chairman. Other officers in the rally were Brother W. N. Wokocha—Superintendent, Peter Ejukwu—MC, Jepheth Orie—Song Leader. We had a total attendance of 80 people and 7 visitors from the other group of the Church of God led by Pastor Orukwovu.



"The rally was so much enjoyed. Moreover, we welcomed the leader of the FYC — Brother Young Ben Tikili, who was in the meeting. At the end of the meeting Brother Tikili gave the youths

an inspiring advice. He concluded by encouraging them to work co-operatively for the progress of the Church of God in Nigeria. After Brother Tikili's advice, the Assistant leader of the FYC and leader of the Ahoada Divisional FYC, Brother J. E. Orie, explained all the successes of the FYC in the past nine months since its inauguration. We enjoyed a programme of choruses introduced by the Idu-Osobile FYC. During the programme many choruses were sung. Announcements followed by Brother Orie of calling of choruses requested and the people that requested them. We realized eight shillings from the programme.

"Before the meeting came to a close we netted three pounds, six shillings, three pence, which was taken up as offering. This goes to the FYC District Fund. Many pictures were taken such as these you will see later.

TWO HUNDRED IN ATTENDANCE AT ALL-DAY MEETING . . .

"The 18th day of Dec., 1965, was an all-day meeting held at Idu-Osobile Church of God Chapel. It was attended by 200 members. On the 25th day of Dec., 1965, I went to Okansa for a combined service of

the Orukwou factor of the Church of God. After the usual services, I was permitted by the Superintendent to present a brief talk to the congregation. I emphasized greatly on sedition or schism in the Church of God, particularly in Ogba land. The speech stirred up the minds of many people both old and young. After answering many questions asked by members, they concluded that I should take it as a point of duty to visit other Churches of theirs so as to eradicate the division in the Church of God. Then they had faithfully promised to attend to any compromising meeting that will be held for the eradication at any time possible. After suppering with them in the evening, I returned back to my station at Omoku.

A MEMORABLE VISIT . . .

"On the 1st day of Jan., 1966, I visited the Idu-Osobile Local FYC. The visit was a memorable one which I could not forget in the history of the FYC. Though Idu-Osobile is my native home church, the FYC there is the strongest in the Division being conducted by myself. Before my arrival to the Church premises, the FYCers had hoisted up their banner of welcome, and I was welcomed by more than 36 FYCers from the local FYC of Idu-Osobile. After services, I was given a welcome address which was presented by their Leader—Brother Ino Israel Nwasiolo. The following were extracts from the welcome address.

"In the first part they expressed their gratitude of welcoming me in their midst for the first time, even since I was appointed the Assistant as Nigerian Leaders of the FYC.

They requested for the following: *AIM Magazine to be given to each and every literate member of the FYC.* (NOTE: *This would be a good project for you FYC groups! Won't you help?*) Also for an oversea pen pal. And begged that drastic measures be used to check people who are writing insulting letters of begging to their pen pals in overseas. They also suggested for the building of an FYC office at Ahoada or elsewhere. *They also needed more tracts for their evangelism* and begged that these transactions be made through the leader's office. They, in conclusion, prayed the leader to fight all in his might to see that the Church of God come in one in Ogba. They also emphasized on the means to keep the youths in the faith and concluded that they are ready to build anything such as a Bible School or a Hospital, even a technical school provided they get some help from their fellow FYC in America and elsewhere. They ended by invoking God's blessings on the leaders and officers of the FYCs and also the leaders of the Church of God all over the world, and begged earnestly for their address to be sent to overseas and Aba, Nigerian Headquarters for due consideration.

HOME VISITATION . . .

"In reply to the address, I thanked the FYCers for the warm welcome given to me and I promised to do my best to see that most of the things requested be done for them in the near future, say 1966.

"I further said that it is really premature to negotiate for an FYC office, but it is worth doing. I had to address both members as well

as the FYCers and read to them the FYC Manual and Constitution so that there would be no conflict between them. I visited many members of the Idu-Osobile local Church. I was entertained by the members of the FYC in their Chairman's residence—Brother P. J. Ejukwu. I left the same day for my station, Omoku. They were sorry to see me off by that time of the day.

UNIFICATION HOPEFUL . . .

"After the Idu-Osobile visit, I received a letter from Pastor R. O. Orukwou. Below is an extract from his letter. 'Dear Brother in Christ. I am pleased now to be able to answer your letter of 11/12/65.' The second paragraph also says; 'I am very happy to hear that the Bishop has given consent to the unification plan you are sponsoring. I also agreed to the plan as I had told you before. I am glad for your visit to Agbada Church, and you should also plan to visit the Churches under me in the District.'

