

Aim

The magazine for young people

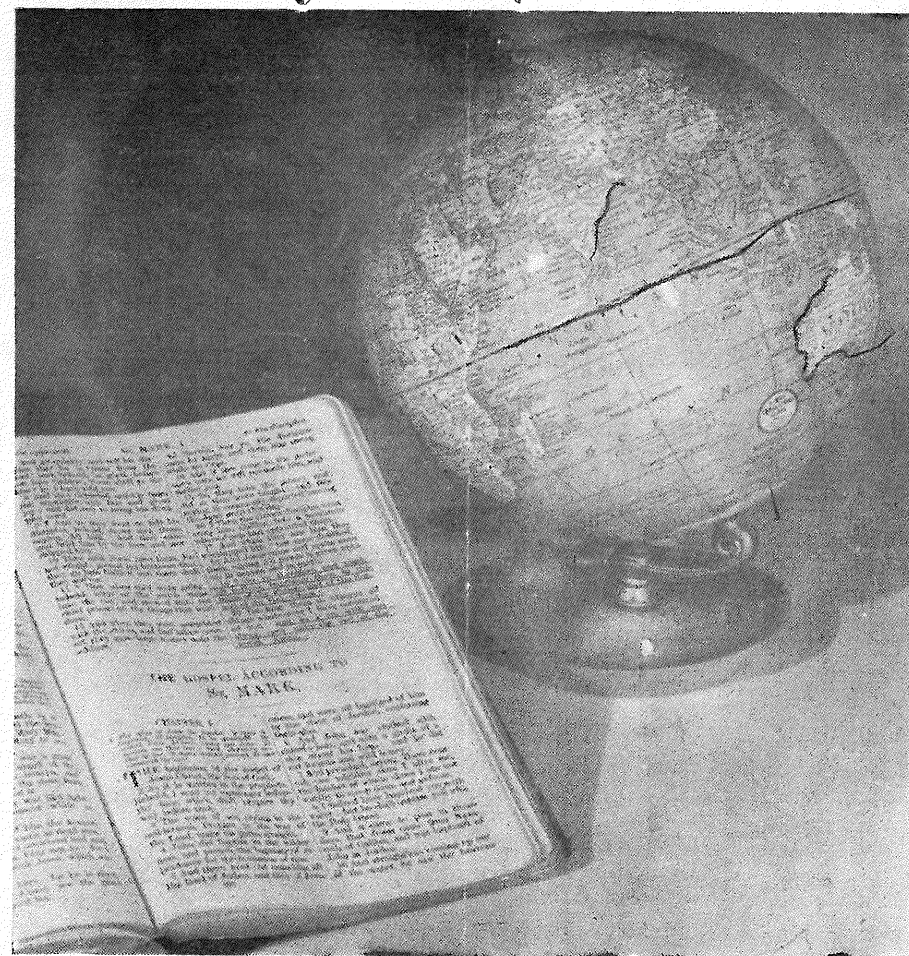
High and Noble Aspirations

If you aspire for something great
 And give to this your time,
 And trust the Lord for leadership
 Your life will be sublime,
 Although you may not reach the heights
 For which you set your aim,
 Yet God will bless your earnest work
 And honor your good name.

It's better far to aim quite high
 And fall a little low,
 Than ease along in aimlessness
 Like those you see and know,
 Who seem content to eat and sleep
 And merely to exist,
 And never have their names removed
 From failures on the list.

But no one fails in life we know
 With aspirations high,
 Whose life is yielded unto God
 Without complaint or sigh;
 Who blesses others on life's road
 By prayer and helpful deeds,
 And praises God when he beholds
 A fellow who succeeds.

—By *Walter E. Isenhour*



**The certainty of truth is not at all affected by
 persistent rejection of it.**

Aim The magazine for young people

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Vol. XXXI, No. 12

Hope E. Dais, Editor

Jeer not at others upon any occasion. If they be foolish, God hath denied them understanding; if they be vicious, you ought to pity, not revile them; if deformed, God framed their bodies; and will you scorn His workmanship? Are you wiser than your Creator? If poor, poverty was designed for a motive to charity, not to contempt; you cannot see what riches they have within.

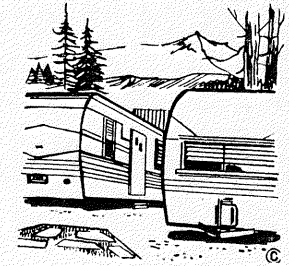
—SOUTH

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Trailer Town

By Morton Green



Denny Douglas parked his white Corvette beneath the dusty sycamore trees at the entrance to the rundown trailer camp where Sharon Runkle lived. Denny turned his wide blue eyes on Sharon, and said, "Be ready at seven, doll? Marcia's party is going to be a real blast."

"Seven's swell," Sharon murmured. With a tingle of excitement, she anticipated the party this evening at Marcia Reed's home on Sierra Drive, a tree-lined avenue of near-mansions.

All of the right crowd from high school would be at Marcia's party, including the clique of girls who ran things in the senior class, and whose semi-secret club Sharon would do anything to be asked to join. Or almost anything. Sharon had a moment of uneasiness as she recalled some of the half whispered things she had heard about the club.

Denny's soft blue cashmere sweater brushed against her arm as he leaned across her to

open the car door.

"Denny," Sharon said suddenly, "you haven't mentioned who'll be chaperoning tonight. Marcia's parents?"

Denny laughed. "Little Bo-Peep, are you kidding? That's the beauty part! The Reeds are in Chicago, and Marcia can wrap the colored maid around her little finger."

"Oh!"

"Marcia's got some cool new discs," Denny continued. "And her folks didn't do a very good job of hiding the keys to the liquor cabinet." Denny grinned in a way that usually made Sharon's heart do a flip-flop against her ribs. "Didn't I say this would be great? Real kicks!"

When Denny's sleek car had departed in a cloud of dust, Sharon started down the dirt road to the trailer where she lived with her parents and six-year-old sister. Like most of the men who lived in "trailer town," as the camp was called locally, Pop was employed at the fruit cannery. Sharon hated the shabbiness of the haphazard cluster of trailers and the pall of defeat that seemed to hang over them.

"There'll be something better for me," Sharon had promised herself.

Becoming part of the right crowd at "High" was the first step in a long range plan. Sharon had studied Marcia and her friends—their dress, speech, sophisticated attitude—like a blueprint. Into this pattern, Sharon had put her own good looks and special drive. She would make sure there was nothing about herself that said "trailer town."

And what if Marcia's party hinted at being something Sharon knew Mom would not approve (nor Sharon herself particularly enjoy)—the important thing was Denny Douglas had asked her.

Sharon walked past sad-looking trailers and noisy, running children, past sagging clotheslines stretched between trees, and women sitting on camp chairs, cutting up vegetables. Mom's red potted geraniums bloomed cheerfully in a tiny window at the rear of their own cramped trailer.

Beside the trailer, Sharon's little sister, Drucie, was sitting

on a log with Jim Stevens. The husky eighteen-year-old, with the name "Sharon" tattooed with in a heart on his arm, handed Drucie her doll. "Good as new," he said. Jim was dressed in tee-shirt, faded blue jeans, and black motorcycle boots.

The curly-haired tot ran to her sister. "See, Sherri. Jim fixed Annabelle! Her eye came out, but Jim made her all well!" Drucie skipped off to show her "all well" doll to her friend.

Jim looked up at Sharon. "Want to ride around later?"

Sharon shook her head. "I can't. I... I have to get ready for a date."

Jim stood up. "I've got something important to tell you, Sharon."

Sharon moved past him to the trailer. "I'm sorry, Jim. I'm just too busy."

Sharon had gone around with Jim Stevens before he had quit school. Sharon used to think Jim was a sweet boy, despite the helter-skelter existence he lived with his usually unemployed Uncle Pat, who, as Mrs. Runkle charitably put it, was frequently "under the weather." Now Jim ran around with a tough crowd of out-of-school youths like himself, who spent most of their time hanging around Wimpy's Pool Hall. *Trailer town had defeated Jim, too*, Sharon thought.

