

# Aim

*The magazine for young people*



**MEDITATION VERSE**

“Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; a blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God” (Deut. 11: 26, 27).

Let us give the Word of God its proper place of authority. Let obedience in all things be our aim, and we shall find that however lowly our path may be here, we shall have in the day of Christ that which is worth more than the applause of an assembled world, even the commendation of Christ our Lord, with the eternal token of His approval.

“O Lord, I would be burnish'd,  
And in Thy quiver hid;  
By Thee prepared and furnish'd  
To do, as Thou wilt bid.”

—Choice Gleanings

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“We pardon as long as we love.”

—Rochejoucauld.

## Aim The magazine for young people

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Hope E. Dais, Editor

*"It is indeed at home that every man must be known by those who would make a just estimate either of his virtue or felicity; for smiles and embroidery are alike occasional, and the mind is often dressed for show in painted honor and fictitious benevolence."*

—JOHNSON

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# The GAIETY of Youth

By Walter Isenhour

YES, they are gone—my sweet children. Seven of my own and four step-children. Time makes so many changes. It doesn't seem long since they were small, then entering school, getting out of school, marrying off and going to occupy homes of their own. Sometimes my heart gets sad to realize that our family will never be together again as in other days and years. However, God would have it this way; therefore I must not fret, weep and sigh. It wouldn't change things, but could be hurtful to my health. Some of you parents know what I am talking about from your own experience.

These questions come to me: Was I as patient with my children as I should have been? Did I punish them when I shouldn't? Did I withhold chastisement and punishment when I should have dealt it out? Somehow when it was necessary to punish I felt like I would rather take it myself. But chastisement was necessary for their good at the time and for their future welfare. They realize it

now, and not one of them thinks hard of me. Rather they appreciate it. Today they love me and love their mother and step-mother. My oldest children's mother passed on to await her blessed Lord many years ago.

But this leads me up to my subject—the gaiety of youth. It is as natural for youth to be gay, when they are in good health, and have good treatment, as it is for sparks to fly upward. God didn't create them to be dreary, long-faced, melancholy and miserable. Neither did He create them to become wild, disobedient to parents, unthankful, sinful, wicked and mean. He created them for His glory. To them He says: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Eccl. 12:1).

Youth can be gay, and not bad; gay and not mean; gay and not disobedient to parents; gay and not untruthful; gay and dependable; gay and good workers; gay and good students; gay and abstain from bad and



ruinous habits; gay and love the Bible, its Author, and His commandments; gay and love and respect their classmates, their teachers, associates and their elders. It is a wonderful trait of character for young people to love and highly respect old people, be friendly and nice to them, kind and patient toward them, and willingly give them a helping hand along life's journey. This is as it should be.

Youth should be careful, however, that their gaiety doesn't run too far and lead them into nonsense and foolishness. Their gaiety must not run away with them. They can have peace and cheerfulness in their hearts that manifests itself in their words, conduct, acts and deeds in life. They can have a gaiety—God given—that cheers parents, neighbors, teachers, classmates and associates. They can have a gaiety that enters into work and makes it lighter; a gaiety and patience that doesn't take insult and

resentment if they are cautioned about something or given some good advice from their seniors, or curbed if they are leaning toward something that might injure their name and character. For this they should be deeply thankful and appreciative.

To be youthful and gay, with good aims, noble purposes and high ideals, with the life yielded to God, is a wonderful time in which to live. This is the period of life when the foundation for future years is being laid. No one ever regrets laying a good, substantial foundation in early life. Upon this foundation the youth can build a great and sublime career. First of all, he builds with the Master Builder—the Lord Jesus Christ. He not only builds for time, but he likewise builds for eternity. His life enriches the earth while he is living, and he leaves an enrichment that lives on and on when God calls him from labor to reward.

## God and Father

My little boy came to me one day,  
Placed his tiny hand in mine

And said:

"Daddy, what is God like?"

And I said:

"God is like love, and sunshine,  
And all the good things you know."  
He smiled into my eyes,

And said:

"Then, Daddy, God must be just like you!"

I remember how Jesus said  
That God is like a father;  
And I had to bow my head in shame  
That I, a father, was so unlike God!

—George A. Turner

# All Work and no Pray...

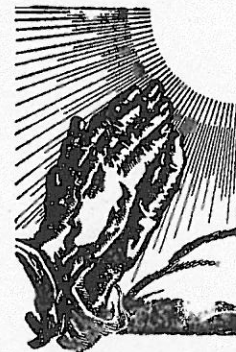
## Makes Jack (or Jill) a Bad Risk

by Cecyl Fischer

I wonder if there breathes a man or woman anywhere who doesn't (or didn't at some time) want to "be somebody." I think everybody—yes, I mean everybody, longs for success in *some* measure. Nobody wants to be a "Nobody."

But right away we think about the familiar village tramp or the town drunk. "How do we account for him?" we ask. "Success seems to be the farthest thing from his mind. He couldn't care less."

Don't you believe it... not for a minute! He may pretend he doesn't give a hoot. He may even have himself convinced... but deep down there somewhere, down where he'd rather not explore, he cares a whole lot. He has just given up.



We hear so much about the "self-made man." This supposedly is the man who started with little and worked his way up to fame or fortune or great success. Nearly anyone would be happy to be known as such. Success seems to strike a more awesome note if it comes to a person of humble beginnings. We think of Abraham Lincoln and men of his caliber as "self-made men."

Now we can't help but wonder what makes the difference. George Washington Carver died a great man, yet he was born in slavery. Why, even the average tramp had a better beginning. Why then does one die in penury, the other in fame? Just what is success made of? As teenagers or young adults we are vitally interested in this question for our future has

its roots in today. We need to know what we should be doing.

What, we repeat, is success made of? Put the question to fifty people and I'd guess at least forty would answer, "Work! Plain old hard work!" And who could deny that, at least in part, this *is* the answer? Determination to reach a certain goal and willingness to work hard and long toward that goal has produced many a great man and woman. Even a person born with a "silver spoon in his mouth" rarely makes the grade without a great deal of work. A young man may fall heir to his father's going business, but his success will be limited according to his own personal drive and ambition. Agreed?

Now if it were our purpose here to prove the efficacy of hard work, we could easily continue with page after page of examples and confirming evidence. But as it is not our purpose, we hope we have said enough to establish the fact of it. Before deserting the subject, however, let us state once more for emphasis that the pillar of success does lean heavily on our willingness to work.

Now dare we leave the matter here? I wonder, in doing so, if we would do justice to the village tramp we discussed earlier. No, I fear not. Now far be it from me to defend a beggar or a tramp in his indolence, for in giving up he shows poor sportsmanship, and lack of courage and manhood, which can hardly be dismissed by any excuse. I merely wish to say in their defense that their present state of disrepute in no way *proves* that they have never been inclined to work. Many a man has worked (and worked hard) and

saved for years, only to be utterly ruined by economic depression, desperate illness, unscrupulousness of associates, a single unwise decision or venture or any number of unfortunate circumstances. I contend that many a man who has failed has been a victim more of circumstances than of laziness.

Circumstance, then, has the power to either tax or enhance the effectiveness of work, and thus of success. What we must do is learn to control circumstance. Sounds kind of hopeless, doesn't it? After all, what can we do to avoid an economic depression? How can we help it if we get desperately ill? "Que sera sera." Is that what you were thinking? I hope not, for this is probably the thinking that makes failures of men and women. Fate deals them one nasty blow . . . or maybe two . . . and they throw up their hands and say, "What's the use?" So they soon find themselves sitting in rags on a park bench pretending they don't care.

What a shame these people didn't know about prayer! They were taking care of the work, but they forgot to ask God to take care of the circumstances. Their mistake . . . all work and no pray.

This doesn't mean that a Christian will always be the greatest, the richest, or the most famous—far from it. But it does mean he won't be a failure. God cares for His own. You won't find a tramp or a beggar anywhere who has a strong faith in God. It's impossible to have real faith and be a useless person. "Faith without works is dead . . ." (see James 2:17 and 2:26). Dead faith? What a thought!

