

December, 1962

Aim

The magazine for young people



“Every day is judgment day--use a lot of it!”

Aim The magazine for young people

Dedicated to the promotion of higher ideals and more challenging spiritual goals among the young people of the Church of God. Published under the direction of the Young People's Department of the General Conference. Subscription rate, 12 issues (monthly) \$2.00 per year in the United States, and Canada. Foreign, \$2.25. Clubs of 6 or more, \$1.50 (U. S. and Canada only).

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Donna D. Faubion, Editor

The cross of Christ, on which He was extended, points, in the length of it, to heaven and earth, reconciling them together; and in the breadth of it, to former and following ages, as being equally salvation to both.—RUTHERFORD

For Pleasure and Inspiration

In December, 1962

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Love

HENRY ASHER

What is love? One question with a hundred answers. Is it really the attraction of one to another or is it more? In so many cases love is taken too lightly. To the people of today love is just a word found in the English dictionary as meaning “a strong feeling of affection.” But to some it means the difference between life and death.

It used to be that when two people were united they stayed together until death. In today's busy life people don't stop to realize what this word means.

So many do this and there are many divorces today. If God had His way, there wouldn't be a divorce at all. A divorce is a sin against God.

Love between two people is like a strong rope. If this rope is cut by one, the other is hurt. If you haven't been hurt, you can thank God. But don't you be the one to hurt the other, because you will only hurt yourself.

True love is hard to find. It is a gift from God. He didn't mean for us to use it like a ball, throwing it from one to another. So don't sin against God and don't break another's heart.

It is a pleasant thought that when you help a fellow up a steep hill, you get nearer to the top yourself.—*Selected*

* * *

I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right; stand with him while he is right and part with him when he goes wrong.

—*Abraham Lincoln*

* * *

This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

—*William Shakespeare*

Understanding Our Fellowship

CLIFFORD TUTTLE

We need each other.

The other day I was talking with some friends, and I said, "You know, when you think of it, nearly everybody has a heart-ache." And they readily agreed. Just stop and consider it for a moment. Think of your friends, loved ones, your family. Everyone has unsaved loved ones whom they are anxious for, praying for. Everyone has sickness in the family. Some who are very close to us, bear up somehow under illness which must be very crushing. And think of the discouragement we all endure—the plans—the dreams. It's not an easy thing to work, plan, pray, hope for something and then stand helplessly by and watch it fall to the ground in dust. These are things which wrench the heart and cause anxious moments that linger on into the night. These are things which cross the paths of each of us with unbelievable frequency. We need each other. We need the true, warm, understanding friendship that we can give each other. We need the word of encouragement, that word of sympathy.

I like to think of Proverbs 12: 25. "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad." How many times have we been downcast, disheartened. And how many times has a good word from an understanding friend helped to lift our fallen spirits.

And Jude 20 goes on to tell us, "... ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith..." How we need good, solid, Christian friends who will lift us up in the faith; give us encouragement. I John 1:7 says, "But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with an-

other..." If we let the light of God fall down on us with its purity and brightness, we will have this fellowship one with another—a fellowship which seeks to lift up a brother, cheer the discouraged. This is the fellowship we all need.

Everybody must give in.

All of us enjoy moving into an atmosphere of fellowship like this. How can it be ours? As we ponder on this, the answer becomes quite obvious. We must learn to give in just a little. Now this takes maturity. We must do more than have a good understanding of what we want, and why we want it. We must be men and women enough to give in a little bit. This takes maturity and a lot of charity. But however difficult it may be, it is vital; for without the charity and maturity which prompts people to give in, fellowship abruptly ceases to be an instrument of blessing and at once becomes an insidious tool which turns brother against brother and presents a spectacle to the world and an offense to the Almighty.

Governments do it. Multiplied millions of our tax dollars are spent on our diplomatic service. The United States and other countries all feel they have principles and rights they must stand for. They all feel they are right. But in these frightful times, governments are sensing more and more the urgency of negotiating, or giving in, lest there be a chapter of history too terrible to contemplate.

Families do it. You certainly feel your family is the best. It is made up of some of the nicest, wisest people you've met. Yet, even in a family everybody must learn to give in quite a bit. Test it sometime. For one week demand that you always have your own way. Campaign. Pout. Ridicule anyone who stands in your way. Try this for a week and see for yourself how your family life takes a turn to bitterness and things which are not pleasant to think about.

Governments the world over are doing it. Families all around us are doing it. Why can't churches do it? Why is it that people get the twisted notion that when a neighbor becomes a brother in Christ, that is an immediate license to regiment, to lord over? Why can't we all learn to give in?

One may strongly disagree with a man and do everything possible and ethical to promote his idea, but still he must respect the other and give him the right to disagree. He should not dirty his hands

with the filth of slander. He should not waste his time belittling, smearing. He should not even form the opinion that the other man has poor judgment. Proverbs 10:20, 21 kindly reminds us, "The tongue of the just is as choice silver, the heart of the wicked is little worth. The lips of the righteous feed many; but fools die for want of wisdom."

Let's be men and women in our thoughts and in our speech when we come face to face with an opposing view. Let our remarks be made after thoughtful consideration. Let there be a note of compromise, a willingness to understand. Let our words not be harsh, thoughtless, impulsive, but let them be as choice silver. May we be big enough to review an opposing opinion, trying to understand what the other man really means and why he feels that way.

*If it weren't for the sinner
among us, we could have
heaven here with us now.*

From time to time we catch ourselves picking out someone attending our congregation and blaming him for our feeling of discontentment. We are so quick to lose sight of our sins and sometimes so ready to seize upon the faults of others. In so doing, we do our little part to disrupt the fellowship we need so badly.

First of all, why do people sin? Why is it that after a person is converted he still has faults or little sins? Or perhaps even big sins?

Last winter, as I was driving through a heavy snow on the way home, I came upon an accident. The city street was aglare with patrol cars, eerie red lights flashing. As I passed by I saw a form on the ground, with a sheet covering it. News reports disclosed that two teen age boys were walking beside the busy street. A car struck one of the boys, and according to witnesses, it sped on. We might ask ourselves, what low form of humanity would speed on after hitting someone? Authorities tell us that usually there are two

reasons for a hit and run. One: the person has committed a crime, and does not want to run the risk of being recognized. Two: the ordinary person, when he hears that dull thud, becomes panic-stricken and in a state of shock, speeds on. They say it can happen to anyone. Now it certainly is wrong, sinful if you please, to hit and run. But we look at this sin in a little different light when we discover that the person did not do it intentionally, but in a state of shock.

Most of the times the sins which people commit are not really done intentionally. Usually there are underlying forces operating which criticizing friends do not know of or even understand.

The remedy for our fellowship is not to bar sinners from coming to church. Matthew 9:13 offers this counsel, "... I will have mercy and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

*My only worth is the gift
of Christ—this squarely
puts us all on one level.*

Let's think about a few of the sins which we find obstructing the fellowship. How about stubbornness? You can usually see it in full bloom at a business meeting. The stubborn is the one who causes the session to drag because he persists in stating and restating his opinion even if most of the others are against his idea. In the Sabbath school, the stubborn brother is the one who has substituted prejudice for wisdom and fails to realize it. He is the one who embarrasses the teachers by press-

ing his point so doggedly that others become restless and lose interest. Yet he tires not, but rambles and rants on and on. And it is terribly uncomfortable to be involved in everyday conversation because the stubborn is always right.

This is childish and disgusting. Proverbs 12:14 says, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise." There may be many reasons why a man is stubborn. I have found that those whom I consider stubborn, usually feel unsure of themselves. They actually lack self confidence. So to compensate, they over state the case. They bludgeon everyone with their opinions, not realizing that they are unconsciously trying to hide their scared, insecure selves from others and from themselves. They do not need our wrath and scorn, but our understanding and true friendship. Let's be kind enough to give that noble, unselfish friendship which surpasses the idea, "I'll be a friend for a while just to give you a fair chance to come to my point of view." Rather, may our attitude be, "You are welcome to your ideas, let us not think about our differences, but enjoy the things we have in common."

