

# Aim

*The magazine for young people*

Which direction are you heading  
for **Youth Camp**  
this summer?

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Pinecrest, California

July 19—25

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**"How much better is it to get  
wisdom than gold! and to get un-  
derstanding rather to be chosen  
than silver!"**

—Proverbs 16:16

## Aim The magazine for young people

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Hope E. Dais, Editor

*The road to success is not to be run upon by seven-league boots. Step by step, little by little, bit by bit—that is the way to wealth, that is the way to wisdom, that is the way to glory. Pounds are the sons, not of pounds, but of pence.*

—CHARLES BUXTON

### Contents of This Issue

Guilty—or Not Guilty? <i>Jessie Truman</i> .....	page 3
Youthful Entanglements <i>Walter Isehour</i> .....	page 5
God's Promises Are Sure <i>Ralph Durham</i> .....	page 7
If You Had Known—What Then? <i>Ruthella Ling</i> .....	page 9
Labor Not to be Rich <i>Dorothy Nimchuk</i> .....	page 11
My Problem Is ... <i>Ray L. Straub</i> .....	page 14
No, I Can't Go <i>Naomi Burrell</i> .....	page 16
Excerpts from Spring Vale ....	page 18
2T4G—Take Time for God ....	page 20
Life's Highway <i>Darlene Walker</i> .....	page 21
Editorial .....	page 22
The Committee Corner <i>Elden Fischer</i> .....	page 24
Foreign Correspondence Activities <i>John Orie</i> .....	page 27
Make a Mark of Merit <i>Dale Lawson</i> .....	page 29
Minutemen—Know Your Gift Horses <i>Cecyl Fischer</i> .....	page 31
FYC News and Reminders ....	page 32

# Guilty -- or Not Guilty?

By **Jessie Truman**

"Prisoner, stand and face the court."

"Mr. Foreman, how does the jury find the prisoner? Guilty or not guilty?"

Each of us has or will face the Judge and the jury at some time. We face the Judge when we confess our guilt to Him, and we will face Him again on the Judgment Day. He forgives us when we repent and confess, and He sets us free.

Sometimes the jury still finds us guilty though we strive to walk in newness of life. What then, Christian? Will we become imprisoned by public opinion? Or worse, will we condemn ourselves?

Nothing is so destructive as self-condemnation. It will eat away all usefulness, all direction and effectiveness. If it takes control of our lives it even becomes idolatry.

"But," you say, "how can it be overcome?" It CAN be conquered. Here's how.

First, remember that you are an individual of worth. You are so important that God sent His Son to redeem you from eternal death. (John 3:16). There was joy in heaven the day you repented. (Luke 15:10) You believed His words "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

So you became a child of God. You felt so clean, so happy and so wonderfully unburdened. But now you've begun to doubt that anything that wonderful could really have happened to you.

Maybe it would help to clear things up if

you understand where doubts come from. They come from the devil. Doubts, deception and discouragement are three of his greatest weapons. If he can get you to doubt, you lose your joy of being a true Christian. Then discouragement follows, and before you know it, he has deceived you into believing a lie.

Just as Jesus reached out His hand to save Peter from sinking into his sea of doubts, so does the word of God reach out to you with the glorious promises.

**"AND THOU WILT CAST ALL THEIR SINS INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA."—MICAH 7:19.**

**"AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST, SO FAR HATH HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US."—PSALM 103:12.**

**"THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET, THEY SHALL BE AS WHITE AS SNOW; THOUGH THEY BE RED AS CRIMSON, THEY SHALL BE AS WOOL."—ISAIAH 1:18.**

You were washed clean. Believe it. God loves you. If He forgave you, then you must forgive yourself, too. If you don't, in effect you're saying you're more righteous than He is. Isn't that absurd? Don't let the devil deceive you into doubtings.

As to the jury—well, remember that they can't see your heart as God sees it. Be patient with them. In time your good works will speak to them more effectively than any words. It could be they haven't had this wonderful experience, so how could they understand? Your

patience, kindness and love may win them to the Lord. That could be the very work the Lord has for you. Your perfect joy and the Holy Spirit working through you will cause you to love them.