This is where a Christian has the edge on a non-believer. He has God

to take care of the circumstances. Not that everything will always go his way; not that he will never suffer, but whatever comes he knows that he has something surer than luck on his side. He can always pick up and go on with faith to guide him, for as David said in his Psalm, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Ps. 37:25). George Washington Carver knew this truth, for he once said, "During those years I lived on beans, porridge and prayer . . . and sometimes without the beans and porridge." Do you suppose he was a "self-made man" or a "God-made man?"

But you, Readers, are not average young people. You are different. For though you have the natural de-

sire to achieve success in your education and your vocation, you desire even more to achieve it in your Christian walk. And here prayer is all-important. Many a person who never tried prayer has become a famous architect, a famous lawyer, a famous author, musician, doctor or artist because he worked hard and because circumstances *happened* to go in his favor. But never will you find a successful *Christian* who got there without prayer, and lot's of it.

So, Young Person (or even if you're not so young), remember the winning combination—hard work and prayer. For success in your business life, your home life—your Christian life, the answer is the same. "Work as though everything depended on you and pray as though everything depended on God."



**A**BRAMHAM LINCOLN's sense of humor, though often criticized, was known to have been a vent to the deep emotional strife he faced every day of his turbulent political life.

During the troubled days of the war, Lincoln's mind was haunted by anxiety over bad tidings from the Chattanooga campaign.

Ahead was the prospect of another winter of dark conflict, and the responsibilities of his position hung over the President like a heavy mantle.

One day an old neighbor from Illinois came to see Mr. Lincoln at the White House. During their visit the old friend said, "Abe, how does it feel to be President of the United States?"

Lincoln hesitated a moment, then in his typical drawl he answered, "Well, Jim, it's like this. You have heard about the fellow who was tarred and feathered, and was ridden out of town on a rail. Some men in the crowd asked him how he liked it, and his answer was that if it wasn't for the honor of the thing he would much rather walk."—*Selected*

# Loyal Friends

Chester Shuler

AND WHAT'S ailing my ferocious brother today?" Lucy Anderson put down her book and addressed the tall youth who had burst into the room, scowling and muttering incoherently.

John stopped and glared at his sister. "Matter? She asks. Is anything the matter! I'll say there is! Who'd ever have thought that my best pal, Ed Mason, would say such things about me?"

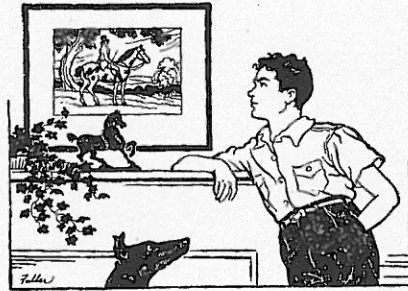
Lucy's interest increased. "Surely you and Ed haven't quarreled?" She was accustomed to smoothing out her brother's ruffled temper once in awhile, but never had Ed Mason been the cause of such outbursts.

"Ed's been criticizing me behind my back. And that's one thing I can't take lying down!" John slumped into a chair. "I—I just can't think he'd do such a thing to me!"

Lucy considered. "That doesn't sound like Ed. He's so straight forward in what he says. Perhaps someone has misunderstood, or—"

John shook his head vigorously. "I doubt that. What he said probably is true enough. But I can't endure his criticizing me to others and not telling me my faults when we are alone together, see?"

"Just how do you know that Ed actually criticized you? Did you overhear him?"



"No, but several of the fellows told me."

"You and Ed have been chums for a long while. You've never had differences before, have you?"

"None worth mentioning, but I just can't stand—"

"And now you're quite willing to believe the word of a talebearer and feel angry toward Ed on mere hearsay? Is that true?" Lucy pressed the matter like a prosecuting attorney.

John squirmed. "Well, he must have said it, or all the fellows would not be talking about it and besides—"

"All the fellows?"

"Well, Tom, and Pete, and Sam and—I think there was another in the bunch when they were talking about Ed's criticism."

Lucy, three years John's senior, often counseled with him. "It seems to me that you're not being very fair with Ed," she said slowly. "It is a serious thing to distrust an old and true friend. You know, the Bi-

ble says, 'A friend loveth at all times.' I should not like to think that you would cast aside a good pal on any flimsy hearsay evidence."

John was silent for a minute. "O.K., Sis. Maybe you have something there. Anyway, I'll ask Ed about it and see what he has to say for himself."

"Good. And look, John—" Lucy was very earnest. "Don't forget what Jesus said about forgiving . . . seventy times seven, and all that."

"O.K., Sis. But it surely does burn me up to think I have trusted a fellow that's unworthy."

"That would be serious," Lucy agreed. "But affection never is wasted, and you'll be the better off for having been friendly with Ed. I'm almost certain this rift won't last long once you've given Ed a chance to explain."

And so it turned out. The boys had misunderstood some simple remark made by Ed concerning John. The two fellows never had a disagreement after that and both felt grateful to Lucy for her counsel and interest.

Ed thanked Lucy too. "I've learned a lesson," he said. "It's true that I did speak with some slight criticism of John's actions one day. I had no business doing it. I mean to be a more loyal friend in the future."

"Loyalty is essential to true friendship," the older girl said. "Indeed I question that true friendship can endure very long if either party falls into the habit of being critical—even though the criticism is offered in a spirit of jest. I'm thinking of Emma and Alice, two girls I knew when I worked in the city."

"Tell us about them, Sis," John urged.

"They had been chums a long

while. One day when shopping with friends, Emma went into a store. While she was inside Alice remarked, with no intention of harm, 'I wish that Emma wouldn't laugh so much while she is talking.'

"The criticism probably was justified and if it had been given to Emma privately in a spirit of helpfulness it might have been gratefully received. But when it reached Emma's ears sometime later, by way of the gossip grapevine, it had been badly garbled. 'Alice says you laugh too much while you're talking, and she doesn't like to be around you so much.'

"Naturally Emma was hurt. 'I know it's one of my faults,' she admitted, 'and I'm trying hard to break the habit. But I do wish Alice had not mentioned it to those girls! I don't mind her criticism but I do think that as a loyal friend she should have told it to me when we were alone.'

"Did they remain friends?" asked John.

"Yes, I believe so. Emma accepted Alice's apology. But I doubt that their friendship was ever exactly the same afterward. The loyalty was in question."

The dictionary defines *loyalty* as "true allegiance." One who is disloyal to a friend is holding friendship under false pretenses. It is not really his, but belongs to his friend's *ideal* of him; and if he does not measure up to the ideal, then the friendship is not really his own.

Of course, being loyal to a friend presupposes that the friend is worthy of loyalty. This is another excellent reason for choosing one's closest friends with extreme care.

(Continued on page 17)

# My Trip

*It was of special interest to several young people here in the U. S. to meet Salomon and his sister on his recent trip here, as they had corresponded with him as pen pals. Here is his personal report of their trip.*

by Salomon Cejudo of Mexico City  
as translated by Noah Camero

This is the story of my wonderful trip to the U.S.A. which to me was truly a dream come true.

On Sunday, December 8, at 8:30 p.m. my younger sister, Margarita, and I left Mexico City by bus. My mind was burdened by so many thoughts as this was my first trip away from home. My mother was very worried and charged me to care for my sister and to constantly pray to our Heavenly Father for our protection and safety.

God was with us all the way as we ascended the highest peaks of Mexico and on to the northern border of my country. I was overjoyed to see the reality of the trip I had so longed for as we crossed our border into Laredo, Texas. Here at last I was meeting in person the great nation of America whom before I had only met through magazines and photographs.

From Laredo we traveled to Corpus Christi, Houston and Dallas where a wonderful surprise awaited me. For the first time in my life I saw snow fall from heaven. How beautiful to feel the gently falling snow. Tulsa, Kansas City, Des Moines all were left behind and finally we were at our destination, St. Paul, Minnesota.

We arrived in St. Paul on Wednesday, December 11, after 3 days and 3 nights on the bus. You can well imagine our physical condition. Nevertheless we were so thankful for God's goodness and protection on our trip. Praise His name.