As the repelling traits of stubbornness come into focus, if we are entirely frank with ourselves, we too at times are stubborn, unmanageable. So we have little right to judge the other man and say we are so much better. He just has a little stronger case of something which we all have.

How about the hypocrite? We all know how unbearable this
(Continued on page 17)

Too often, people have felt Christianity was a miracle drug to miraculously make life easy without suffering and pain. The purpose of Christianity is not to avoid difficulty, but to produce a character adequate to meet it when it comes. It does not make life easy; rather it tries to make us great enough for life. It does not give us escape from life's burdens, but strength for meeting them when they come.

James L. Christensen in FUNERAL SERVICES (Fleming H. Revell Company)

Self Reliance

JAMES T. WHITE

When a boy first goes in swimming, he is frightened, and because he gets his head under water, he thinks he is sinking. The human body is lighter than water, and if the lungs are kept full of air, will not sink. But it is only a small portion of the body that remains above water and all that is needed to learn is to be careful that the portion that floats is the mouth. If one will hold his breath, and, when standing waist high in the water, try to reach a stone on the bottom, he will find it impossible. Let one throw himself on his back in the water, and he will float. The moment one has confidence that he will not sink, he can swim. It is simply confidence. The slight support of a companion's hand under the chest while learning the motion, and giving confidence, is well enough, but it is confidence, and that alone, that enables one to swim. There is, perhaps, no other action that so depends upon confidence, as swimming.

• *Self-reliance is the habit of trusting to one's self without depending on the help of others.*

Self-reliance is the result of self-control; but it must not be confounded with self-conceit, which is merely being satisfied with oneself. Egotism is the giving expression to self-conceit, and is one of the most offensive of vices. Self-conceit dwarfs the mind, preventing that faith in oneself which successfully copes with opposing odds.

Self-reliance puts on Fortitude and Courage, and makes a man have faith in himself. Self-reliance trusts in the quality and temper

of its own weapons. It makes no comparisons, 't simply says, "I will do my best." Emerson said, "Self-trust is the essence of heroism."

One of the best means of increasing self-reliance is never to accept help in any problem or situation until one has fairly tried what can be done without it. Always *make the attempt* with all your might to conquer the difficulty, and the satisfaction of having accomplished it all by your own effort is always a sufficient reward. And the best of it is that a successful accomplishment brings an *increase* of confidence and self-reliance. It is wonderful what power there is in self-reliance to marshal all the faculties and unite their strength.

American biography is rich in the number of great men who have begun life in poverty and toil. One would be astonished at the number. One reason is that having so few helps, they were forced to rely upon themselves, and by this means made places for themselves. They learned to trust themselves, and became emboldened to push forward with promptness, energy, and common sense, which at length compelled others to trust and honor them.

Self-reliance is a valuable asset, provided there is not substituted for it self-conceit, which is the result of ignorance. The only justification for self-reliance is thorough and careful preparation. "Only from certainty comes power," says Phillips Brooks. But self-reliance should not be allowed to have an undue growth, and degenerate into pride.

It is too frequent that those who

are architects of their own fortunes boast that they are *self-made men*, when their position is the result of accidental circumstances. It is related of Thomas Lorimer that when introduced at a public meeting as a self-made man, he said, "I have a great doubt about being a *self-made* man. Yes, I did begin work when six years old; but my mother thought I ought to have the educational teaching of business early. Yes, I have always been a great reader; but it was because my mother led me to it, and made me at her knee give an account of what I had read. You say my integrity is my own; I don't know about even that. When I put the speckled apples at the bottom of the basket, my mother called to me and said, "Tom, if you do that you are a cheat," and I did not do it. I very much doubt if I am a *self-made man*. I think my mother had something to do with it."

It does not today require such conditions of hardship to make success; but with great helps we are apt to lose sight of the means which lack of help forced them to employ, and which, if we would employ with the same energy, would bring us the same success.

"A man must stand erect, not be kept erect by others." Self-reliance is being *sure* of oneself. Beecher said that once, at school, when he was demonstrating a problem in geometry, the master said, "No," in a tone of absolute conviction, and he sat down in great confusion and dismay. The next boy was stopped with the same emphatic "No"; but the boy

went right on, and completed the demonstration. Beecher said to the master, "I recited just as he did, and you said 'No.'" The master replied, "Why didn't you say 'Yes,' and *stick to it*? It is not enough to know your lesson, you must *know that you know it*." You have learned nothing until you are sure. If all the world says "No," your business is to say "Yes," and persist in it.

In school life arithmetic will be found the best subject for practicing the habit. In puzzling out difficult problems there is (1) the delight at the accomplishment of the task; (2) the confidence inspired by the success; and (3) the ease with which similar sums are worked in the future. Self-reliance may be shown to have indeed many rewards.

In home life children should learn how to wait upon themselves. Little ones can dress themselves in the morning without waiting for mother to do it. What pleasure there is in feeling that some help is being rendered, and that preparation for school is being got forward. Grown girls may mend their own clothes; big boys may tend their own pets, do their own little jobs, and indeed all may become more or less self-reliant. In adult life young persons leave the parental home as soon as they become self-reliant, and they scorn to remain as burdens on the family. The poorer the family the sooner this period of life seems to arrive, for necessity spurs them on. From this our degree of helpfulness may prove the truth of the axiom that "the motive-power is always found in what we lack."

Self-reliance inspires confidence. One of Chatterton's sayings is, "What man has done, man can do."

The Bible is written about you and me. Every scene is a pointed finger. It isn't just a lad named Jacob who cheats his brother and runs away. We do that in a thousand ways, and so much of our life is a flight. And yet, for us too, if we're ever alerted to it, above our uneasy beds there always opens the ladder, that mysterious channel of give and take between us and a watching God.

Frederick B. Speakman in LOVE IS SOMETHING YOU DO (Fleming H. Revell Co.)

Dismiss the idea of waiting for something to "turn up"; of dreaming of a rich uncle or a benevolent old bachelor coming to give one a "gift"; of pining for "happier circumstances," instead of accepting the present state of things and making the most of it. In every success self-reliance must have been a vital element.

Self-reliance strengthens character. "He who begins with crutches generally ends with crutches." The self-reliant "forges a sword for himself, instead of wielding the rusty one of his ancestors." Dependence upon others weakens character. Strength is imparted to both physical and moral courage by self-reliance; as (1) in overcoming sensitiveness and discouragement; (2) in meeting ridicule and danger boldly. The endurance of self-reliance (which is its greatest outcome) may be illustrated by the story of the little Hollander who stuffed his finger into the hole of a dike, and remaining in that position all the long night, saved his country from destruction by flood. This is fortitude.

In the lessons of life, every person has two educations—one which he receives from others, and one, more important, which he gives himself. This can be illustrated by the fact that advanced scholars can teach themselves, whereas younger pupils require constant supervision. Self-reliance may be said (1) to remove envy of the accomplishments of others; (2) to obviate copying and cribbing of school work; (3) to make one capable of giving a genuine verdict.

In the formation of character, self-reliance (1) inspires confidence; (2) overcomes shyness; (3) begets hopefulness; (4) induces

perseverance; (5) gives courage; (6) fosters endurance. Its opposite—helplessness—may be illustrated by the case of the daughter of a wealthy and indulgent man. Suppose that she has never been taught to do useful work, sudden poverty may find her useless and despairing.

Practice. Let each one make up his mind never to say, "I can't."

—*Youth's Living Ideals*

Four things a man must learn to do
If he would make his record true:
To think without confusion clearly,
To love his fellow man sincerely;
To act from honest motives purely,
To trust in God and Heaven securely.

—*Henry Van Dyke*

When You Are Old and Gray

WALTER E. ISENHOUR

Your days of youth won't always last,
Your strength some time will fail;
Old age to you is coming fast
When you'll be weak and frail;
Then think of how you'd like to fare
When youth shall pass away,
And give the old folks just the care
You'll want when old and gray.

