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Magazine for young people



**The M. B. C. Team
Ministering to
the Denver FYC**

(See page 18)



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Aim The magazine for young people

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Hope E. Dais, Editor

Of all sorts of earthly good the price is self-denial.—The lowers must be sacrificed for the greater; the coarser give place to the finer.—Each step of our progress toward success is a sacrifice.—We gain by losing; grow by dwindling; live by dying.

—R. D. HITCHCOCK

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BRADEN ACRES
GRADE SCHOOL

Delight Thyself in the Lord

By Carolyn Clements



Carolyn is a junior at Spring Vale Academy.

"Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord" (Leviticus 19:30). We Christians are familiar with this commandment, and we try to keep the Sabbath in our own way. Most of us attend worship services every Sabbath, refrain from doing unnecessary tasks, and forget about performing business transactions on our Lord's holy day. Our main flaw in keeping the Sabbath seems to be found in the phrase "in our own way." We keep the Sabbath in our way, not in God's. Some individuals do just as much as they can safely get by with on the Sabbath—for their own pleasure. Unfortunately, for them, God has other ideas concerning how His day should be observed; and in reality, these people are getting by with nothing.

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways; nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

"Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isaiah 58:13, 14).

God tells us to forget our own

pleasure on His day and enjoy the presence of God, read and meditate upon His word, honor Him, and talk to Him through prayer.

Notice that our entire minds should be centered upon God; our thoughts should be on eternal things especially on Sabbath, not on ephemeral things.

When we write social letters, read our favorite novels, amuse ourselves with music of the world, participate in sports, and plan next week's schedule on the Sabbath, our minds are distant from God.

God gave the Sabbath to man as a day of rest from the regular toil and problems of the week. To rest on Sabbath doesn't mean to sleep all afternoon awaiting sundown, although it may afford extra hours for sleep. The Sabbath provides an excellent opportunity for us to show Christ to our brethren. We may cheer someone with uplifting visits and hymns; we may pray with the sick for their healing; or we may help the hungry and the poor. Letters written to help someone in need of Christ and to give encouragement; books read to deepen spiritual knowledge and understanding, and music played to glorify God can often help us keep in contact with God throughout His holy day. Some church groups distribute tracts, hold singspirations, show gospel films, and in many other ways edify and win followers. It seems that we seldom find time for God's "work" during the week, and we use the excuse that we are too tired on

Sabbath; but if we are too exhausted to help others as Jesus did, we are not thinking God's thoughts or doing His ways.

God promises us that if we keep His Sabbath as we have been instructed, we will reap exceeding rich and bountiful blessings in return. Truly, if we concentrate entirely on God, we cannot help but be blessed; what is more, we cannot help but be a blessing to others.

Let us look at Leviticus 19:30 once more; it reads: "Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord." The second part of the commandment is reverencing God's sanctuary.

"Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

"For a dream cometh through the multitude of business: and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words" (Ecclesiastes 5:1-3).

The house of God is not a place to converse with friends. A foolish man often spends so much time talking that he never has any time left for thinking; therefore, let us be wise by being more ready to listen to the sermons and to the Spirit than to our neighbors.

Our greatest goal in life as
(Continued on page 34)

TOTAL COMMITMENT

By Sandra Williams, Age 12 Years

Donald lay on his bed thinking what he was going to do when he got out of high school.

Donald Richerson was an eighteen-year-old Christian boy. He, his mother and dad, were isolated from the church. There was a church three hundred and seventy-five miles away which they went to once about every five months. So they weren't altogether isolated.

They would have moved closer to church, but Donald's father had a bad allergy and had to have a certain type of climate for his health.

Mr. Richerson earned a fair salary and the Richersons always mailed their tithes to the church, for God's use.

Donald had attended a country school, except for his junior year when he went to Spring Vale Academy. He had enjoyed Spring Vale a great deal, but it was also good to get home.

He lay thinking for a long time, "Well, I should get dressed for bed because tomorrow spring vacation starts and I'll have to get up early so I can work for Mr. Penray."

Donald earned money for almost everything he owned. He was also a good student in school, he played the piano quite well, and was a very honest boy.

The next morning Donald got ready for work, and was soon on his way. He had to walk a mile or so to Mr. Penray's farm.

When he was finally working, he started thinking to himself. "You

know, we could plant all the ground if we had a few more laborers." Then he remembered what Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 9:37: "The harvest is truly plenteous, but the laborers are few." He thought about it for a while. That's probably why there wasn't a church near where he lived. He was sure there *could* be.

Then for the rest of the day he forgot about it, as he was busy doing the best job he could for Mr. Penray.

When Donald got home that night his mother was busy fixing supper. "Mom, what came in the mail today?"

"Just a tithe receipt and the *Aim*. It is on one of the corner shelves in the living room if you want to read it."

As Donald was reading, he came to an article called, "The Fields Are White But the Laborers Are Few." As he read it he found it very admonishing. He then remembered the thought that came to his mind in the field that day.

When they sat down to supper and his father asked the blessing, he prayed for many friends and loved ones who were lost.

The following evening Donald read an article in the Progress Reporter about Midwest Bible College and how much they hoped they could get a few more students next year than they had this, because laborers are so few and the harvest is ready.

Everything Donald did it seemed this same thing haunted him—at school, work, and at recreation.

Next Friday afternoon Donald was to get out of school an hour early so the Richersons could go to church. Donald wanted very much to take someone with him. He asked his best friend Steven to go with him. When they asked and actually got permission, they were both excited because they thought he wouldn't get to go.

On the way Steven asked many questions about church beliefs, and doctrines. Donald found some things he didn't even know. He felt kind of guilty because he hadn't studied his Bible better.

Donald sat thinking for a minute, "If they could get a pastor, they could get a small church group started that would probably grow larger. Then he remembered—the fields are white, but the laborers are few.

Donald was very pleased to see how much Steven was enjoying the all-day services. He had never thought

what the kids would think of the God he served.

On the way home he found it very easy to explain the many things that Steven wanted explained. He knew that God helped him.

The thought of having a church nearby seemed to be on Donald's mind all the time.

Time seemed to fly for Donald, and he realized that tomorrow night would be his graduation.

Donald decided after school was out he would have to work and earn all he could just in case he went to college. He worked very hard, too; because if God had really called him, it would take some money, but he knew God would help and provide.

It was in August when one day at the dinner table Mr. Richerson said, "Son, what are you going to do?" He was unable to finish because Donald cut in.

"Da-a-d-d, I-I, you know when Steven went with us to church and how interested he was in the church? I think if we had a minister we could start a church group here. The fields are white and the laborers are few. Dad, I'm going to Midwest."

"It costs—" his mother began.

"'Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel' (1 Cor. 9:11). God called me last spring," Donald said. "You do understand, don't you?"

"I think I do, Son, but, but—" Mr. Richerson said.

"Dad, there are no 'buts' about it. God will provide our needs. I'll work all summer and I'll have to work at a parttime job there."