Elder L. Sanchez and his family was our gracious host in St. Paul, during our more than two-week stay there. Space in which to mention all the things we did and saw surely would be lacking. But I am taking advantage of this space to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the brethren in St. Paul, Saginaw, New Auburn, Kansas City, Stanberry—for everyone's wonderful display of affection, hospitality and Christian love.

Thank the Lord and thank you all for making my dream come true. God bless you.

Christians should believe their beliefs and doubt their doubts.

# BUT--ERS

by Jonathan West

**T**HAT MOON," REMARKED George as he walked Betty home from church, "is lovely tonight. *But*, as Tom would say, a black cloud may come and hide it."

Betty laughed. "You're being rather hard on poor Tom, aren't you? I thought he seemed rather depressed during our committee meeting tonight, didn't you?"

"I'll say he was depressed. He found a way to object to just about everything anyone proposed. The trouble with Tom is that he's become an inveterate *but-er*."

"A 'but-er'?" At least that's an original term. *But*," Betty giggled, "this is much too lovely a night to get excited over Tom's doubts. And after all, isn't his real name Thomas?"

George chuckled, "Doubting Thomas, sure's anything. Better still, *But-er* Thomas."

The pair walked in silence for a half block, then Betty said: "Speaking of Thomas in the Bible, he is called the doubter because he doubted the reality of Christ's resurrection. But when the Lord returned to that room a second time and invited Thomas to touch Him, the Bible doesn't say that Thomas actually did touch Him. The Lord's invitation and presence seems to have sufficed. I wonder whether Thomas didn't suddenly real-

ize that he actually was doubting God?"

"Perhaps he did," George agreed. "I once heard my father say that doubting is like a disease, easy to catch and hard to cure. Tom seems able to think of a 'but' for nearly everything anyone proposes. But I suppose it is discouraging to work at the same place, with the same people, meeting the same obstacles, every day. If we could move about more..."

Said Betty, "I'm reminded of the Bible story about the fishermen-disciples on Galilee who worked all night, caught nothing, and then at dawn were told by Jesus to try once more—in exactly the same place they had failed. They did not doubt Him but obeyed. They didn't say, 'But, Lord—' And do you recall what happened?"

"They caught so many fishes they could not draw in the net. You know, Betty, you're a wonder at thinking of practical applications of the Scriptures. Perhaps if you were to speak to Tom about his habit of doubting, it would profit him."

"Perhaps, but I don't believe he would—"

George's laughter stopped her. "Whoa! Did I hear a very pretty little 'but-er' speaking just now?" he teased.

"Oh, dear, just see what a poor preacher I'd make! Here I am, criticizing Tom, yet doing the same thing as he."

"You weren't judging, Betty, merely stating facts. Tom's a fine fellow and a good friend of mine, but—" "But? I think we're even now."

"And just for that, young lady, I shall march you straight home—and sentence you to spend the rest of this lovely evening sitting on your porch,

looking at the moon. No *if's*, *and's* or *but's* about it."

"And if you do, she warned, "I shall talk more about Thomas."

"I'll serve the sentence with you—looking at the moon," he said, piloting her porchward.

THE SUBJECT OF their conversation, Tom Davis, was in favor of a hike by the young people's group, *but* he feared only a few would care to go.

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## Be Thankful

When you have a huge stack of dirty dishes to wash,  
Be thankful for the good food you just enjoyed.

When loved ones leave you,  
Be thankful for the time that God allowed you to spend together.

When you have a headache,  
Appreciate all the healthy members of your body.

When the food has a disagreeable taste,  
Thank God for your good taste buds which make the pleasant-tasting foods so enjoyable.

When your path crosses that of a hypocrite,  
Be thankful that your paths are crossing, rather than running side-by-side in the same direction.

When an inventory reveals that your styles are out-dated,  
Be thankful that you're not a keep-up-with-the-Jones's-addict.

When your house has dirty windows,  
Be thankful you're not confined to one which has barred windows.

When everything doesn't go your own way,  
Be thankful that God still has the upper-hand.

When a friend is in trouble,  
Be thankful that you can lend a helping hand rather than a nosey-nose.

When you've got so much work to do,  
Be thankful that you're not among the millions of unemployed.

When the joy you wanted so badly is given to someone else,  
Be thankful that you're not the only good person around.

He agreed that the proposed menu sounded tasty, *but* felt it was too expensive. He liked the hour of meeting, *but* felt sure a number would find it too early or too late.

Tom, however, was not alone in his *but*-ing. All of us have met similar boys, girls, or others who are *but*-ers. We remark, "The minister's sermon was very helpful," and someone immediately says, "Yes, *but* I didn't care for some of his gestures." We

observe, "John is a fine fellow to know," and Mr. But-er replies, "Yes, *but* I don't care for his taste in dress." We comment about the helpfulness of a certain portion of Scriptures, some words spoken by Jesus Himself, and Mr. But-er has a *but*, such as, "Perhaps; *but* nobody really believes that today."

Mr. But-er is found in all organizations: the crowd we go with, among our fellow workmen, even in church,

---

When someone has hurt your feelings,  
Rejoice that it wasn't the vice versa; for you can much more easily mend your own feelings than someone else's.

When your plans are shattered,  
Be thankful that it was only the plan, and not the finished castle that fell.

When you meet a long-faced grouch,  
Be thankful that you're not looking into the mirror.

When someone criticizes you,  
Be thankful for an honest friend.

When someone pays you an honest, deserving compliment,  
Remember to thank God—for a task so well done was not accomplished entirely without His guidance.

Likewise, when someone flatters you,  
Be thankful that you're able to discern his insincerity.

When some gossip you helped spread gets back to you all facts mis-stated,  
Be thankful for a lesson well-learned.

When those about you become proud and indifferent,  
Be thankful that you're still humble enough to notice—then stay that way.

When you're burdened, angry, or just blue,  
Be thankful for God. You can come to Him anytime and not be labeled an intruder; tell Him anything and not be afraid that it will be repeated; cry your heart out and not feel embarrassed afterwards; rely on Him to help you—for He most assuredly will!—*By Delores Otilia Fischer*

Sabbath school, young people's societies. There are of course some sincere, honest, proper *buts*. We refer here to the ones that merely retard progress and express foolish doubts. These spring from unbelief, lack of faith, ingratitude, disrespect.

Someone has wisely said that "Christians should believe their beliefs and doubt their doubts." A man once was asked to help select a team of workers to help during a city-wide evangelistic campaign. A number of volunteers presented themselves, but he did not choose all of them. When asked why he had rejected certain individuals, he replied:

"Those persons have no confidence in our undertaking. They do not believe that we shall succeed. We cannot afford to have the fearful and unbelieving with us when on such serious business for our Lord."

Dr. Graham Scroggie once was asked why so many learned persons doubt that the Lord ever existed in

the flesh while many poor and relatively unlearned persons are convinced of it. He replied: "The learned persons 'lean unto their own understanding,' while the others 'trust in the Lord with all their heart,'" (Proverbs 3:5).

It is that way with most improper *but*-ing. Today things look very dark and discouraging in the world around us. It is easy to look upon these ominous conditions and become disheartened, even doubtful. Many persons by their pessimistic remarks help make us feel low in spirit. "What can we do?" they ask. No one seems to have the answer, nationally or individually. But the wise writer of Proverbs has given a marvelous prescription which we shall be wise to heed: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

This has no *but* in it. Applying the first portion will help keep us from "but-ing." And what a blessing that will be!—*The Lighted Pathway*

## ALTARS

*A MAN I know has made an altar of his factory bench. And one has turned the counter of his store into a place of sacrifice and holy ministry.*

*Another still has changed his office desk into a pulpit desk, from which to speak and to write, transforming commonplace affairs into the business of the King.*

*A Martha in our midst has made her kitchen table a communion table.*

*A postman makes his daily rounds a walk in the Temple of God.*

*To all these each daily happening has come to be a whisper from the lips of God, each separate task a listening post, each common circumstance a wayside shrine.*

—SUNSHINE

# Youth Questions...

Counsel by Ray L. Straub

## QUESTION:

*I enjoy the social life at my school very much. I have lots of friends, am a member of the band and drama club. I also enjoy participating in sports and am told that I'm fairly good at them. So many activities come on Friday night, though, and I'm advised not to participate even though I see nothing wrong with them—at least some of them. Why is it wrong for me to go to school activities on Friday night?*

## ANSWER:

How good it is to hear about young people who are full of life and enjoy it! You have already learned a valuable basic principle—that in order to be happy one must get along well with others. Some people learn this much later in life, while others never seem to.