Pop worked the swing shift at the cannery so the Runkles had an early dinner. After Pop had left for work, and Drucie had gone out in the twilight to play, Sharon put on the snowy

organza dress Mom had made Sharon especially for this party. Mrs. Runkle surveyed the dress critically for any last minute touches that might be needed.

"Well, if I say so myself, I do think it's just about perfect!" Mrs. Runkle had worked on the dress for weeks, scrimping the money for the material out of her meager house money.

Sharon hugged her mother. "It is perfect, Mom. The perfect answer to a girl's dreams!"

"I want you to be happy, Hon," Mom said.

"I am, Mom. I really am." Sharon's words were sincere, but she felt a little twist of conflict in her heart as she remembered Denny's words about the party. A real blast... the Reeds in Chicago... the liquor cabinet. Yet, surely it was right to want to better yourself in the world... to go with the most popular and noticed crowd!

Mom lit the lamp in the trailer. "Your young man will be here soon," she said. "It's dark already. Goodness, Drucie should have come in by now! Where is that child?" She went to the door of the trailer and called Drucie's name. But the only response was the chirping of the crickets in the fall evening.

By the time Denny arrived, handsome in a plaid sports jacket, there was still no sign of Drucie. Mom was out searching for her, as were Jim Stevens and some of their neighbors.

"What's the big deal?" asked Denny, as he came into the trailer.

Sharon was growing increas-

ingly concerned; she felt she should be out searching for her missing sister, too. When Sharon told him what was the matter, Denny said, "Gee, that's too bad." He didn't offer to search, though.

Well, he couldn't Sharon thought. *Not in his nice clothes.*

A half hour passed. Denny's fingertips made a staccato tapping sound on the chair arm. "Kids are always pulling stunts like this," he reassured Sharon. "My brat brother was missing for hours... then he turned up hiding under his own bed! A dollar to a doughnut, nothing's happened to her."

Sharon looked out into the dark night. Faintly, she could hear voices calling.

"They're probably missing us at the party," Denny said.

Sharon turned around. "Why don't you go on without me?"

Denny put his arms around her. "It won't be as much fun without you, Sherri."

"I wouldn't be very good company. I'd be too worried about Drucie."

"She'll show."

"It's all right, Denny."

"Well... okay. But call me when they find her and I'll pick you up. Things will be really swinging by then."

Thoughtless of anything except Drucie, Sharon bit off all of her carefully applied lipstick in the next few minutes. When Mom returned to the trailer, with Jim Stevens carrying a limp Drucie in his arms, Sharon fell on them anxiously.

"What happened? Is she hurt?"

Jim shook his dark hair. "Just sleeping. Found her asleep in some weeds next to the ravine. Nearly tripped over her doll."

"Oh..." Sharon gasped, in weak relief.

Mom's voice shook. "I told this sleepy girl she should take her nap this afternoon." Tenderly, she took the half-awake child from Jim.

Jim looked at Sharon through tired, narrowed eyes. "All dressed up and no place to go?"

"Oh, Sharon you've missed your party," Mom declared. "That's terrible!"

"I told Denny to go on without me," Sharon answered defensively. "He said to call and he'd come back and get me. I guess he didn't realize we don't have phones out here."

"I'll take you over," Jim said.

Sharon hesitated. She'd been distant with Jim for a long time. She'd made it clear she didn't approve his dropping out of school and drifting aimlessly.

"It's not too late, is it?"

"No, it's not too late," Sharon decided abruptly. She snatched up her lace stole, kissed Mom, and departed with Jim.

"What was it you were going to tell me this afternoon, Jim?" Sharon asked, as they rode along.

Now he was the cool one. "Do you care?"

"Yes, I do."

"When I was in Clarksdale yesterday I signed up for an apprenticeship. Meanwhile I'll

be taking evening classes at night school.

"You're joking!"

"Why? I don't know about you, Sharon, but I wasn't just kidding around when I started taking an active part in the church young people's group a few weeks ago. I resolved then to do something really worthwhile for the Lord with my life—and I'm going to begin now." His strong hands gripped the wheel. He looked straight ahead for a minute and then directly at Sharon. "I guess I have to admit you were right, Sharon. I was crazy to quit school and just goof off these past months. Now I want to finish my education, and even learn something special. That doesn't mean the kind of special you find on Sierra Drive. But I want my life to be special enough so I can influence others for Christ.

Sharon touched Jim's arm. "That's wonderful, Jim," she said warmly. It was the best thing for Jim to get away from the unwholesome environment of his Uncle Pat's trailer and the dead-weight drag of trailer town itself.

Jim appeared to read her thoughts. "Trailer town is just... a state of mind, I guess you'd call it. I mean, you can make something of yourself no matter where you live, if you really try."

If you really try... the right way, Sharon thought.

"I'm proud of you, Jim."

"Here we are." Jim's rattling car came to a stop in front of a shrub-shrouded

house. "Well, isn't this where you wanted to go?" Jim asked, as Sharon made no move to leave the car. "This is Sierra Drive."

Yes, *this is where I wanted to go*, Sharon thought. *I wanted to get to Sierra Drive so badly... I didn't care what kind of a person I might have to become to get here.*

"Jim, let's go back."

"Huh?"

"I—I suddenly don't feel very much like a party."

Sharon squeezed Jim's firm, hard hand. "And do you know what, Jim? I don't think I'm missing a thing!"

* * *

There neither is, or ever was, any person remarkably ungrateful, who was not also insufferably proud; nor any one proud, who was not equally ungrateful.—SOUTH

Teenagers, Think It Over!!

The following is an excerpt from the Ann Landers' column in the Sunday Denver Post. Teenagers, think it over!!

DEAR ANN LANDERS: I'm a teen-ager who has grown very old in the last two months. May I ask a question of the millions of teenagers who read your column religiously?

If you kids knew that your mother or dad had two months to live would you be satisfied with the way you have treated them?

When was the last time you told your parents that you appreciate the things they have done for you—I mean actually told them in words? When was the last time you went out of your way to let your parents know that you love and respect them? When did you last give your mom or dad a compliment or did something especially nice for them?

Death often comes unexpectedly. You have no way of knowing whether your mom or dad have six months, six years or sixty years left. The time to think about it is today. If you haven't been the kind of son or daughter you should have been, start doing something about it now.

If I had read a letter like this even a year ago I would have done a lot of things differently. Now it's too late.—A SON WHO FAILED

o ——— o

Dear Son: Thank you for your letter. A teen-ager who is capable of writing such an honest and touching letter was probably a better son than he realizes.

—SUNDAY DENVER POST

"With the ancient (aged men) is wisdom; and in length of days is understanding" (Job 12:12).

The Age of Youth

This is the age of youth and, as a result, anything old is frequently considered outworn and primitive while anything new is judged to be much better. For that reason the Bible apparently is also "too ancient" for many in this "know it all," sophisticated generation.

A man of 65 is considered obsolete and must retire to let the younger generation run the world. It is felt that due to "modern discoveries" and "the much better training" now offered our youth, the experience of bygone days has become "passe." But the ignoring of the experience and WISDOM of the elderly has not proven its superiority. The present generation may be better educated and have more "abstract knowledge," but as yet there is no substitute for EXPERIENCE and seasoned WISDOM. Bear in mind that KNOWLEDGE and WISDOM are not the same. Read carefully the record of the YOUTH MOVEMENT in 1 Kings 12:1-20.

This spirit of the age which neglects the true wisdom of God's Word—the Bible—and frequently ignores the mature counsel of elderly people is bearing bitter fruit. It is reflected in the upsurge in juvenile delinquency and general disrespect for established authority.