Both parents knew God had called Donald and they thought about it very much as the days passed.

Donald went on working at his

job; and he had found a job where he could work on Sundays.

That fall he took a train for M.B.C.

o ——— o

When Donald had one more year of college left, preparations were made so he could take over a church and the pastor of it could start a church where Donald came from. Donald was very happy working for the Lord. Soon after college, he was married. He prayed very seriously about his home field. He wrote often

to his folks and they were very happy about the plans. Of course, it was kind of sad to think that they would not see Donald and his family very often.

Donald totally committed his life to the Lord, and we can totally commit our lives as Donald did. The laborers are few. The harvest is ready. What will we do for God? Humbly, sincerely commit your life to God's work. If not as a minister, serve Him doing your best at whatever work you can do. Serve God with every breath you breathe.

MR. HOOVER TALKS ABOUT TURBULENT YOUTH

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover writes: "The American college student today is being subjected to a bewildering and dangerous conspiracy perhaps unlike any social challenge ever before encountered by our youth. On many campuses he faces a turbulence built on unrestrained individualism, repulsive dress and speech, outright obscenity, disdain for moral and spiritual values, and disrespect for law and order."

Mr. Hoover goes on to say what is obviously true—that the majority of college students are of a different stamp. But the minority he describes are extremely vocal; they have a gift for making the headlines, and they present to other peoples and nations a malevolently distorted view of the American character and the American attitude.

The failure lies in homes, where old virtues are disregarded and discipline is a forgotten word. We need a new emphasis on the message found in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." It lies, too, in the colleges where, in many instances, there has been a declining stress on those principles which are the rocks on which American freedom, strength and responsibility are built. This country and all its citizens need to remember that, in Mr. Hoover's words, "liberty and justice are not possible without law and order."

What King Solomon said to the youth of his day is applicable to the youth of today. He said: "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" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

The best way in which to remember Him is to recall the soul-stirring fact that the Creator became our Saviour! He died for our sins, rose for our justification, and invites us to come to Him for salvation, forgiveness, peace, rest, joy, eternal life and satisfaction (Matthew 11:28).—Now

Patience

By Nathan Straub

Patience is defined by one dictionary as, "the will or ability to endure without complaint." The thought is this, not only to endure, for sometimes we are forced to endure some things; but to endure without complaint.

Trials of the Christian life are often very hard and long. One is then forced to consider his place in life, within his own mind. He may think of the long time we seemingly must wait for the Reward. One may think that the trials are too hard or come too often so that overcoming them is not justified by the Reward.

But we know that God's reward is coming and that it is grand beyond our imagination. So then we ought to endure the trials of this life and do so without complaint. To complain may serve to discourage our brethren.

At one time many of Christ's followers turned back and followed Him no more. His disciples deserted Him when He was on trial. Yet though Christ had a great deal of reason to grumble and despair, He did not. He endured without complaint. Christ is our pattern. We ought not to complain. Christ had real cause to complain and

did not. Often our cause for complaint is only fancied and unreal or exaggerated. We should make a point of not complaining.

Job is one associated with patience. We hear, "the patience of Job." Poor Job, there he sat with boils all over his body. When one has a boil he treats it very gently and is careful not to bump it for it causes so much pain—just one boil. But Job was covered completely with boils. The Bible says that in all this Job did not charge God foolishly. Job waited for God's help and relief. Job's trust was completely in God to the extent of saying that even if God chose to take his life, he, Job, would trust in God. Job in effect said, "I know my Redeemer lives and I want to be faithful to Him and be able to see Him." Job reminded his listeners that he was not just a good-time follower of God; he would accept the bitter along with the sweet. And so Job was.

This was a wearing thing for Job's wife to view all the time and so, probably out of pity for Job, she advised him to curse God and die. This, she thought, was too much. But Brother Job stood firmly for God.

There are men, it is sad to

say, who suffer hard trials and in an effort to find relief, curse God and die spiritually—so sad indeed, with nothing gained and a great deal lost.

May it be our aim in life to be faithful to God. When trials

come, and they do come—and very hard, may we overcome without complaint. May God grant us the power to be firm and strong for Him so we can be faithful to Him. May we be patient like Him.

Just Do Better

By Vicki Lynne Butrick

Though this item was submitted too late for the January issue, we find here much good advice from a co-FYCer. So we share it with you in this month of February:

THE PAST IS PAST, and as we often say, "there's no use crying over spilt milk." Maybe we would like to forget most of 1966, its mistakes and failures and troubles. We may as well forget—or at least not ruin 1967 with the regrets of 1966. We are moving into a new year, and *we can make of it what we will.*

A new year is a better time for taking a personal inventory than for making a lot of resolutions that will probably be forgotten in a few weeks. An inventory tells you where you are and what you've accomplished during the past year. If it's encouraging, it *gives you confidence in what you can accomplish in the next.*

If it is discouraging, it should spur you out of a slump to make a few changes and some workable plans for the future. It is well for everyone to sit down and take a long look back and a long look forward at least once a year.

Lives are often dreary and unrewarding and many people get little out of theirs because they never get down to taking stock of themselves. A new year is the *perfect time* for such a stock-taking and it is a more reliable way of bettering your life than by making a lot of "I will do this" and "I won't do that" resolutions.

Resolutions are useful only if they are carried out. There is ONE resolve that CAN WORK—and that is to do better this year than you did in the one that is gone. JUST DO BETTER—and apply this resolve to EVERYTHING YOU DO!

C₂H₅OH

By Terril D. Littrell

"And he (Noah) drank of the wine and was drunken... (Gen. 9:21).

The above scripture is the first mention of wine in the Bible, and its evil result serves as a pattern for all time. What a commentary on the evil of strong drink—that its first mention in history should be associated with a CURSE.

Just as a major threat in Biblical times was the use of alcoholic drink, it still is! Strong drink is one of the leading

CURSES in America today.

Young people are frequently tempted to drink alcoholic beverages. Social and business pressures are such that they succumb to the temptation of going along with the crowd rather than being different by standing for their convictions. Some, no doubt, are even brainwashed into believing that there is nothing essentially wrong in drinking alcoholic beverages. The weakening convictions of many young people need to be bolstered by a re-evaluation of the drinking problem, and the clarification warning of the scriptures needs to be sounded anew.

"No thanks," replies the Christian young person who cares about himself, his family, and his church. There is no apology for the refusal, no embarrassment. No apologies are needed when such a proffer is rejected. Such a quiet refusal even puts the one who refuses several notches up the ladder of respect in the eyes of the one who offered the drink.

The young person who has the fortitude to make such a refusal knows what is right for him. Calmly and without bragging, he lets it be known that he lives on a higher spiritual and physical plane. His polite refusal places the burden on him who is rash enough to make the offer, and marks the one who refuses as a man of stronger character and moral courage. He is true to the courage of his convictions.

Let whatever weakness there is rest where it belongs, but

not on him who has the manhood and strength to choose the higher way of life.

