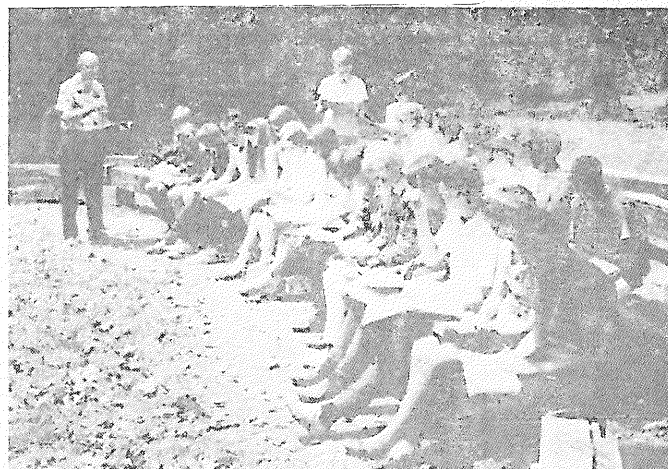


Aim

The magazine for young people



Attend
YOUTH
CAMP
in '68

MICHIGAN YOUTH CAMP—June 23-30

Mill Lake Outdoor Center, Chelsea, Michigan

Write to: Floyd A. Turner, 3466 Bennington Rd., Owosso, Michigan 48867

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CENTRAL STATES YOUTH CAMP—June 16-23

Camp Pa He Tsi, Lake of the Ozarks State Park

Osage Beach, Missouri

Write to: Robert Coulter, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, Colorado 80201

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OREGON YOUTH CAMP—June 17-23

North Falls Youth Camp

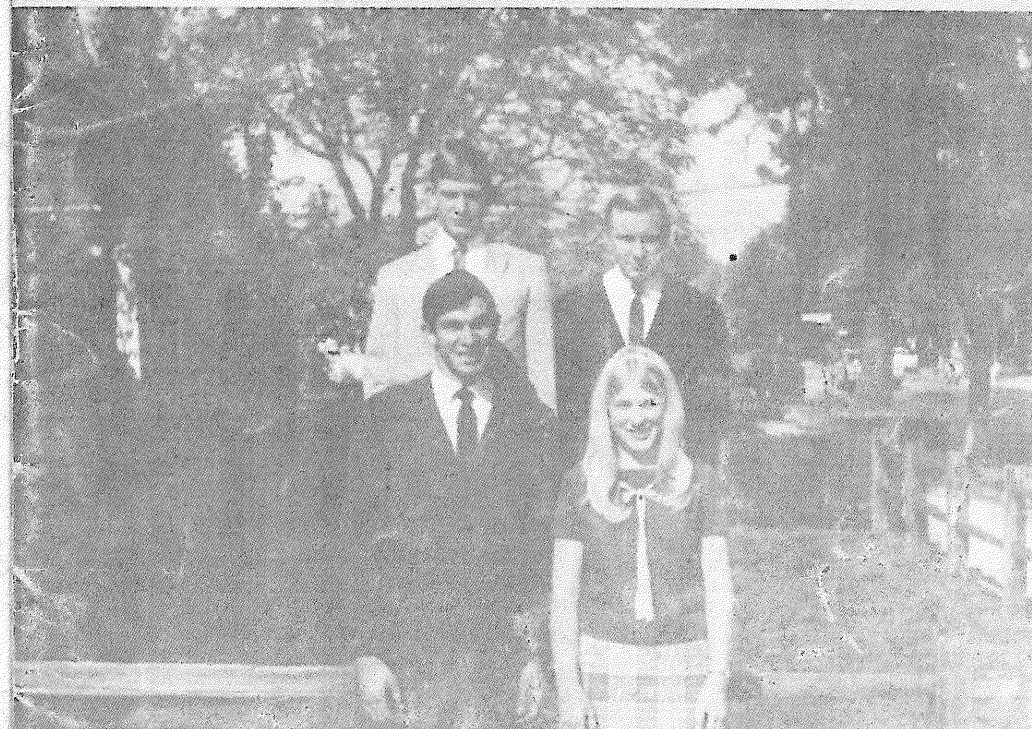
Silver Creek Falls State Park, Silverton, Oregon

Write to: Will McGill, Route 1, Box 340, Jefferson City, Oregon 97355

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CALIFORNIA YOUTH CAMP

Details to be announced.



**Officers of an enthusiastic FYC group in
Ontario, California.**

(Spotlight—pages 18-25)

Aim The magazine for young people

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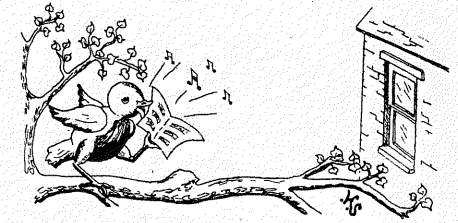
Hope E. Dais, Editor

If good people would but make their goodness agreeable, and smile instead of frowning in their virtue, how many would they win to the good cause.—ISHER

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BRADEN ACRES
GRADE SCHOOL

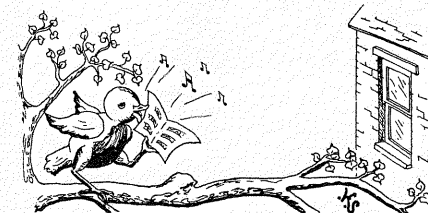


The Splendor of Spring

Each year you hear a robin's trill
Or pick a spring flower on some hill
Or see a green shoot break the earth
Or watch a daffodil's rebirth
Or view the cloud's pattern of grace
Or feel the wind upon your face;
It's God Who's saying, "Lo, I bring
New life to all... I am the spring!"
For all of nature, bird and sod,
Is but a hymn of praise to God,
And all its beauty, joy and grace
Is the reflection of God's face!

Author Unknown

Submitted by Carolyn Clements
—one of her "favorites"



RUNNERS--

Take Your Marks !!

By Dale Lawson

We drove over the crest of the mountain and started down the slope into the valley below. It seemed that the entire valley was filled with very bright lights as we gazed upon the city of Las Vegas that night. I was left wordless for a moment and then I said to my wife, "Sodom and Gomorrah." I thought immediately of Luke 17:29, 30: "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." *Surely the Lord Jesus Christ will come soon and put an end to such wickedness*, was my thought. But, really, for how long have we had great cities that seem to scream of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah? Or of Noah's day? What about Babylon, Rome, Corinth, London, Los Angeles and Las Vegas? Rome was a city of very great sin, perhaps beyond our imagination. I began to wonder how much of a sign of the soon coming of Christ this really was.

It was nearing twelve o'clock when we entered the city proper and we were determined to see what Las Vegas was like in the middle of the night. Billboards flashed alluringly to the thousands, and neon lights blinked their invitation to sin.

Night clubs featuring "Topless Dancers," wedding chapels, and gambling casinos lined the street on both sides. The streets and buildings were filled with people lost in their world of pleasure. We ought never to kid our-

selves; SIN IS A PLEASURE. Satisfaction of carnal lust or desire is something that PEOPLE DO ENJOY. The city was full of life, fun, and sin all mixed up together. Some were gambling away their hard-earned money; others were drunken and still drinking; still others were fighting; and on and on it goes. All of these activities seemed to contain a certain thrill for those involved. Undoubtedly, sin does have pleasure and that with capital letters. And yet as one observes the faces of the people involved in this sin thrill, the emptiness there quickly becomes obvious. It is a sad and dangerous emptiness that really cannot be hidden.

This kind of life with all its thrill can suddenly become wretched, sorrowful and hopeless. It is always void of real love, joy—and especially, peace of mind. Some would quickly say, "It isn't so," but when things go wrong or their paths are crossed they immediately become like caged, wild animals. This is why our world is filled with crime, despair and often suicide—and that even among the celebrities.

The writer of the Hebrews said that Moses chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in

Egypt" (Heb. 11:25, 26). David made a marvelous expression when he wrote, "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psa. 84:10, 11).