You have been taught that the Sabbath, which begins at sundown Friday night, is to be revered, and your inquiry reflects respect for God and for those who have in-

structed you wisely. There are many active and popular young people such as you who are faced with this same difficult problem.

It may be helpful to review the reason for your being instructed and disciplined to keep Sabbath. It is part of God's moral law—the same law that tells us not to swear, steal, kill or lie. While practically everyone refrains from these other evils, they are confused about the need to keep the Sabbath holy. The confusion, however, does not weaken the requirement to be faithful in keeping God's moral law.

If one claims to keep a law, his actions ought to show it. A person who is caught stealing cannot claim to be a believer of the law. "Thou shalt not steal," and hope to earn respect for his belief. There are many who steal, but this does not tempt you because you are sure that to break this moral law is wrong.

The fourth commandment states that we must keep the Sabbath holy. Holiness is related to worship. While it is probable that you cannot remain in an attitude of worship for twenty-four hours each week, it is quite possible—necessary, in fact—to keep from participating in activities that differ greatly from an atmosphere of holiness.

Laws of our land occasionally provide for "exemptions." An exemption from a law is permission granted

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*Do you have a problem? You are invited to send your questions to us for discussion in this column. Address your letter to: Aim, Stanberry, Missouri 64489. Questions of a personal nature—not for publication—will also be welcomed and carefully answered.*



not to keep the law. For instance, most states have tax laws, but churches can get exemption for some of these laws; or, permission to evade these laws and not pay taxes. Perhaps it would be helpful for you to ask yourself, "Am I looking for an exemption from the law, 'Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy?'" One cannot justifiably claim any more exemption from this law than to the law against killing, stealing, or swearing.

Obviously, you are being asked to pay a high price for faithfulness to your religion. Remember, though, that a faith which requires nothing of you will do nothing for you. You have to be strong and healthy to participate in sports, and you must be happy and energetic to have friends and enjoy drama. Your soul livens and communicates as you play your music. With all of this liveliness in your school activities, surely you do not want your religion to be colorless, lifeless and dull!

Knowing the value of good friends, it will be easy for you to understand that Jesus is our best Friend of all. If there is any friend that really deserves our attention, devotion and faithfulness it is Jesus—and there is no friendship that is more lasting, loyal and satisfying.

If this problem of activities on Friday night continues to be troublesome to you, it may be worth your while to consider attending our church high school, Spring Vale Academy. Here you can be sure that there will be no conflict between your religious beliefs and the social and recreational life at school. For further information, write to the editor of the AIM.

## "Not So Bad"

Dr. W. Morris Ford

A woman in Frankfort, Kentucky, years ago was a victim of a strange accident. She arose in the night in her plain little home to get a drink of water from the wooden bucket. There was just enough light from the moon to keep her from lighting a lamp. She lifted the dipper, and in drinking swallowed a small black spider that had dropped into the bucket during the night.

She felt the spider going down her throat but did not know what it was. In an hour she became terribly nauseated and ejected the spider, but not before it had bitten her internally. The poison from the bite soon spread through her system. Her flesh puffed up in rolls and ridges. Her ears swelled so tightly that the blood oozed through the skin, while her tongue swelled till she almost suffocated.

A doctor worked for several hours administering all antidotes known to medical science and finally saved her life. The little spider that had such a venomous bite is no larger than a pea and can roll itself into a complete ball and float on the water like a piece of cork.

In the exact manner, a single sin may poison the whole life blood of the moral nature. The next time you are tempted to say, "Oh, I'm not so bad," remember that we read in the New Testament that all unrighteousness is a sin. It is not the bigness of sin or the multiplicity of a sin that causes one to be lost; it is the poison of the sin principle, which is rebellion

against God and disobedience of His Holy Will.

From the book of James we take two warnings: "Whosoever shall keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all," and "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 2: 10, 4:17).—*Selected*

\* \* \*

## Loyal Friends

(Continued from page 9)

And of course we should never forget that the finest friendship of all is our relation with the Lord Jesus Christ. He requires loyalty in this friendship: "Ye are my friends," He said, "if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14). His loyal friends not only hear His Word but they put it into action. Loyalty to Jesus is never misplaced, and always it blesses those who are indeed His friends.

—*Selected*

## GATHERING THE STONES

"It is such a stony little path between here and Mrs. Harvey's that I can't bear to go over it," said Jim.

"And Kirk Harvey doesn't like it any better when he comes over here," said Frank.

"I heard him say he had got ever so many bruises in that path. He was grumbling about it yesterday."

"Why don't you clear the way between here and your neighbor's?" asked Mr. Morris. "Much better to do that than keep grumbling about it."

"Why, we could never get all the stones out of that path!" cried Jim.

"Not all in one day, nor by taking all the stones at once," said the father. "But if each of the boys who crosses there would take a stone out of the way every time he goes, the work would be done before you realize it. Why don't you try it?"

The boys did try. Half a dozen young lads who used the path, helped, and the job was soon done.

## Try Again

When things go wrong don't think that all your work has been in vain.

Perhaps it's all been for the best, so smile and try again.

It may be that your failure proves to be the magic door

That leads you to a happiness you never knew before.

You may be weakened in the fight, but not defeated yet;

It's no use wasting precious time in tears and vain regret.

Stand up and face the world again, and if you keep in view

The high goal of your greatest hopes, your dreams may all come true.

Draw wisdom from your old mistakes, and courage from your pain,

And then some day you'll say, "Thank God, I dared to try again!"

—*Patience Strong*

A French philosopher recently said, "The whole world is on a mad quest for security and happiness." As we live today, we see continual and convincing proof of this statement.



**Financial Security?**

Our materialistic world rushes on with its eternal quest for the fountain of happiness. This happiness for which men long, is bound up in business success, financial security, social acceptance, and worldly pleasure. It may be said that man has been successful, to a degree, in this quest for happiness. Vast amounts of knowledge have been gained, living standards are at a new high, and the opportunities for worldly pleasure offer a wide choice to any moneyed partaker.

But let us notice what the Bible says of this way. There is a God of heaven. This God is active in world affairs. He has a plan for your future and the future of all mankind. God's divinely inspired revelation to us is the Bible. Let us see what God says of man's way today!



**Social Acceptance?**

Concerning social acceptance, Jesus has said, "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake" (Luke 6:22).

What does God's Word say of man's attempt at happiness through business and financial security? "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where

# The Search for Happiness

By Calvin Burrell

*"Happiness is neither within us only, or without us; it is the union of ourselves with God."*—PASCAL



thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:19-20).

God inspired Solomon to write, concerning worldliness "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich." Proverbs 21:17.



**Worldliness?**

Turn in your Bible to II Timothy 3. Begin reading with the first verse, and read slowly, to fully grasp what is being said. Read down through the sixth verse, then notice especially the seventh. "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." Can you think of any one prophetic scripture that

more accurately describes man today? Think of the brilliant men—scientists, physicists, mathematicians, chemists, doctors, psychiatrists, experts in all fields of fact and theory. These men, in all their brilliance, are generally ignorant of the basic simple truths, God's truths, and the basic plan, God's plan, for mankind on this earth. Read the seventh verse of II Timothy 3 again.



**Business Success?**

What is the basic happiness for which men should search? The word, "blessed," in each of the verses, Matthew 5:3-12, may be interpreted "happy." These nine beatitudes, or beautiful attitudes, are God's rules for happiness. Turn in your Bible and read them, replacing the word "Blessed," with "Happy". Then begin to apply them in (Continued on page 31)

# The Editor's Page

## PARROT FOR SALE?

Recently I heard the remark, rather facetiously, that a government employee must live such a life that he could sell his pet parrot to the town gossip. This thought is rather amusing—but very interesting. I find in it a challenge for us in our Christian life. Would you have qualms about selling your pet parrot to the town gossip?