Our parents are "old fashioned"; they don't understand, they live in another age, is the cry of young people today. Dad is

disrespectfully called "the old man," and Mom the "old woman." They forget the 5th commandment says: "Honour thy father and thy mother."

"Why," many young people ask today, "are Mother and Dad continually saying to me 'Don't do this' or 'don't do that?' Can't you trust me?" Most parents trust their children, but they have found out something that the majority of young people have yet to learn: Sin is like olives in a bottle; after the first one's out, the rest come so easily.

Mothers and Dads know that it's easy to sin and hard to do good. Without the admonition of God-fearing parents, many would drift into sin. Dissipation and self-indulgence have a way of lulling their victims into a false sense of well-being. The bitter pay-off comes the morning after, and in the weeks or months or years of remorse and suffering that inevitably follow. Sin's wages are still death. Each youth is making tomorrow's past TODAY. Remember that the Bible says "with the ancient is wisdom." Pay-day is coming soon for those who foolishly exchange the "new (?) morality" for the OLD PATHS of Scriptural truth.

If you want to travel with the crowd you must also go in the same direction, and that "easy way" is always DOWN! Believe me, it is better to be "anti-social," than to be social with the wrong crowd.

The true WISE youth of to-

day is one who gains his wisdom from the experiences of those who are older.

* * *

WHY WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW?

By Everett Wentworth Hill

Why wait until tomorrow when today is with us now?

Why dwell on what the past has been? Time will not allow

Such wasted hours for idle minds when there is much to do.

There are so many needing us—precious moments are too few.

Why wait until tomorrow to cheer someone on his way?

Why postpone some kindly act which may brighten his today?

Let your smiles encourage those who may hesitate to try

To find their way along life's path, while others pass them by.

* * *

Getting "het up" is just about the most useless thing anyone can do. Trifles, ruffled feelings and petty annoyances can become terrible tyrants. Besides burning up needed energy they add heavily to the normal burdens of the day. They are like termites undermining our personalities. Psychologists tell us that the two major sins are fear and anger. These are responsible for most of our unhappiness.

* * *

It is said that jealousy is love, but I deny it; for though it may be procured by love, as ashes are by fire, yet jealousy extinguishes love, as ashes smother the flame.

—MARGARET OF NAVARRE

Tell Me, Please

Dear Readers:

The following letter describing a personal problem is being passed on through this column with the generous permission of its composer. It is really worth reading! It speaks more eloquently and persuasively than many thousand words I might have to offer.

"Dear Elder Straub,

"My problem began some time ago when I first got my own car and money. I started to run around more which caused me to gradually lose interest in church.

"Soon afterward I met what appeared to be a nice boy, and I asked him to attend church with me. After just one visit he began to make excuses, suggesting that his family didn't want him to go.

"We became engaged, anyway, and most of the wedding plans had been made when I found out that he had the drinking habit. Attempts to get him to stop only resulted in a broken engagement.

"I felt I had lost everything. There seemed to be nothing to live for. I went out with other men, including my ex-fiance. I began drinking with

Youth Questions

answered by
Ray L. Straub



him and others. This led to meeting other men, married and single, with whom I drank, smoked and often petted. I stayed out late and even hosted drinking parties in my home.

"Before long I began hearing men saying unkind things about me, and my reputation was getting real muddy. I feared I would hurt both my parents and church if this continued, but I didn't stop to think. I felt I had lost everything when I lost my fiance.

"My parents are not at fault, because they gave me proper training. It just seems that my life is a failure. I desire to have another chance and a good experience with the Lord. I want to live for God, but I'm wondering if it isn't too late. It would be nice to be able to marry some nice young man and have children to be reared in the church.

"Do you think I could still come back to the Lord? How may I get rid of my bad reputation? What can I do to still get some of the good things from life that any young person wants?

"You may print this in AIM to help others avoid the terrible mistakes I've made.

"Thank you.

Once a Christian."

ANSWER:

There is no reason for you to think that it is too late for you to return to the Lord. You do have a battle to win, and you must keep struggling. Your courageous act in putting your problems on paper and sending for some help is a real stride toward victory, even though you have a distance to go.

Without enlarging on the nature or intensity of your past misdeeds, it may be helpful for you to recognize that you are prodigal, and identify yourself with the one in Jesus' parable (Luke 15:1-32). The most significant point in the prodigal son's return to his father is when he came to himself as he sat in the pigpen. From there on some real positive desire kept him going until he was completely reinstated.

You, too, have come to yourself. Now return home to your heavenly Father, just as the prodigal of the parable. You will have to walk a little ways on your own, but keep going. The father of the parable is our Father in heaven. When He sees you've walked far enough showing that you really intend to get home, He'll rush toward you and give you a "welcome home" experience such as you can hardly imagine!

Your reputation will change with you. Perhaps it will take a bit longer,

When Phillips Brooks met Helen Keller, who later became the miracle of her generation, he was asked to convey to this deaf and blind mute the love and nature of God. It took considerable time before he was able to bridge the handicaps that separated them, but suddenly the light of understanding crossed her face, and she signaled back to him, "I always knew there was a God, but didn't know His name."

Kermit R. Olsen in
The Magnitude of Prayer
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

but once you know that you have found the real purpose for living, you will not be as concerned about what others think of you.

Remember that receiving forgiveness will not automatically keep you from further temptation. The devil does not give up his own that easily. Therefore, you will have to concentrate on being a good Christian. Give God much more than you gave Satan. Attend church every opportunity you have. Take an active part to help God's work along. Search out ways in which you can be of help to others by offering to baby-sit, visit the ill and the elderly, helping with special projects, etc. The busier a person is for God, the less chance the Devil has to slip into his attention.

Remember that good comes to us as we see to it that good comes to others. Riches are heaped upon us only after we have invested generously in the happiness and well-being of others. You have already done some investing by sharing your experience and warning. You should have no difficulty finding many other ways to bring the greatest happiness possible into your life. With these blessings will come these good things in life that any young person wants.

I hope that your pastor might be helpful in counselling with you. My prayers are with you, and I hope to hear from you again.

Criticism - Stumbling Block ?

Life's been going along reasonably well, when suddenly you receive a jolt. Someone criticized you, rather harshly you think. At first the bottom dropped out of your little world with a thud. Then your pride came to your rescue and you said, "Now what makes him think he's so smart? Is he sure he knows what he's talking about?" Before you know it, you've turned the tables and you're busy criticizing the other fellow.

Or perhaps you're hurt and angry, and just give up with a shrug. "What's the use of trying? You can't please everyone no matter how you try."

Everyone has or will experience criticism at some time. It's been said that if you would avoid criticism, do nothing. But I'm not sure you'd avoid it even then. Are you? In the parable of the talents the servant who did nothing came in for the most severe criticism of all.

The problem, then, is this: *How should Christians handle criticism?*

First of all, keep cool. At all cost, keep a cool head so you can think clearly. "In your patience possess ye your souls" (Luke 21:10). This means that in your impatience you risk losing your soul.

Second, ask yourself if the criticism against you is true. If it is, and a fault has been brought to your attention, be thankful. Strive to correct it. God promises a place in the Kingdom to those who overcome (Rev. 3:21).

If the criticism was untrue or unjust, what then? It won't be easy the first time but **REJOICE**, and be **EXCEEDING GLAD!** You've just stepped in line for special blessings. Jesus said so in Matthew 5:10-12. Even He, the perfect One, drew criticism from onlookers. Yet He didn't let them stop Him from His work and purpose. He is our example. He also said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them which despitefully use you and persecute you" (Matt. 5:44-48).

Mountain climbers fasten their

-- or --

Stepping Stone ?

By Jessie Truman

ropes securely to the jagged rocks, the hard places—and climb. Their climbing is not without scratches, cuts and bruises. But they keep climbing if they are to reach the peaks. So must Christians use the hard places, the harsh experiences, to climb upward. Without these experiences we would not grow in grace. We can not learn about forgiveness if we've never experienced forgiving.