The scenes of the "Sodoms" of our country leave sharp impressions on our minds, making us well aware of the great sin that abounds in our land. However, for most of us at least, this kind of life is not a temptation that overwhelms us—or even attracts us. Quickly we condemn this scene; and we simply cannot see ourselves involved. Strongly we guard against such pitfalls. Yet there is something relative to this whole thing that we need to consider and guard against also. Far removed from the bright lights and the hell holes of sin, there are "little foxes that come in and spoil the vine." We can easily be drawn by temptation and led into sin—into things that are as harmful as these *obvious* sins—and yet somehow seem quite minor. I mean such things as: our effort to keep up with the world in styles of dress, though they are question-

able as far as Christian ethics are concerned; our habits of life that quickly put us in a bad light and dampen our Christian desires; our associations with each other and our unfairness to each other in matters of gossip, hatred, envy or jealousy; our standards involving dating, courtship and sex. We must remember that God is all-wise and has given us instruction in all these things for our own good.

As we view cities of great wickedness and condemn them, we need to be constantly aware that SIN IS SIN and that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Viewing these scenes world over, scenes illustrating gross disobedience of God's laws and man's rush for self-satisfaction, we certainly realize this is fulfilling great SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS SIGNS THAT JESUS IS COMING AGAIN AND THAT HIS COMING IS SOON. There is something about the entire scene that seems to surpass the evils of Babylon and of Rome. The signs spoken of as existing in the last days are showing up in such things as increase in crime, the new morality, and attitudes toward God and His laws.

These signs are interwoven with fulfillment of great signs of the coming of Christ. The increase in knowledge is an outstanding sign readily seen in our day. On the international

scene, Israel's activities and the activities of nations toward Israel are noted with great interest. Though others could be mentioned, these will serve to illustrate our point. We as young people need to consider all these things, take them seriously, and then make sure our life is "hid with God in Christ Jesus." The older ones in the church aren't the only ones that need to be awake to the signs of the times. As young people, our eyes also need to be turned toward Israel and other signs that will help us look and long for the Second Coming of Christ.

Recently we saw the hand of God as He helped Israel gain victory over the Arab countries that came against her. We can appreciate God's Word so much as we see these things come to pass. It is a great thing for us to be able to observe how the nations line up either for or against Israel—and to note that they seem to line up exactly as God said they would for that Battle of the Great Day of God.

This reminds me of the way runners are started in a race at a track meet. In our training for physical education and coaching at the university, we often had to help officiate at high school track meets. The runners warm up by flexing muscles, running in place or exer-

We drove out of Las Vegas, relieved to be on our way, leaving a city of sin and wickedness behind, yet carrying a burden...

cising in other ways. The race is then called for and the runners come to the area designated for the race. The official calls out, "Runners, take your marks," and with that call the runners quickly find their places and get in a semi-ready position. There they continue to flex muscles and wait for the next call. When the official sees the participants are ready, he calls, "Runners, get set." Every runner becomes tense, with his head up and his body ready for action. There he waits for the words "go" or for the "crack of the gun."

The whole world and the nations thereof seem to be in all-out preparation for the great race that will end in the Great Battle against Israel. They seem to be waiting for the call of the official. There are several things indicated in Bible prophecy that must yet come to pass before the coming of that great Battle but we must remember they can happen or be fulfilled very quickly. We ought to be watchful as we see Russia and the Arab nations aligned against Israel. In not many years ahead, God's great Word concerning the coming of the KING OF KINGS

AND THE LORD OF LORDS will come to pass.

Young people and older people everywhere should make sure their life is hid with God in Christ. We need to live soberly, righteously and godly in the present world and we need to count it a great privilege to have that opportunity. We need to involve ourselves with the great commission as we never have before.

We drove out of Las Vegas, relieved to be on our way, leaving a city of sin and wickedness behind, yet carrying a burden. The burden is for young people everywhere that get caught up in the glitter of the bright lights, for young people who become lost in the depths of sin, for young people who, though far removed from the great sin of the cities, are yet involved in doing *little things* that are tearing the Christian character from them. We realized and still do that God is going to come to destroy the "Sodom" of the world, the sin in the cities and the sin in the country, and the sin in every individual. You are one of the most privileged young people to have opportunity to

(Continued on page 25)

... Runneth Over

With Joy

By Joy Meader

As Diane timidly entered the plain, small church she could hear someone up in front singing:

*"My soul is lost, so lonely, and so cold,
Just like a lamb that has strayed from the fold.
Across the barren waste of sin I roam.
Oh, gentle shepherd, here my cry, and lead me home."*

"Oh, why did I ever come here in the first place?" asked Diane. "I could be at that basketball game and really be enjoying myself. But instead I'm here, in "church," of all places! I only came here to please Tom anyhow. I wish I had never promised him I would come. Where is he anyhow? Why, he's not even here! Well, I might as well leave before I get too bored."

Before Diane could leave, a large, elderly lady sat down beside her. Not wanting to cause too much commotion, Diane regretfully leaned back in the pew, grumbling something under her breath.

The song continued on, and Diane could not prevent the words from entering her thoughts:

*"Oh, gentle Shepherd, hear my lonely cry
And in the cool, green pastures let me lie.
Beside the still, clear waters, lead thou me,
Oh, gentle Shepherd, safe forever more with thee."*

A tear found its way down Diane's cheek, but quickly Diane wiped it away. Once she had known the real joy of knowing Christ as her personal Saviour. But she had given it all up—and for what? Because she had wanted to be like the rest of the crowd at school. Slowly without even realizing it, Diane had lost that real joy, that first love. She had started hanging around the more popular gang. She began to copy the popular girls in her dress and in her appearance. Lots of make-up and jewelry became commonplace for Diane. The places where Diane would not have been seen

before, soon became Diane's favorite places of recreation. The soloist was now singing the last verse:

*"The hours go by; on the frightened wings I'll fly.
While wolves of hell are waiting for the night.
To claim the souls that strayed from the fold.
Oh, gentle Shepherd, hear my cry, and save my soul."*

Several "amens" were heard throughout the congregation. Diane bit her lip hard and forced back the tears that wanted so much to flow. There was no way back now. She had once known Christ, but she had been living a life of sin and of pleasure.

"No, I will not make a fool of myself in front of all these people. I will not cry!" Diane told herself.

When the minister arose to speak, Diane could feel the blessed warmth of the atmosphere. She knew God was speaking to her heart.

The minister had spoken only briefly with words that stirred the hearts of his listeners when he said, "I feel the message for this evening has already been given in the song we heard a few minutes ago. I feel led to conclude my remarks now and give you an opportunity to meet your Shepherd at the altar of prayer.

Before the minister had time to say anymore, people everywhere in the audience were beginning to go forward to the altar to pray.

Diane clung tightly to her seat.

"No! They aren't going to get me up there to that altar. I stopped believing in altars long ago."

The minister asked the soloist to sing the same song once again, while people continued to go forward.

Diane cried within herself, "Oh, stop singing that song!"

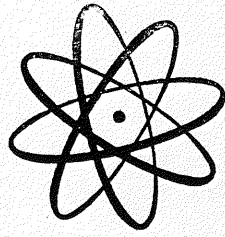
"Oh, gentle Shepherd, hear my cry, and save my soul."

As the song ended, without further delay, Diane fell on her knees and wept bitterly for forgiveness of her sins.

"Does anyone have a word of testimony for their Lord tonight?" the minister asked.

"Oh, yes, I do! exclaimed Diane with a shout of joy. "A few years ago, I knew Christ as my personal Saviour, but lost it all by living a life of what I thought was pleasure. I've wanted to come back to Christ several times, but I thought I couldn't give up my friends and my good times. I thought the way back to Christ was impossible, but tonight I have found my way back. My gentle Shepherd has heard my cry and has saved my soul! The wonderful feeling of knowing that my past sins are all forgiven and that Christ is my very own personal Saviour is far beyond words. All I can say is that "my cup runneth over with joy."