It's a far-fetched idea, I agree, but just what would one learn about your home life from your pet parrot? It is often said that a true gauge of one's real character is how he acts when no one is going to find out. What is your conduct when no one *but your family* sees you? Do you measure up to the same high standard of Christian conduct which you exhibit when with your Christian friends outside the home—those whose respect and approval you highly regard? If not, then perhaps your Christian life is sprayed on from the outside, rather than emanating from a heart yielded to Christ.

What is your reaction when someone in your own family advances a difference of opinion, or questions something you do or say? Is it a defiant, "Well, I think *I ought* to know!" probably accompanied by a withering glance? Or perhaps your technique is to simply cast a withering glance, with no words—an act which you feel cannot be concretely attacked, yet cannot be ignored.

And what is your reaction when someone outside your home expresses a difference of opinion? Even if you feel very sure of your position, your reaction very likely is a polite, "Well, now, this was my understanding (or this is my own personal opinion); I could be wrong."

Can you truthfully say with the psalmist, "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart"?

To each of us, home should be very precious. YOU, as only *one* individual in your home, *can* be instrumental in setting the atmosphere—either a place where peace and love abound and are demonstrated abundantly, or a place where the impatience and intolerance which we assuage when with others, is exercised without restraint. If even *one* person in a household practices genuine love and peaceableness, without reversion, there are very few individuals who could consistently continue in an antagonistic vein.

If there were (or if there is) an unsaved member in your family, just how might your life influence that one? Could he be drawn to your Saviour by your patient, loving attitude—Christ in you?

During the past few months, several letters have been written to foreign youth leaders in order to gather information that may be passed on to our readers through AIM. Letters were sent to leaders in Africa, Germany, India, Mexico, and the West Indies. We hope that by the next issue of AIM, we may be able to give you reports from the various locations on the progress of their young people's activities.

As I am sure each of you realize from the past letters and reports published in Aim, these dear people abroad are humbly crying out for our help and continued spiritual support, and most of all, for our prayers. We may not be financially able to supply all their monetary needs, but we are all certainly capable of giving them our earnest prayers.

The following is an excerpt from a letter recently received from Brother Clifford Oputa, Ogba National School, Ahoada, East Nigeria, Africa:

*Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, Amen. I had been seeking for your address, but fortunately I got from our Pastor N. I. Dimpka who recommended me good of you.*

*I am a member of the Church of God 7th Day Mission in Ogba Area. I am also a pupil teacher in Church of God Mission School in charge of Standard One Class. In the school the children study Ibo and English Language. In the Church I help to teach the Sabbath School Lessons. I am deeply interested in the gospel but I lack Advocates, tracts, complete Bibles and some other scripture books which lead one to the true source of*

## Foreign Correspondence

### Activities

*Jewell Linville, a school teacher in Neosho, Missouri, is our youth foreign correspondent. She has submitted this stimulating report for your interest.*

*the gospel. I am the General Secretary of the YFC. I am one of the peoples who organized this YFC meeting here in Nigeria. Through this meeting many people from different areas have been converted into the Church of God Mission. . . .*

*I hope this my humble letter will meet your favourable consideration. May the blessing of God be with you. Amen.*

This is just one example of how the dear people abroad hunger for more methods of receiving the gospel. Let us think for a moment how many of us have all this material and more at our fingertips, and yet fail to even pick it up and read it. We do not realize what great treasures we have and what open doors are available for greater knowledge and instruction in the way of the Lord.

We recently received a letter from Deacon Isaac Uwe, of the Odioku Mission, Ahoada, Nigeria, Africa, part of which is printed here:

*Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and Father who delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son. (Col. 1:13).*

*I am an ordained Deacon in the*  
(Continued on page 31)

## What Have the Midwest Bible College Students Been Doing?

December 14, the Student Council sponsored their first Travelogue film night. They now have this the third Saturday night of each month. The countries seen in these first films were Canada and Mexico. There were one and three-fourth hours of beautiful color films which included, "Date With British Columbia," "Banff and Lake Louise," "Charming Quebec," "In Quebec Woods," and "Mexico Impressions." Free popcorn and kool-aid were served.

Before the students left for the midwinter vacation, Monday night, December 16, we had a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings; thanks to Marvin Keim who had brought the turkey from his home. Everyone ate heartily and a good time was had by all.

Our vacation began at noon, Tuesday, December 17, a day earlier than was planned because classes were held on the Sunday before so that the anxious students would be able to leave earlier. All the dormitory students were able to go to their homes for the vacation.

Roger Blankinship came back from the midwinter vacation and announced that he is engaged to Judy Bradshaw, a former Midwest Bible College student.

Brother and Sister Carmen Walton and Dixie were guests in the women's dormitory when they brought their daughter, June Walton, back to college at the close of the vacation.

Sharon Westfall stayed in the women's dormitory on her way back to Spring Vale.

The students took part in planning



## School Reports

for the all-day meeting, January 11. There was a good crowd, and many spiritual blessings were received. Noah Camero, brother to Daniel Camero, from St. Paul, Minnesota, was the speaker. We were happy to have Margarita Cejudo and her brother Salomon from Mexico City. Saturday night, Tommy and Billy Casselman, Abram Camero, Daniel Camero's nephew, all from St. Paul, and Salomon Cejudo stayed in the men's dormitory. Margarita Cejudo and Diana Casselman stayed in the women's dormitory.

The students are sorry to see the music teacher, Clayton Faubion, leave. A going-away party was held for the Faubions in the college basement; some of the students played their instruments as part of the program.

The Student Council had another Travelogue film night, January 18. The states represented were New England, Illinois, and Missouri. Everyone had a good time.

For anyone that wants to have a good time, the Student Council is having a Mystery Supper, February 9. Tickets will be on sale until February 2.

Second semester began in full swing, January 20. God certainly

answered many prayers, for three of the students who thought that it would be impossible to continue school second semester because of lack of money, are thanking God that He made a way. Miracles still happen!

It's not too late to enroll in Midwest Bible College for second semester. Come to Midwest and experience the many blessings one receives by the wonderful fellowship of Christian people and studying God's precious Word.—*Joy Meader*

## S.V.A. NEWS

A new year has started and we at Spring Vale wish you many blessings throughout the year.

Starting December 4th Mrs. Caswell became our new cook and girls' dean, taking Mrs. Coulson's place. We are always sad to see friends leave but we welcome new ones with enthusiasm.

The basketball season started December 12th for us. Our first game was with Durand Congregational. Our team started the year off right with a 53-41 victory. The next game we didn't do quite as good. The team fought hard but we lost the game to Evangelical United Brethren 51-43.

For the Sabbath service the 14th, Elder Lidell, from Ypsilanti, Michigan, delivered the sermon. He is the chairman of the school board.

The Junior Miss Club purchased a new washing machine. This was needed quite a bit because the wringer on the other one didn't work.

Other new items in the girls' dorm are two persimmon red couches

donated to us by Mr. and Mrs. Fridde. The ones that had been in there went to the boys' dorm.

All during the month of December the students had play practice. This took a lot of work and time, but they all felt it was worth it when the play was presented December 18th. The play was called "The Jury Room," with the subtitle "Whatever a Man Soweth, That Shall He Also Reap."

We had school on the Sunday morning before vacation so that we could leave Wednesday night after the play for vacation. We found it was nice for a change but it sure made the weekend seem awfully short.

Our mid-winter vacation started the 18th of December and lasted until January 2nd. All of the students went home or to a friend's home to stay so the campus here was pretty deserted.

The first Saturday night after the vacation an auction was held. This was the kind where money is not used, but you get credit for the items you bring for sale.

The mid-winter cheer banquet is coming up soon, and, as is the custom, secret pals were chosen. There will be a lot of sneaking around making beds and polishing shoes until they are revealed at the banquet the 23rd.