In Philippians 3:13 and 14, Paul sums it up in these words: "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." That's what we should do, too.

\* \* \*

**My child, when you pray to Me of your own little troubles and doubts, your prayer is pretty thin and small. When you reach out to help other people by offering yourself as a channel for Me, your prayer becomes at once large and noble.**

**FRANK LAUBACH'S PRAYER DIARY**

(Fleming H. Revell Company)

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### **Gratitude**

**by Joy Meader**

**God leads and guides His children every step of the way.  
For all His many blessings there are no words to say.  
"Thank-you" isn't big enough for what Jesus has done for me.  
All money, fame, and fortune can not repay that debt on Calvary.  
And so, Dear Lord, I give myself; just use me as you may  
To help unsaved souls be ready to meet you that Great Judgment Day.**

# Youthful Entanglements

by **Walter Isehour**

No doubt one of the aims, plans and purposes of the enemy of all mankind is to entangle every life and soul possible. This oftentimes is done in a secret, sly, cunning, deceiving way. He doesn't reveal what he has in mind in regard to the outcome of entanglements. It is somewhat like setting a net to catch a fish, or covering a trap to catch an animal or fowl. Allurements to evil, to entanglements, to habits, to crime, wickedness and defeat may look attractive, and may appeal to the sense, with the final outcome kept as a profound secret by the devil.

We have seen so many young people entangled by the devil across the years of life until we feel it to be wise, and to be in the will of God, to sound a note of warning.

Perhaps very few young people realize the seriousness of beginning a bad habit. It may be the habit of drinking, smoking, using smutty words, or even starting into profanity. It may be the beginning of keeping bad company—just edging into the wrong crowd to see what they are doing, or hear what they are saying. This begins to take its effect, maybe little by little, until one is caught with the tide and goes drifting downstream, headed for the breakers, or the rock-ribbed shores of destruction for time and eternity.

Multitudes of our young people become entangled in courtship and marriage. Perhaps they don't stop

to realize just what they are entering into. Many, many are too young to form a courtship and enter into the solemn responsibilities of what it means to be sweethearts, husbands and wives. To many of them this may seem but a trivial matter, but it isn't. Multitudes of them find out when it is too late, or after they are just about hopelessly entangled.

Did you ever see a fly entangled in a spider's web? Perhaps you have. He may wiggle and squirm, buzz and exert himself, trying with all his power to extricate himself and fly away. But he can't get out alone. Unless he gets help beyond his own efforts and strength he is doomed. The spider will soon eat him.

Thus it is with people who are entangled with sin and wickedness. Left to themselves they are helpless and

hopeless. The devil has them and will pull them on and on to their final defeat and damnation. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can loose them from their entanglements and set them free. And this only happens when they repent of all their sins, willing and anxious to give them all up, and call on the Saviour out of a broken heart and contrite spirit.

Jesus can break every fetter and set the poor, entangled sinner free from the nets, traps and clutches of the devil. Hallelujah! Sinner, if you are reading this, O call upon God! Mean it from the very depth of your heart and soul. This is your only way out. Certainly the devil won't get you out. It is an old saying that the devil will get you into trouble, but he won't get you out. Therefore you ought to turn from him, hate him, and ask God sincerely for mercy and pardon. Then let God fill your life with His love, grace, righteousness, peace, purity and holiness. This is up to you. Will you, or will you not?

Dear youth, let me appeal to you. Hear me. If the devil has gotten you all tangled up, and has his ropes all about your life, and you feel that you have missed the mark, and you feel that you are down beneath his iron heel, just look up and realize that you are not hopelessly gone. If he has thwarted your aims, plans and purposes, and you are imprisoned mentally, morally, spiritually, and perhaps physically, don't despair. There is a way out. Don't sit down in defeat and say, "It is no use to try any longer. No use to make another effort. I have tried so many times and failed."