Remember in a few more years
That you'll be growing old,
And how 'twould bring you bitter tears
If you were treated cold;
Then treat the old folks good and kind
And cheer them on their way,
And such a blessing you shall find
When you are old and gray.

The old were once as young as you,
But years and age crept on,
And now their days are growing few
And soon they shall be gone;
But you are trav'ling on the road
To where they are today,
When underneath life's heavy load
You'll be quite old and gray.

So many pass the old folks by
Without a word of cheer,
Nor even smile when they are nigh
To stop a falling tear;
But make them feel they're only old,
With youthful days all past,
Or maybe grumble, fuss and scold
And sorrows o'er them cast.

"Just Once Won't Hurt Anyone"

LUCY FRANKE

It was a beautiful spring day when Jane decided to go for a walk. It was on a Sunday afternoon, so seeing all these people coming from church, she thought about her own church at home yesterday. Since she is away from home and going to college it makes it hard for her to get home every Sabbath. This particular weekend she had a chance to get home but had to be back early. As she was walking along this beautiful afternoon she was thinking about how many blessings she had received in church yesterday and how she was determined to lead a good life using Christ as her example. Her parents had taught her all the things that were good and bad, now all she had to do was live the way she was taught. Sometimes things would get pretty hard, especially when there wasn't anyone around to talk to besides her friends in the dorm, and they'd never understand.

Walking along and thinking, she didn't notice much of anything going on about her, when suddenly a nice looking gentleman stepped up to her and said, "Excuse me, but could you direct me to the ball park?"

Jane tried her best to describe where it was and soon gave up and said, "I know where it is but I can't explain it too well. You see I don't live here either I'm just going to school here."

The stranger who had introduced himself as Jim Smith then asked what kind of college she was going to and took a great interest in her.

She told him that she has been going to the State College to become a home economics teacher,

and that she was attending summer school so that she would get her degree sooner.

He replied in great surprise that he had accepted a position as instructor in her college for the following fall. He also stated that he had just come to town to look around a bit to see what the city looked like and wondered if there was anything special going on besides a ball game. He also suggested if she wasn't busy she could join him and probably show him the different points of interest.

Jane told him that she had something planned for later this afternoon but maybe not in the evening; but she couldn't say for sure and she would have to think it over a while. So she gave him her telephone number to call her later.

Jane was quite surprised. She thought this was a coincidence, and he seemed like such a wonderful person. Certainly being a college instructor he would have to be quite respectable. Without realizing what she had just done she felt quite privileged in being able to accept a date with such a young college instructor. It was not until later that she realized that what she had done was actually foolish. She didn't know anything about this man at all. He was a complete stranger. But she dismissed it from her mind until he called later that evening.

As the telephone rang that evening the chills just ran through her, but she couldn't understand why. She did feel sorry for accepting the date. Then she thought of how the other girls would envy her if she got to go with this certain young instructor. So with a

pleasant "hello" she answered the telephone. He told her that he'd be over by 7:30 and that they'd just spend the night viewing the city since she had to be in by 10:30.

As Jane was getting dressed, many thoughts would enter her mind and she started to worry and get scared. Just a short while later the telephone rang again. It was Jim saying that he just noticed in the paper that there was a good movie on at the drive-in theatre and wondered if she would be interested in going to it. She thought it over awhile and figured it wouldn't hurt her to attend a movie just once and besides she was sure it wasn't anything real bad, so she said she would go. After she hung up the telephone, she began to wish she hadn't promised to go.

In the first place a drive-in movie was no place for her to be especially with a complete stranger. The more she thought about it the more she wanted to stay at home, but she figured it was just too late. Then she just sat down and asked God to help her because she just couldn't go with him. She also knew she wasn't being much of an example if she went out with him. She didn't bother to finish getting ready, she went with the rest of the girls. When she came back there was a note for her that Jim had an unexpected faculty meeting, and that he was sorry but he couldn't make it for their date. Jane was so happy to receive that note that immediately she bowed her head to offer a prayer of thanks to the One that helped her out of this mess.

She never did hear from this man again. Some time later she found out that no such man was listed on their faculty for the coming year, so evidently he had

lied about that. Who knows what else he might have lied about? This little experience proved to Jane how important it was to be a true follower of Christ.

From Our Schools

From Midwest Bible College

Greetings again from Midwest Bible College, the heart of Stanberry, Missouri.

The month of November has seen many activities to keep us busy before the mid-winter recess. A very inspiring youth rally and social were held on the tenth. The F.Y.C. invited the Nortonville, Kansas Seventh-Day Baptist young people to come and to take part in the program, as well as to enjoy the games and refreshments following in the church basement. Our sincere thanks go out to our active and devoted F.Y.C. president, Roger Blankinship, for the wonderful job he did in planning both of these.

Three cars loaded with college students and faculty spent the Sabbath of the seventeenth in La-Cygne, Kansas, conducting an all-day service for the church people there. The speaker of the morning was Roger Blankinship, a ministerial student here at the college. Several excellent specials were presented in the afternoon service, and Elder Kauer gave the sermon. We hurried home to play basketball and to run relays in the high school gym, which we had rented for the evening. Refreshments of hot chocolate and donuts were enjoyed by all in the church basement afterwards.

Our nine-weeks tests have kept the students studying longer and harder than they have been used to doing. Just a few more days to go and we can once again relax and anxiously await the mid-winter recess when many of us will be going home or to other places for a restful vacation.

A Thanksgiving dinner is being

planned for all the college students and their families. We will gather in the basement for an afternoon of fellowship and to give thanks to the One Who has given us so much to be thankful for.

May this find you in the best of spirits and abiding in the love of the Father with the thankfulness in your hearts as we should have as recorded in Colossians 2: 6, 7: "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." May we, as Christians, not only have these feelings of good will at this time of the year, but do good always, that we may fulfill the words spoken by Jesus in Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." —Arleatha Butts

* * *

Report from S.V.A.

Hello again from Spring Vale Academy!

The schedule for S.V.A. students has been quite a tight one in the last several weeks. The week of November 2-9 was especially so, because it marked the end of the first nine-week period; and this, of course, meant nine-weeks tests.

But in spite of the heavy schedule, there have been various extracurricular activities which the students have participated in.

Spring Vale had its annual Harvest Hike Saturday night, October 6. This is an event highly anticipated each year by Spring Valers. They take off to the woods, with the moon for their light, and pre-

pare for an evening of great entertainment. Hot dogs and marshmallows were roasted over a bonfire; there were potato chips to be eaten and hot chocolate to be drunk. After the eats, choruses and folk songs were sung by all. It was truly an enjoyable evening, bringing about a wonderful feeling of closeness to God by being in His Great Outdoors.

There was an all-day meeting at the new Grand Rapids church Sabbath, October 20, which all the students attended. Many of them stayed at the homes of faculty members and the homes of some of the other students in order to be there for the meeting; everyone had a wonderful time. At this meeting, the newly-purchased church building was dedicated.

On October 27, the students, under the banner of the Chi Alpha (Christ Ambassadors) Club, went to the Griffin Home for the Aged in Corruna and presented a program. This was the second visit of this nature by the C. A.; the people there always welcome the visits.

Lord willing, we plan to present a special program there November 17 for Thanksgiving.

For the weekend of November 2-4, most of the students were away from the school. Those who were here Friday, November 2, attended a revival at the Grace Bible School in Owosso. It was the closing night of this revival. Most of the students, however, left that Friday afternoon to stay at the homes of classmates and attend services at the Petersburg church, Sabbath November 3.

Saturday night, November 3, was the annual hayride sponsored by the Petersburg young people. This is one of the major "fun-and-frolic" events of the year, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

This brings you up to date on the happenings at Spring Vale. As you can see, there is seldom a dull moment, with regular school work as well as other activities.

We continue to solicit the prayers of those interested in Spring Vale. We earnestly need your support. —Carol Millican

READ FOR A BLESSING

LOREN REYNOLDS

"Blessed is he that readeth," is the wonderful promise that John records for us in Revelation 1:3. What makes it so wonderful to the Christian today, is that it is so easy to do. In Bible times few people could read for themselves and still fewer could afford the price of a personal copy of God's Word. Today, Bible reading has been made so easy that the surprising thing is that so few take time to do it.