DIVINE DESIGN



"Monkey Business"

By Elden Fischer

Recently an American scientist in Washington, D. C., said, "When we get a man on the moon we will find the answer to the questions on how the universe originated. Man has for many, many years been right on the verge of the discovery of the secret to life and the mystery of creation."

Today, evolution is taught in our public schools as 100% fact. The truth of the matter is that less than 10% of the evolution taught is fact; more than 90% is fiction. It has not been proven once, let alone dozens of times. If you or your children are using one of the three newest biology texts out, BSCS Biology, yellow version, you are using a text with evolution as the unifying theme. This text has been revised this last summer and here is a statement on part of the revision, "The discussion of animal diversity has been

treated more from the evolutionary point of view." Every year two and a half million students take biology and many of these are studying out of texts with evolution as the unifying theme. Can we do anything about it?

For teenagers to retain their faith in the Bible we must be able to give them a reasonable explanation of evolution and religion. Since science raises questions about religion, we should be capable of raising some good questions about evolution. This, I know, can be difficult since evolutionists claim to get their evidence from billions of years ago. It would be difficult to go back that far and say, "Here is evidence to disprove your theory. When Science and the Bible have trouble agreeing, it is in this area. As more and more FACTS are known about all sciences, we will find that in

reality science and the Bible agree more and more.

Every Christian should be willing to admit there is evolution. But to accept the theory that evolution means man descended (or ascended) from monkey is making a "kangaroo-jump" to a conclusion. Evolution means simply that "living things change." It is a fact today that statistics show the average son is taller than the average father. We cannot rule out the effect of the environment. Through natural selection, moths around industrial areas in England are changing to black moths because they are less easily seen against trees darkened from industrial smoke. Thus, they are protected from birds which feed on them. In the rural areas, however, the moth population is evolving toward the white moths because the black moths are more easily seen on the light-colored bark of the rural area. In this sense, we can say that evolution does exist.

Today's evolution is based so much on theory and so little on evidence that it should not be called a science. Science is based on theories that have been *proven*, not once, but scores of times, before they are accepted as law. Too often evolutionists have constructed an entire skull and body from a part of a jaw bone.

In his book, *Evolution or Christianity*, William Goldsmith states, "Had the church been quick to seize the skirts of circumstances, the Darwinism dis-

covery (of evolution) would have served her well. Its elements are congenial to New Testament teaching." Since churchmen did not accept the new findings, agnostic thinkers saw their opportunity and sold their wares as evolution "but not according to Darwin."

Science and religion have opposed each other in the past, and still do today—but this should not be so. These disagreements have produced more heat than light. In 1925 a heated, public trial took place—with much national publicity. This should never have happened, but forty-three years later we are still feeling its effects. A Tennessee school teacher by the name of Scopes taught evolution in the public schools contrary to state law. In the trial the prosecution won the case, indicating Scopes was wrong by teaching evolution. However, here is what a group of 35 people, mostly clergymen and scientists, said in a joint statement after the trial. "We, the undersigned, deeply regret that in recent controversies there has been a tendency to present science and religion as irreconcilable, antagonistic domains of thought, for in face they meet distinct human needs and in rounding out of human life they supplement rather than displace or oppose each other."

Scientists are not all atheists. Some people in studying science become religious. Dr. William Pollard, Executive Director of the Institute of Nuclear Studies, once somewhat of an agnostic,

became so deeply interested in religion that a few years ago he was ordained as a priest of the Episcopal Church. In a book by Ivan Barbour, copyrighted in 1960, the author states, "Of contemporary scientists, 70% believe in the existence of God and 40% are church members." E. L. Long made a study of writings of American scientists and finds that they have much the same spectrum of religious be-

liefs as people who are not scientists. The Royal Society of London, the first organization of scientists, in the 1600's directed its members to pursue their work "to the glory of God, the Creator, and the advantages of the human race."

It was Lord Kelvin, after whom the Kelvin thermometer scale was named, who said, "If you think strongly enough you will be forced by science to believe in God."

During her recent convalescence after a severe injury from an airplane propeller, Ruthella Ling received the following poem composed for her by her friend, Becky Munson. Ruthella shares it with us here: (If you missed Ruthella's inspiring testimony in the January AIM, be sure and obtain a copy and read it.)

Still waters within you,
Sweet peace to your soul—
You can know in this hour of trial
That you're safe in His control.

Safe in His keeping;
Your life in His hands!
Oh, wonderful thought;
The Lord understands.

Yes, He understands;
And He knows your heart.
He has given His promise
To never depart.

Safe in the hands that made you—
That made and formed you so;
Oh, to what better keeper
Could anyone ever go!

And so, in this hour of trial,
You can look to Him above.
He alone can keep and heal you,
Through His matchless, perfect love.

Becky Munson

Editorial

I can remember when a demonstration was a good thing! As a 4-Her, we put much thought and preparation into our demonstrations. Well done, our efforts were rewarded by words of commendation from our parents and 4-H leaders.

To some the word "demonstrator," is a pleasant-sounding word because it suggests a car or piece of equipment which, though in excellent condition, could be obtained for a reduced price.

Today the connotation suggested by the word "demonstration" is unpleasant. To most people the word is thought of as synonymous with "riot." Through demonstrations, people have misused their freedom of dissent to the extreme, causing violence, bloodshed, destruction, and death.

And so we can see that the worth of a word is evaluated by the activities or mind impressions associated with that particular word.

What mind impressions are you and I influencing? What important words or institutions are we helping to define with our lives and our attitudes?

In our present society the word "Christian" has come to designate *anyone who goes to church occasionally*. By rights, the word should be used only to describe one who is truly a "follower of Christ."

What are *you* doing with this diluted version of the name "Christian"? Are you satisfied with that version? Or are you an exception?

Possibly these questions would best be answered by posing two more questions: What do people see in your life as a follower of Christ? What does your life say for your church in general?

Fellows, don't minimize the significance it holds for the reputation of your church and your Christ if you gain the reputation of being "fast,"—or if you assume the role of "wolf." To be interested in the opposite sex has been normal since Adam and Eve, but this attraction loses its God-given beauty when it is exploited with a "wolfish" technique. Christ expects of you different manners in

(Continued on page 25)

The Quest for Happiness



By Vaneda Friddle

DALE CORY stood on the steps of the new field house that had just been opened for summer registration. He looked across campus at the other large buildings and gave a sigh of boredom. There wasn't a building on Eastern's campus in which he had not had one or more classes during the past four years. His eyes moved across the stadium where he had been graduated a few days ago. Why had he come back so soon after graduation? Why had he decided to do graduate work when he had no real purpose in mind?

While he was trying to think his way through to the course of study in which he would register, John Chopin came by. "Having difficulties making up your mind, Dale?" John asked in an almost disinterested tone of voice.

"That's putting it mildly." As Dale told his friend of his selfish quest for happiness without the thought of other people who were so close to him, and who had paid his way all of his life,

he began to see just how selfish he had been.

Always when the going had become rough, he had found an easy means of escape. He could have been an honor student, but he liked the parties and the bright lights. His attitude had been that a mediocre grade was better than missing out on the fun. Now as he remembered the past, he realized that he had never found real happiness.

"John, I'm going to talk to Professor Hood, the best counselor that I know," Dale said determinedly as he strode inside the spacious building. He found the good doctor ready to listen to all of his mistakes, his indecisions, and his failure to find the happiness that he had been searching for.

"Dale, why don't you travel in other countries this summer and see how other people of the world live? There has been a cancellation made by another student on one of our European tours. You could have that reservation, and we can get the necessary papers ready in time for you to go along. There is only one catch. If you go your assignment will be a double one. In addition to the regular travel research the other people will be doing, you will also carry out an assignment from me.