Well, that's all the devil wants. Keep trying. As long as life remains there is hope. I learned when I was a boy in school, "If you don't at first succeed, try and try again." Pray out. Thank God, the devil can't close and bar the door of prayer to the extent and to the effect that it can't be opened.

If you are locked up by the devil; if you are all messed and mused up and entangled by bad habits, and your sins are like cables about your life and soul, seek God with all your heart. He can and will break every fetter and entanglement about your life. Let Him get you out, and then see to it that the devil doesn't get you in again. This will take close living to God, much faith and prayer, and thorough obedience to God and His commandments as you journey on the remainder of life's pathway. You will need to keep busy in His vineyard so the devil will not trick you again and pull you back into his ungodly, wicked crowd.

Realize there is a kingdom to gain and a hell to shun, and those who are faithful unto God until death shall have "a crown of life." This will be worth a million worlds like this, and ten thousand times what it will cost us. Our service—faithful service—rendered unto God is never, never in vain, but will be gloriously and eternally rewarded. Hallelujah!

• • •

**Sometimes a temptation comes through the source least expected, and at this particular point it is wise and safe to pause, pray and trust God for victory. It will come.**

—W. E. Isenhour

AIM

*This paper was written as a theme in Bible IV class by a senior at Spring Vale Academy.*

# God's Promises Are SURE

By Ralph Durham

God's Word is true! What God promises, He will accomplish. We have seen Him keep His promise of restoring Israel, and we know that Jesus is coming soon, bringing salvation to those who believe on Him.

## A BLESSING PROMISED

● In Genesis 12, God called Abram to leave his people and promised He would make him a blessing, that in his seed would all nations be blessed if he would do this (Gen. 22:18). The promised seed was sent two thousand years later when Jesus was born into the world, lived among men and taught them, was crucified and resurrected, and ascended to the right hand of God. Through this Jesus are the blessings of salvation available to us, because God kept His promise to Abram.

## CONDITIONAL PROMISES

● God made many promises to Israel which were conditional. In Deuteronomy 28, He prom-

ised Israel blessings if they kept His commandments and curses if they failed to do so. One of these curses (v. 25) is that Israel would be scattered out of the promised land if the people turned from doing God's commandments.

Israel *did* rebel (Isaiah 1:2) and sinned against God; the people *did* break God's commandments. Jeremiah, in chapters 5-7, warns the Jews that if they don't mend their ways, God will make the land desolate and scatter the people. The Jews didn't heed the warning and as God had promised, the people were scattered by being taken captive by Assyria in 722 B.C. and by Babylon in 586 B.C.

After being in Babylon 70 years some Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple as God had prophesied through Jeremiah (chapter 25). However, when Jesus came 500 years later, the Jews still refused to accept

Christ as the promised Saviour. Therefore, Jesus foretold (Luke 21) that the Jews would be scattered again into all the world. This was accomplished by the Roman empire, which in 135 A.D. put down a final Jewish revolt and carried captive many Jews.

At this time the Jews entered a long period of persecution. They wandered from one land to another and almost without exception were mistreated and persecuted, often by murder and torture, such as Hitler's great slaughters in World War II.

#### A REGATHERING PROMISED

● But God made another promise in Isaiah 43:56. This was a promise to gather the Jewish seed from all parts of the earth. This people driven out of its homeland was to return again. In Ezekiel 36: 21-24 it is told that this will be accomplished for a witness to the heathen that God is supreme—not for Israel's sake—for the Jews are told (v. 32) that their ways are shameful.

#### A PROMISE FULFILLED BEFORE OUR EYES . . .

● This is a promise which many living today have seen fulfilled—they have seen this prophecy made a reality in the establishment of Israel as an independent nation on May 14, 1948.

The prophecy has been fulfilled literally "to the letter." God promised that a great number of Jews would return (Jer.