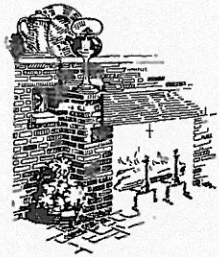
Remember Spring Vale in your prayers. God bless you and keep you always.

—*Sharon Westfall*

\* \* \*

To be seventy-years-young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty-years-old.

—*Oliver Wendall Holmes*



## Heart to Heart

by Elden W. Fischer

Every local Faithful Youth Challenger organization has a variety of activities. Which would you select as the main feature of the FYC program? Is it the business meeting, the social, the fund-raising project? To me, one stands out above all the rest—the Youth Rally.

### PLAN AND PRACTICE

The Youth Rally is a well-planned, organized program of interest-capturing, lively activities. A Rally arouses much enthusiasm and usually includes a dynamic speaker. The numbers are presented in new and different ways. The simple "Young People's meeting" presented by most groups is easier to prepare, but where there is plenty of talent and enthusiasm, the rally is a much better type of program. A group must usually start out with Y.P. meetings before members develop to the place of being able to handle rallies.

A Young People's service should be held at least once a month. The objective of this service is not to be a talent show or an entertainment program. Neither is this service a place to practice on a captive audience a number that was not prepared well enough for presentation. This has been a set-back to many a program. Lack of practice always shows up. Many capable leaders have had

to give up on a program after a very determined effort because of a lack of preparation on the part of the young people. Don't let your leader or program arranger do all the work. If a theme is announced, you will usually have a better program. The key word to a good program is C-O-O-P-E-R-A-T-I-O-N

### USE EVERYONE . . .

As a rule, the Young People's Program should include as many of the group as possible. Give someone an easy part the first time and have him work up. We want to train and develop the talents of all local Y.P. so that we have efficient, capable leaders tomorrow. In every part, God should be glorified, not a soloist, a song leader, or an excellent reader. Those who in humility contribute their best to the program will have their reward when Christ returns. Often much work is done behind the scenes of a program and the Lord will reward that kind of cooperation even though others may not know of the valuable contribution.

### . . . BUT NOT ALWAYS

The rule that we should include as many of the group as possible is not without exception. I have attended a program where all of the music and

presentations were DONE by a single duet—a "two-man rally," you might call it. This should of course not become the rule, but once or twice a year it can be a refreshing change to have a single vocal group present an entire program. It may be a trio, a quartette or a choir. This approach can have the effect of focusing less attention on who is presenting each number and thus more attention on the message of the number. Or this group or soloist could be featured in a given program, but supplemented by numbers from others also.

### A SHORT TALK

A program should always have at least a short talk. The speaker is to be selected largely on his ability to appeal to young people with the true Gospel. Often young people can be won to Christ at this type of meeting more easily than with the usual appeal for surrender. The service need not always be evangelistic, but should be devotional and inspirational. We worship the Lord in song, prayer, testimony, and by being hearers—then doers—of what the program teaches. Always allow some flexibility in the program so that the Lord has a chance to bless. It is possible to have a program so regimented, so ritualized that its meaning is lost.

### A REGULAR TIME

A regular meeting time should be set, such as the third Sabbath afternoon or the fourth Sabbath evening of every month. When people know the schedule they can plan to leave this date open to attend the program. Every program should be well-organized and interesting so no one will

want to miss it. This is also an excellent service for getting outsiders to attend. As an FYCer, the challenge of a good youth service should be one of your major goals in the current year. **SUCCESS OFTEN LIES IN THE ABILITY TO PLAN AHEAD.** The youth service has a definite part in promoting the gospel of Christ, so let's press onward.

### YOU CAN BE CREATIVE!

The need for creative writers or directors of programs is great in the church. We will soon make available program ideas, but even these will have to be modified to your local talent and situation. Use these ideas or others and develop your own program. Hollywood needs *its* producers—and our church can use many people who can produce or write the type of presentation that can inspire and bless those who attend *our* programs. In January AIM there was an announcement about a story-type of youth rally which used readings and songs to tell parts of the story. I would like to have you write for a copy of this and try writing a similar program. If you work and pray for inspiration you could even surprise yourself with what you can turn out. The opportunities in the field of creativity have no end.

To further create interest you can use signs, gadgets, and unusual ways to announce your program. You can pattern your announcement after radio or TV announcements. If your program is always interesting you will have good attendance, and only when people are present can they receive a blessing. A good program is harder to come by, but

*(Continued on page 34)*

# MAKE A MARK of MERIT

by Dale Lawson

## JOIN US

It gives me great pleasure to be able to report for MAKE A MARK OF MERIT. We are thankful for the reports from some of our locals concerning their work for the Lord. We don't know the situation which caused some locals to fall a little short in their efforts to obtain a merit award. Also we don't know the reasons why some of our locals who are registered with the national did not enter the Merit Program at all, but our hope is that this year many more groups will enter the program. Our goal is that all of our groups will join with us in this program. When all win an award, perhaps we can raise our goal, always making forward progress in the work of the Lord, and never becoming satisfied at any level of attainment.

We are thankful for those FYC's which have achieved the Mark of Merit in this, the first year of the Merit Program. We invite you to join us and, with others, make a fine effort in the promotion of the gospel.

## OUR WINNERS

We would like to commend the state of California because it is the only state in which we have two Golden Mark winners.

### Lodi

Even though Lodi is perhaps one of our smallest groups numberwise, they rank with the top in activity and support. They had four FYC members at registration time and they should certainly be an example to larger groups. Be looking for their report in a following Aim about their year's activities.

1st Quarter	150
2nd Quarter	160
3rd Quarter	90
4th Quarter	100

500 Golden Mark

### Stockton

The Stockton FYC's started a little slow but came on with a good solid program and enough points to reach 500 for a Golden Mark of Merit. They, too, are a small group, and are to be commended for their effort.

1st Quarter	175
2nd Quarter	65
3rd Quarter	135
4th Quarter	125

500 Golden Mark

The Oregon FYC also had two winners, but one was the Silver Merit Award. We are happy for their efforts and support.

### Elmira

I have to be careful in heaping praise upon the Elmira FYC as this is my home church. I may be slightly prejudiced but I will try to disregard that. However, Elmira had a fine, well-balanced program throughout the year. They started strong and ended strong. They, along with Lodi and perhaps others, went well over the 500-point mark.

1st Quarter	175
2nd Quarter	150
3rd Quarter	100
4th Quarter	75

500 Golden Mark

### Marion

Marion was the winner of a Silver Merit Award. The Silver Award is a fine achievement and may we encourage you to set your goal a little higher. Next year we hope to send you a Golden Mark of Merit.

1st Quarter	120
2nd Quarter	125
3rd Quarter	50
4th Quarter	60

355 Silver Mark

### Oklahoma

The Fairview FYC had one of the finest and most well-balanced programs reported to us in 1963. We found their quarterly reports full of good news, and easy to evaluate. May God bless such groups as this for their fine work.

1st Quarter	210
2nd Quarter	90
3rd Quarter	110
4th Quarter	90

500 Golden Mark

### Wisconsin

New Auburn made a fine effort for the Golden Mark of Merit and we are sorry they fell a little short. It seems rough to be so near—and yet so far. May New Auburn be inspired to push just a little harder this year. We are happy for their fine effort and achievement last year.

1st Quarter	175
2nd Quarter	75
3rd Quarter	110
4th Quarter	100

460 Silver mark

## TRY, TRY AGAIN

Following is a list of FYC groups, some of which came very close to a Silver Merit and others which made a fine start. We leave you with this one familiar thought. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again."

- 1) St. Joseph, Missouri
- 2) Tri-Group, Michigan
- 3) Harrisburg, Oregon
- 4) Claremore, Oklahoma
- 5) Sacramento, California
- 6) Fort Smith, Arkansas

## TILL NEXT MONTH

I will try to get letters to all the local FYC groups this month. I would like each FYC, or individuals, to write and tell me your opinion of the Merit System and perhaps suggest improvements. Let me know if your FYC is entering the program. Send your letter to: Dale Lawson, Midwest Bible College, Stanberry, Missouri 64489.