"Many students come to this university searching for happiness just as you have done, but many have failed to find it. I need not tell you that it isn't found at parties and night clubs. You have found that out for yourself. Your assignment from me will be one that will help you and those whom you contact if you will carry it out honestly and on the level. Go to Paris, then on through the mountains of southern France. Cross the great Alps into Italy. Visit the cultures of Rome and the remains of the Old Greek civilization. Visit Corinth and the Islands of the Aegean Sea, keeping in mind the great missionary to

the Gentile people who traveled there.

"During your travels make note of those who are happy and those who are sad; then try to learn what makes them feel as they do. As you are working and traveling, lend a helping hand wherever possible. As soon as you return, report to me. Happy journeying!"

Dale paused a moment to look at the old professor and silently thought, "The old philosopher knew what I would do. He does not even need my answer."

It was only a few days later that the large transcontinental plane took off from the airport. Dale saw the countryside and the great lakes sweeping by below as the clouds gradually hid the landscape from his view. Hours later he landed in Paris where his assignment was to begin.

After visiting all the places that are famous for tourist attractions in Paris, Dale was ready to journey on. He had talked to many people and had observed many more, but none of them seemed to be really happy. He had seen plenty of sadness and despondency. There were people who were accepting their life roles as an act of fate, and they were determined to do their part to make the most of their lives, but this couldn't be true happiness.

When the group leader announced that the majority of the group had decided to continue their journey, a few of the young men decided to go by

boat the rugged way across the mountains. As the small craft made its voyage it eased its way through the swift current, around huge boulders, and under the drooping boughs of the trees. It safely carried its passengers across southern France. From one river to another by means of canal networks, the little vessel was gently lifted over the mountains. The young men began to have a great respect for the little vessel in which they were riding.

On the third day of their travel they came to a canal lock that was very ancient. Due to low water the little boat could not make its way through the shallow canal that was to be their route across the mountain top. Soon an old lady appeared. Her face was wrinkled, and her hands calloused from hard work, but she was cheerily singing an old French ballad.

"May I help you young men?" She asked in a clear French voice.

"I'm afraid not," Dale answered. "You see the water is too shallow for our boat. The only thing that we can do is go back and try another route."

"Don't give up so easily, young man. You are too near your destination to think of turning back. All of my life I have lived on this mountain, and all of my life I have been helping people across it. All of you will have to walk and carry your supplies for a way, but that won't hurt you. I'll get Marie and Pierre and we'll pull

your boat through without a scratch."

As Dale watched to get the first glimpse of Marie and Pierre, he saw the old lady come leading two harnessed horses. She gently hitched them to the boat, and gave them a gentle pat on their necks; then the old horses raised their heads in a proud way and started pulling the boat through the canal.

As men and boat reached deeper water, the old lady unhitched the horses and bade the young men good journeying. She asked for no pay, but Dale rewarded her generously, explaining that never again would he give up the ship. He knew that here, alone on this mountain, was a happy woman, and he hadn't asked why because it was too obvious. She was happy because she could help others cross the one great barrier and make their days brighter.

When Dale and his colleagues reached Rome they viewed the great religious buildings and remembered the many millions who had been martyred there. Wherever Dale searched for happy faces he seemed to find none. On the fourth day in Rome, Dale hired a car and drove out into the hilly countryside. There he found a small farm nestled in the hills. The home was small but it was neat and clean. The crops and gardens were rank and green. There were many beautiful flowers near the edge of the lawn, and a grove of olive trees was in the background.

While he stood admiring the

What about the sad people? That was easy. They were continually searching for the things that were out of their reach...

simple beauty of the surrounding hills a middle-aged man approached him. "Do you like the scene, son?" he asked. Dale replied that it was most beautiful and remarked that it must be like living in paradise.

"There are no ready-made paradises," was the man's reply. "We may find our paradise here in the mountains, but we may also find it in the blazing desert or on the stormy sea. Our real paradise is within us. You know the great Master Teacher told His followers that the kingdom of heaven was within them. He didn't tell them to look to the hills or to any other earthly place, but He did tell them, 'In your patience possess ye your souls.' We must find our paradise up here and down here," he said as he patted his head and laid his hand on his chest.

Sailing through the blue Aegean Sea, Dale remembered the words of Paul. "Godliness with contentment is great gain." How could he have forgotten all of the verses of the Scriptures that he had memorized as a child? There was another bit of advice that he remembered an old minister giving some years ago. He had been telling of Paul's many persecutions, and he quoted the apostle's own words: "For I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be con-

tent." Then there was Christ Who had taught the demanding soldiers when they inquired what they must do to "be content with their wage."

As he thought about his assignment he felt sure that he had found the answer. Contentment with godliness brought happiness to those who sought it. Another thing he had noticed about the happy people: they were clean. Their clothes, skin, and surroundings were clean no matter how poor they were. He also noticed they were busy people.

What about the sad people? That was easy. They were continually searching for the things that were out of their reach or that were forbidden. No matter how many luxuries surrounded them, they were reaching out for more. No matter how many people surrounded some of them, they were continually searching for a true friend among the unknown, and failing to find such a friend some turned to dreaming and despondency.

Dale felt that his voyage had been a success because he had found the key to happiness; godliness, learning to be content with what one has, cleanliness, and work. Now he hoped to go back to his home community and teach others how to be happy.



in the **SPOTLIGHT**

ONTARIO FYC

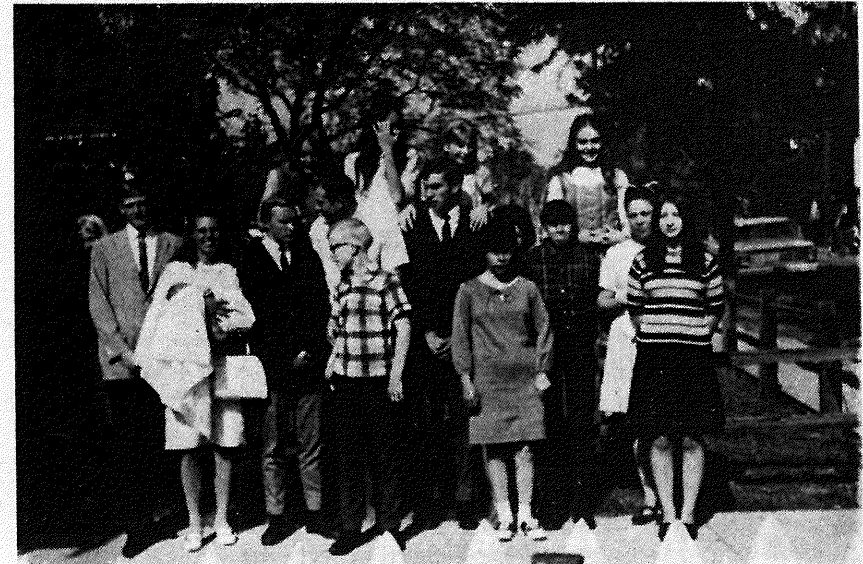
In a fast-moving world filled with pleasure-seeking young people, many of our friends find it hard to fathom how we can, by choice, find enjoyment in the Christian walk. When we tell them that we don't dance, smoke, drink, take dope, go to movies, or desire to take part in any of these things, they exclaim, "What do ya do for fun?" It must, indeed, be hard for these people to realize that we can have real, clean fun by just fellowshiping with each other. We've had socials, ball games, beach parties, snow parties, picnics, hikes, retreats, and youth camps. The memories of many of these events are much fonder than any worldly experience. If the things we do are right in the sight of God, He can and does make them much more fun than any worldly pleasure.

Our monthly business meeting is held on the last Saturday night of each month. From this usual assemblage of disorder and confusion comes all of our planned activities for the following month. In spite of this cha-

otic condition (or maybe because of it) our meetings seem more enjoyable and yet we still come up with some good ideas for socials, outings, rallies, projects, and devotionals.