31:8). In their return to Palestine the world has witnessed the greatest migration of a people. From 1948 to 1952, 600,000 Jews entered Jerusalem and the migration continues to this day. As promised in Ezekiel 36:8-11, the land is fruitful and Israel today is the envy of the nations of the world. Swamps have been drained, wells dug, and forests planted. Once desolate, barren land has become fertile and the desert blossoms as a rose (Isaiah 35:1). The little nation of Israel continually astounds the world with its rapid growth.

God has regathered and rebuilt Israel as He promised. After being scattered nearly 2,000 years, the Jews have regained their homeland. Although scattered among many other nations without a national home, God preserved their national identity and kept His promise. The language of modern Palestine is the same Hebrew spoken in ancient Israel. Here is another miracle of God. After dwelling many years in many nations, the Jews returned home with very few being able to communicate in Hebrew. The project was undertaken to teach Hebrew to all inhabitants and today it is the national language.

#### NOW—OUR PROMISE . . .

● David, in Psalm 102:16, tells that when Jerusalem is rebuilt, the Lord shall appear in His glory. Here is another promise. The Lord shall appear. Jesus Himself made this promise that

He would return to the earth, in John 14:2. David tells that this appearance will occur soon after Zion has been rebuilt.

Just as God has kept His other promises, He will keep this. He has regathered and blessed physical Israel and He will indeed gather to Him and bless spiritual Israel.

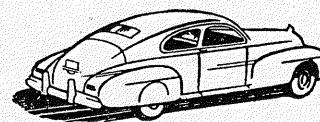
#### ALSO OUR SALVATION PROMISE . . .

● Jesus will come to receive and grant redemption to all those who believe in His name. This is another promise: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." We know that this, too, is a true promise and if we believe in

Jesus and accept His saving gift made on the cross, God will be faithful (1 Cor. 1:9) and grant salvation.

God kept His promise and fulfilled the great sign of Jesus' second advent with the miraculous restoration of Palestine and He will not fail in fulfilling the promised return of the Saviour. By the very fact that Israel has been established, we are assured that Jesus will soon come and set up His kingdom. Now all those who have accepted the promise of salvation are anxiously awaiting the fulfillment of this great promise at the return of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

## If You Had Known--What Then?



*Snow was sifting gently down onto a lonely country road.*

*All was peaceful about. Near the road sturdy trees were softly sighing.*

*Suddenly around the bend a car roared with tires screaming, kids laughing. . .*

*But these laughs suddenly turned to screams as the car slid off the road to collide with great impact against a nearby tree.*

*To us perhaps that is nothing out of the ordinary. Many teenagers are killed that way every year. But the thing we as Christians should be concerned about is—"Were they ready to meet their God?"*

*If they had known they were going to die, would they have kept right on doing the things they had always done day after day? Or would they have made some changes in their lives?*

*What would YOU have done?*

*"Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what tomorrow will bring."*

*—Ruthella Ling, New Auburn FYC*

# LABOR NOT

"I'm so excited! Tomorrow's the last day of school. Mother got me the most gorgeous dress for the class party—pink with lots of ruffles and pleats in the skirt. Only \$19.98 at Jason's Department Store," exclaimed Sally.

"Well, my mother made a lovely pale green organdy for me. It's got a taffeta underskirt the same color. Two dollars a yard she paid for the material," chimed in Caroline. "What are you wearing, Dora?"

This was the question which Dora had been dreading. She knew there would be no new dress for her for the party tomorrow. There was no use in asking. Since her father's death three years ago, things had been very difficult for the Larsons. With six children to feed and clothe, Mrs. Larson's small salary from the bakery didn't go very far. Dora was oldest and she wore lots of hand-me-downs from relatives. Her mother often altered something of her own for Dora. She couldn't really recall when she last had gotten a new dress all her own.

"I really don't know what Mother's planning. Why, she might be at Jason's this very moment deciding on what to get me," fibbed Dora. She felt guilty telling even a small fib as she had been brought up to always tell the truth. The Larsons might not have much of this world's goods, but they

were well filled with the Word of God and all attended church regularly. "I really must be going. This is my night to peel potatoes before Mother gets home. Bye, girls. See you tomorrow."