The use of an alcoholic beverage has a disintegrating effect on human character and resultant conduct; and often is the major contributing factor when men sin against God by breaking His commandments.

Perhaps the Public Enemy No. 1 of the Ten Commandments is the liquor industry. Admittedly, its purpose is to make money on its investments—not to destroy the morals of the nation. Nevertheless, in the process of making profits, the industry probably does more to damage the moral structure upon which our society is built than any other one industry in the nation.

We read reports that crime on every front is increasing. There is a day-to-day escalation in the war against moral righteousness, and more and more people are falling silent in the wake of widespread lawlessness. The Commandments of God, to many people, are considered as dated and obsolete; and this feeling is fed by the "eat, DRINK, and be merry spirit" fostered in part by the powerful advertising arm of the liquor industry.

Those who sell this narcotic drug make false and misleading claims for it through intensive and attractive advertising, that are not supported by the FACTS of scientific knowledge. Contrary to these claims, alcohol is not a stimulant; it is a depressant. Instead of pepping up the reflexes and bodily functions, it

slows them down. It attracts first that part of the brain that controls one's moral discernment.

A judge in a Virginia court addressing a prisoner who had been in jail for drunkenness for over 200 times, said: "When I look at you, I see a picture of those pretty liquor advertisements. I see the MAN OF DISTINCTION that uses the liquor."

Our lives are structured on the framework of DISCIPLINE just as surely as our bodies are structured on a framework of bones. If we do not impose the discipline ourselves, then society imposes it by police force. Young people who do not discipline themselves to live within the law soon find themselves in a correctional institution. The Bible says that a man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls (Proverbs 25:28).

The Holy Spirit regulates the inner discipline that builds character. Any threat to the effective working of this discipline is a threat to the soul.

Excessive drinking has a deadening effect upon the moral and spiritual sensitivity of the soul. The habit of drinking encourages the relaxing of disciplines, so that we tend to drift subtly into new ways of life that are hostile to the Holy Spirit.

Strong drink in itself has for the individual a destiny that is the negation of salvation. Its end is ruin!

The Bible declares: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived

thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1).

Again we are warned: "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder" (Proverbs 23:31, 32).

One may think he has a viper domesticated; but it still carries its poison. Sooner or later its nature to strike will overcome the superficial taming.

Like the viper, strong drink carries its own poison that destroys the inner self-discipline and steals salvation.

Paul's counsel to the Christian was: "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be FILLED with the Spirit."

Whatever defense may be made concerning the "moderate use" of fermented spirits as a beverage, the only safeguard against its abuse is TOTAL ABSTINENCE! "Spirits" in a bottle are a substitute for the indwelling Spirit of God. What a challenge to Christians to demonstrate the superiority of the Holy Spirit!

FRIENDSHIP

By Jane Haggard

I only want a chosen few
Who've stood through good and evil,
too—

Through friendship's test,
Who only strove to find the good,
And then, as only true friends could,
Forgave the rest. —Sunshine

* * *

The law of living is truly the law
of giving.—War Cry

Binoculars Aid Police

While an elderly woman was using binoculars to look out a window of her home in Niles, Illinois, she saw two men walk away from an apartment nearby.

Being acquainted with her neighbors, she knew the men did not live there. Suspecting that they were robbers, she jotted down their car license number, and gave it to the police. They traced the car and arrested the men, who proved to be robbers.

It is certain that those men never entertained the thought that they would be seen through binoculars, reported to the police and arrested so soon after the robbery.

Something superior to binoculars is focused on each of us. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3). "His eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings" (Job 34:21).

It is utterly impossible for anyone to do evil without the eyes of the Lord watching him, or her.

It is blessed, however, to know that "the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, and fro throughout the whole earth, and shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

Let us never forget that there is no "creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Hebrews 4:13). "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12). —Now

One More Chance

By Bonnie L. McGill

Oh, they're announcing Revival Services again. I don't need to go. Since I was converted five years ago, I live my life the best I can. I go to church services and church activities enough. I'll go the first night to see if I like the speaker.

Well, I'm here at the first meeting. The speaker was good—and now the altar call. Why do they have these? "Is Your All on the Altar" is being sung. Two people went up to the altar to pray. I wish this would hurry up. I need to get my rest as I'm busy every day. Here I stand—on first one foot, then another—trying to look bored. My heart is pounding. But why? I'm not scared.

Eight people are now at the altar praying to the Lord while the music keeps playing, "Is your all on the altar, your sacrifice made?" This is silly. I went to the altar five years ago. I made my sacrifice then. Is God calling me again? No, I won't go up to pray. I live a good life.

The song came to an end and the altar was full. I left quietly, feeling low, not wanting to talk to anyone. Monday and Tuesday night I stayed

This account was used as a musical reading in Harrisburg, Oregon.



away. Wednesday I had to sing in a special so I was expected to be there.

The message was good, for someone who needed it. The altar call is being given again. O, well, it will soon be over. They're singing "Softly and Tenderly" tonight. No one is going to the altar. My heart is pounding again—like when I became converted. Now I know that God is knocking at my heart's door. But no one is at the altar so I just can't go. What if I would be the only one?

The song came to a close and no one went to the altar tonight. My heart quit pounding and I felt all alone.

Thursday, on my way to work with a friend, we had an accident. A car was coming right at us and all I remember is a crash and screaming. As I awoke I went to my friend's

side. She was hurt and bleeding. The ambulance came and took us to the hospital.

On the way I couldn't help but think, "Why wasn't I hurt or dead? Is God giving me another chance?" As I sat there looking at my friend, I said to myself, "I'm going to the service tonight—and to the altar."

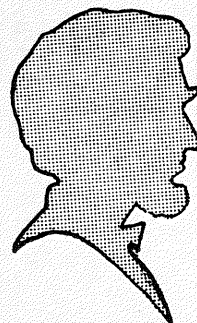
Seven thirty came and I was there. I listened to the message as hard as I could. The altar call was given—but something was wrong.

It seems that God is not knocking

at my heart's door tonight. Has He given me up for lost? I suddenly feel scared. I don't want to be lost. I want God in my heart right now.

I ran to the altar and prayed and cried. And you know what? He was right by my side. I felt good all over, inside and out. My sins were forgiven and I have a new look on my Christian life.

Did I have that accident for a reason? I'll never know. But when I hear Him calling again, I will shirk Him no more.



A Tribute to Lincoln

Of the thousands of tributes to Abraham Lincoln, none has been more ably expressed than the following which was written by Homer Hoch, a Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court:

"There is no new thing to be said of Lincoln. There is no new thing to be said of mountains, or of the sea, or of the stars. The years go their way, but the old mountains lift their granite shoulders above the drifting clouds, and the same mysterious sea beats upon the shore, and the same silent stars keep holy vigil above a tired world. But to mountain and sea and star, men turn forever in unwearied homage. And thus with Lincoln. For he was mountain in grandeur of spirit, he was sea in under-voice of mystic loneliness, he was star in steadfast purity of purpose and of service. And he, too, abides forever.