"Pastor Orukwou invited me to their camp meetings in 11/1/65 which I attended and had a brief talk with him over the issue. May any one who loves the unification of the churches pray fervently to God that it might come to be a reality. Send your advice over the issue to the Ahoada Divisional Leader of the FYC.

THE RALLY WAS REMARKABLE . . .

"On the 8th day of January, 1966, we held our youth rally meeting at Ogbogu Church of God building. The rally was a remarkable one as it was

(Continued on page 33)

No marriage at all is much better than an unhappy or questionable one. Yet, too often we find our youth faced with a hard decision when they are tempted to enter into a marriage which is inadvisable. At such a time, it seems difficult for the ones involved to even listen to sound reasoning.

We share with you here a story which illustrates quite drastically the unhappy results of an unwise marriage. Results are not always so drastic, but years of dissatisfaction may follow an unwise decision.

The Road to Heartache

By Joy Meader

Tondra was busily making all the last minute arrangements for her big day. Everything had happened so fast that she did not have much time to plan for her wedding. She had met Arthur only three months before at her best girlfriend's party (which her parents had advised her not to attend). Her parents had such funny ideas. They did not want her to have close friends with those who were not in the church. They had always objected to her associating with Diane and her friends. How old-fashioned they were!

Tondra's mother stood in the doorway of her daughter's bedroom with tear-stained eyes.

"Tondra, dear, may I come in?" asked her mother.

"Yes, if you promise you won't say anything more against the marriage. I'm not going to argue with you any more over that matter," said Tondra sharply.

"I don't intend to argue with you, dear. I just thought that maybe I could help you in making plans for the wedding."

"Well, that's a switch! I guess

maybe I could use some help. I'm so excited that I can't think straight! Arthur plans to stop by for me at 3:00 to go look at some houses. We just can't decide whether to buy a home now or wait until after our honeymoon. After a six-month honeymoon abroad, we may just decide to live in a more cultured place such as Paris or Rome. But I suppose it won't hurt to have a home here when we come to visit you and Dad.

"Oh, my dear Tondra, what has happened to you?" sobbed her mother. "Money isn't the most important thing in life. You know the Bible says, 'Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.' You were brought up in the church; now you are marrying someone who does not even belong to any church."

"Oh, now, Mom, Arthur is a good man. Maybe he doesn't belong to a church, but don't worry, he will some day. You know that I have always stood firm for the Church of God, and after we're married he will join. Love is strong as death. And many waters cannot quench love! I believe that's in the Bible also. Arthur loves me and that's the main

thing. Don't you worry; we are going to have the happiest marriage on earth. Wait and see."

The next few days before the wedding Tondra gave little thought to her parents' and her pastor's warnings against marriage to a man who was not a Christian. Tondra just knew that her love for Arthur and his love for her was strong enough to win Arthur to the church after they were married. Tondra could only see the beautiful big mansion she would live in, the elaborate clothes she would own, and dear handsome Arthur beside her all the days of her life.

Finally, Tondra's big day arrived. Everything went off as planned. Everyone said that Tondra was a lovely bride, and Arthur was indeed very handsome and charming. Tondra's parents, however, were still very upset over the marriage. Her mother shed many tears.

Before very long, Tondra found out how little she really had known about Arthur before they were married. She discovered that he drank and that he had a beastly temper. But she loved Arthur, she told herself, and she had to make her marriage last. All during their six-month honeymoon Tondra tried to get Arthur to attend church with her, but he was always so tired from all their traveling that he never had time for Church. She told herself that after they got settled in their new home, they would go to church together.

But the honeymoon ended. They settled in a new home with their own private swimming pool, and a three-car garage, along with all the other things that money can buy. Still Arthur would not attend church with

her. Every time Tondra went to church, Arthur made such a fuss that she finally stopped attending entirely.

When they were first married, Tondra always traveled with Arthur on his business trips. But before long Arthur told her she should stay at home to entertain his associates and friends while he was gone—that she would be bored anyhow. No one but Tondra knew how lonely it was in that big house.

As months passed into years, Arthur seemed to change from the sweet, loving person she had thought him to be, to one who was hardly bearable to live with. When he was home he argued constantly with her, and when he was gone she faced days of loneliness. Tondra's dreams and plans soon faded with tears, heartaches, and loneliness.