Since our group was first organized—four years ago in the living room of our pastor's home, we have had several highlights in our activities. We, with the help of the adults, undertook to build a house for a Spanish brother in Tijuana, Mexico. A play about drug addiction and the power of God's love, was written and put on at Ontario as well as two other churches in and near Los Angeles. We were all greatly blessed by having our own Southern California youth camp last August. Fourteen of the 21 baptized at the miraculous baptism were from the Ontario church. Surely God has blessed.

The purchase of a bus has added to the enjoyment of our outings. It has been used to transport youth to two youth camps and on many recreation-



FRONT ROW: Sponsor, Joan Harvey; Jeff O'Haver, Timmy Youngs, Betty Jo Reyes, Ethyl Reyes. SECOND ROW: Tom O'Haver, Gary Norton, Larry Carpenter, Sandi Garcia, Reuben Reyes, Kathy Garcia. BACK ROW: Lois Youngs, Valerie Kester, Sheryl Youngs, Christie Norton, Colleen Carpenter, Sharon Norton.

al activities. It has taken us to the beach in the summer and to the snow in the near-by mountains in the winter.

We have a very active husband-and-wife team as our sponsors, Elder Hugh and Sister Joan Harvey, who are both much appreciated by the group. Sister Harvey has been our sponsor since our group was founded; and about a year ago Brother Harvey joined in as co-sponsor. They both have a genuine interest in each of us personally and in all of our activities. They can think on our level and understand us. They are a lot of fun to be with and they are good spiritual leaders and counselors.

We print a monthly newspaper, "The Grapevine," which we send to all of our members and to friends—telling of our coming events, etc.

Two members of our FYC group are back at Spring Vale. They are: Preston Kester and Mary Hutton. We miss them in our activities, but we are happy to have them at Spring Vale.

Also, two from our group are in the army and oversees—John Standifird is in Germany and Mike O'Haver is in Viet Nam. God has brought them through many dangers and we pray His continued protection over them.

In order that you, the reader, may get a little better idea of what we, the Ontario F.Y.C.,

think about our generation and its effect on us, we have included our testimonies:

Being in a church organization has helped me and others. By having church activities we are doing good instead of doing something we shouldn't do. When young people have the feeling that they have nothing to do, and they want excitement, they usually find something to do—and it may not be in the best of taste. In our youth group we have plenty of things to do, and lots of excitement. It helps make our parents proud of us instead of being ashamed.

—Christie N.

We have a devotional every Friday night. We sing and pray and then Brother Harvey talks to us and we have discussions. I get a lot out of these services.

—Tim Y.

Teen-age gangs, groups, or clubs are very common in our society. However, a church youth group, if properly organized, can not only be fun—



but inspiring. I have found that by belonging and participating in the activities of our local youth group—that the natural teenage longing to be a part of a group, has been satisfied.

It is fun to be with each other. Those who want excitement and good, clean fun, can find it in our socials and

outings. Those who want to get closer to God can do so in our prayer services and devotionals. We, with God's help, try to plan activities that will offer our youth something better than they can find in the world. We have the assurance that the Spirit of God is not a cheap, worldly imitation but something that is real and everlasting—that can satisfy the lowest of sinners—who have tried everything else in the world.

It is the responsibility of a good youth group to make its activities attractive to those outside, yet right in the sight of God, and beneficial for the spiritual growth of the converted ones. With the help of God and the guidance of His Holy Spirit, we hope to achieve this goal and be worthy of being called the "Faithful Youth Challengers."—Tom O.

Before I joined the youth group I didn't do much. Occasionally, I went to a youth activity, but not very often. Sometimes I could have gone, but I went to a movie instead. Then I would hear of how much fun they had, and wish that I had gone. I began going to more youth activities and fewer movies. I started enjoying being with the people in the group. I saw how they enjoyed singing and praising God, and I decided I wanted to have part in that fun. Soon I was taking part in almost every youth activity and this started me going to church. I started seeking God. Looking back over the years I can see that being in the youth group has brought me closer to God.

—Jeff O.

It appeared to many of us youth that our church had waned in enthusiasm and spirit from what it was only a few years back.

We realized we must start with ourselves and do our part to correct this default. The Young People here have started Friday night services in which to pray, forget the things of the world, and to grow spiritually. We have discovered that by doing this—we, and the whole church, get more of a spiritual blessing from the Sabbath services. One does not need a youth group to do this but could seek and pray by oneself—that one person could be as a small flame in a middle of a haystack and ignite the rest to be on fire for God.

On Tuesday nights and on Sabbath afternoons we have started visitation programs in which we visit the invalids, aged, youth, or just those that need a little cheering up. All of us that have contributed in helping to sing or to play an instrument—have received more of a blessing and a reward—than if we had partaken in "worldly pleasures." Sometimes when seemingly things don't run as smoothly as we had planned—God blessed in a different, more wonderful way.

Let us, the youth of today—the church of tomorrow—be a shining example and be the first flame to restore the joyful enthusiasm in the church.

—Sharon N.



I have often wondered where I'd be if I wasn't a part of the church youth group. I feel that being a part of the FYC has helped me to be a lively member in the body of

Christ. Not only do we have activities for social enjoyment but also we have many activities to help satisfy our spiritual lives. Lately we have started Friday night youth meetings. These services are very informal and we pray, sing and testify as the Spirit moves. One of the things that makes these services so rewarding is the prayer. I have just lately gotten to know the real blessing—comfort and joy—that comes along with praying through.

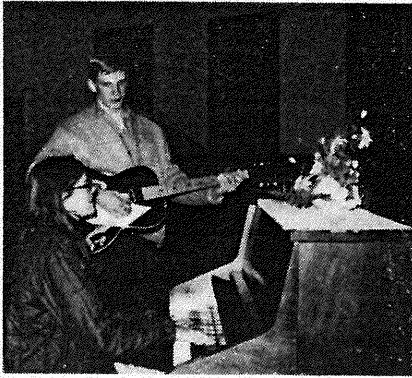
Another thing that God has blessed

us with is good sponsors. They have helped us to catch on fire for God, and with God's help we can be a better light for the world around us.

—Lois Y.

Since I've been in the church I have been drawing closer to the Lord. Especially when I'm with the youth group I feel I'm really doing something for myself and getting a blessing. I can't say I really know the Lord as well as I'd like to, but I do know that by being in the youth group and going to church it'll help me.

↑ Betty Larry
The Young People's Group has done much for me. We plan many wholesome activities to fill the time otherwise wasted. All of our activities are good and ones in which we receive much blessing from God. We



A typical scene with Tom O'Haver and Christie Norton.

have had several devotionals, socials, and outings—all of which are very much needed in our world today.

We are a group in the Church of God set up to be a shining light to other people. We want to be set apart from the rest of the world so other people will see that we are the servants of God.
—Valerie K.

I belonged to the Catholic church at one time. When we moved to California about three years ago, we started going to the Church of God. I found it very interesting and enjoyed meeting all the brothers and sisters of the church. They make you feel very happy and cheerful when you are at church. I especially like to sing at church and I like to listen to the Word of God. I am very happy for myself and for my smaller brothers and sisters that are being led through the Church of God. We are praying to God

that He will give us a lot of courage and wisdom to serve Him and follow Him through our lives.

↑ Tom

One way of obtaining nearness to God is in Christian fellowship. The Christian fellowship which the Ontario FYC provides while attending devotionals, completing projects, and even while at socials, aids greatly in one's Christian walk. God has richly blessed our group and I'm very thankful for it.

Christie

I have been in the FYC for four months and I have really enjoyed being in a group with other Christians. I have learned a lot and I have especially enjoyed the devotional meetings on Friday nights. —Coleen C.

I like the FYC meetings because we have more time to learn about God and to read the Word of God. It is very interesting to hear what other kids in the church have to say, and we all have a chance to pray together. I also enjoy the activities like football and baseball when all of the churches here get together.