"The years go their way, but with the name of Lincoln childhood still learns to voice a patriot's devotion, and with the name of Lincoln tears are called from old men's eyes. And there is no new thing to be said of him.

"But while the Republic endures, upon whose altar he laid his great mind and heart, while liberty is cherished, while civic virtue and service and sacrifice are honored in the earth, the name of Lincoln will be spoken in undying love by the sons of men."

Reward

in the First and Second Resurrections

By Mary Holbert

There are two kinds of people in the world—the righteous and the wicked. Romans 6:23 states plainly God's plan for these two diverse groups: "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Hence, if we continue in our sins and die in our iniquities, our sins will stand against us in the judgment, and we pay the penalty ourselves, which is the second death.

"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:14, 15).

On the other hand, if we accept the Lord and receive the merits of Christ's sacrifice, then our sins are blotted out by the blood of Christ and go before us to judgment. Eternal life then is given to that person in the resurrection morning. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part

in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:6).

Both the righteous and the wicked are subject to the death that comes to all mankind, and are also subject to a resurrection. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22).

Ezekiel 18:26 explains why the wicked will also have a resurrection: "When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity shall he die." Here is a man who sins and dies a natural death; Ezekiel is saying that for his sin he shall also die the second death. 2 Peter 2:9 says, "The Lord knoweth how...to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished."

We know then "... that there

shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust" (Acts 24:15). Will this be one resurrection or two resurrections? "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the *resurrection of life*; and they that have done evil, unto the *resurrection of damnation*" (John 5:28, 29).

In what order will these two resurrections occur? The answer is in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, "... the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, ... and the dead in Christ shall rise first." Revelation adds to this by telling us that "... they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." See Revelation 20:4, 5. Verse six goes ahead to say, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection. . . ." This leaves no doubt but that there will be a first resurrection of the righteous at Christ's second coming; and a second one of the wicked at the close of His thousand-year reign.

Many people do not want to believe in the reality of the reward of the wicked. They like to think that God is too gracious to condemn man to the second death in the lake of fire. But God is a just God; He does not lie, so when He says the wages of sin is death and the wages of righteousness is eternal life, He means it.

Revelation 21:10-12 says, "... for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

It is a sobering thought and should cause each one to examine his works to see what will be his reward. Will he be an overcomer and inherit all things (Revelation 21:7) or be a sinner and have a part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (verse 8)? The answer is not one a person could procrastinate in answering for "... now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

FAME IS FUTILE

By Rhea Hendricks

Fame is a futile, fleeting thing
Whether you paint, or play or sing
Or act a part in a Shakespeare play—
Your name in lights on old Broadway—
Then, fame may fade in one brief
hour,
Like fields of fragrant summer flowers,
Or, unaware, old-age steals on,
With memories of great triumphs gone.
'Tis only good, stands test of time
And lights the way to heights sublime.

Serpents in the Fire

By Dorothy Nimchuk

"Go ye... preach the gospel... And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:15, 17, 18).

Having received the above admonition, the disciples "went forth and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following" (v. 20). These all had burning zeal and undying faith in their Master. When Christ spoke, they believed that He was able to accomplish that which He promised. How often do we fail Him through our unbelief?

Peter and John, on their way to the temple, were stopped by a poor beggar at the gate called Beautiful. Having asked alms, the man received a most unexpected response. Peter said to him, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6). Peter helped the cripple to his feet, and the former beggar, walking, leaping, and praising God, entered with them into the temple. Without faith in

the miracle-working power of the Holy Spirit, Peter's words would have been of none effect.

Elisha, the prophet, was in Gilgal at the time of a famine. He instructed his servant to cook pottage for the sons of the prophets. The man unknowingly gathered a poisonous wild vine and shredded it into the pottage. "O thou man of God, there is death in the pot" (2 Kings 4:40), was the cry of the sons of the prophets. Calling for meal, Elisha cast it into the pot and again gave it to the people to eat. This time it could safely be eaten.

On his way to Rome as a prisoner, Paul suffered shipwreck. Prisoners and soldiers alike swam or floated on pieces of the ship until they reached land, the island of Melita. Through the rain and the cold, came the barbarian inhabitants of the isle and kindled a fire, welcoming the sodden castaways. Rather than bemoaning his fate, Paul, wishing to be of assistance, gathered sticks for the fire. When he had laid them on the fire, a viper, or serpent, came out of the heat and fastened on his hand.

"No doubt this man is a murderer" (Continued on page 34)

SPOTLIGHT -- DENVER FYC

The Denver FYC coasted along for several years and then one day they became awake and as in Nehemiah 4:6 "...the people had a mind to work."

Due to two young people getting a desire to work toward the Mark of Merit and talking to the others every chance they had about their desire, we became alive and began to work.

We have tried all the general things most groups do such as Bible studies, distributing church publications, visiting rest homes and shut-ins, having socials, moneymaking activities and supporting the National work and projects.

Along with these we also have had a youth retreat the last two summers at a cabin in the mountains for our local youth and adult sponsors. We have found these along with youth camps and camp meetings have helped



Donna Churchwell and Holly Rinne.

the young people have a greater desire to do more.

The highlight of 1966 was our Youth Weekend which we held in December. We were very happy to have the college team from Midwest with us to make it such a success.

We started our weekend with a service presented by the team on Friday evening for the church. Each family received a personal telephone invitation from a young person to attend.

Sabbath the youth took part in the worship service such as reading scripture, prayer; and due to our group's having so many girls, we used them as usherettes. Following the service we gathered in the church basement for our monthly Bible study and lunch. At these we enjoy a nice lunch and a time of visiting before we start our study. This time we discussed some material one of our young people had received that dealt with the future of our government, scientific predictions and other related material in the light of the scriptures. We might mention here we study the doctrines of the Church often, but find we need also to take time to discuss and study things that our youth meet every day in their schools.

We adjourned following the study for a few hours and then returned to the church for a most delightful banquet prepared by the mothers and other church women.

We did not have a theme for our banquet but along with the delicious food we enjoyed a variety program. To top off the meal and the evening we enjoyed a time of seriousness as Elder Dale Lawson talked with us about his experiences as a youth, things they will be facing in the years ahead and admonition for all.

Sunday, we had to bid the team goodbye as they journeyed to Stanberry and our group headed for the mountains. We enjoyed a full day of sledding, playing in the snow and a wiener roast. Although we all returned home tired from a full weekend I think we all agree it was the highlight of the year.

We are now turning our attention to the 1967 Mark of Merit Award.



The Denver FYC enjoy a banquet. The church basement was decorated with pink and white satin bells and table arrangements. Tables were arranged in a U-shape; the dinner was served by candlelight.

We not only will be working toward this but we hope to be of help to our National FYC, our local church and the community in some small way. Won't your group please join us? Remember—all it really takes is a mind to work.