The hardest shock of her life came to Tondra one day when she received word that her husband, Arthur, had been stabbed to death by a woman who claimed also to be his wife. The terrible shock was hard to bear.

At the funeral Tondra could shed no tears. It was like a terrible nightmare. She had wasted her youth—ten years of her life—and had nothing left but heartache, loneliness, and grief. As she stood there, alone, she thought of how things could have been different if she had only listened to her parents' counsel and if she had heeded the Word of God.

According to the Bible, she had had no right to marry Arthur in the first place. She had let the love of money and worldly recognition come between her and God. The words of Galatians 6:7 flashed to her mind:

"Be not deceived; God is not

mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Yes, she had no one but herself to blame for all her heartache and pain.

"I am like the prodigal son," thought Tondra. "I know what I must do. I must go to my heavenly Father and I know that He will receive me. This is not the end of my life. I must make a new beginning."

* * *

CHOICE, NOT CHANCE

(Continued from page 19)

piness). If you have ever known anyone who was unhappy with his job you wouldn't be surprised to know that those people who are most happy are those fortunate enough to have chosen their work, those who are genuinely interested in what they do and want to do the best job possible. These people do more than "make a living"; they actually manufacture satisfaction. The Bible says it more poetically than I when it says: "There is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion..." (Ecclesiastes 3:22).

How then can we find our place in the world? Let us look at some guide lines for choosing a goal for your life's work.

1. First and foremost throughout your life *let God direct what you do*. Whatever you choose, do it to the glory of God and He, in turn, will bless your efforts.

2. *Don't be afraid of change.*

If your family for generations has lived in the country and farmed the good earth, and you feel God has work for you in a foundry in the city, then go.

3. *Listen for further instructions.* So you have decided God wants you to be a teacher, but in the middle of your studies some other field opens itself to you; consider this may be God's direction and greater things may await you down this new path.

4. *Don't ever sell yourself short.* Moses told God he could not possibly lead the children of Israel, but he did. Perhaps this should read "*Don't sell God short.*" You may not think you have what it takes to go to college, but believe me if that's what God shows you, you can make it.

5. *Don't run away from the future.* I hear students everyday say they are afraid to think about next year or the next twenty years. Pressures from other countries and the suffering we now know are bound to get worse—even the Bible tells us this. But the Bible also tells us where to get the strength to meet each new challenge (and to a Christian it is a challenge, not a threat).

6. *Start now.* God may not have spoken to you in a thunder storm and told you to be a draftsman, but if you do well in this field then plan to explore what you can do with this talent. Don't wait until graduation

day or until you get married, or until you can afford it. Start this very minute to plan what you want to do. Include God in your plans by considering how you can take Him with you on the job, but choose some beginning.

Unfortunately I can't guarantee you happiness and freedom from sorrow, or "20% fewer cavities," but I can promise you you'll be busy and you will be working as you never have before, because you're not working to clean up your room or get enough money to buy that new sports coat. You're working to take your place in God's plan. You have a goal you and your best friend, God, plan to see through, and you don't have to worry about the future—you have put it in God's hands.

You may ask now what ever happened to Jerry. You probably expect me to tell you he followed my plan and is now a great success. Unfortunately I can't. There are millions of Jerry's each day who fail to find this simple plan. The last time I saw Jerry he was sadder than I had ever seen him. He had looked for almost six months before he found a job, and his eyes couldn't look at me when he told me what it was.

But there are others, you see. Thank God not all of us are like Jerry. Not all of us must leave our future to chance. With God to help us we have a choice!

It's still not too late for Jerry. He can find God yet. It's not too late for you—Have you

asked God to help you plan your goal?

* * *

FROM ACROSS THE SEAS

(Continued from page 29)

the first time a girl was appointed to chair the meeting and she did excellently well. She preached an inspiring sermon on the Love of God. The other officers of the occasion did also well and we netted an offering of two pounds, three shillings and two pence, though the offering was poor in comparison with the total attendance of 106. However, things were satisfactorily done and everyone returned home with a blessing.

"And this ends the Ahoada FYC activities and news for the previous three months. This is John saying good bye till we bring the Camp Meeting Report.

COMMENTARY ON THE YOUTH RALLY...

"In fact anyone who wishes the work of God to prosper will no doubt give thanks to God for the spiritual growth of the youths. The rally is helping them to be mindful of the Church work and many had developed their talents in Bible studying, speaking in the public without shame and leading a song service. Many plans and projects had been outlined for the year 1966. I hope the year will be a year of prosperity for the FYC by D.V. Thanks. This is Brother John E. Orie reporting for Omoku, Ahoada."