↑ Arthur

I feel that with the Lord's help, the FYC has enriched my life so much that words cannot express how I feel. I wish that everyone could belong to the FYC and feel the joy and happiness that is received. It is a great blessing to feel the presence of the Lord, as you fellow-

ship with your brothers and sisters in the Lord.

I would like to relate a wonderful experience which I had while attending an FYC outing! It was Xmas vacation time when all the FYC members were out of school. We wanted to do something worthwhile, so we decided to go down to Tijuana, Mexico, and build a house for a brother there. With God's help and with careful planning, we were able to complete this project, and the brethren were so grateful. We got such a blessing and at the same time had so much fun working together with God's children. We can only conclude from this wonderful outing as in Acts 20:35—"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

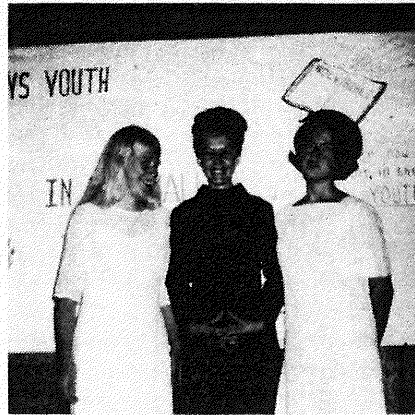
Colleen



Off for Youth camp (1967) on the bus purchased by the Ontario FYC.

go there with only that in mind and leave the cares of the world at home—that many of us for the first time have learned what a joy it is to serve God. Words are incapable of expressing the peace one has when all the doubts in one's mind have been cleared away and you know God is real. At times like these one feels like shouting to the whole world that there is One Who cares, One Who loves, One Who can fill that void which youth of today are so desperately seeking to fill.

Teen-agers are searching; dope, drink, sex, knowledge—are all tried—yet nothing seems to satisfy. At last, in desperation many take their lives. It is heart-rending to think about these dying, unsaved young people and we realize how incap-



Three of our members. Left to right: Lois Youngs, Sharon Norton, Mary Hutton.

able we are without the power of God in our lives. Can't somebody tell them how to find what they are searching for?

—Sheryl Y.

AND NOW—A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR:

HELP!

Seriously, though, the Ontario F.Y.C. is a wonderful group of young people!

When I was asked to be sponsor for the group, my first reaction was, "No." I had never even been a member of a youth group and had no ideas how to plan a program for youth—and suggested that they ask someone who was "qualified for the job." Apparently everybody else felt they weren't qualified either. I'm glad they didn't because I have received many, many blessings working with this terrific group of teen-agers—as well as a lot of fun.

The group started out without the benefit of an experienced sponsor, but because they are willing and cooperative there have been improvements and progress, and most important—spiritual growth. We have tried to have a balanced program of activities: socials, youth services, and the necessary money-raising projects. Many young people have realized that being a Christian involves living for God 24 hours a day.

The needs of this group have been my *opportunity* to serve God actively rather than to be only a pew-warmer once a week.

—Joan Harvey

CONCLUSION

We hope that you have been edified by these testimonies, which we feel best reflect our feelings as children of God.

If any of you are ever in our area, please, don't deprive us of the privilege to welcome you as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We've had our "ups and downs" and times of discouragement, but remember us in your prayers as we continue to strive for victory. Our highest goal in life is to be found perfect before God so that in the soon-coming of Christ we may each hear His words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant—enter into the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 13)

life than one would observe in a worldly fellow.

Girls, the wholesome, modest approach and appearance will never be outdated. It's "in" for eternity. A flighty, flippant attitude may gain companions for you—undesirable companions, that is! Meanwhile, what happens to your reputation as a Christian—and the reputation of your church? Does it really matter? If you, as a youth, call yourself a Christian, people are arriving at conclusions based on what they see in your life.

I hope those around you see in you a person who has Christ in his heart to such a measure that it shows in the things you say, in the things you do.

I hope they see a person who, rather than complaining and moping about the fate of things, sees something bright and promising in each day—and makes the most of it.

I hope they see a person who, upon hearing a word of gossip or criticism, reacts noticeably different from the manner most people react. Is there any difference between a Christian and a worldly person? There *should* be!

Again we ask: What are you doing for the image of Christ? What are you doing for the reputation of your church? Just what does the word "Christian" mean to those who see and watch YOU?

What others think IS your responsibility!

RUNNERS, TAKE YOUR MARKS!!

(Continued from page 7)

make your life complete in Christ Jesus. But let all of us be aware that the runners in the race concerning last-day happenings are "taking their marks."

Bits and Pieces

Compiled by
Barbara Lucas

That Unruly Member

A lot of people are like buttons—
always popping off at the wrong time.

* * *

*A loose tongue often gets its owner
in a tight spot.*

* * *

The fellow that brags about speak-
ing from the shoulder might be more
impressive if he spoke from a little
higher up.

* * *

THE TONGUE

"The boneless tongue so small and weak
Can crush and kill," declared the Greek.
"The tongue destroys a greater horde,"
The Turk asserts, "than does the sword."

The Persian Proverb wisely saith,
"A lengthy tongue—an early death!"
It sometimes takes this form instead,
"Don't let your tongue cut off your head!"

"The tongue can speak a word, whose speed,"
Says the Chinese, "Outstrips the steed;"
While the Arab sages this impart:
"The tongue's great storehouse is the heart."

From Hebrew with the maxim sprung;
"Though foot may slip, ne'er let the tongue;"
The Sacred writer crowns the whole—
"Who keeps his tongue, doth keep his soul."
—Selected

*Keep your words soft! Someday
you may have to eat them.*

* * *

*A sharp tongue is the only edged
tool that grows sharper with constant
use.*

* * *

Words are like leaves, and where
they most abound,
Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely
found.

—Alexander Pope

* * *

If you keep your shoes
tied tight, your tongue will
not wag.

* * *

**A slip of the foot you
may soon recover, but a
slip of the tongue you
may never get over.**

—Ben Franklin

* * *

A bit of love is the only
bit that will bridle the
tongue. —Fred Beck

* * *

Nothing is so opened
more by mistake than the
mouth.

Profanity is the ad-
mission of a very lim-
ited vocabulary, plus
an utter disregard for
God.

* * *

The only exercise
that some folks take is
jumping to conclusions.

* * *

HOW DO YOU INTERPRET IT?

A little girl came home from Sab-
bath school telling her mother of
what she supposedly heard her teach-
er say in the lesson: "Go ye into all
the world and preach the 'Gossip.'"

* * *

*Your tongue is in a wet place—
DON'T LET IT SLIP!*

WORDS

A careless word may kindle strife.

A cruel word may wreck a life.

An ugly word may a friendship still.

A brutal word may smite and kill.

A gracious word may smooth the way.

A joyous word may light the day.

A timely word may lessen stress.

A loving word may heal and bless.

—Walter

* * *

The most untameable thing in the
world has its den right behind the
teeth.

* * *

*By examining the tongue of a per-
son, physicians find out diseases of
the body, the philosopher diseases of
the mind, and clergymen the diseases
of the heart.*

FORGET IT!

If you see a tall fellow ahead of the crowd,
A leader of music, marching fearless and proud,
And you know of a tale whose mere telling aloud,
Would cause his proud head to in anguish be bowed—
It's a pretty good plan to forget it!

If you know of a skeleton hidden away
In a closet, and guarded and kept from the day
In the dark; whose showing, whose sudden display
Would cause grief and sorrow and lifelong dismay—
It's a pretty good plan to forget it!

If you know of a spot in the life of a friend
(We all have spots concealed, world without end),
Whose touching his heartstrings would play on or rend,
Till the shame of its showing no grieving could mend—
It's a pretty good plan to forget it!

If you know of a thing that will darken the joy
Of a man or a woman, a girl or a boy,
That will wipe out a smile or least way annoy
A fellow, or cause any gladness to cloy,
It's a pretty good plan to forget it!