Officers: Holly Rinne, president; Donna Churchwell, vice-president; Cindy Holzworth, secretary; Leonard Hendershott, treasurer.

Sponsors: Emogene Coulter, Ben Kejr and Elder Nelson Caswell.

GIVING

Go give to the needy
Sweet charity's bread,
For "giving is living,"
The angel said.
But must I keep giving
Again and again?

My peevish and pitiless
Curt answer ran.
"Oh, no," said the angel,
Piercing me through,
"Just give till the Master
Stops giving to you."
—Author Unknown

The other day I flew over the Okefenokee Swamp. We were down low and I could see an ugly green film over the water. It looked dirty and unclean—a breeding place for health-destroying creatures. At one time the water in that swamp was sweet and pure, coming from clear springs high in the mountains. But in that low place it had stopped, and having stopped it had stagnated.

So in life. If you stop when you hit low places, your life begins to stagnate. Sometimes tears blind our eyes and we can't see the way ahead, but we must keep going.

Charles L. Allen in ALL THINGS
ARE POSSIBLE THROUGH PRAYER
(Fleming H. Revell Company).

THE EMPTY PLACE

A homeless Bad Habit went searching one day for a spot where it snugly could settle and stay. It hung around Fred's door for three hours by the clock, but never found courage to step up and knock. The place was too busy and crowded, you see; there was really not a minute that seemed to be free. There were lessons and games, there were books to be read, and no time to idle from breakfast to bed.

"I might push my way right in," thought the Habit, "but then every corner is filled; I'd be turned out again. It's no use to hang 'round; this is no place for me."

And it went off as downcast as downcast could be.

But Jim's door stood open, not far down the road; no crowd was about it, no bustle it showed. The hall was deserted, the study was bare, and the Habit stepped in with a satisfied air.

"Ah, here's what I want," it remarked with a grin. "I can settle in peace, grow into a sin. Jim's life is so idle and empty, I see, it's just the right home for a habit like me."

So it stayed there and grew till it filled the whole place and owned Jim completely and brought him disgrace.

So, friends, take a warning and keep a lookout, for many Bad Habits go searching about!
—Sunshine Magazine

Editorial

SHOULDN'T YOUR BRAND BE TRUE?

No doubt all of you have heard this phrase in advertising. And it seems blasphemous to refer to a cigarette as *true* when it is actually a falsehood, deceiver, and robber of health.

This phrase is, however, a gem, if applied correctly. Sometimes we may be inclined to look around us and think, "Are we too fundamental in our beliefs? Should we just fall in line with the main of Christendom—observe the commonly accepted religious practices, weekly rest day, and all the rest? Would we accomplish more? Could we save more souls?"

The answer that seems to come to us immediately is well said in the phrase, "Shouldn't your brand be TRUE?"

Yes, our brand *must* be true. We must have a real, sure foundation for our beliefs, for our living, for our faith. On the surface, the more superficial-type belief may look easier, and even more effective, as one accepts the popular views of the world today. But sooner or later we would come up against a real loophole in our belief and practice; and when we refer to Christ as our example—set forth in God's Word—we would eventually find ourselves standing on sinking sand.

Probably one of the keenest weapons of Satan is to entice us with the ease and effectiveness of less fundamental and exacting doctrines—easier to live up to ourselves with less conflict in the world around us; easier to embrace and still avoid the possible image of narrow-mindedness.

Somehow, when one considers such thoughts, he is engulfed with the feeling Simon Peter must have had when he answered Jesus' question by saying, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life."

Just where *would* we go? How far would we go? To *whom* would we go? If one were to begin sacrificing small portions of truth and doctrine in exchange for easier witnessing and less complicated service, just where would the "trimming away" end?

Young person, if ever you're tempted to compromise your precious beliefs for something less, find strength in the question, "Shouldn't your brand be TRUE?"

The Worth of a Good Character

By Walter Isenhour

Perhaps the majority of people do not realize the worth of a good, clean, spotless character. So many of our young people today, both boys and girls, do not give too much serious thinking as to the value of a noble name, backed by a clean, clear record. Somehow, it seems that the majority of them think that if they sort of keep along with the average crowd in worldliness, fun and folly, indulging their appetites in that which gives them temporary pleasure, they are riding on the best of the tides across the sea of life. Or they have so much company that does not measure to the highest standards of clean living, morally and spiritually, therefore they haven't much to be ashamed of if they fall short of the very best.

Character is what we are, not what we may appear to be, or what people think we are. Some people may try to make their fellows think they are far better than they are; cleaner than they are; finer in principle and uprightness than they are; far better in heart and mind than they are. It may be possible to deceive others, at least sometimes, and maybe for quite a while, but no one can fool and deceive God. Deception is just as

much known to Him as genuine truth, purity and holiness.

Character is what we are when no one sees but God. He knows all about us. If deep in the mind and life there are unclean thoughts that are harbored and held onto from day to day; or secret sins that no one knows about; or low aims, plans and purposes, then that constitutes the character of one's life. If, in the inner chambers of one's mind, heart, soul and spirit there is love for God, love for mankind, clean and godly thinking, aiming and planning, along with deep honesty and prayerfulness, this constitutes a good character.

No one can bestow upon another a character. He may give him wealth in dollars, or material substance otherwise, but he can't give him character.

But suppose one could choose between wealth in money, or wealth in character, which would the average person take? No doubt they would **take money**. However, the most thoughtful, considerate, and far-reaching would choose character. This is far more valuable than great riches, fame, honor and earthly glory. When anyone dies, he has to leave all his money and wealth behind, for it is

impossible to take it with him; but when one who is spotless in character dies, through the cleansing, purifying, sanctifying blood of Christ, he takes his character with him to cherish and possess forever.

Character is moral excellence—that is good character. Bad character is immoral degeneracy. In fact, I think a good character, made by the grace and power of God, may be spiritual excellence. It is more precious than diamonds and pearls, silver and gold, rubies and gems. If our youth would look at it from this standpoint, and everybody else, we would see far more wonderful characters all over our land today than we do. Not only would people live and seek to obtain a good character, or live so as to own it, but they would hold to it with all the power they possess, and with all that God would give them.

It takes a lifetime to make and build up a great, wonderful, sublime character, but it can be destroyed in a matter of a few moments and minutes. Just yield to the devil and he will do the work. He is an enemy—absolutely and positively—to all good character. By his wiles and deceit, by his cunning and lies, if lis-

tened to and yielded to, he can wreck any character.

Young people, parents, everybody, character that is excellent and noble is yours to have; it is yours to own; it is yours to keep, and it is yours to lose if you surrender to the devil. In fact we ourselves, by honest, careful, clean, prayerful living, along with God's purifying, sustaining grace, make character, or we by sin mar and destroy it.