Perhaps some of you may be familiar with the book "Pitcairn's Island." It is the third book of the Bounty Trilogy series, which relates the fate of the mutineers from the British ship "Bounty" after they landed on Pitcairn Island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Really though, the book leaves out the best part of the whole story to us as Christians.

The story concerns itself with humanity at a very low ebb. The mutineers face hanging if they return, or are found by the British navy. Greed and drunkenness grow until the result is murder and civil war among their small number. Finally only two white men, the old captain and a man ironically named "Christian" are left, besides some Indian women and small children.

The old captain begins to spend much time reading the old ship's Bible. Christian wants to learn how to read so the captain begins teaching him the alphabet. Suddenly the old captain dies and Christian is left knowing little more than the letters of the alphabet and the fact that, properly put together, they make words.

There is no one to tell him where to start reading, so he starts

at the beginning of the Old Testament. From here on he tells his own story, how with painful slowness he makes his way through the first few chapters, spelling and sounding out his words one letter at a time. As time passes he works his way through the wanderings and wars of the Children of Israel, weeping and sorrowing over their rebelliousness. Little did he know that, in the New Testament, he would find Christ, God's remedy for all of their troubles.

But he did find Christ! He encountered the Saviour personally as he read the New Testament, and his life was changed! He had found the key to life's purposes.

Several years later when a British ship rediscovered the island the sailors were met at the water's edge by a group of curious Christian young people, the fruits of God's blessing on a man who read the Word of God. And up on the hill beyond stood the simple church they had built in which to worship Him which blesses beyond measure.

But this is not the end of the story. A century and a half have passed since then. Today, far out in the Pacific, Fletcher Christian's great-grandchildren and others who live there still meet for worship in the simple seventh-day church each Sabbath.

If God has promised to bless us for reading His word, certainly we should take time to seek out His blessings. These blessings are in reality so numerous that they compose virtually the entire will of God for us as Christians.

Why not start a plan for Bible reading right now and reap God's blessings? There are many ways

to read the Bible. Many Bibles have daily Bible readings so arranged that one reads the Bible completely through in a year's time. Or perhaps you would like to read a chapter each day.

You can make Bible reading a real search for treasure by keeping a concordance and dictionary close at hand. Look up the words that puzzle you, and check even the meanings of those you think you are familiar with. Don't go through your Bible-reading life thinking that the "importunity" of the man trying to borrow three loaves from his neighbor at midnight was his "need" or his pitiable "situation." It wasn't. The Bible reader who looks up this word is apt to be pleasantly surprised, just as I was.

Do those long chapters of genealogy bore you? If you have a self-pronouncing Bible, why not put emphasis on learning to pronounce those long names correctly as you read? Or recall the lives and deeds of those persons named and see how they fitted into God's plan.

Faith comes by reading the word of God as well as by hearing it. Many a man has found his faith by reading God's word. The Psalmist declares "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

"Blessed is he that readeth, even unto the third and the fourth generations. Such are the blessings that God bestows. Young people, we hope you will take these promises to heart and resolve to take part in our Young People's Bible reading program for 1963, for surely the heavenly Father will wonderfully bless you.

The Paradox of the Christian Religion in America

ALMEDDA REED

About sixty percent of the estimated population of the United States belongs to an organization of the Christian religion. We call ourselves a Christian nation, and the number of church members seems to be flourishing. Are we really that which we profess to be, or is our religion contradictory to received opinion?

I feel that the latter idea of a religious paradox fits America today. It is my conviction that most professing Christians are using religion only as a self-righteous cloak. John Newton once said, "Religion is the best armor in the world, but the worst cloak." People want something to hide behind, and religion seems to be the best thing available which makes them appear "good" on the surface.

Religion no longer plays an important role in our society. Instead of our culture being centered around religion, it has been given a secondary position.

Consider the spiritual life of an average "religious" person belonging to a Protestant denomination. He usually drags himself out of bed in time for the eleven o'clock morning service. What does he gain from this effort? For the first half hour or forty minutes he, along with other members like him, performs the rituals of his particular denomination.

Finally the minister is ready to deliver the morning's message. The message usually bears an impressive title, but its content is not nearly so impressive. The minister may entertain his congregation by telling them of the many lands that he has visited, and remind them that the people of

those lands are their brothers. A humanistic viewpoint is fine, but where does God come into the picture? He will no doubt mention the name of the Almighty a few times here and there; therefore, the listener assures himself that he is hearing a servant of God delivering the Gospel rather than an adventurer's lecture.

After the worship hour the "religionist" hurries home to a big chicken dinner and pursuits of another week, with no uplifting thoughts or inspirations to prepare him to meet the stress of modern living.

After noting the ritualistic and empty form of religion practiced by most professing Christians in America, one may wonder why these people even bother with religion at all in their lives.

There are many reasons why people become members of churches. A few people are sincere in searching for a purpose in their lives. Some feel that belonging to a religious organization is the proper thing to do because the "good" people in the past were church members. Still others attend church for social reasons and to gain business prestige. This type of church member usually practices only a one-day-a-week religion, and the remainder of the week his actions reveal his hypocrisy.

There must be a cause for this pretext of religion which prevails in America.

The fault may lie in a number of things. One might blame the church leader who often chooses to minister in a church where he will receive the largest salary. Therefore, the messages which he delivers to his congregation must be soothing rather than some words to awaken them from their

self-righteous sleep, so that he will not lose his position.

One might also say that science has caused this illusive form of religion. Yet science denies making value judgments, including anything concerning religion. The influence of science then, may or may not be detrimental to religion.

The factor which I feel is responsible for the paradoxical religion today is man's defiance of God's statutes by misinterpretation, or replacing them with laws of his own making. Naturally these man-made laws are imperfect and only present emptiness and despair to those who attempt to follow them.

Is there a solution to our religious dilemma? Perhaps our form of religion which denies the power of God is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Even so, man can find peace and true happiness in this life by adhering to the principles of God rather than the laws instituted by human beings. If this change should take place, our religion would no longer be a paradox, but rather, true religion would exist in our society.

"No man lives so truly for himself as he who lives for other people, and one of the chiefest purposes of education is that it gives larger views of life and adds greater power to serve humanity."

—Russell H. Conwell, Observation

* * *

"Some students drink deeply at the fountain of knowledge—others only gargle."

* * *

Three men are my friends—he that loves me, he that hates me, and he that is indifferent to me. Who loves me, teaches me tenderness. Who hates me teaches me caution. Who is indifferent to me teaches me self-reliance.—Dinger

* * *

"A high position demands high virtues."

* * *

"The presence of the Christian in an evil world has served to insure its preservation until now."

A Day of Reckoning

NEAL NEITZEL

LARRY BATEMAN was underneath a car making repairs at the Harris garage when he heard a commanding call from Herb Harris to come forthwith. Larry crawled out, and glancing at the late-model car that had stopped in front of the garage, saw a short, balding man at the wheel. It was Judge Kevin Skylar!

At the sight of Judge Skylar, Larry wanted to turn away, but Herb called on him to examine the brakes of the car at once. "The Judge is anxious to be on his way, and the brakes won't hold. See what's wrong," Herb said sternly.

Judge Skylar scowled. Larry appeared not to notice but there was consternation in his mind as he proceeded to remove a wheel. For an instant Larry thought the Judge recognized him, but a glance convinced him that there was only a glint of irritation in his eyes, the look of a customer who didn't like to be kept waiting.

Quickly Larry removed the wheel, and made a close examination of the brake lining. "It's gone," Larry reported. "I was just going to..."

"Nonsense!" Judge Skylar interrupted crisply. "I haven't driven that car ten thousand miles, yet!"

"Funny that the brakes should go out that soon," Herb Harris said slowly, running a grease-smudged right hand through his sandy hair. "You sure, Larry?"

It wasn't like Herb to question his young mechanic. But this was Judge Skylar! Right from the first week that the two men had worked together, the stock, good-natured owner of the small garage had displayed trust and confidence in Larry's mechanical abilities.