Walking home in the bright sunlight, Dora thought much of the party planned for the last day of school. She so much wanted a new dress for this event. After all, it wasn't every day a girl graduated from the eighth grade. Since Mother had to work, she wouldn't be able to attend the day's activities which consisted of poems, songs, and readings by the students followed by special recognition certificates for the best pupils. Likely Grandma Larson would be there in her



# TO BE RICH

By Dorothy Nimchuk

best black satin which she had worn since the year '01, Dora was sure.

Entering the kitchen, Dora saw to her surprise that Mother was home ahead of her and had supper started. Mother looked up with a smile as her daughter came in, placed her lunch pail on the shelf, and headed straight for the cookie jar. "Hi, Mom! What happened you're home so early? I hope they didn't fire you from the bakery."

The cookie jar was empty; several other Larsons had also arrived home ahead of her so she had to satisfy herself with a piece of bread and jam. Mother often brought home broken cookies from the bakery that could not be put on display or sold.

"Hello, dear," said mother. "No, I didn't get fired. I took some time off work to do some shopping down at the Goodwill Store. Since tomorrow is the last day of school, I wanted to get you something different to wear if possible. I know all the other girls will be having new dresses. I only wish it could have been a brand new one, but it will have to do. It's really quite nice," and she picked up a neatly wrapped parcel off the rocking chair and handed it to Dora. "Try it on, Dora, and see how it fits. I might have to take it in a little for you."

Dora smiled wanly at her mother as she accepted the package and headed for the bedroom to try on the dress. What color would it be this time? "If only just once," thought Dora, "just *once*, I'd get a *new* dress and not one someone else had worn." The Goodwill Stores handled all second-hand articles, and, while most of the things were very nice and all, still they were not new.

Slowly, without any real interest, Dora tore open the wrappings and gaped in astonishment and delight. A beautiful yellow nylon garment covered with ruffles and ribbons enough to delight any youngster spilled out of the brown paper package. Second hand? Yes! But it looked just like new and no one would ever know the difference. This was just like some of the dresses she had gazed at so longingly in Jason's Department Store window on many occasions. Rushing out to the kitchen to hug her mother, she raced back to the bedroom to see how her Cinderella dress fit. The dress slid down over her chestnut curls and fit her just like a fairy princess. No adjustments to be made here! Seeing the happiness on her daughter's face, Mrs. Larson didn't mind a bit that she had to go without the new pair of shoes she needed so

badly in order to pay even the second-hand price on such a beautiful creation.

The next day dawned bright and clear. If only Mother could be at the school Dora's day would be complete. The birds were singing as she threw open the windows of her room to let in the early morning air.

Everything went off fine. Each student took part in the program. Dora sang "America the Beautiful" in her clear, sweet soprano voice and was heading back to her seat in high spirits when she heard a loud whisper from one of the girls. "Why, that's my dress she's wearing. Mother gave it to the Goodwill just the other day. I never did like it very well."

"Looks like it's come back to haunt you," snickered another voice and the two girls giggled, then straightened up as they caught the teacher's eye on them. But everything had changed for Dora. Her beautiful day had changed to one of gloom and dismay. She hurried back to her seat and sank down as low as possible so no one would notice her. How could she face any of the girls now? Her Cinderella dress had turned to rags about her, just another hand-me-down and all the class might know about it. She felt as if every eye in the room were on her. If only she could run out and never have to see any of them again. She certainly wished that her family had lots of money like some of the others.

So involved was she in her own thoughts and problems that the teacher had to call her name twice before she realized that a certificate was being given to her for best student in the class. The walk back up the aisle to claim her certificate was almost

more than she could bear. She could imagine everyone was whispering, "She's wearing Sally's old dress."

As soon as she could, she slipped away from school and ran home to throw herself on her bed in tears. Even the best-student certificate she still clutched in her hand didn't help much. She was poor and she was sure all the girls looked down on her because of it.

Dora was still sobbing when Grandma let herself into the house and made her way to Dora's room.