Now that you've been the victim of unkind criticism, what's your idea of the right way to criticize? How do you suggest that it can be done? An old proverb says that "It is not good to eat much honey." All praise and sweetness lack in character-building qualities, just as a diet of all sweet foods lacks in body-building qualities. So we see that criticism, properly applied, can help us to grow and mature.

Kindness is never out of style. Many times I've seen little girls line up in front of a judge at a 4-H dress review. Here they are modeling their first attempts at sewing. They've tried so hard

to sew their gathered skirts just right. But their lack of skill is bound to show some place. Each one steps up for her turn to be judged. What will the judge say? The right words will encourage; the wrong words can do great damage.

One judge has endeared herself to the girls. She always finds something nice to say about each garment.

"This color is very good for you. Did you pick it out?"

"Your waistband fits very well."

"Your placket is excellent."

"Your hem is beautifully stitched."

Then she points out the weaker points, assuring each one that she knew they'd do better next time. And they did. These girls were learning about their mistakes and how to correct them. By accepting the judge's criticisms, they were able to overcome their difficulties.

The way you accept criticism is also a yardstick to measure your degree of maturity. "When I was a child, I spake as a child,

(Continued on page 33)

The Perfect Escape

By Dorothy Nimchuk

Sirens wailed through the formerly silent night. Searchlights cut the blackness like a knife. Dogs barked as they and their trainers combed the surrounding woods. Days passed and turned into weeks and months. Still no trace could be found. The perfect escape had finally been effected!

Ever dream of doing something perfect? You can, you know! You, too, can make a perfect escape—an escape from SIN! Satan holds this sin-sick world in his clutches, along with the majority of its inhabitants. To you who are trying to break free, he devises many traps and pitfalls to deter you in your purpose.

Perhaps you have tried many times and failed. To negotiate your escape, you need help from the outside. There are many hidden messages in your food (spiritual food—God's Word) suggesting the perfect way out. Study carefully and prayerfully the escape route, so you will not be misled.

There is freedom from the sin of materialism. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break

through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

Freedom from immorality is obtainable. Jesus told the woman taken in adultery, "... go, and sin no more" (John 8:11). "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof" (Romans 6:12).

There is also escape from greed and thievery. "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" (Ephesians 4:28).

If pride is your problem, listen to this hidden message: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud" (Proverbs 16:18, 19).

The unruly tongue can be

conquered. "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man..." (James 3:2). Don't try this escape under your own power, however, for "... the tongue can no man tame" (v. 8). "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Proverb 15:1).

Are you a disobedient child, or have you disobedient children? "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die"

(Proverbs 23:13).

All who have not made peace with God are sinners and doomed to destruction. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Hebrews 9:22 tells us that "... without shedding of blood is no remission." What hope, then, is there? Oh, what wonderful words are revealed in 1 John 1:7, "... and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin." Accept Him today and find the perfect escape. Perfect peace and joy will be yours—and a home eternal with the Saviour.

SO MUCH—YET MORE

By Carolyn Clements

I love the land in which I live,
Because God blessed her with so much.
He gave her more than we can grasp
Within our meager, faltering clutch.

He gave her more than fertile soil
And rain sufficient for her need,
More than sun to make her plants
Yield surplus fruits and next year's seed.

He gave her more than lofty pines
And skies so vast and blue,
More than roses velvet-clad
To catch the glistening dew.

He gave her more than cheery notes
From the throats of songsters free,
More than the sound of crickets at dusk
Or the hum of a busy bee.

He gave her more than her beauty
And more than her abundance of all.
He gave her His blessings, and He gave her to me
To work in till the day He will call.

The Acts of the Apostles

in Paraphrase

(Continued)

By Nathan Straub



CHAPTER 13

SAUL AND BARNABAS WERE SET ASIDE 13:1

In the church at Antioch, there were certain prophets and teachers. They were: Barnabas, Simon (who was called Niger), Lucius (of Cyrene), Manaen (who had been reared with Herod, the tetrarch) and Saul.

While they were fasting and serving the Lord, the Holy Spirit said, "Separate Saul and Barnabas for me, for the special work I have for them."

After the brethren had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on Barnabas and Saul, they sent the two men away.

Barnabas and Saul, directed by the Holy Spirit, went to Seleucia. From there they sailed to Cyprus.

AT SALAMIS 13:5

When they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. The people at Salamis also had John for a minister.

AT PAPHOS 13:6

After they crossed Cyprus, Barnabas and Saul came to Paphos. At Paphos they found a certain sorcerer, who was a false prophet and a Jew, named, Bar-jesus.

Bar-jesus was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, who was a prudent man. Sergius Paulus called for Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God. Elymas, the sorcerer (this was Bar-jesus' name, by interpretation), however, prevented the two missionaries from doing this task, hoping to turn the deputy away from the faith.

Then Saul (who was also called Paul), who was filled with the Holy Spirit, looked at Elymas intently and said, "You who are so crafty and full of mischief; you child of the devil; you enemy of everything that is righteous; will you not stop dishonouring the right ways of the Lord? Take notice, now, the power of the Lord is on you. You will be blind and not be able to see the sun for a period of time."

Immediately a mist and a darkness came on Elymas, and he walked around feeling for someone who would lead him by the hand.

When the deputy saw what was done, he believed, and was amazed because of the teachings of the Lord.

AT PERGA 13:13

When Paul and his company left Paphos, they came to Perga (in Pamphylia).

John Mark left Paul and his company and went back to Jerusalem.

AT ANTIOCH 13:14

Paul and his company left Perga and came to Antioch (in Pisidia). In Antioch they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath and sat down.

After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officers of the synagogue sent a message to the missionaries which said, "Men and brethren: if you have a message for the people, please speak."

Then Paul stood and motioned for attention with his hand, "Men of Israel, you who honor God: listen.

"The God of these people, Israel, chose our ancestors and honored those people when they lived as foreigners in the land of Egypt and with an overpowering hand, brought them out of Egypt.

"Then, for about forty years he endured their ways in the desert country. After he had destroyed seven nations of the land of Canaan, he divided the land and gave it to Israel by lot.

"Later he gave judges to Israel, for about four hundred fifty years; until Samuel the prophet.

"After that Israel wanted a king. For a period of forty years, God gave them Saul. Saul was the son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin.

"After God deposed Saul, He elevated David to be their king. God said this about David, 'I have found that David, Jesse's son, is a man after my own heart. David will fulfill my plan.'

"From David's descendants God has brought into being Jesus, a Saviour for Israel. This was according to His promise.

"Before Jesus' ministry, John began to preach the baptism of repentance for all the people of Israel. When John finished his ministry, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not the one for whom you are looking, but One will come after me, and I am not worthy to untie the shoes on His feet.'

"Men and brethren, descendants of Abraham, and anyone who fears God: the word of salvation is sent to you.

"The people who live in Jerusalem and their leaders fulfilled the word themselves when they condemned Jesus. They did that because they did not know who He was, nor did they know the message of the prophets which are read every Sabbath.

"The people in Jerusalem could not find a cause to condemn Jesus to death, but they still wanted Pilate to kill Him.

"After they had fulfilled the prophecies written about Him; they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

(Continued on page 23)



Happy Home Building

AN EXTRA HELPING
OF LOVE

Though this item is directed to parents, it also is of twofold value to teenagers. It is meaningful to you now in regard to your relationship with your parents. Also the wisdom and insight you gain now is helping to mold you for future responsible, loving parenthood. Our many readers who are young parents right now will take this to heart for present admonition.

THE NEIGHBORS' 10-year-old daughter, Susan, was a thin, pale child. She had been waking at night with dreadful nightmares. Her mother was worried, and took her to the doctor for a thorough checkup.

"What did the doctor say?" I asked her.