* * *

One who has light views of sin will never have great thoughts of God.

news and reminders . . .

Grand Prize Winner

High enthusiasm was displayed by the Harrisburg, Oregon young people in preparing a beautiful float for entry in Harrisburg's centennial on July 4. It was an ocean scene with a lighthouse signaling to a storm-tossed boat. The lettering was "Jesus Saves" (on both sides of the trailer) and "Church of God (7th Day) Welcomes You" (on the rear).

This entry won First Grand Prize over all the other entries. This brought hilarious screams from the FYCers and a \$15 award, along with the blue ribbon that has already become a treasure to them.

Equal excitement and cooperation were demonstrated regarding the concession stand operated by the young people during the centennial festivities. As an added attraction, they

gave away balloons with "God Is Love—Church of God (7th Day)" imprinted on them. Their gross income was \$525.00.

Youth Team Tour

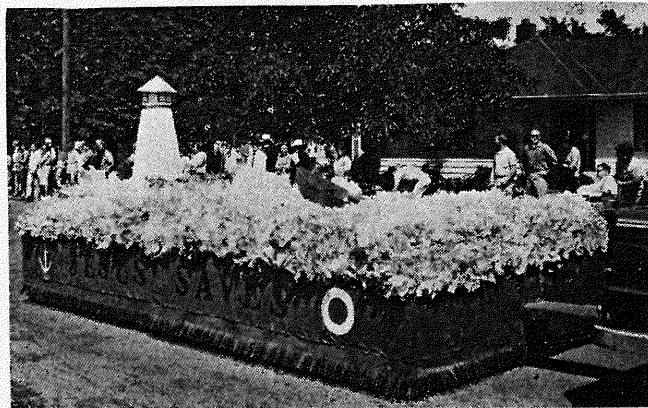
Shortly after you receive this issue of AIM, our Youth Missions Team will set out on a tour through the eastern states.

Those of us who were privileged to enjoy the wonderful program the Team brought to us last summer have not forgotten yet the tremendous blessings we received.

If you are within any reasonable driving distance of any of the scheduled stops below, don't miss it!

AUGUST

- 12—Youth Camp at Chelsea, Mich.
- 13—Open at camp—Sabbath



GRAND
PRIZE
WINNING
FLOAT
IN
HARRISBURG,
OREGON

- 14—Saginaw, Mich.
- 15—Freeland, Mich.
- 16—West Olive, Mich.
- 17—Muskegon, Mich.
- 18—Grand Rapids, Mich.
- 19—Battle Creek, Mich.
- 20—Toledo, Ohio—Sabbath
- 21—Parkersburg, W. Virginia
- 22—Moundsville, W. Virginia
- 23—Open
- 24—New York City, N. Y.
- 25—Washington, D. C.
- 26—Open
- 27—Farmville, N. C.—Sabbath
- 28—Randlemon, N. C.
- 29—Mocksville, N. C.
- 30—Dayton, Tenn.
- 31—Valley Head, Alabama

SEPTEMBER

- 1—Nashville, Tenn.
- 2—Open
- 3—Detroit, Mich. (morning)
- 3—Petersburg, Mich. (evening)
- 4—Decatur, Mich.
- 5—Owosso, Mich.

National Youth Week

September 21-25 is the date for National Youth Week in the Church of God. Every F.Y.C. should plan to

take part in this program which involves many things of interest to you. Prepared material will soon be sent out to the local groups. This will offer some guidelines for the 5 days of blessings. The whole program can be presented at your local church. For the week-end, it would be nice to have a retreat planned, at least on the last day of the program which is Sunday. Youth week can be a real blessing to your group and to your church. Don't miss it!

Beautiful Music

If you enjoy inspiring, sacred music in your home, you shouldn't miss out on the Youth Missions long-play album. This is music of fine quality—containing inspiring messages for you. Some of the songs included are: *You'll Never Be Lonely, Then the Answer Came, Until Then, How Big is God, Love is Why*, and several others.

Worthwhile Project Prospers

Continuing in the worthwhile project of sponsoring Bro. Hendricks to Midwest Bible College, the Stanberry FYC operated a concession stand at the Central States Camp Meeting.

If you haven't yet attended a youth camp, one opportunity is still open—but you'll have to pack your bags and be off in a jiffy!

MICHIGAN YOUTH CAMP

Mill Lake Outdoor Center, Chelsea, Michigan

August 7-13

Director: Elder Floyd A. Turner, Route 5, Owosso, Michigan