After Dora spilled out her sad story, Grandma soothed, "Now, now, honey, don't carry on so. You looked very nice today and I was proud of you. Don't worry what a few of those thoughtless ones had to say. I was proud that you did so well this year at school. Some of those fancy girls with all their money and lovely clothes don't have half the brains you have. And, remember, Dora, you are richer than most of them."

"Rich! Me? How do you figure that, Grandma," asked Dora, sitting up and wiping her eyes.

Grandma took the Bible from the bedside table and opened it to Proverbs 10:22. "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."

Again she turned to James 2:5 and read these words: "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

"You see, dear, you are rich in God. I know you do your best to serve Him. Only last summer you gave your heart to the Lord and promised to follow Him. You have

**... this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"**

a lovely family, all working together to make a home here. You may not have lots in worldly goods, but you are probably the better for it. Proverbs 23:4 says, 'Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.' See what Jesus has to say about the rich in Matthew 19:23, 24. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. "And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

The "eye of the needle" referred to in verse 24 was a small gate in the city wall, so small in fact that a camel had to kneel down to enter through it. Not many rich folks are willing to humble themselves before God and bow down to Him, confessing sins and asking forgiveness. Riches seem to give folks a feeling of power and might. Riches in themselves are all right if left in their proper perspective, but how many can do this?

"Take your Bible, Dora, and find Luke 12:16-21, noting especially the 21st verse."

Dora found the place quickly and read these words, "And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

*And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

"I see what you're getting at, Grandma, many people work to pile up things here on this earth for themselves without any thought of God, only of themselves. I remember what the Pastor said at Young People's meeting last Friday night. He spoke of laying up treasures in heaven. He mentioned a passage somewhere in Matthew..."

"Matthew 6:19-21," interrupted Grandma. "Let's read it now.

*"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* And while we're at it, look at the rest of this chapter also. You have never gone hungry; you have clean, neat clothes to wear, even if they aren't new ones. Listen to this beautiful promise in verse 33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Jesus promises all our needs will be  
(Continued on page 34)

# My

# Problem

Youth Questions  
answered by  
Ray L. Straub



## Is . . .

### PROBLEM:

*My mother and father think that it is wrong for me to attend teen-age dances, and we have some pretty warm arguments over it. They don't give me any satisfactory answers as to why I shouldn't go. They just insist that it's not right, and they get pretty upset when I let them know how very much I want to attend some dances.*

### ANSWER:

You have every right to expect answers to the question, "Why can't I attend dances?" However, it is difficult for me to know what you might consider a satisfactory answer. Practically all lively young people want reasons for being denied an activity which attracts them. I sincerely hope that all parents, youth leaders, and church leaders come to recognize more the right of our youth to hear reasons behind the various im-

portant standards of our church. If they have value, surely they can be defended.

There is also the possibility that one may want to participate in an activity so much that he will not listen to any reasoning which threatens such participation. In this event answers are generally refused. Maturity demands that we know the difference between *wanting answers* and *demanding permission*. Reasoning is for the reasonable; answers are for those asking sincere questions. One who seeks neither answers nor reasoning cannot easily be satisfied by either.

I'm happy that you seek to reason, so let's try to get at it!

Basic Christian discipline invites us to constantly better our lives, with God's help. Anything

that interrupts or disturbs this process should be avoided. Paul puts it this way, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above. . . . Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:1, 2). In continuing, he advises, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth. . . ." (Verse 5). This latter part suggests that we should gain control over any tendencies or appetites which debase us.

So, we have an excellent guideline in determining what is right for the youthful Christian. Whatever activity is good for us, and that seeks to make us a better, more mature and spiritual personality, should be acceptable. Any activity that arouses desires to do something wrong or unbecoming should be avoided.

What has this to do with dancing? Everything!

Dancing is a kind of activity which arouses the appetites of members of opposite sexes for each other (erotic feelings). I recognize that each time this is suggested, those questioning deny that any such feelings occur in them. In many cases this may be true. Nonetheless, dancing remains the kind of activity that is directed toward questionable stimulation. It is not difficult to prove this. Most adults readily admit it.