Larry's gray eyes narrowed for an instant, but when he realized that this was Herb's way of handling a difficult customer, he smiled, nodding at his employer.

"The bands are worn down to the drums," he said.

"Young man, I have to be fifty miles from here tonight, and I want to make that drive before dark," Judge Skylar said. His long, thin nose quivered as he spoke, and his blue eyes clouded with anger. "I haven't had a vacation in two years. Now I'm going to get in a long week-end of fishing at the lake, and I'm certainly not going to be detained by this!"

"Won't they function okay until next week?" Herb asked uncomfortably, looking again at Larry. "The Judge could bring the car in when he gets back."

Larry proceeded to examine all the wheels. His mind was in a turmoil. He was tempted to shrug his shoulders, and leave it up to his boss and to the hated Judge. He felt sure that the Honorable Kevin Skylar didn't remember him; probably didn't even remember the trial. But Larry's father remembered. So did the frail, sad-eyed mother who cooked and mended for her son while her heart ached with loneliness and frustrated grief because her husband had from five to ten years to serve in prison.

Larry's lean features hardened as he stared at the Judge. There had never been any question of his father's guilt. Mr. Bateman had admitted the theft of company funds, and had made partial restitution before the trial. Larry recalled Judge Skylar's crisp dispensation of justice, his unyielding refusal to allow an appeal

of the sentence—the maximum penalty for embezzlement.

"What about it, Larry?" Herb Harris asked, nodding toward the car.

Judge Skylar pulled back the sleeve of his dark blue coat, frowned at his watch.

"That car shouldn't go out without new brakes," Larry heard himself mutter. He turned around, wondering at his own decision. That day at the courthouse, sitting beside his stricken, silently sobbing mother, Larry had glared up at the bench, hating the stern, impassive judge, and vowing to himself that there would be a day of reckoning, when another judgment could be imposed.

This might be that time! Although Larry despised the short, semi-bald man who had sentenced his father to prison, the bitter, unreasoning hatred was softening. Larry had thought often about what had happened. His dad was a good man, basically honest and dependable. But, he had made a mistake. That mistake had to be paid for, even though it was a first offense.

"The Judge was just doing his job," Larry's father had quietly explained after the trial, while he sat with his family in the conference room adjoining the courtroom. "I don't want either of you to waste your lives by filling them with hate and bitterness. What's done is done, and if you want to blame anyone for the misery and unhappiness that we must all endure, let it be me."

Larry was walking back across the oil-stained concrete floor, his gray eyes bleak as he picked up the wrench.

"It's my car, and I say I'm go-

ing to drive it out of here!" Judge Skylar exploded, standing defiantly before the young mechanic. "Now, put those wheels back on."

"Go ahead, kid. It'll be okay," Herb Harris said quietly. "If the Judge takes it easy, he probably won't have any trouble with the brakes."

"Look for yourself, Herb. Do you really want him to chance those hills and curves with brakes like that?" Larry asked grimly. He stared up at the elderly Judge. "Sir, you are crazy!" he said quietly. His voice was low and calm. "If you deny this appeal the way you did at my father's trial, you deserve whatever happens to you!"

Judge Kevin Skylar's distinguished features became suddenly pale. "I don't have to—" His expression changed. He looked more carefully at Larry. They had met on a number of other occasions since Larry had obtained the job at the garage, but for the first time, Judge Skylar recognized the dark-haired youth. "You—you're the Bateman boy, aren't you?"

"That's right—*sir*." The last word was spoken with emphasis—almost defiance—as the young man looked up at the older one.

Herb Harris stepped between the two. He met Judge Skylar's quick glare. "Judge," he said, "I'm not letting this car out of here without new brakes! You are the king of your courtroom, Judge Skylar, but in here, I'm the boss. And I'm telling you that Larry is right. There's a good chance that the brakes would go out completely on the first steep hill."

The older man sighed as the suspicion drained from his narrow face. "As bad as that, eh, Herb?" he asked thoughtfully, looking tired and vaguely unsure of himself as he turned back toward Larry. "Thank you, young man. You were right. I *was* being a bit crazy."

"Even though it was you, I couldn't do it," Larry said, looking the Judge straight in the eye. "I thought about keeping my mouth shut, letting you take the

car, but I couldn't do it." His voice was husky.

Herb's big hand was on Larry's shoulder. The garage owner looked at Judge Kevin Skylar, although his words were directed to Larry. "No man should try to be both judge and jury, fella. Even judges can make mistakes."

Judge Skylar passed his hand slowly across his brow, as though to remove an unpleasant memory from his mind. "I remember," he said hesitantly, "the court docket was jammed, and I had a splitting headache that day." Then he spoke softly, as if to himself, glancing at the bowed head of the young mechanic. "Maybe I did rush the case; just not being sure is sufficient reason to entertain a motion from the defense for an appeal."

Larry's head came up. There was hope in his gray eyes, and a peculiar radiance on his greas-smudged face. "Do you mean that, Judge Skylar?"

"Of course, I mean it! What was the name of your father's attorney, young man?" asked the Judge.

Larry's eagerness and gratitude brightened his features. Larry and Herb Harris watched wordlessly as the Judge picked up the telephone in the glass-enclosed garage office and dialed the number of the lawyer who had represented George Bateman.

Larry's day of reckoning had come, but the reckoning was different.—"Sunshine"

We learn wisdom from failure much more than from success; we often discover what will do by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery.

—Samuel Smiles

A Tremendous Idea

The world today is selfish.

Great nations clamor for their own rights, and small, poor nations fight to realize a new way of life.

The world today is bad-tempered.

People are out of sorts with themselves and with one another. The government is snarly. Industry is irritable. International suspicion makes this a dangerous world.

The world today is bewildered.

With all our education, we are confused. We would like to build a new social order, a new world, but it is apparent we have as yet accepted no foundation upon which to build.

The world today is a sad world.

Literature is sad. Philosophy is sad. Economics is sad. Capitalism is sad. Communism is sad. We have little radiance and expectancy.

But we read in the Bible, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life." That is a tremendous idea. If we could only make the truth of it known to all men! It's an idea, once we grasp it, that becomes alive and walks up and down in our hearts. No narrow, selfish world could exist if this truth were known and believed.

"The Bible," said Stanley Baldwin, "is a high explosive."

Every forward movement in modern history sprang from a flashing idea struck from the fire of the Holy Scriptures. The truths of the Bible stir the souls of men. They are the Word of God.

It is with the handling of these
(Continued on page 17)

There is a strange saying about life that goes like this: "If you don't give, you don't receive." It's only the man who puts himself into something—who pours out all his energy, his mind, his spirit—who reaps greatness and success in life.

Bob Richards, Olympic Champion, in
THE HEART OF A CHAMPION
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

The Power of Faith

CAROL MILLICAN

Every true Christian recognizes the necessity of faith in his walk with God. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 1:7). This verse makes that necessity quite clear. But some want to put reservations on the power of faith. They say that God does not have the power that He did in Bible times; that not as many miracles are being performed and that God doesn't intercede for man as He did in the time of Christ and before.

There are records in the Bible of men of great faith and trust in God. These men were so close to God and had such absolute, unflinching faith that almost nothing was impossible to them, as long as they were in God's will. When God commanded Noah to build an ark for himself and his family, for He was going to destroy the people of the earth by a great flood; Noah did not question God's wisdom in any way; he simply prepared the ark in the manner that God commanded him, in spite of the jeers and intimidations of the people around him. Thus God spared Noah and his family from the awful fate.

When God commanded Abraham to offer his son Isaac on the altar of burnt offering, Abraham did not raise all sorts of excuses and objections. He did God's bidding without question; he had faith that God would prepare the way (Genesis 22:8). God made many wonderful promises to Ab-

raham because of his great faith and unquestioning obedience. Abraham died before many of these promises were fulfilled. They are still promised to Abraham and his seed, through Christ (Galatians 3:29). If Abraham had lost faith, these promises would not have been made.