Let me advise every girl, seek a good character above all pleasure-seeking, worldliness, pride, vainglory. Let no temptation to commit fornication and adultery, or to run with the devil's crowd, defeat you. Cherish a pure character above education, above social attraction and prestige, above fun and folly. Cherish character far above the company that would drag you down to their level in lust, degradation and demoralization. Let the world know that you are not for sale at any price. *Mean it. Stick to it.* You'll win out and stand beautifully upright when your evil tempters will sink deeper into sin, and finally go down "unwept, unhonored and unsung." And before passing, let me say to our young boys and men, take

(Continued on page 34)

The Acts of the Apostles

in Paraphrase

(Continued)

By Nathan Straub



CHAPTER 15

CIRCUMCISION 15:1

Some men came from Judea and taught the brethren this: "Unless you are circumcised in the manner prescribed by Moses, you cannot be saved."

Paul and Barnabas had great disagreement with those men and argued with them on the matter of circumcision. The brethren decided that Paul and Barnabas and some others of themselves, should go to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders and ask them about circumcision.

TO JERUSALEM 15:3

The congregation sent the men on their way. They passed through Phoenicia and Samaria. Paul and Barnabas told of the conversion of the Gentiles. This caused all the brethren to be very happy.

The congregation and the apostles and elders welcomed the men when they came to Jerusalem. Paul and Barnabas proclaimed all the things that God had done through them.

Some of those converts who were in the sect of the Pharisees stood and said that it is necessary to circumcise Gentile converts and to command them to obey the law of Moses.

The apostles and elders met with each other to consider these matters. After there had been a great deal of discussion, Peter got up and spoke to the meeting, "Men and brethren: You know that some time ago God chose one of us to take the gospel to the Gentiles. I was chosen so they could hear the word of the gospel through me, and believe. God knows the hearts. He gave them a witness by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. God made no difference between them and us; purifying their hearts by faith.

"Now, then, why do you provoke God by placing a burden on the backs of the disciples which neither our ancestors nor we were able to carry. We believe that we will be saved through the grace of Jesus. The Gentiles are saved the same way."

The whole meeting remained quiet and listened to Barnabas and Paul. They told of the miracles and wonders that God had done through them, among the Gentiles.

After Barnabas and Paul had finished speaking, James gave the solution: "Men and brethren, listen to me. Peter has told us of the first visit by God to the Gentiles; to take out of them a people who would have His name. The words of the prophets agree with this. This is written, 'After this I will return. I will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen. I will again build those ruins. I will set it up; so that the remaining men and the Gentiles, who are called by my name, may search for the Lord. So says the Lord who does all these things.'

"God knows all of his works from the beginning of the world.

"So my decision is that we do not trouble those Gentiles who have turned to God; but we should write to them, telling them to keep away from the uncleanness of idols, from fornication, from strangled animals and from blood.

In every city Ancient Moses has those who preach his words. His words are read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

The apostles and elders along with the whole church decided to send some chosen men of their own group, namely, Judas Barsabas and Silas, who were leaders among the brethren; with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch.

Letters were written to be sent with the four men. The letters said this: "The apostles, elders and brethren send greetings to the Gentile brethren in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia.

"Inasmuch as we have heard that some went from us and upset and troubled your hearts by saying, 'You must be circumcised and keep the law!' saying these things even though we gave them no such order; it seems right to us, who meet together as one man, to send to you chosen men with Paul and Barnabas, who are loved very much by us.

"The men we send have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We send, then, Judas and Silas who will also witness, by mouth, what we send to you.

"To the Holy Spirit and to us, it seemed right to impose upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: That you abstain from eating meats offered to idols, from eating blood, from strangled animals and from fornication. If you keep yourselves from these things; you will do well. May you fare well."

AT ANTOICH 15:30

When the four men were dismissed, they came to Antioch. After they had called the group together, they gave them the letter. After the letter was read to the group, they rejoiced because of the comforting message.

Being preachers themselves, Judas and Silas entreated the brethren in many messages and gave proof of their messages. After Judas and Silas stayed a while there in Antioch, they were dismissed. The brethren offered peace greetings to be taken to the apostles.

Silas, however, decided to stay in Antioch.

Paul and Barnabas also stayed in Antioch. Along with many others, they were preaching and teaching the word of the Lord.

(Continued next month)

Make a

M ARK OF MERIT

By Nathan Lawson

How beautiful is youth! how bright it gleams.—Longfellow

Youth of today, this period of your life can be the most beautiful, the brightest, the most useful, and the most rewarding of your "Seventy" years. SAD! but most people just do not realize this until youth is gone and age starts creeping up on them. Then they sit back and ask, *Where is the strength of my youth? Where is the beauty that filled my life? Where is the brightness that glowed upon every day? Why did I fail to accomplish some worthwhile things in my youth? Where are the wasted years?*

How beautiful is the life of a youth who spends this precious period of time in service for Jesus Christ. While you are young, even this very moment, sit down and take a look at the direction your life is leading you. Are you spending this time in "riotous living"? Is pleasure the most important thing in your life? Are you following the crowd, forgetting about Christ? If you are, you are headed for the pitfalls of sin, the "gutter" of life. There is no beauty in such a life. Once you find yourself here it is hard to "get out," to turn around and "go home." Read the story of the Youth in Luke 15.

Beauty and brightness enter your life when Christ comes to dwell in your heart. Then begins a life that is worthwhile, a life of service and happiness. Then is when you can have Christian fun and you don't always have to fight the conscience that condemns you when you participate in "worldly" fun.

Young people need good organized activities, something that is fun, entertaining, and will always lead them closer to Christ. ASK YOUR PASTOR to help organize a program of activities for your FYC that will be entertaining and yet always uplifting. Enter the Mark of Merit program to provide an outline of activities for your FYC group.

FEBRUARY—PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Gift subscriptions to AIM—Have you noticed what a wonderful magazine the AIM is for the Youth of Today? It will make a perfect gift for some family with one or more young people. The project of the month is for your FYC to give one or more gift subscriptions to some family outside of our Church.

GOLDEN AND SILVER MARK OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS

Next month the Mark of Merit award winners for 1966 will be announced.

FYC OF THE YEAR—LIGHTHOUSE AWARD WINNER

The winner of this award will also be announced next month and will be featured in a future issue of AIM. If your FYC plans its activities now and continues through the coming year, maybe your group will be the Lighthouse Award winner in 1967.

TO WIN A GOLDEN MARK OF MERIT THIS YEAR, YOU MUST

1. Organize your Youth according to the FYC constitution.
2. Register all your young people with the National FYC.
3. Conduct ten Youth Rallies or FYC meetings.
4. Plan and carry out ten projects.
5. Have eight socials for your young people.
6. Have four business meetings (one each quarter).
7. Fill out and send in your quarterly report each quarter.
8. Support the National FYC with 15% of your local FYC's income.
9. Send \$6.00 to help support our National FYC foreign worker.
10. Receive AIM in the homes of all FYC members.