"He says that there isn't a thing wrong with her, organically. He simply prescribed an extra helping of love! Told me to give her more companionship, play games with her, put my arms around her occasionally. It just seems silly to me. Why,

Sue's as tall as I am, and we give her everything under the sun."

It seemed a bit silly to me, too. My own little girl was then three, adorable and cuddlesome, a joy to hug as I told her a bed-time story. But the years went by fast, and soon Betty was an awkward, long-legged kid, prone to sudden outbursts of giggles. Our small son had pretty much taken Betty's place on my lap. Before I realized what was happening, I was having problems with my own daughter.

She became resentful and defiant. She would burst into tears at the slightest reprimand from her father or me. I longed for her confidence, but she was secretive and strange. I remembered the prescription that wise doctor had given my neighbor. Instead of punishing Betty and constantly reminding her of her age. I determined to give her large helpings of love and approval. I stopped ordering her to do certain expected duties, and asked her instead to work

with me and share my duties. For instance, I had always done the baking: It was a privilege for her to help me make a lemon pie and share my joy in the result. She had had to do the evening dishes alone and rebelliously—we now did them together, chatting while we worked.

I made it a point to give her an affectionate hug now and then, and to praise her warmly when she deserved it. Both her father and I laid aside our hobbies occasionally in the evenings to play games with her... My husband was a big help. He took Betty on an occasional week-end business trip. We had more family picnics.

It wasn't always easy, and it didn't work all at once like magic, but we gradually found our child again—a happy, fun-loving little girl who catches minnows in a paper cup. And we've helped her grow into a capable big girl, who sets the table just right and spends her weekly allowance with considered wisdom.

There are a few years in the lives of our children when they long to cling to the pleasures and privileges of babyhood, but want at the same time to grow up overnight and be considered as equal in the adult world. We sometimes expect too much of them. They're not grownups: They still need the warm companionship and security of their family and home. If we don't provide these, they will withdraw from us.

We all love our children. But we may forget to show them how much, by sharing with them and giving them patient counsel or, if need be, intelligent and just punishment. They need more than new shoes and music lessons and good food. They need active love from their parents. That

extra helping of love will enable our children to become mature and happy—as we want them to be.
—*Florence Laughlin in Farm and Ranch*

* * *

If men wound you with injuries, meet them with patience: hasty words rankle the wound, soft language dresses it, forgiveness cures it, and oblivion takes away the scar. It is more noble by silence to avoid an injury than by argument to overcome it.

—BEAUMONT

* * *

LENDING HANDS

Grace Cash

**I marvelled at the oaken barrel,
Standing beneath the water-
spout;
In storm, in drouth, it kept
serene
Though daily pressed within,
without.
And then one day I saw the
bands
Supporting it, from length to
length,
And knew that in the bands' up-
holding
Lay the barrel's great strength.**

**The soul of man is like a barrel,
Faced by storms within, with-
out,
By pressures of the daily life,
By problems leading one to
doubt.
How oft a gracious, lending hand
Must be outstretched at length,
To save the faltering ones who
stand
In need of God's eternal strength.**

From Across the Seas

Reported by Jewell Linville

To bring this year of 1966 to a close, we are presenting a guest article written by Brother John E. Orié of Nigeria, Africa. May this article serve as an inspiration to all of us to strive toward contentment and full acceptance of God's will. May this be our resolution for 1967.



MAN—A RESTIVE BEING

For man was created a perfect, sinless being, but through disobedience he became a sinner. This caused an imperfection, the curse of God and death to come upon all mankind.

This is an evident proof of man's fall. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, were restive over immortality. They were eventually rewarded with a curse and mortality for being restive over God's plan, and still the present man becomes restive over the situation of things.

MAN'S STATURE

The Good Creator had made things of unequal sizes, and it fits so well. A typical example should be drawn from our fingers and toes. Have close check over them and you will easily be convinced of God's handiwork. Yet all suit so well for their purposes. What a monotonous look if all were the same. Yet man is worried over certain conditions he attains. The shorter folk blame themselves for being short. The taller ones regret. Man becomes very restive in anything he does. Lucky ones who attain the correct posture blame others and thereby grow arrogant. What a monotonous look if we look the same.

THE MAN-MADE FORCE DISCRIMINATES

The man-made force discriminates height and weight of the employee, thereby set a limited height and weight of the employee. I could remember a friend who was disqualified from entering the military force due to under-height. This friend returned home to weep, perhaps blaming the Maker for being so short. He does so for being disqualified to enter the work which he was anxious

to do. He had been anxious to do it but it was not God's aim that he should join the force; therefore, there is nothing to regret over it, I advised him. We always talk and blame people for being short, tall, or too fat. Whose fault is it, my dear readers? Nobody's fault. Rather the Maker had so pleased in creating them so.

DIFFERENCES IN COLOR

Nature has applied variety in everything. Yet restive man blames the Creator for making some white, and some black. The whites discriminate the black for being inferior perhaps; the red, the yellow, and vice versa. Who will be actually blamed? Discriminating each other can cause the sufferer to blame his Maker. When a man has been denied of his fundamental rights, brutally treated, again the discriminator blames God for creating such a people.

Discrimination is not Godliness, but satanic, as it breeds riots, confusion, and these can be attributed to Satan, the author.

RICH AND POOR

The Maker has given some riches, but they feel restive. When a rich man is restive, will the poor kill himself? The poor are cheated by the rich, while the poor maltreats the poorest. This places a boy of 12 to think to be rich and climb higher to be known in the location at the age of 20.

Dear friends, where will all this restiveness lead us—to God or to disaster? Restless conditions lead us to ungodliness.

TURN TO YOUR BIBLE—GOD'S WAYS, NOT OUR WAYS

Who could explain God's ways? Read Isaiah 55:8, 9. It reads: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts. Neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts, than your thoughts." How should we react when we cannot understand God's ways. Jesus, in Matthew 6:27, said, "Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?" I think we should be satisfied in any condition we are since it comes from God. It is very bad to blame our Maker. "But, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, why hast Thou made me thus? Hath not the Potter power over the clay of the same lump to make one unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" Read Isaiah 54:9, 10; 29:16.

Well, dear youths, we Christians are restive over many material things, thus creating discrimination in the Church. Aiming to put others always on our control, thinking to put our families, ourselves, and relatives on the way of fame; thus qualifying them for many

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Editorial

Back in May, 1780, an interesting phenomena occurred in New England. Suddenly in the middle of the day, the sun darkened, and night seemed to descend. People going about their usual day-time duties were suddenly startled, and yes, frightened, by this sudden change. Those who were familiar with prophecies in the Bible quite naturally assumed that the great day of the Lord had arrived. They were reminded of Amos 8:9: "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day."

In Hartford, Connecticut, Congress was in session. Seeing the strange darkness that had crept over them at noonday, the legislators were about to pass a motion to dismiss the session in the middle of the day. But one thinking man arose and said, in essence: "Whether or not the great Judgment Day has arrived, I want to be found accomplishing those things that are ours to do. I move to proceed as usual."

To this day, science has not explained this strange occurrence, but the attitude of this one man in Congress that day is a real example to us.

We may reflect as to what our thinking would be in similar circumstances. Would we have some rushing around to do? If you are a believer, you are well acquainted with God's plan—and God's promises. You know that a GREAT DAY is coming; signs point to the fact that this day is coming in the not-far-distant future. Yet, it seems difficult for you and I to rid ourselves of a feeling of remoteness concerning Christ's return.

Would you feel completely satisfied and content in what you in your young life are doing if the sun began to darken at noonday, and you concluded that the Glorious Day was now?

What are some of the things you would be inclined to try to do before Time closed in with finality?

Are there habits you know you should change—yet you do not take positive action to accomplish it?

Is there a friend that you would witness to if you knew today were the only day you have left to accomplish it?

Are there values you would change? Do you suppose there are some material aspirations you have now, which would look terribly insignificant at such a time?