More men fail through lack of purpose than through lack of talent.—*Billy Sunday*

# "Take Time for God"



by Noah Camero

This month I am suggesting the books of Esther and Ruth for your daily Bible reading. As you read these books through, try to find the causes which produced the amazing events in these stories.

Speaking in modern terms, I would say that prejudice was the cause that precipitated the events of the book of Esther. While in the book of Ruth, integration is in the spotlight. Surely at a time such as this, when racial strife and hate abound in our country, the lessons of these chapters should be of obvious importance. You are certainly not to blame for the existing conditions. They were here already. But obviously the position youth takes on many vital issues today will determine the attitudes of tomorrow.

Racial strife is certainly not new. And so long as human governments rule it may never be totally abolished. But let us not be guilty of discriminating and belittling people because of their nationality or color. For in the kingdom of God there will be ones from every nation, kindred and tongue (Rev. 7:9).

The bombing of Negro churches and desecrating of Jewish synagogues has mostly been the work of godless adults. Although a good many young people took part in the shameful deeds that have occurred in Alabama and Arkansas. It is very improbable that these youngsters conceived their

prejudice and hate on their own. Undoubtedly their parents and elders were the corrupters and instigators of these young minds.

In your high school, and college or neighborhood you may be challenged to demonstrate a true Christianity—one that shows your heart and mind has been influenced by the true gospel—that treats all persons with respect and justice regardless of race, appreciating the good qualities of every nationality.

Esther, who was Jewish, was as lovely, intelligent and loyal as any woman in the kingdom of Persia. Ruth, who was a Moabitess, was as loyal and virtuous as any woman in Israel. Cornelius, a gentile, was as sincere and devout as any true Israelite.

The Bible does not substantiate the theory of a superior race. Therefore, there is no inferior race. Most peoples have had their peaks of splendor and their ebbs of decay. In every nation there may be found good and bad, rich and poor, learned and illiterate. And if you really are any better off than anybody else, you owe it to the grace of God.

To merely read the Bible daily without seeking to practice it daily is like daily opening a bottle of medicine but never taking any. Let us accept this good Book for what it is. A Book of practical methods that are conducive to maximum happiness in

this life and in the life to come.  
Suggested Bible Readings

Dates	Chapters		
February 15	Esther 1	February 28	Ruth 4
February 16	Esther 2	February 29	Psalm 16
February 17	Esther 3	March 1	Psalm 17
February 18	Esther 4	March 2	Psalm 18
February 19	Esther 5	March 3	Psalm 20
February 20	Esther 6	March 4	Psalm 21
February 21	Esther 7	March 5	Psalm 22
February 22	Esther 8	March 6	Psalm 23
February 23	Esther 9	March 7	Psalm 25
February 24	Esther 10	March 8	Psalm 26
February 25	Ruth 1	March 9	Psalm 27
February 26	Ruth 2	March 10	Psalm 28
February 27	Ruth 3	March 11	Psalm 29
		March 12	Psalm 30
		March 13	Psalm 31
		March 14	Psalm 32

## Grow More In '64

IF I WERE TO ASK YOU... to quote Galatians 6:7, could you do it? You could if you were "on the ball" last month when we started our memory verse project in AIM. This is one of the many ways we hope to "GROW More in '64," so let's get off to a real good start. Don't get behind... get behind it!

Did you type file cards of last month's verses with the verse on one side and the place the scripture is found on the other? If you didn't, why don't you "real-quick" chase up the January AIM, (We hope it's not buried already!) and catch up right now. The verses are all short and easy to learn. You may know most of them already; but do you know where to find them? Uh huh, we thought so.

We hope to have local, and perhaps even national, competition on this memory work later this year and, who knows, we may even decide to offer some nice prizes. So let's get with it. Why don't two or three of you get together and quiz each other? These verses you will be able to use often during your lifetime and we want you to have fun learning them now while your learning is at its best. Even if you never win anything this way, you will have something no one can take away from you.

Now then, here are the verses for this month. There are only eight. How well can you learn them?

Matthew 11:28

Mark 9:23

Luke 6:31

John 3:17

Romans 8:6

1 Corinthians 3:16

2 Corinthians 5:17

1 Timothy 4:12

# PROGRAM IDEA

"This Is Your Conscience Speaking"



This program is centered around the struggle between bad influence and your conscience. It includes each of the Ten Commandments, and shows that if you will let the Holy Spirit direct your life through the Word of God and the Still, Small Voice, you can be conqueror over evil and may enter through the gates into that city.

## OPENING

You may have a song leader lead opening songs and choruses, and also direct the opening prayer. He or she might also read a poem or reading concerning God's guidance or this general topic.

## CHARACTERS

One of your members preferably a fellow carrying his Bible, comes in at the back of the chapel and starts down the aisle toward the rostrum.

A figure clothed in a white sheet comes in immediately after the first fellow whom we will hereafter refer to as the reader. The figure in white is the conscience and should be a female because of the softness of her voice. She should have a sign on her back which says "CONSCIENCE."

Coming in immediately behind *Conscience* is a figure in a black sheet, preferably a fellow. This is *Bad Influence* and should have a sign

on his back which says "BAD INFLUENCE."

The sheets should be over the head and down to the floor with a place cut out for the mouth and eyes. All the way to the rostrum *Bad Influence* and *Conscience* may struggle lightly for the position behind the reader.

## PROCEDURE

The reader stops at the pulpit and the two figures scramble for positions on each side of the reader. The reader reads from Leviticus 22:12-15 and then starts to take a seat at a table which is on stage. They scramble for chairs on each side of the reader and all are seated. The reader thumbs through his Bible and reads silently for a few minutes and finally turns to Exodus 20. He begins reading aloud and reads the first two commandments and then stops to ponder.

*Bad Influence* tries to persuade him that his job and salary are too important for him to serve God because he has his family to support. Other examples may be used. *Conscience* reassures the reader and gives some appropriate Bible verses.

## "CUE" NOTES FOR SPECIALS

You may then have participants from the congregation have a couple poems and a couple special songs about the 1st and 2nd commandments. They would have to

have "cue" notes telling them when they are on the program. The notes should have the two previous numbers on the program. Then participants would give their parts spontaneously.

The reader then reads the third commandment with comments by *Bad Influence* and then *Conscience*. Some more specials may be given about the 3rd commandment. The reader deals with each of the remaining ten commandments with comments by these characters and with specials between each one.

## CLOSING

The reader ponders after the 10th commandment and the last special, then walks to the pulpit with *Con-*

*science* following close behind and turns to 1 John 5:2-4 and reads it. He and *Conscience* then go down the aisle and out. *Bad Influence* sits at the table with bowed head and then raises his head and says, "O, well, tomorrow is another day." He then rises before the others go out the door and runs, trying to catch them.

The song leader then closes the meeting.

*There is a wide selection of songs and numbers that could be used appropriately in this program. However, if anyone is interested in obtaining specific suggestions for numbers, write to Dale Lawson, Midwest Bible College, Stanberry, Missouri 64489.*

## FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE ACTIVITIES

(Continued from page 21)

*Church of God, and also been appointed a Chairman of the Church FYC Organization in Ekpeye District, Ahoada, Nigeria. I seize this opportunity to write you for to aid the need of the FYC program. To send us articles pertaining to FYC members as tracts, picture cards, etc., for to distribute.*

*I hope this will encourage the members to have more effort in the activities. I hope you will reply this letter. You will obtain our group picture by D.V.*

When we read of people such as these that are so diligently striving to further the work of the Lord and particularly among our young people, let us stop and take note of our own lives. Let us ask ourselves "how much are we really doing to further our

work here and abroad?" It behooves each of us to look in the mirror at the reflection of our own souls and start again with increased zeal to do our part, whatever it may be.

Whatever our God-given talent, there is one thing that we all have in common. That is the power of Christian prayer. So let each of us unite our efforts in prayer for our work here, and offer a special plea for our foreign brethren, who so earnestly request our prayers.

\* \* \*

## THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS

(Continued from page 19)

actual practice in your life.