DON'T FORGET THE BONUS POINT PROGRAM

Remember these points will be added to your total Mark of Merit points at the end of the 1967 year to determine the LIGHTHOUSE AWARD WINNER.

REMEMBER, "How beautiful is youth; how bright it gleams," but only if you, the youth of today, are living your life for Christ.

AS UNTO HIM

Whatever you think, both in joy and in woe,
Think nothing you would not like Jesus to know.
Whatever you say, in a whisper or clear,
Say nothing you would not like Jesus to hear.
Whatever you read, though the page may allure,
Read nothing unless you are perfectly sure
Consternation would not be seen in your look
If God should say solemnly, "Show me that book."
Whatever you write with haste or with heed,
Write nothing you would not like Jesus to read.
Whatever you sing in the midst of your glees,
Sing nothing that God's listening ear could displease.
Wherever you go, never go where you'd fear
God's question being asked you,

"What doest thou here?" —Selected

By Verna McCoy

"His Truth is Marching On"

Last month we began to scratch the surface for the priceless treasures of wisdom that can be found in God's Word.

We now want to dig deeper and unearth another gem. We are seeking for truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

With so many 'isms and 'ologies, schisms and divisions, leftists and rightists, liberalists and conservatives preaching, printing and picketing their opinions, it is a real challenge to discern what is truth.

How thankful we can be that God's Word is truth (John 17:17).

The following item taken from a New Auburn, Wisconsin, Midweek Church letter interestingly points out why we should continue our search for truth.

An uncle congratulated his niece and her husband on their marriage and gave them a white Bible for a present. He asked them to promise they would read it every day, starting with Matthew. They readily promised.

Two months later, he visited again and asked how far they had read.

"We are in Mark now," said the niece.

The uncle took the Bible and turned to Matthew 10. Tucked be-

M I N U T E M A N P R O G R A M M

Deuteronomy 32:4

Psalm 91:4

Psalm 117:2

John 8:32

John 14:6

Ephesians 4:15

1 John 3:18

Psalm 84:11

tween the sheets was the \$20 bill he had put there, with those two pages pasted together slightly. He took his \$20 bill out and pocketed it.

If this young couple had known there was money in the Bible, they would have hunted for it, but there is much more than \$20 bills in the Bible! Christ is in it, eternal life, salvation, forgiveness of sin. Hunt for it.

"Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal

life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

Let us diligently search the scriptures so we can come to the knowledge of the truth therein.

Firmly grounded in His truth we are made free and equipped with a shield against the cunning snares of Satan's evil workers.

"Put on the whole armour of God" as described in Eph. 6: 10-17, then zealously fight in the Army of God for truth and right.

At the time I wrote the following poem, and at this time, I feel a burden for people not yet drawn into the fold; people wandering aimlessly about when they should be laying up treasures with the Father.

I feel a great compassion for these people, not as drunkards, gamblers, and sinners necessarily, but as creatures of God, built in His own image, but continually headed toward destruction. As with a rose without care, tender-loving care, at that, it turns into a thoroughly useless bush. But, if cared for, it produces beautiful fruit and brightens the world about it. So it is with people and we must love our neighbors, if we wish them to "burst into full bloom, radiating God's love."

This simple, unimaginative poem conveys somewhat what I was trying to express...

SOMETHING DEEP

By Linda Michaels

*Love is something deep and true,
Something visible to only those who do.
Something wonderful, cherished, trusted.
Love is something deep and true.*

*Someone who loves is someone loved,
Someone trusts and is trusted.
Someone cherishes and is cherished;
Love is something deep and true.*

*Men who are unfilled of faith
Must turn to Someone above
Someone to lead them through the way,
GOD is something deep and true.*

2T₄G

Take Time for God



How many of you listen to your pastor preach a sermon and then go home and look up the references he gave? Do you search the Scriptures to prove the truth of what he has just said? Perhaps you think because he is your pastor he couldn't make any mistakes. He surely wouldn't preach a falsehood, you think. Well, perhaps not, but wouldn't it be better for your welfare to look for those Scriptures and read them again? If he has given you truth then the reading of God's Word will impress it more favorably upon your mind, and you, too, can witness with truth to your friends and your contacts. If your pastor has made a mistake—and ministers sometimes do make mistakes, you know—it will give you a chance to call it to his attention. If he is sincere in his ministry he will appreciate it and the fact that you have been so alert as to catch it.

Have you tried to witness to others as to what the Church of God believes, and when you mention a subject that differs from their belief the reply is, "But how could my minister be wrong? He has taken a complete theological course for ministers, and surely he couldn't be wrong. Your church is so small, and ours is so large—surely so many could not be wrong"?

By Vivian Hal

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

Others are so sure they are right that they say, "If you can show me where it says that in the Bible, I'll believe it." And what do they say then when you turn in your Bible and show them word for word that it says just what you said it did? They stammer a bit and look the other way before saying, "Well my minister is so much smarter than I am. I think I'll just take his word for it."

No, people are not ready to admit to truth even when they see it in print, if it doesn't agree with their belief or if it will cause them to give up some worldly pleasure they enjoy very much. They do not feel this point nor that point is important even if it is mentioned in the Bible. If it isn't important, why do you suppose God impressed it upon man to write it down? Everything written in the Bible is important for our welfare or it wouldn't have been put there for us to study. Man puts more and more trust in man's wisdom rather than God's. Those pastors who teach only part of the truth and are not willing to be shown wherein they err are in grave danger. God gives them a special warning in Jeremiah 23. When the pastor preaches "a vision of his own heart" and not the Word of God, leading people in the wrong way, God says He will not bless him but rather visit upon him the evil of his doings. When a man

teaches his own dreams and the interpretation thereof he is not doing God's will but his own.

Only by testing our pastor's word with the Bible (God's Word) can we know if it is true. If it stands the test of the Bible we can believe it. May God bless you all to prove His Word and hold fast to that which is good.

SVA REPORT

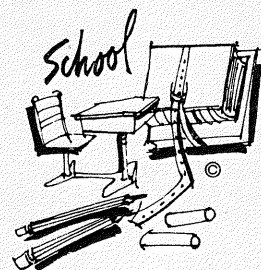
We are very thankful that everyone made it back to SVA safely after vacation. We were sorry to lose two girls who returned home shortly after school re-opened, but it is our prayer that God will bless them where they are. We did gain one new student, and we have hopes that there will be several more coming next semester.

Work has picked up and is being carried on as if we had no break at all. The second week of school several students complained, "Why, I have had a test every day of this week so far." The teachers seem to be pushing us harder so that we can finish a certain amount of work by semester break, which is only a few weeks away. The students are looking forward to the break and the banquet that accompanies it.

The annual staff is getting down to work, preparing the annual for publishing by March 13. Next to money, the biggest problem they are facing is obtaining pictures for the annual. Between now and February many pictures must be taken, developed, and organized on pages for printing.

The Honors Club and senior class are busy working, trying to earn money for the trip they wish to take this spring, while the juniors are now beginning to realize the problems involved in preparing for the Junior-Senior Banquet.