On your campus, high school or college—are you diluting any Christian

standards in any way in an effort to gain or preserve the approval of some certain individual? How do you think your attitude would change concerning the importance of that individual's approval, if you were suddenly aware that Christ's coming were today—and that what you will do IS DONE?

As you see the close of another calendar year approach, consider in a constructive way what changes you would make in your living, in your loving, and your giving, if 1967 were clearly marked THE END on your personal calendar.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES IN PARAPHRASE

(Continued from page 17)

"Then God raised Jesus from death. He was seen for many days by those who had followed Him from Galilee to Jerusalem. Those men from Galilee are His witnesses to the people.

"We tell you of the good news. God has fulfilled the promise that was made to the fathers, for us their children; in that He has raised Jesus from the dead. It was also written in the second Psalm, 'You are my Son. This day I have begotten you.'

"Concerning the fact that God raised Jesus from the dead and that He must never again face decay: God said this, 'I will give you the unfailing mercies of David.'

"In another Psalm, he also said, 'You will not allow your Holy One to see decay.'

"Now after David had served his people, by the will of God; he died and was buried with his fathers and decayed. But Jesus, Whom God raised from death, did not experience decay.

"Be it known to you, men and brethren, that the forgiveness of sins is preached to you through this man, Jesus. All who believe are justified from all things through Him. Such justification could not be done by the law of Moses.

"You should be cautious if it happens to you as was spoken of in the prophets, that is: 'Take notice, you despisers: wonder and perish, because I work a work in your times. This is a work which you will not at all believe, even though someone tells you of it.'"

After the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles asked that this message would be preached to them the next Sabbath.

After the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and Gentile proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas. The two missionaries spoke to them and persuaded them to remain within the grace of God.

TO BE CONTINUED

Make a Mark of Merit

By Nathan Lawson

START NEW IN JANUARY 1967

Start planning now for your FYC group to work with the Mark of Merit program in 1967. There are many groups who could be working with this program if they would start now and keep up their enthusiasm throughout the year to come. The program we have outlined will keep your group actively working for the Lord Jesus Christ. If your group does not have a copy of the FYC Manual, send for one now (35¢). This manual contains a copy of the FYC constitution, outlines the Merit System, and has helpful hints for conducting programs and carrying out projects. Remember, the main purpose of this program is for us, the YOUTH of the Church of God, to be actively working for Christ. There are so many things that we can do for our church, and to win souls for Christ.

It does not matter how small your group is, you can still enter this program. When groups are small, it is especially important that they work together to carry on an active youth work. This program binds the youth of our Church together in an effort to do things for the Lord.

MARK OF MERIT POINTS THROUGH THE 3RD QUARTER

	3rd Qtr.	Bonus pts.	Total pts.	Total Bonus pts.
Midway	125	16	430	26
Fairview	80	5	325	15
New Auburn	135	35	435	98
Harrisburg	100	5	415	62
Tahlequah	115	44	445	69
Denver	140	19	415	46
Eureka	115	10	425	90
Ontario	95	37	330	74
Oklahoma City	115	32	365	52
Houston	—	—	270	13
Bloomington	95	37	335	80
Tacoma	160	5	430	15
Lodi	70	5	360	20
Stanberry			320	36
Marion, Ore.			205	5
Mission City, B.C.			225	5
Stockton			185	18
St. Joseph			180	

San Antonio (E)	160	
San Antonio (S)	115	
Spring Vale	115	5
Cumuto, Trin.	95	
Claremore	160	5
Spokane	115	10
Marion, Ia.	90	5
Saginaw	175	20
Conroe	70	5

As you can see from the reports, there are many FYC groups who are very active, and then there are some who are not so active. I know that some of our youth groups could have earned Merit awards if they would have sent in their reports each quarter. There is still time to mail in your second and third quarter reports if you haven't yet.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE THIRD QUARTER

We want to list a few of the activities that are carried on by our local FYC's. Most of our youth groups have regular times for socials, Young People's meetings, and times for working on projects. It is encouraging to know that good activities are being provided for our young people.

● OUTSTANDING PROJECT

ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA. The FYC members at Ontario wrote and put on a five-act play for their local church. It took five weeks of hard work to prepare and practice the play. There were eleven people involved in presenting this play to the local church members. I am sure this play was enjoyed very much.

● OTHER PROJECTS

- Sending AIMs and S. S. Missionaries to isolated members;
- Fifteen dollars sent to pay AIM subscriptions for needy persons in Nigeria;
- A bake sale was held;
- One group painted a house and weeded a garden for a needy couple;
- Many passed out tracts and other literature to help spread the Gospel message.

● NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

Many FYC's held National Youth Week in their local churches. Full reports were not given, but I know that it is always a blessing to have these services.

(Continued on page 27)

With the Thanksgiving holidays, a break was provided in the regular schedule of classes. Many of the students went home for the four-day weekend, traveling to Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Ontario.

On November 18th Danny Coulson accompanied Elder Ray Moldenhauer to Ft. Smith, Arkansas, to assist in conducting revival services. They returned to Stanberry on November 27th.

Our director, Elder S. J. Kauer, is building a new home. Several of the students have helped him on this project.

A change has been effected in our Sunday night chapel services in that we have journeyed to various lands via films. We are scheduled to take a "round-the-world cruise" in the near future.

Our team which represents the college and the Young People's Department has been on the road again, this time traveling to Oklahoma and, nearer home, to Kansas City, Missouri. Future plans are for them to go to Arkansas in addition to other places. May God bless the efforts they are putting forth to reach young men and women for Christ.

—Dorothy Nimchuk

SVA REPORT

We are continuing to enjoy the blessings of the Lord in many ways here on Spring Vale campus. Our hearts are warmed and blessed in the Friday night prayer meetings, Sabbath day services and Sabbath afternoon F.Y.C. rallies. 'Tis wonderful to feel the presence of God surround us and speak to our hearts



School Reports

during these worship hours. Too often, we are so busy running here and there and doing all the talking that we simply fail to quiet down and allow God to speak to us. We must spend more time alone with God in quiet meditation; and this we encourage at S.V.A. It takes much self-discipline but it is so rewarding! Many of the students already can testify the blessings received in their quiet-times with God. Therein is strength and we praise God for these times.

Prayer is requested for us here at Spring Vale—some of us have yet to completely surrender our all to the Lord and others desire to walk more closely with God. We have a constant battle against Satan who would have us give in to his ways and feel that our program here is not worthwhile. We thank God we know better and that we are on the victor's side! May the entire student body and staff feel this assurance is our daily prayer.

Because of concentrated Bible study and prayer, several students recently testified of the blessing of God upon their recent improvement in grades and also the ability to help other students with their problems. We appreciate so much the dedication of some of our students who so faith-

fully work and pray with others in need.

Work continues on the new house which accommodates the Sweets, Patchens and ten senior girls. Brother Art Cummings and Brother George Ross come every Sunday to work, and for this we are indeed thankful. They come over 100 miles each week to bless our school by their assistance. New cupboards are being built and it is hoped the heating will soon be completed, as colder weather has arrived. Brother Howard Friddle comes quite a distance and has assisted in the repair of our school bus several times. Sister Martha Cummings comes each Sunday also and assists in various ways in the mornings and gives piano lessons to 4 children on campus on the afternoons. Sister Jennie Hosteter has been faithful to spend weeks at a time making drapes for the 2 girls' dorms (reception and dorm rooms), also painting, mending clothes and just a host of things. Improvements in the boys' dorm are noted from week to week, with the

completing of more rooms and the nearly final installing of the heat.

We covet your prayers and support that we will be provided with a floor cleaning machine (buffer) and Ditto machine (needed so badly in the running of tests).