I challenge each reader to actively join this search for eternal happiness. Surely such a rare and precious commodity is worth any sacrifice we may be called upon to make.



# FYC NEWS and REMINDERS

## Time to Register Again

Now is the time for all good "Challengers" to come to the aid of their leader. We want to keep the FYC files as up-to-date as possible and *only you* can help us. We are aware that many of you have moved, married or become members since our last registration two years ago, but our files don't show the changes.

Whether your group consists of one or one hundred we urge you (even beg you) to send in registration sheets with names, addresses and birthdates of all members from 12 to 25 years of age. We would also like to know whether or not the member receives AIM. **THIS IS DOUBLY IMPORTANT** if your group plans to try for a Merit Award this year. (Check your manuals.) But whether *you* are trying for an award or not, it is important to *us*. Won't you help?

## Linda Keim Marries

December 7, 1963, was the evening of a lovely wedding, in which Miss Linda Luella Keim, daughter of Brother and Sister Ed Keim of Acme, Alberta, Canada, became the bride of Edward Bruce Hollingshead, son of Mrs. E. Hollingshead of Calgary. Elders Ray and Reuben Moldenhauer officiated.

Matron of honor and best man

were Mr. and Mrs. Ron Poffenroth; other attendants were Darlene Moldenhauer, Jacqueline Keim, Arthur Keim and Karl Ducommun.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Soloist, Miss Elva Thew, was accompanied at the organ by Mrs. Al Greenway. Ushers were Gerry Neumiller and Bob Keim.

The reception followed in the Memorial Hall, where two hundred and thirty guests were present.

## FYC Pins

Have you ordered yours? We have a beautiful colored sketch drawn up of this pin and it really is very attractive. It shows our emblem in a shiny bright blue enamel with silver trim (our FYC colors). However, in order to even have the original dye made we **MUST** have at least 200 orders. To date we have only 43 orders. Yours would help. How about sending in your order as a group? But please hurry; some of these people have already been waiting a long time for their pins.

## Pen Pal Wanted

Harold Cathey, a seventeen year old boy from Ryan, Oklahoma, would very much like to correspond with other Church of God young people his age. He lost his mother in September and aside from his

father, grandmother and great grandmother there are no other Sabbath keepers near him. Harold's address is Box 255, Ryan, Oklahoma.

## Oregon State Supports National FYC

The Oregon State FYC has made the largest contribution to date to the National FYC. Their 25% of the 1963 funds came to \$43.23. Their state group is an active organization, and three of the churches have active local groups. Nathan Lawson has been the leader of the state group for the past year.

The new state officers are: Jerry Carlson, President; Ken Lawson, Vice President; Nathan Lawson, Secretary-treasurer; Shirley Johnson, assistant Secretary-Treasurer; Mike Helms, Marion Representative; and Eldon Crowson, Harrisburg Representative. A sponsor will be appointed by the Oregon State Conference Board.

## Attention! Local Leaders

We would like the addresses of all local leaders. An idea book of programs, poems, and projects will soon be available and all leaders will be sent a copy. Send your name or leader's name to Elden W. Fischer. We would also appreciate knowing who the rest of your officers are.

## Need a Tape Recorder

The National FYC office needs a tape recorder to build up an audio-visual library. We would like to tape Y.P. Programs and talent of the church to share with other groups. This could help a lot in exchanging ideas for local youth programs. If you have or know of a good recorder available we would like to know about it.

## New Leadership Committee

The Leadership Committee of the Young People's Department was organized in 1961 to keep local groups in contact with the National office. The Leadership Committee also informs the National office of what Y.P. would like to see adopted as national projects. Last year a lot of success was due to the Leadership Committee's carrying out its tasks.

The following people have accepted positions on the new Leadership Committee for 1964-65:

Nathan Lawson, Oregon  
Calvin Burrell, Oklahoma  
Charles Ward, Idaho  
Loren Reynolds, Kansas  
Dale Lawson, Missouri  
Nelson Caswell, Michigan  
Roger Salazar, Texas  
Harry Krause, Oklahoma  
Harvey Fischer, California  
Verna McCoy, Texas  
Mary Patchen, Wisconsin  
Peggy Harris, Arkansas

The following are the members of the National Committee:

Elder Vernon Patchen, Wisconsin  
Elder Noah Camero, Minnesota  
Donald Brenneise, California  
Elden Fischer, Chairman, 10601  
E. 26th St., Independence, Missouri  
64052

## Correction

Some recently called my attention to an oversight in the October AIM. It was my mistake not to mention when printing the amendments to the FYC Constitution passed at Denver that these are subject to the approval of the Executive Board. Our FYC Constitution clearly points this out. The Board meets in March. These two amendments were submitted to

the Executive Board in November.

—Elden Fischer

### Lucky Letter Has Arrived!

... From Floris, Iowa

Congratulations to 13-year-old Marilyn Cook of Floris, Iowa, who won a nicely bound New Testament and Psalms for sending the first letter in response to our LUCKY LETTER CONTEST described in the December AIM. Marilyn and her younger brother, although isolated and seldom able to attend church, are faithful readers of AIM. And as her letter proves, she not only reads, but also responds.

We couldn't help thinking as we read Marilyn's letter how sad it is that so many of us who live near a church and are privileged to attend regularly take the privilege for granted and even neglect to take advantage of it at times. Let's remember Marilyn

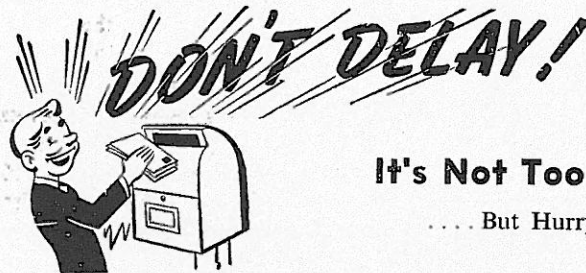
### HEART TO HEART

(Continued from page 25)

the dividends are worth the extra effort.

If you build your youth activities around good youth programs, your group has a good chance for success and you will receive the best support from the rest of the church. Make the heart of the Y.P. activities interesting and make it a project of the entire group and you will have young people devoted to their local FYC from the bottom of their hearts.

next time we feel "too tired" or "too busy" or "too some-thing-else" to go to church or Y.P. meeting. How she would love to be in our shoes!! Thank you, Marilyn, for your interest and for showing us that even isolated members can be supporters.



### It's Not Too Late

... But Hurry!

As you read in the December AIM, a prize was to be given for the first and the fiftieth letter received by the Y.P. Leader with your comments, suggestions or criticisms. We must report, with some regret, that response has been slow and as yet we have not received the fiftieth letter. A lovely three-dollar pocket-size New Testament is still waiting for the second lucky letter writer. IT COULD BE YOU! The content of your letter will not be judged in any respect, although we are hoping to receive some valuable comments and ideas from many of you. What would you like to see in AIM? What features do you enjoy most in Aim now? What are your suggestions for an FYC Motto? Are you interested in ordering an FYC pin for \$2.15? Do you have suggestions for National Projects? Any or all of these things we want your opinions on. Address your letters to: Elden Fischer, 10601 E. 26th St., Independence, Mo. 64052.

### Where will

## You Attend Youth Camp

**This year? In Michigan? Oregon? Missouri?**

The Church of God will conduct three youth camps this year. Plan *now* to attend—and write to the men who are in charge of arrangements for the respective camps:

**SLEEPER STATE PARK**  
Near Caseville, Michigan  
June 21-28

Write to: Elder Floyd Turner  
Route 5, Owosso, Michigan

**SAGMOUNT BIBLE CAMP**  
Near Joplin, Missouri  
June 15-21

Write to: Elden Fischer  
10601 East 26th Street  
Independence, Missouri

**SILVER FALLS STATE PARK**  
Near Silverton, Oregon  
June 10-17 (unofficially)

Write to: Elder Rudolph Haffner  
Route 3, Box 707, Junction City, Oregon

Here is a glimpse of the Michigan Youth Camp last summer.



*With which camp group will you be pictured this summer?*

**Plan now to attend at least one of these camps.**