Spring Vale is thankful for the dedicated workers from many of the churches in this area who are willing to give of their time to help the school. With their help the school's bus is once again running, and many other improvements have been made. On January 15 they had a work bee here



School Reports

to do some tiling, painting, and general repair in the boys' dorm. There was also work done in Patchen's home and in the school.

To begin our January revival services, the film "The Big Blast," was shown at the school, on January 11. For the next four nights, Elder Delvin O'Banion from South Dakota, directed our thoughts toward the Lord, showing us the importance of living for Him. Many hearts were drawn closer to the Lord, and rededicated to His service.

Many alumni of both Midwest and Spring Vale were present over Christian Education Sabbath. In the afternoon they had charge of the F.Y.C. program, giving the present SVA students a good sample of what our schools were like in the past.

We hope your prayers are always with the Academy, that the Lord's will may always be done. It is our desire that many will learn more of our Saviour and will dedicate their lives to His service.

—Martha Heavilin

MBC REPORT

Probably the newest and most interesting happening here at Midwest Bible College is the arrival of Brother Lael Tikili from Nigeria, Africa. He arrived on January 26. It is wonderful to have him here to study and fellowship with us. We are looking forward to the arrival of Paul Hong from Korea next week.

Also on our new-student list (rather, we might say return-student list) are Dan Camero and Israel Bravo. We are happy to have them back with us.

Those from Midwest Bible College who traveled to the Winter Retreat in Minnesota the first weekend in January were Dale and Ethel Lawson, Mark Ling, Ken Knoll, and Phyllis Hayford. Abundant blessings were enjoyed together for those three days.

With semester tests ended, we are now registered for a new semester which is just beginning. Needless to say, a sense of relief as well as accomplishment is felt by the students at this time.

Work on our college annual continues at full speed. Many pictures are being snapped of our student body and faculty in action.

The last weekend of January was a busy one for college students as a big part of the local FYC. We might call it Youth Weekend. On Sabbath, the young people played an active part in the Sabbath activities, serving a lunch to the other local church members during the noon hour; and after this gathering once again in the chapel for a youth rally. Saturday night, after a devotional service together, we traveled to King City where we met with young people from St. Joseph

for an active evening of sports in the gymnasium.

On Sunday, we enjoyed sledding, ice skating and a wiener roast at a nearby farm. Good fellowship and exercise were enjoyed by all.

Please continue to remember our Bible College in your prayers. It is our sincere desire and sole purpose to work together here to become real workers for our Saviour.

General Camp Meeting in July

Plan to attend General Conference and Camp Meeting less than 6 months from now. This camp meeting will be held on the grassy, wooded slopes of the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, at Pine Crest Camp, Palmer Lake, Colorado—40 miles south of Denver. The date is July 21-29, 1967.

Much planning goes into the schedule to organize a well-rounded program of special activities for young people. So start making your plans now to attend!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Elder and Mrs. Marvin Keim are the proud and happy parents of a son, Richard Albert, born January 20, 1967.

Elder Keim is the pastor of the Detroit, Michigan Church of God.

CORRESPONDENTS!

Joel (Buster) McCoy is in the air force and is stationed not too far from Bloomington and Ontario. In case some would like to write to him, his address is:

A2C Joel D. McCoy AF15841108
CMR Box 3504
George AFB
California 92392

THE WORTH OF A GOOD CHARACTER

(Continued from page 23)

the same advice I am giving our young girls and young women. In fact this is applicable to all people. There is nothing in it that is misleading.

Now in concluding this message I want to give you a poem I composed some years ago. Here it is:

CHARACTER

Character is what you are,
Not what you seem to be;
And what you do to make or mar
Remember God doth see.

Character that is sublime
Is more than riches great;
It blesses ev'ry land and clime,
And guides the "Ship of State."

Men of might and strength of will
Have built upon the right;
Their place in life they nobly fill,
And make the world more bright.

It isn't the pomp and splendor,
Nor fame that makes a life;
It is God's love so tender
And grace for all the strife.

Character is never bought,
Though cheap it can be sold;
In all that's good it must be sought;
Obtained 'tis more than gold.

SERPENTS IN THE FIRE

(Continued from page 17)

er," whispered the barbarians among themselves, "whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live" (Acts 28:4). Then Paul simply shook off the viper into the fire. The island dwellers watched for him to fall down dead or for his

hand to swell; but they watched in vain. After time passed and no apparent harm had befallen him, they then thought the apostles to be a god. During the three months the voyagers were on Melita, Paul healed many of the islanders of their diseases.

There is power in the blood of Christ—in the indwelling Holy Spirit working through true followers of the Master. We tend to limit God with our finite minds and thoughts, forgetting that in His infinite majesty and grace. He is able to accomplish all things. We limit Him by our unbelief.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:5). We must stop depending on our own strength and trust in the all-wise and all-knowing Creator Who is able to deliver us. "He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy" (Psalm 147:10, 11). "I will go in the strength of the Lord God..." (Psalm 71:16).

"Go ye...preach the gospel... And these signs shall follow them that believe..."

DELIGHT THYSELF IN THE LORD

(Continued from page 4)

Christians is to become more and more like Jesus, and this is possible only by personally knowing the Lord. Each Sabbath that we spend with our minds completely on God will inevitably draw us nearer our ultimate goal.

CALIFORNIA YOUTH CAMP

The Southern California Churches of God are sponsoring a youth camp next summer at Pacific Pines Camp, 2 miles west of Crestline, California. The date is August 6-12, 1967. Youth aged 13-20 are accepted. Register early. Limited capacity—86. Registration begins June 1, 1967. For information, write to: Elder Victor Youngs, 143 N. Vine, Ontario, Calif.

OREGON YOUTH CAMP

The 1967 Oregon Youth Camp will be held at the North Falls Youth Camp, Silver Creek Falls State Park, Silverton, Oregon. The dates for the camp are June 19 through 25. For now, those who are interested in attending Oregon Youth Camp may write to Elder Nathan Straub, 6021 S. E. 87th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97266.

BE FRIENDLY

You may not stand in halls of fame
With many honors to your name;
You may not own a lot of wealth,
Nor even have the best of health,
You may not reach some earthly throne,
Nor claim a palace of your own;
You may not master some great art,
Nor rank with those the world calls smart,
But you can be friendly.

You may not be a scholar great,
Nor with the learned highly rate;
You may not wear a pretty face,
Nor fill a great, important place;
You may not write a book or song,
Nor have the praises of a throng;
You may not ride in pullman cars,
Nor reach through eloquence the stars,
But you can be friendly.

Yes, friendly with your folks at home,
And friendly where you chance to roam;
Quite friendly all along the way
With those you meet from day to day;
For people know it's well worthwhile
To wear a kind and friendly smile,
And reach to them a friendly hand,
However great or small they stand—
Yes, you can be friendly.

—Walter E. Isenhour