Most of the students and faculty went home or to homes of relatives and friends for Thanksgiving. Those remaining enjoyed a real Thanksgiving Day feast with the Sweets, Lee Lippincotts, Groces, Jerry Moldenhauer, David Ogren and others. Visitors to our campus are always welcome. Jeff Leach was also a visitor before Thanksgiving.

Continue to support S.V.A. with your prayers and finances. Our needs are many and so are our blessings. We are crowded in the girls' dorm and dining room and really hampered for laundry facilities but we are trusting God to bless us as the days go by. We look to the Church of God people for consistent support as we grow here.

MAKE A MARK OF MERIT

(Continued from page 25)

● GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many groups are actively working to earn money to give gift subscriptions to the AIM, BIBLE ADVOCATE, HARVEST FIELD MESSENGER, and the S. S. MISSIONARY to new or needy families. This is a wonderful way of being a witness for Christ.

● REMEMBER

Remember to start planning for the 1967 year now. If you have questions, write now so that you can start your activities right at the beginning of the year.

Work hard, for there is joy and satisfaction found in doing things for God.

May God bless each of you.

2T₄G - Take Time for God

By Vivian Hall

In Isaiah 30:10 we read of a rebellious people who did not wish to hear prophecies for the future because they were sure to receive warning that they were doing wrong. They did not wish to hear of "right things" but rather wished to hear of "smooth" things. They sound very much like people of today who do not wish to be told they are doing wrong. No, they would rather that their minister assures them that they are doing well—not correcting or making suggestions for correcting their mistakes.

Listening to comments from various members of my sociology class makes me realize how many people are relying less and less on the wonderful love of God. To declare before a large class that he doesn't believe the Bible can be taken as an authority on anything, made me wonder what kind of a young man this can be. He went on to say that after all it was just handed down from one to another by word of mouth—there being no "books" in those days. Now that several more class sessions have passed and I have listened to other comments by this same young man, I am wondering even yet. He gives me the impression that he does not attend church, because it would be a waste of his time. Others give me the impression they do not have a strong belief in God. He exists (evidently), because they seem to be possible church goers, but God seems to have lost His Divine powers in this modern-day world. The students seem to want to hear only the "smooth" things. So

Date	Chapter
Dec. 15	Isa. 26
Dec. 16	Isa. 27
Dec. 17	Isa. 28
Dec. 18	Isa. 29
Dec. 19	Isa. 30
Dec. 20	Isa. 31
Dec. 21	Isa. 32
Dec. 22	Isa. 33
Dec. 23	Isa. 34
Dec. 24	Isa. 35
Dec. 25	Isa. 36
Dec. 26	Isa. 37
Dec. 27	Isa. 38
Dec. 28	Isa. 39
Dec. 29	Isa. 40
Dec. 30	Isa. 41
Dec. 31	Isa. 42
Jan. 1	Isa. 43
Jan. 2	Isa. 44
Jan. 3	Isa. 45
Jan. 4	Isa. 46
Jan. 5	Isa. 47
Jan. 6	Isa. 48
Jan. 7	Isa. 49
Jan. 8	Isa. 50
Jan. 9	Isa. 51
Jan. 10	Isa. 52
Jan. 11	Isa. 53
Jan. 12	Isa. 54
Jan. 13	Isa. 55
Jan. 14	Isa. 56

nature—man's carnal nature—hasn't changed down through the centuries, and just as surely—neither has God changed. The same punishment promised the Israelites is to be ours if we fail to keep His commandments. The students discuss with "authority" things as they see them, but there is only one (other than myself) who seems to feel God's will is not to be ignored. The looks the other students cast in his direction when he makes a statement in favor of God's will, are clearly the looks of amusement or a bit of pity for one who could be so "dumb." They clearly label him "old fashioned" in his belief. According to others, we have progressed so much in these last days that we know better than to believe such old ideas. Isn't this so-called progress in the wrong direction?

A friend recently made the statement that she was so glad the churches had made it easier for the young people to stay with

them. The churches were becoming so nearly alike that it wasn't hard for young people to be Christians, she believes.

My thought is this—if Christ has not changed down through the centuries (and our Bible confirms this) then what gives man the authority to change His rules and His commandments? We have only to stop and read our newspapers to know it is man's idea to make Christianity easier. They make it easier by taking Christ out of Christianity and we know without Christ it is impossible to do anything. It is impossible to live—our future is no longer sure without Christ. Be wary of these changes, young people, for those who accept them will find out—and too late—that it was the wrong way to go.

* * *

We often fancy we suffer from ingratitude, while in reality we suffer from self-love.—LANDOR

MAN—A RESTIVE BEING

(Continued from page 21)

aspects. Though we become restive due to examples set by some people at the head both in political and Christian affairs.

Brethren, these things ought not to be so, let's endeavor to seek after the heavenly wisdom which is "pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits without partiality and without hypocrisy" (James 3:17).

For restiveness breeds discontent, selfishness, envy, confusion, strife, and other evil thoughts. May we strive to enter into the narrow way, for broad is that gate leading to everlasting destruction. Therefore, let us be content.

John E. Orie

In Summation

By Verna McCoy

As minutemen we need to realize the value of time. The following selection from our own youth magazine several years ago, explains why time is of essence.

"Time is one of God's greatest gifts, and yet how often men devise ingenious methods to make it pass lightly and quickly, and refer to it as 'killing time.'

The value of time arises from:

1. Its brevity: The time is short. 'WE all do fade as a leaf.'

2. Its uncertainty: 'Boast not thyself of tomorrow.'

3. The fact that it is irrecoverable: The hand on the dial of time can never be turned back.

Time is given that we may prepare for eternity. The watchword of the moment should be 'NOW.'

"And that, *knowing the time*, that now it is *high time* to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Rom. 13:11).

Another year for the Minuteman Program has nearly slipped by. There have been verses on the steps to salvation, Christian growth, witnessing and seasonal lessons.

As you memorize and review the verses for the entire year, I would like to sum it all up with the admonition found in Philippians 4:8. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Much has been written and said about thinking by philosophers and psychologists. Many of you are familiar with the book, *The Power of Positive*

Thinking, by Norman Vincent Peale. But the Scriptures still remain our best source of guidance.

"For the word of God is... a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." (Proverbs 23:7).

Because we are what we think, we need to *think* seriously on these things mentioned in Phil. 4:8.

If we think on things that are TRUE we will "speak every man truth with his neighbour..." (Eph. 4:25).

We will be HONEST and JUST in all our dealings with our fellowman knowing that what we do for others is the same as unto Him. We will not be found guilty of leaving false impressions which are as deceitful as the blackest lie.

We will be sincere in giving and accepting compliments because as Christians we are not trying to inflate our own ego as does a person speaking flattery.

We will think PURE thoughts and will seek the wisdom that is from above which is pure (James 3:17).

Think LOVELY thoughts and a lovely and loving personality will result. 1 Corinthians 13 and 1 John 4 have much food for thought and meditation on the subject of love. If we love God and one another, God dwelleth in us and His love is perfected in us and others can see Him in us.

And lastly, think on things that are of a GOOD REPORT.

THINK RIGHT

"Think smiles, and smiles will be;
Think doubt, and hope will flee;
Think love, and love will grow;
Think hate, and hate you'll know;
Think good, and good is here:
Think vice—its jaws appear:
Think joy, and joy ne'er ends;
Think gloom, and dusk descends;
Think faith, and strength's at hand;
Think ill—it stalks the land:
Think peace, sublime and sweet,
Think fear with brooding mind,
And failure's close behind;
Think this: "I'm going to win."
Think "Victory," think "I can,"
For so God builds a man."—David V. Bush

Memory verses for December:

Romans 13:11

Hebrews 3:13

Hebrews 4:12

2 Corinthians 10:5

Psalms 139:23

1 Peter 3:8

Ephesians 6:10

Philippians 4:8

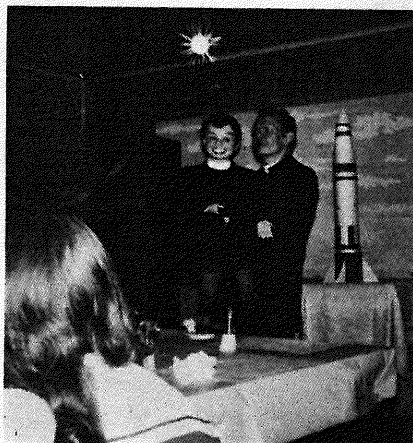
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What's so Special??