—Unknown

Make a

MARK
OF
MERIT

by Nathan Lawson

CONGRATULATIONS—ELMIRA, OREGON—FAITHFUL
YOUTH CHALLENGERS

FYC of the Year—Elmira, Oregon

Elmira, Oregon, with a very outstanding program of activities for their young people has become the FYC of the Year in the Church of God (7th Day). This FYC will be featured in a future issue of AIM. Other FYC's which had a very good year in trying for this top award were New Auburn, Ontario, Tahlequah, Eureka, and Fort Smith.

As FYC of the Year, Elmira succeeds New Auburn FYC, who held that honor for the years 1965 and '66.

Following is a list of all FYC groups that entered the Mark of Merit program for the 1967 year along with their total Mark of Merit points plus their Bonus points which they earned.

| | Mark of Merit pts. | Bonus Points |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Ontario, Calif. | 480 | 225 |
| Tacoma, Wash. | 500 | |
| Tahlequah, Okla. | 500 | 258 |
| Denver, Colo. | 480 | 54 |
| Wichita, Kan. | 475 | 129 |
| Eureka, S. D. | 500 | 259 |
| Stanberry, Mo. | 500 | 89 |
| Fort Smith, Ark. | 485 | 296 |
| Elmira, Oregon | 500 | 452 |
| New Auburn, Wisc. | 500 | 384 |
| Midway, Okla. | 425 | |
| Alfred, N. D. | 460 | 123 |
| Claremore, Okla. | 170 | 38 |
| Spring Vale Academy | 300 | 11 |
| Marion, Oregon | 210 | |
| Conroe, Texas | 105 | |

GOLD AND SILVER AWARDS

You will notice that there are several groups that have from 475-485 points. This means that they lacked only one thing—such as having "Aim" in all homes, supporting the National FYC for one quarter, or completing enough projects in order that they might win the top—the Gold Mark of Merit Award.

GOLD AWARD WINNERS

- (500 points)
Tacoma, Wash.
Tahlequah, Okla.
Eureka, S. D.
Stanberry, Mo.
Elmira, Ore.
New Auburn, Wisc.

SILVER AWARD WINNERS

- (350-499 points)
Ontario, Calif.
Denver, Colo.
Wichita, Kan.
Fort Smith, Ark.
Midway, Okla.
Alfred, N. D.

HONOR LIST

Following are the FYC groups which made the Honor List for supporting the National FYC for a complete four quarters of the 1967 year (15% of their total income for each quarter). Also listed are FYC groups which made the Honor List for supporting the FYC foreign worker for the 1967 year. To qualify here, a group must send \$6.00 per year to support this worker.

(If your FYC group is not included in this list, take steps to make sure it will be included at the end of 1968.)

NATIONAL FYC SUPPORT

(15% of income)

- Alfred, N. D.
Midway, Okla.
New Auburn, Wisc.
Elmira, Oregon
Fort Smith, Ark.
Stanberry, Mo.
Eureka, S. D.
Wichita, Kan.
Tahlequah, Okla.
Tacoma, Wash.
Lodi, Calif.

FYC FOREIGN WORKER

SUPPORT

(\$6.00 per year)

- Alfred, N. D.
Midway, Okla.
New Auburn, Wisc.
Elmira, Oregon
Fort Smith, Ark.
Stanberry, Mo.
Eureka, S. D.
Wichita, Kan.
Tahlequah, Okla.
Tacoma, Wash.
Lodi, Calif.
Denver, Colo.
Ontario, Calif.
Marion, Oregon
Spring Vale Academy
Stockton, Calif.
Claremore, Okla.

(Continued on page 31)

2T₄G - Take Time for God

Join the many others in our "2T4G Club" who "take time for God" by reading at least one chapter in the Bible each day.

By Kathleen Roche

When an audience is requested to pledge allegiance to the flag or stand and sing "America," almost everyone has repeated the words so often that they can recite them with very little difficulty. In the same way, when a familiar hymn is sung or the Ten Commandments or Lord's Prayer is repeated, we speed right through the words and seldom stop to consider the meaning of what we are saying.

When Jesus spoke concerning prayer in the sermon on the mount, He gave certain instructions regarding where, when, and how men ought to pray. Then He gave us the example often referred to as "The Lord's Prayer." Being only 66 words in length, it can easily be repeated in half a minute. A short prayer, you say? True, it does lack the long, fancy phrases that many feel are necessary to a "good" prayer. But if we pause to consider the powerful meaning held in those few simple words, we begin to realize a little more the seriousness of what we are saying. Let us, for instance, take a closer look at the one phrase, "Thy will be done."

Too often our prayers deal more with what *we* will than what *God* wills. Our actions, too, are based on what *we* consider to be the best solution to our needs. Instead of setting *God's* will as our primary goal and seeking strength to carry it out, *we* make all the plans and then pray that God will clear up any difficulties that might arise.

Ephesians 5:17 instructs, "Wherefore, be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of God is." One of the best ways to find out God's will is through prayer and the study of His Word. Examples of scripture include 1 Thessalonians 4:3—"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification . . ."; 1 Peter 4:2—"That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God"; James 1:18, 21—"Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth . . . wherefore lay apart all filthiness . . ."; Matthew 18:14—"Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should

perish"; and Leviticus 11:44—" . . . ye shall be holy; for I am holy. . . ."

Just from these few verses we can see that God's will is obviously the best. No, it is not necessarily the easiest. When the time drew near for Jesus to be crucified, He thought about how much easier it would be if He didn't have to go through with it. "Nevertheless," He prayed, "not as I will, but as thou wilt." Bear in mind, *The Lord sometimes takes us into troubled waters NOT to drown us, but to cleanse us.* We are to be as submissive to God's will as clay in the potter's hand. Like the clay, it is only after we have become broken and molded for service that we are of any use. And just as the potter determines the final shape of the vessel, so we must seek and yield to God's will if we are to be of any service.

After we find our task, we must ask for strength to do it. Then 1 John 2:17 tells us that " . . . the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." There is no greater promise given. So next time you pray "Thy will be done," be sure you mean what you pray!

| | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| | | Mar. 24 | Exod. 3 | Apr. 4 | Exod. 14 |
| | | Mar. 25 | Exod. 4 | Apr. 5 | Exod. 15 |
| Mar. 15 | Gen. 44 | Mar. 26 | Exod. 5 | Apr. 6 | Exod. 16 |
| Mar. 16 | Gen. 45 | Mar. 27 | Exod. 6 | Apr. 7 | Exod. 17 |
| Mar. 17 | Gen. 46 | Mar. 28 | Exod. 7 | Apr. 8 | Exod. 18 |
| Mar. 18 | Gen. 47 | Mar. 29 | Exod. 8 | Apr. 9 | Exod. 19 |
| Mar. 19 | Gen. 48 | Mar. 30 | Exod. 9 | Apr. 10 | Exod. 20 |
| Mar. 20 | Gen. 49 | Mar. 31 | Exod. 10 | Apr. 11 | Exod. 21 |
| Mar. 21 | Gen. 50 | Apr. 1 | Exod. 11 | Apr. 12 | Exod. 22 |
| Mar. 22 | Exod. 1 | Apr. 2 | Exod. 12 | Apr. 13 | Exod. 23 |
| Mar. 23 | Exod. 2 | Apr. 3 | Exod. 13 | Apr. 14 | Exod. 24 |

MARK OF MERIT *(Continued from page 29)*

PROJECT OF THE MONTH—April and May, 1968

Church Publication Survey and Gift Subscriptions. This is a major project and so we want to allow you to count it for two months on the Mark of Merit program. We would like for your FYC to make a survey of all those who attend your church to see if they receive all the church publications in their homes. Ask your pastor to help you with this survey. Following is a list of the publications that every member-family should receive in their homes.

All Families—The Bible Advocate and the Harvest Field Messenger
Families with Young People—Aim Magazine

(Continued on page 35)

MINUTEMAN

"The Overcoming Life"

"...them that diligently seek Him."