Moving up to the time of Christ and the apostles, we find even more remarkable examples of the power of faith in a person. The apostles worked many wonderful miracles in the name of Christ. Christ Himself did even more wonderful things. He healed all sorts of diseases and even raised people from the dead. He defied the laws of nature on various occasions.

As I said before, many want to limit the power of God through faith. They say that God doesn't have as much power as He did in Bible times. It may be true to a large extent that not as many miracles occur now as then; but is that because of a lack of power on God's part, or is it because of a lack of faith on our part? Where faith is not present, God cannot perform His wonderful works of mercy. As the years have gone by, people have grown farther away from God and His laws. "... When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8).

Of course, faith isn't the only essential to the performing of a miracle. A person must show his faith by his works (James 2:26). But I believe that works will be a natural outbreak of faith and belief. If a person has great faith in God, he cannot help but show

it by always trying to live according to God's will. "Faith without works is DEAD." There will be no exercise of faith; it will be lifeless.

There have been several instances in my family of miraculous healing. Some have been told to me by my relatives, but there was one that I witnessed myself, and I will relate this experience.

I was quite young when this incident took place, but apparently it made an impression on my mind, for I can still remember it. My oldest brother, David, took double pneumonia when he was very small. My parents had the family doctor with him often. It was a very serious condition; he had a high fever and had much difficulty in breathing. Then one day Elder W. W. McMicken, the overseer of our district there, came for a visit. He saw David's condition, and offered to pray for him; and he did. I remember it very distinctly. A little while after Elder McMicken left, David was sitting up in bed and playing; it wasn't long before he was completely well.

God has many times intervened in my life when it seemed as if I "couldn't take it any more." In attending public school, I had a hard time upholding the Christian standards that I have. God helped me through these difficult situations many times. He has answered my prayers that I would be able to attend this Christian school for at least one of my years in high school.

The power of faith is truly remarkable, if we have a good basis for our faith.

Have You Ever Thought?

BOB MCINTYRE

Have you ever thought what it would be like if God did not exist? How would people react if someone had conclusively proven that God is nothing more than a figment of human imagination? Would they have an "Oh, so what?" attitude, or would they finally wake up to question this no-God proclamation? In the world would morality take a rapid dive, divorce and crime skyrocket to unprecedented levels? Would lawlessness rage rampant and mere existence become a grave ordeal? How would such a proclamation affect you personally?

Strangely enough, not too much would be changed in this world if this very feat could be accomplished! You know that Communist practices would not change one iota. Their bold assertion, "There is no god—only material," would be even more widely accepted and there would be no more need for shouting and raving to discredit a God who doesn't exist! And the superficial God-professing world would not undergo drastic reformation. National policies would not dramatically change, nor would international tensions become even more acute. There would still be the "good folk" and humanitarians in the world, and neighbors would continue lending and sharing with one another. To be perfectly frank, everything would persist as it does now and present scoffers could then confidently assert "... all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation" (II Peter 3:4).

Friend, you could prove that God does not exist and you would not alter very much. The vast majority of people would continue to pursue their own interests and there would not be any

remarkable changes in their manner of living! Why?—Because to most, God is nothing more than a vague concept or a personal idea and they have never really proved whether God does or does not exist! In an age where few things are accepted unless they have been tested, evaluated, and given a stamp of approval—the most important thing that needs to be proven by each individual is classed as a topic for idle speculation and considered unprovable. Ironic, isn't it!

Look at it this way—you could proclaim that the world is flat and if you could convince enough people it would be accepted. But—of what great import would it be to the individual—to you? Would it change your basic attitude and your whole life? No!—There would be no repentance and no need for your life to travel in a new direction. On the other hand, look at the response from the undeniable proof of God's existence—it will change so much more than navigation and shipping routes!

No man can prove that God does not exist and even God challenges and defies man to attempt such an undertaking. In the first place, where would you find a greater than the Creator of all? His existence isn't a 50-50 chance—there are no odds and only one conclusion can truthfully be made after considering all of the evidence. One of the most irrefutable confirmations of the presence and supreme power of God and the authenticity of the Bible is through prophecy. "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My council shall stand, and

I will do all my pleasure" (Isaiah 46:9, 10).

It is now time for you to prove God's existence. "Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." (I Thessalonians 5:20, 21). So, the next time you are on the corner look around at the world and the many things happening; search your conscience! observe God's creative ability; and study the very word of God. You will see these momentous proofs change at least one particular individual's character, outlook, and aspirations in life!

"Lo, all these worketh God oftentimes with man, to bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living" (Job 33:29).

If the Father deigns to touch with divine power the cold and pulseless heart of the buried acorn and to make it burst forth from its prison walls—Will He leave neglected in the earth the soul of man made in the image of his Creator?

—William Jennings Bryan

* * *

Lives that are thankful possess a deeper tone, a more beautiful melody, and a finer sense of humility than those that take God's blessings for granted.

—John W. Hughston, Jr.

* * *

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

—Proverbs 21:13

* * *

It's easier to get ulcers from what's eating you than from what you eat.

Robert S. Kerr, quoted by E. Paul Hovey in *The Treasury of Inspirational Anecdotes, Quotations and Illustrations* (Fleming H. Revell Company)

* * *

It's good to have money and the things money can buy, but it's good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things that money can't buy.—George H. Lorimer

A Form of Godliness

WILLIAM L. ROSENBERRY

In II Timothy 3:5 Paul writes to Timothy, his spiritual son, these words, which we are using as our text, "Having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

In this chapter Paul tells about conditions that will exist in the last days prior to the Coming of Jesus Christ. One with even a minimum of spiritual perception can detect these signs more prevalent and pronounced as in no other age. God's "Clock of the Ages" is about ready to boom out the midnight hour bringing to a halt time as we know it now. People of the world are sensing that something is amiss—something has gone wrong with our world. There is a fearful anticipation hidden from man's view yet ever causing an expectancy of impending danger. It's much like the feeling one has while lost out in the mountains at night, as one senses the approach of a man killing animal—hidden from view yet realizing its presence. To run would bring sudden disaster—to stand still would prolong the agony.

The whole world recognizes the need of something—a change—a guiding hand, yet cannot find the solution. My friend, when we say the world is losing ground fast we are making no new discovery. Economically the world is tottering. Part of the world is living in luxury as a king, and the rest of the world is undernourished and on starvation diet. Our national debt is so large that in a few years taxation may rise to 50% of one's income. How will it ever be paid? Don't try to answer, for our economists haven't the solution.

We are losing ground socially. I meet folk and by their actions

and attitude they tell me they are not satisfied. We build and tear down, build it up again, and then tear it down again, only to change it some more. People are dissatisfied. I was speaking not so long ago to a man who said he had all he needed to make him happy—wife, children, home, good business, car and etc., yet for all this, and pointing to his heart, he said, "I'm dissatisfied in here." Our prosperity and fine things have not brought satisfaction.

Then, too, we are losing ground morally. There is a grave unrest in our youth. Civic leaders have built parks, recreational centers, playgrounds and yet this doesn't seem to have changed the picture. Our school system has been changed to reach the modern mind, and trends in living, and yet we have contacted more youth dissatisfied with school life and quitting school than when we were a boy. What's the unrest about? It exists because a great many of our youth have exploited the finer and sacred things of life. They have learned before coming to a marriageable age all there is to know of life. But they have learned it by the "gutter way." Therefore, what is ahead? Absolutely nothing. This is a dark picture, but now let's turn to the other side of the question.

There is also an air of expectancy among the children of God. It is not one of fear, but a joyful anticipation of seeing Jesus Christ as He soon shall come to take out of this cold, cruel, cursed world His saints. This is the day we have been awaiting. It is near, very near, possibly two to five years at the most. The signs are about us—they can be easily detected if one will look intelligent-

ly for them. Among the many signs Paul writes about is the one of our text, some will have "a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof."