... about the second week in October? Well, for the FYCers of the Harrisburg, Oregon, group it was Youth Emphasis Week—and very special indeed!!

The week began officially on October 8 when the young people took over the various positions in the Sabbath school and worship service normally filled by adults. The service was built around the theme, "In His Steps," which was to be the theme for the entire week. Trailing down the center aisle of the sanctuary were paper footsteps leading to a full-size depiction of a door... the door to the Kingdom. Later that evening the film, "In His Steps," was shown at the Junction City Grange Hall to which the public had been invited via radio and posters.

The following Thursday night the young people and their invited guests gathered at the Harrisburg Fellowship Hall in festive attire for a banquet of turkey cooked by the local women and served by the local church board members. The theme of the banquet, "Blast Off for Christ," was carried out through the decorations, with a



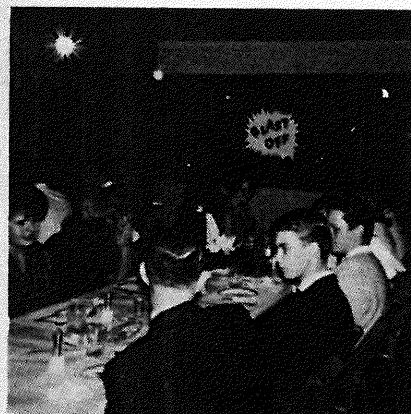
large table model replica of a rocket; red, white, and blue streamers; rocket-shaped favors made from rolls of lifesavers; and "sputniks" hanging from the ceiling. Church of God young people from other churches in the state were also present.

Guests of honor at the banquet were Elder and Sister Haskell Hawkins and a ventriloquist from a Christian FM radio station in Eugene, Rod James. Elder Hawkins rendered some soul-stirring songs accompanied by his guitar. Rod did a clever act with his life-sized puppet, Basil, told the story of his life and conversion through Alcoholics

Anonymous, and delivered a testimony not soon to be forgotten. Before his conversion he had appeared on nation-wide TV on the Howdy Doody show and various other programs. (The local young people have recently donated an FYC Team record to the afore-mentioned radio station.)

To top off the week in grand style, an enthusiastic group of young people from these three neighboring Churches of God packed bed rolls and groceries into a former elementary school near Walton, Oregon, for a weekend retreat. The weekend was informal, free from schedule, and highly memorable.

On Sabbath afternoon the young people enjoyed a nature hike during which they searched for bits of nature on which to give object lessons. Some very interesting lessons were derived this way and nearly everyone participated. Elder Morrow then lead in a discussion of young people's problems, while the group sat round on logs in the



woody outdoors. Saturday night and Sunday afforded time for sharing further devotions, fellowship, and fun, including basketball, football, ping pong, and table games, including a certain VERY LOUD game called "Pit."

On Sunday afternoon as the party was cleaning up and packing, one of the staff was heard to remark, "I wish the weekend were just beginning instead of just ending." This, I think, pretty well expresses the feelings of all.

* * *

CRITICISM—STUMBLING BLOCK OR STEPPING-STONE?

(Continued from page 13)

I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (1 Cor. 13:11).

Will criticism be a stumbling-block or a stepping-stone? It's up to you. Read Romans 8:35-39 and renew your determination to make it a stepping-stone to God's kingdom.

* * *

RETROSPECT

Strange we never prize the music
Till the sweet-voiced bird has
flown.
Strange that we should slight the
violets
Till the lovely flowers are gone.
Strange that summer's skies and
sunshine
Never seem one-half so fair
As when winter's snowy pinions
Shake the white down in the air.
—Mary Riley Smith in *The Uplift*

news and reminders . . .

Special Youth Week Activities

In Bloomington, California, Youth Week was observed from September 21 through 25. During weekend services, poems were read, songs rendered, and sermons preached by the young people.

On Thursday night, the women prepared a banquet for the young people. On Sunday night, Sister Jean Ledesma took them to hear David Wilkerson tell of his adventures in New York gangland, and also his experiences in working against teenage crime in the big city slums.

On the night of October 1, the Oregon State FYC Rally was held at the Elmira Church. Using the theme, "It Might Have Been Different," the Elmira Young People presented a skit showing that we more or less control the outcome of many situations by our actions. Young people from the various churches in the state rendered specials. Elder Max Morrow, pastor of the Harrisburg church, brought a timely message.

Several of the young people attended a weekend retreat at the Walton School. This was sponsored by the Harrisburg young people, with Brother and Sister Vernon Williams serving as counselors.

A Happy Experience

Recently the Denver FYC group enjoyed a new experience when they

journeyed about 80 miles to present a program at the Sunset Manor Nursing Home, where two of our elder sisters are living.

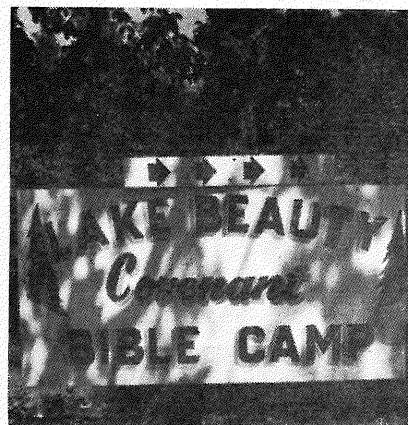
Along with the variety program, the young folks had prepared a small package of cookies for each person living in the home, totaling 91. Enclosed in each package was a Searchlight enrollment card.

Audio-Visual Library

The audio-visual library has been reorganized and brought up to date. A list of tapes and records available will be published soon. We hope to add new selections to those already available. Meanwhile, the material which you find listed in old issues of AIM is still available. Order from: Church of God Publishing House, Audio-visual Library, Stanberry, Mo. Our new librarian is Ethel Lawson. We are thankful for her good help.

MBC Youth Team

A recently organized Midwest Bible College team has traveled recently to Oklahoma City and to Kansas City, Missouri. Some of the areas the team is scheduled to visit in December and January are: Minnesota Winter Retreat; Spring Vale Academy; and Joplin, Missouri. The team consists of Dale and Ethel Lawson, Darlene Moldenhauer, Mark Ling, Ken Knoll, and Jerry Pederson.



Winter Wonderland Retreat

For all young people, ages 15 through 25.

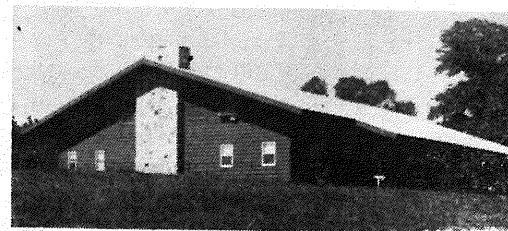
SOMETHING NEW: Christian Fellowship for Young Adults your age. An opportunity to have a real experience with God in a beautiful Winter Wonderland setting. Winter sports as recreation: Snowmobile rides, Ice Skating, etc.

DECEMBER 30, 31, and JANUARY 1 at Lake Beauty Covenant Bible Camp located 7½ miles east of Long Prairie, Minnesota, on Highway 27 and 1¼ miles north.

ATTENTION: Working Young People, this is an opportunity for you to get away from that job to enjoy Christian Fellowship with people your age! Students, plan to include this event in your vacation activities.

For further information and application write:

Elder Delvin O'Banion, Box 176, Eureka, South Dakota 57437



Lake Beauty
Covenant
Bible
Camp