By Carol Millican

We have seen by our memory verses thus far that the "overcomer" has everything to live for—both in this life and in the hereafter.

But can a person simply say to himself, "Well, I'll give it a try," and expect to attain success as an overcomer and find favor in God's sight?

Jesus said in Luke 18:19 that "there is none good..." and the prophet Isaiah tells us that "all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags..." (Isaiah 64:6); yet the Lord commands us to "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48), and "be ye holy for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). Is not this a contradiction? Of course not! Hebrews 11:6 clears up this paradox: "For *without FAITH* it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to please Him..."

HEBREWS 11:6

JOB 5:17

PSALM 46:1

PSALM 18:30-32

ROMANS 8:26

1 JOHN 5:4

We cannot live the overcoming life by ourselves—if we tried to do so, we would not only be doomed to failure but would be miserable in the process because just as the verse says we cannot live up to the Lord's requirements without the help of the Lord Himself. Without this faith—this sustaining power from above—we would be victims of endless anxieties, frustrations, and fears. We need to seek the Lord *every day*—several times a day—to renew our faith so that frustrations in leading the overcoming life will not lead to depression or resignation. Consider carefully this poem in free verse by Idalee Wolf Vonk that expresses the place *Faith* has in the life of the overcomer:

VICTORY THROUGH FAITH

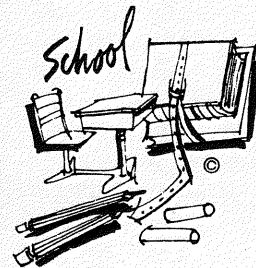
Faith is the sustaining power that Bridges all turmoil, strife, and fears Within our life with the fulfillment Of God's promises to us. Through Faith we shall know love. Through Love we shall know peace. So faith in God brings peace into the hearts and souls of men.

A living faith wins victory over all our Doubts and fears. It leaves the solving Of our problems to the will of God. By faith great men since Abraham

Were called by God to do some noble Work. By faith we, too, are called Today. By faith we shall succeed.

The verses this month show that God promised to help those who will follow Him and that happiness cannot be complete without His help. May we **DILIGENTLY** seek to do His will and claim the promise of the happiest of all possible existences.

Next month we will consider further the meaning of the overcoming life; expect a short quiz on verses learned January through March.



School Notes

MIDWEST BIBLE COLLEGE

The month was ushered in with the resounding words of Mike Weir on the evening of February 2. His message warned us to make ourselves strong in the Lord now so that we will be able to stand fast when the impending persecution comes. The words inspired us all to be steadfast in serving the Lord every day.

Other Friday evening services were given by Wesley Coulson, "Shining like a Star," and Ken Knoll, "Proper Attitudes." We all received many blessings from hearing our fellow students speak on such important topics.

Sabbath morning we traveled to St. Joseph for an all-day meeting. Many students contributed songs and special numbers at the youth program. Elder Hendricks and Lael Tikili each gave very worthwhile sermons to the young people. The college choir presented two songs to the congregation which were greatly enjoyed by all.

February 17 Stanberry was blessed with many visitors from various cities in Missouri who came for the all-day meeting. About 150 people attended, creating a pleasant atmosphere of fellowship with each other. The main message for the youth service in the afternoon, "Second Coming of Christ," was given by Mike Weir.

After sundown the college students enjoyed 2 hours of basketball and volleyball at the high school gymnasium. They had a wonderful time together releasing their extra energy.

Elder and Sister Dale Lawson, Mike Weir, Ken Knoll, Lael Tikili, Gerry Pedersen, and Jan Nienhuis traveled to Denver on February 23. This was the first trip for the youth tour this year. They greatly appreciated the opportunity to witness for the Lord in song and to fellowship with the brethren in Denver.

The rest of the students went to other churches for the weekend. Ken Brunson, Ivan Burrell, John Lemley, Tim Helfrich, and Ron Sanders went to Kansas City. They put on a youth program "Christ is our Rock" in the afternoon. Ivan gave the message. Herbert Murray and Jim Henderson spent the Sabbath at Joplin.

From February 23 to March 3 revival meetings have been held here at Stanberry with Elder Noah Camero as the speaker. Many excellent sermons were preached and we all received many blessings. Many hearts were drawn closer to the Lord and many lives were re-dedicated to Him. We were happy to have several visitors attend the services.

The last special event of the month was one which I feel rates near the top. Brother and Sister Paul Linville were blessed with a baby boy, Curtis Weldon, on February 28.

God has richly blessed us this past month with many meetings and sermons which have added greatly to the spiritual atmosphere of the college. With God so near no trials are too great. We ask that you continue to remember Midwest Bible College in your prayers. There are many peo-

ple who need to hear the gospel before Christ comes and MBC is the training ground for those to whom the responsibility has been given. So we ask that you pray for us that we will be effective servants of our Lord and that many more will receive the calling to full time service in God's work.
—John Lemley

SPRING VALE ACADEMY

The S.V.A.'ers returned on January 15 and started a new and very busy semester. Everyone enjoyed Midwinter Vacation, but it was good to be back.

The weekend of January 20, the whole school piled on the bus immediately after breakfast, and traveled down to Petersburg, Michigan, for an all-day meeting with several other churches in the area. The theme of the F.Y.C. meeting that afternoon was "In As Much." It was brought out that it is our DUTY to help our fellow man just as we would help Christ if He were here in person.

Later in the month was a spiritual crusade with Elder Delvin O'Banion as the speaker and Jimmy Fischer assisting him with several vocal and instrumental numbers. They came to us from Eureka, South Dakota, where Elder O'Banion pastors and Jimmy attends. Since Jimmy was not able to celebrate his birthday on January 24, there was a special party for him after the basketball game on Saturday night. Then Jimmy showed slides of his European tour.

Visitors at Spring Vale would have wondered what was happening on Sunday night, February 4. The theme of our Midwinter Banquet was "God divided man into men that they might

help each other." The auditorium was lit with different-colored lights and the decorations were Roman style with a large blue and yellow crepe-paper chariot on the stage as the center of attraction. Staff and students came dressed in handsome dinner jackets or pretty semiformals. There was a choice of turkey or roast beef with all the trimmings. Secret Pals were also revealed, and some of the students were really surprised to discover who their Secret Pals were.

New F.Y.C. officers for the second semester were elected. They are Bob Dais, President; Ruben Garza, Vice-President; Sue Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer; and Linda Mann, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. Elder Calvin Burrell held a dedication service for these officers after the Friday evening service on February 9. He encouraged them to really take an interest in their office as this would set the pattern for carrying out future responsibilities.

Tuesday night, February 13, Evangelist Rex Humbard and the Cathedral Quartette held a rally in Owosso; and the students were privileged to attend. His timely message on the time of

the end and the soon coming of Christ would stir any Christian on to greater service; and surely the Quartette's singing was an inspiration.

The two basketball teams, the Flames and the Sparks have been doing exceptionally well. They have won all their games so far. Some of the games really get tense, but the boys have managed to pull ahead.

The new Girls' Dorm is really progressing. It is very exciting to see the developments. The floor is poured, the partitions are in, and they are in the process of installing heating, wiring, and plumbing. The brick fireplace in the Lounge will create an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality. With a constant growth in the student body, it has become necessary to make more classroom area. The building and planning committee is working on plans for expanding the school and we ask an interest in your prayers that God would direct in these matters.

We are thankful for the blessings we have enjoyed thus far in this semester, and we look forward to many more in the months to come.

—Dixie Walton

MARK OF MERIT (Continued from page 31)

Families with children—Sabbath School Missionary

Your project will be to either solicit subscriptions for these publications or to give gift subscriptions to those who are financially unable to subscribe at this time. During this year we would like all Membership Families to begin receiving these publications in their homes. This two-month project will be a real accomplishment for your FYC and for the Church.

FIRST QUARTER "1968" ALMOST OVER

The first quarter of this year is almost over. We hope that you are getting a good start for this year in the Mark of Merit Program.