We have heard a number of people elaborate on this verse and always the part "a form of Godliness" was emphasized as being the offense. A form of Godliness is not wrong in itself. The wrong comes when people substitute form for Godliness. I've been in services where the music and the singing were the best, and where the preacher had a beautifully-built and prepared sermon—his delivery was good. For all this the service lacked Holy Ghost power. I've been in other services where the people shouted and had a joyous time, and yet for all this there was a barren altar call. What was the trouble? The service lacked Holy Ghost power. The form was there in both these services, the people were Godly, but the services lacked Holy Ghost power, the necessary element of every service to make it fruitful. I've been in other services where the special singing was poor according to generally accepted standards, yet spirited, and where the preacher preached a plain, simple yet sin-exposing message, and at the close of the service the altar filled up with souls seeking God. The reason for this was, they not only had a form of Godliness but also had the power of the Holy Ghost.

Some years ago I took a stand, and still do, against plays, movies, and pantomimes in churches. A sister took issue with this, and said, "Brother Rosenberry, I remember we had a pantomime in our church and it was so wonderful that everybody wept." "But,"

we asked, "Were souls saved that night?" The answer was no. Tears are no indication of Godliness. A person can weep in the theater and one often does. But that does not make the theater right.

Notice the parable of the ten virgins. They had a great deal in common. They all looked alike—they were all virgins—they all had lamps. One could not tell them apart, as far as their general appearance was concerned. But notice at the crucial moment when the bridegroom appeared that five went in and five were barred from the marriage. Five had a form of Godliness but no power—no overflow blessing—no extra cruse of oil. The other five had a form of Godliness—had the overflow—the extra cruse of oil and went into the marriage.

The emphasis is not on the form of Godliness, but it is on denying

the power. When a person becomes satisfied with a form of Godliness there will be no searchings of the heart. Worship will be automatic. No growth—no new light. Just good moral church members. Furthermore, there will be no love of the truth. Won't accept the truth. Will blame the preacher when the message hits them. Won't accept new light.

Then, too, there will be no conformity to God's will. They have their own ideas and will hold to them regardless whether they are wrong or right. They want their own way. Lastly, there will be no Christian fellowship. Instead they are cold and criticizing—easily offended. Do you have power in your life? Or do you merely have a form of Godliness, but deny the power?

—The Gospel Witness

"You are good enough without doing this," or "You are too busy with other things." We challenge all Faithful Youth Challengers to try this very simple program and see if the devil isn't a liar. It will take some real determination and planning ahead to read a chapter and pray for 365 days in 1963. It can be done. Will you take time for God to help yourself? A Christian is to give and help others. How can we give to others or help others if we are weak ourselves? Is there one who has reached a zenith in his Christian life? This will not only bring God's blessings to you personally but will benefit our department. Our department is made up of individuals.

In the 1963 "Aim" we will suggest readings for each day of the year. You can read these or some of your choice! Before very long we hope to have some forms you can use for recording your readings. Write to us and let us know if you would like to take part in this program. We plan to make some award or present a certificate for this outstanding achievement. If the suggested readings do not reach you by January 1 or at any other time, read any chapter of your own choice. Do not put off your meditation period until late at night when you may fall asleep without prayer and meditation.

(The title "Gold is Where You Find it" was first used as a theme for a Kansas City Youth Rally under the leadership of John Kelso.)

Manual Coming Soon

Early in December we will mail out manuals to leaders and sponsors. Order your manuals now. When you receive your copy, read it through and try this program for your local FYC. It would be ideal to schedule a business meeting and elect officers for the new year. Let's make this a "Year for Youth." This is an experiment but we have a lot of faith that this program will benefit the entire Church of God. Study the "Standard of Merit" program and see if this is a step in the right direction.

News for FYC Members

Gold Is Where You Find It

ELDEN FISCHER

Ever since America was first settled, riches have been discovered in our country. Gold was found at places like Sutters Mill, Pikes Peak, and the Black Hills. In places like Oklahoma and Texas "black gold" was found underground and in the liquid form. Great riches were the end product of the furs of Alaska and Oregon. In more recent years uranium has been the element to find. America is rich in natural resources such as wild life, forests, minerals, water, and rich soil. Many men have taken the raw materials of our natural resources and started industries that have "panned out" to great wealth. Riches are not always found at your doorstep. Many times men have spent their entire life searching for "gold" and have died poor.

Men have had to dig in the soil to get to gold in South Dakota,

coal in West Virginia, silver in Idaho, iron in Minnesota, copper in Montana, and to raise corn in Iowa or wheat in Kansas.

Are you looking for riches? Real treasures can be yours right in your own home. To find these immeasurable riches you turn around and face your bookcase, walk toward it until you can reach its shelves, select the book marked "Holy Bible," and between its covers you will find inexhaustible treasures that thieves, moths, or rust cannot corrupt. No one needs to die poor. Everyone can be rich in the blessings of God and grow spiritually if you can find a few minutes to "prospect."

Every day has 24 hours or 1440 minutes. Can you set aside 5 or 10 minutes to read a chapter from the Bible and to pray daily? The other 1430 minutes you can use for your many other activities. Surely the devil will whisper to you, "This will do you no good,"

New "Aim" Coming Soon

With the coming of the new year a new size "Aim" will be waiting to come into your home. New features, more news, and items of interest to you will be published with the hope of meeting the needs of our young people. You can help make this a more interesting paper. Send in your news, stories, articles, poems, testimonies, etc. Be sure you don't miss a copy, and tell others about this attractive, inspiring youth magazine. This is to be a combined Advocate-Messenger for young people.

More Boosters are Still Needed

With new programs being started we are greatly in need of more boosters. We hope our ministers will be able to give some time and special attention to our young people to initiate these new programs. Although you may be beyond the age of 25, you can still be instrumental in promoting the work. By your failing to encourage, support, or help organize programs, your local group may fail. There are four on the National Y. P. Committee and 13 on the Leadership Committee who have had a part in the program for 1962. There are others of whom we have not heard who are working behind the scenes to promote our projects.

The National Committee consists of:

Nelson Caswell
David Taylor
Dale Lawson
Elden Fischer

The Leadership Committee consists of:

Art Roche
Fred Walter
Harry Krause
Roger Blankinship
Harvey Fischer
Roger Salazar
Martha Cummings
Paul Heavilin
Loren Reynolds
Ken Haffner
Peggy Harris
Mylo Fischer
Calvin Burrell

With Him

In the dawn of breaking day,
When its first faint rays I see,
I can hear my Saviour say,
"Walk this day with Me."
When I feel the noon day's heat,
I press closer to His side.
There indeed is a retreat,
There in Him, I can abide.
When the sunset tints the West,
And the day is done,
He giveth His beloved rest,
To the weary one.

—Selected

Growing with God Program

I will try my best to improve myself and my church through a program of reading at least one chapter a day and having daily prayer during 1963.

Signed _____

Address _____

SEND TO:

Elden W. Fischer
1403 Franklin Avenue
Independence, Missouri

A Tremendous Idea

(Continued from page 12)

ultimate truths that Christian literature finds its greatest power. In a selfish and sinful age, it is our joyous privilege to proclaim the primacy of the love that is in Christ. In an ill-behaved generation we may witness to the blessings of the pure in heart and of the peacemakers. In a sad world we can sing and rejoice: "For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in the land."

Christ is among us. It is our mission to make known His saving grace.

—By James E. Gregory, Editor
The Free Methodist

Resolve

I will pray more and worry less;
I will smile more in happiness;
I will praise more and complain less;
I will trust more Thy faithfulness.

I will give more and withhold less;
I will help more those in distress;
I will love more and dislike less;
I will show more Thy loveliness.

—Edith Atkinson

Understanding Our Fellowship

(Continued from page 4)

sort of person is. When I was a boy living in Illinois, we had a landlady who promised us a much nicer apartment. Certainly we were very disappointed when we later learned she had rented it out to another family. Proverbs 11:9 offers this observation, "An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour. . . ." The hypocrite is undependable, untrustworthy. It is very easy for us to secretly wish he would go elsewhere to church. But consider this. Perhaps if we honestly understood the case completely we would see that he just can't make up his

mind. Now he doesn't really realize he has this fault. He's just that way. He is forever switching from one thing to another. He never has, and probably never will, make up his mind. It is forever changing.

Or perhaps, the hypocrite among you overdoes diplomacy. He honestly tries to be tactful, but he does not know how far to carry it. We may observe that in Paul's defense before Agrippa, Paul "battered" him quite a bit. Maybe if we had heard Paul's opening remarks, we would have been shocked and walked away thinking Paul was a hypocrite.

May we know this too. That at times we appear to be hypocritical. Have you ever suddenly changed your mind? If you have, chances are pretty strong that someone looked at you and wondered. Have you ever tried to spare a friend? Chances are good that you were a hypocrite in someone's eyes. Before we get ourselves all worked up over the local hypocrite let's simply realize that the only difference between us is, that he has a little bigger helping of something we all have.

We cluck our tongues at the ancients for stoning the Holy prophets, and yet it is so easy for us to politely, quietly, and with dignity kill another's spirit by our holier than thou or better than thee attitude.

Over and over we are warned against this folly. I Corinthians 10:11, 12 says, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

It takes patience to be a good disciple of Jesus Christ. He was not impressed with the swaggering boasts made by Simon Peter and he will not be impressed with the great sacrifices and daring deeds that we may offer Him. He is looking instead for patient men and women who will quietly wait for His time, His plan, His empowerment and His glory. These are the only people He will use.

*Gil Dodds in The Goals and the Glory—
America's Athletes Speak Their Faith
(Fleming H. Revell Company)*

Some people boast of the great faith they have. I dare not boast. I feel that I want all the faith I can possibly grasp. The verses preceding this text cite instances of sin and backsliding in the history of the Israelites, God's chosen people. And then, Holy Scripture goes on to say that these things are written for our example, for our learning. We are to beware lest we fall. Far be it from me to consider myself worthy. Far be it from me to feel I am anything. My only real worth is only what Christ gave me as a gift and this gift is extended to all men. This squarely puts us all on one level. As I see it the main difference between the born-again Christian and the man on the street, is that the Christian for one reason or another had enough sense to accept the gift of Christ for his sins.

Philippians 2:3 says, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory: but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

In Isaiah 65:2, 5 we read, "I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people... which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me: for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day!"

*May the day come when we
can stop chasing one another
around with our little
prejudices.*

Let's come face to face with this thing. Let's look at a list that most of us use on one another, and see how ridiculous it really is. If a person is hot headed, we condemn

him. If another is spineless, he too gets our disapproval. We secretly condemn the ones who are overweight. But if it is so wrong to be overweight, how about those of us who are quite a bit overweight? True, the Bible speaks of putting a knife to your throat if you overeat. But if we go back in history we may well discover that people in those days gorged themselves at a meal until they were positively sick. I cannot believe that God intended this text for those who gain so easily just with normal eating. Overweight, they tell us, is usually caused by some sort of tensions. And I wouldn't be too surprised to learn the same thing about the underweight problems.

If a person has more money than we do we condemn him because he is too rich. And here we begin to do some stereotyping. We immediately feel that if a man is of considerable means, he is greedy, proud and certainly anything but spiritually inclined. While such notions pass through our minds, let's be honest with ourselves and see perhaps if we are really just a little jealous.

On the other hand, if someone does not have a substantial bank account, we scorn him for being too poor. If someone dresses nattily we accuse him of being too concerned with appearance. If someone else does not look so fastidious, we say he is too ragged. We charge one with being too proud and turn around and declare that someone else has no self respect. To us some appear much too saintly while others, we feel, have no reverence. Do you see what this does to a fellowship? Can you see how our attitudes toward one another can be altered and the blessed fellowship which we all desire crippled? In short, we have a long list for everyone else. But it is so cleverly constructed as not to disclose our own faults.

Brethren, let me put it as plainly as I know how. Everyone of us here today has his faults. None of us has a right to point at someone else because they are not perfect. Let's not expect perfection

of one another. But realize we are just ordinary folks, with some troubles, some faults, trying the best we can to overcome our troubles and correct our faults. Let's not waste time by trying to perfect the other man. Fellowship is on the rocks when this happens. If the Christians of the world were to gather in one room, and then, one by one, each were examined and excused if he had a fault, or a sin, I well imagine that in a short time the room would be completely empty.

And may I say at this point, that I think it is perfectly natural and good for each of us to have our firm opinions of what is right and wrong, or what, in church vernacular, constitutes "worldliness." May we humbly realize that we all have had different upbringing. Many of us come from different parts of the country with various customs. This colors our outlook on what the Bible has to say about these things. We all have our little prejudices. So let us be very hesitant to demand that everyone else adhere to our narrow little thoughts along this line. If the Good Book comes right out and condemns something, may we feel free to speak with its authority. But it has been my unhappy discovery, that more often than not, people confuse their own little interpretations of a Biblical generalization as a Holy proclamation of a specific point. When we do this we are doing nothing short of playing god.

I'll not soon forget one couple I met some time ago. To this day I recall my first impression—I thought she dressed terribly gaudy. And I said to myself, "they surely must be spiritually shallow." But, perhaps out of curiosity more than anything else, I tried to discover common grounds between us and become friendly with them. Am I glad I did! I still do not share their particular taste in dress, but I have learned that they have spiritual depth, that they are fine people, people of real convictions. Think for a minute, what would have happened to our fellowship had I not taken the trouble to test my biased, narrow

opinion of these people.

May the day soon come when we can stop chasing each other around with our tiny little prejudices and be big enough to realize that our thoughts were not meant to add or take away from the Bible. Let's be oh so hesitant to judge one another by our personal tastes.

As we think of the sins of people who attend church, hypocrisy, stubbornness, and the list of faults we've just gone over, may we bear one thing in mind. The Christian who lets the love of God tender his heart, is the person who does not appreciate these undesirable traits, but yet loves those who have them.

I Peter 4:8 admonishes, "... above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." Proverbs 27:17 observes, "Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

When my son throws a temper tantrum I try to decide why he is attempting such a course of folly. If he is tired, I do not spank him, I put him to bed. A spanking would do no good whatsoever. But, if he is just testing me, then I feel he deserves a spanking. Too often we fail to discover why an offending brother does a certain thing, so we rush on head-long into an overly severe and unfair judgement.

If you were going to a steak house and you had a choice of two cafes, both the same price, same quality food, which would you choose? The first one might be something like this: Rough wood

floors; no window shades or draperies; no place mats; flies all over; stuffy; dirt in the corners; dust all over everything; dirty windows.

The second might be like this: Rich, thick carpeting on the floor; the interior having tastefully appointed furnishings; clean pure air; beautiful oil paintings on the walls; soft music playing. I know which one you would choose. Do you know what the difference is? Atmosphere. What is the atmosphere of our churches? Do we allow the sanctuary of the Lord to look rundown and uncared for?

And how about the other atmosphere? Is it truly friendly, unselfish, forgiving and understanding?

Our main concern should not be the faults of others, but in proclaiming the message that Christ died for our sins, that we must accept this gift to enjoy its blessings of salvation.

"And He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others.

Two men went up into the temple to pray: the one a Pharisee and the other a publican.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

And the publican standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast saying, God be merciful to me a sinner."

May the Lord bless us all.

One day, a young man irritatedly slammed a door in Abraham Lincoln's face. Recovering himself, he said, "I am sorry, Mr. Lincoln, I am just upset today."

Lincoln put a kindly hand on the man's shoulder and said, "Young man, why don't you stop fighting God on the inside?" What a student of human nature! Many times we fight God on the inside and turn to fight everyone on the outside. I have seen many a man sign an armistice with Christ in his heart, and live at peace with other people.

Louis H. Evans in *Your Marriage—Duet or Duel?*
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

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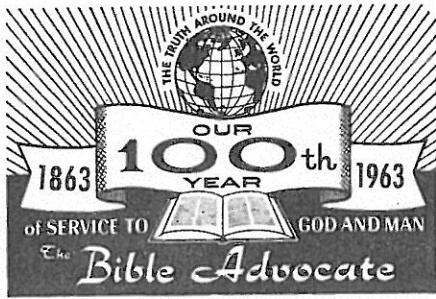
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