Many modern dances are of the non-contact variety. This suggests that they may not be as guilty of arousing feelings as

the kind where two people of the opposite sex move through rhythmic steps while in bodily contact. Under certain circumstances, this argument is well taken. There are two major factors which cast doubt however, on the permissiveness of even the non-contact dances.

First, the various spasmodic movements of the body (particularly the female's), certainly can be arousing. Suggestive gestures are as degrading as bodily contact. This again, is not to insist that all dancers lose control of their thoughts. It merely brands dancing as the kind of activity that beckons one into the wrong direction.

The second objection is that young people do not limit themselves to non-contact dancing. It is likely that anyone who does social dancing will continue with the contact variety.

Some contend that dancing is recreation, as are other sports activities. Actually, one may classify dancing in any way he wishes, but this fails to remove it from its tendency toward erotic behavior. It is not condemned because it is classified as recreation, nor because it is considered enjoyable. There are many recreational activities which are enjoyable and acceptable—possibly some that in cases lend themselves to questionable stimulus. However, few activities are *directed* toward arousing desires for misbehavior as in dancing.

The best test to determine the  
(Continued on page 35)



# NO,

By Naomi Burrell

I was reared in a Sabbathkeeping family; therefore, I was taught not to participate in activities which would violate the Sabbath. Like many young people it was some time before I truly understood and accepted this teaching.

Many times during grade school I was asked to be part of the Christmas programs, which always came on Friday night. Each year brought the same questions about why I couldn't come on Friday night, and with a blushing face, I would say, "It is because of my religion."

Then came my final year of grade school. After begging my parents by pointing out that the Christmas program was of a religious nature, I was allowed for the first time to participate in any school activity on the beginning of the Sabbath. Going to the program, I felt as though I were out of place for two reasons; it was Friday night, and I had been taught against Christmas. The program went off fine, but I was overshadowed by a feeling of guilt.

Having arrived at the proper age, I was invited to join a club for girls. After joining, I found many conflicts with keeping the Sabbath. Many instances would come up when party plans were discussed for a Friday night. Jane, my best friend, proved her concern for my behalf many times by saying, "No, we can't have it on a Friday night, because then Naomi couldn't come." I would turn slightly red with the explanation, though inside I was grateful for my friend's

concern for me. Soon all the girls learned I wouldn't go on Friday night, and when it was mentioned someone would always speak up in my behalf.

In high school I enjoyed exciting new experiences. The last part of the sophomore year brought the Junior-Senior Banquet. Sophomores could not go unless they helped with the Banquet or were invited. One day after school, I was stopped in the hall by Jimmy, one of the best looking junior boys.

"Would you like to go with me to the Banquet?" asked Jimmy.

I was so excited and wanted to say, "Yes," right then. On second thought I remembered to tell him I would have to ask my parents (because this was on Friday night). When I arrived home, I put the question to my parents. At first I received no answer, but they later told me it was my decision.

Many days went by as I wrestled with my conscience. Finally against my training and conscience, I accepted Jimmy's invitation.

Through the excitement, the feeling of guilt was always there. The evening of the Banquet just wasn't as enjoyable for me as it was for the other kids. While sitting at our table, I kept thinking, "What if Jesus walked in the door and found me here on Friday night?" Finally the evening was over and so was my Friday night going, for I had learned my lesson!

The end of the junior year

again brought the Banquet. Being a class officer, I found myself on many Banquet committees. This year I decided my Banquet was only to be helping to decorate the big room. Friday was spent completely in decorating and no one worked any harder than I. After most of the students had left, I remained to do some of the last minute jobs. While I was working, one of the girls mentioned to the teacher that I couldn't come that night.

Standing there taking a last minute view of the room, I was approached by my teacher. "Is it true you can't come because this is Friday night?"

"Yes."

"Well, if I have anything to do with it, next year the Banquet will be on a night so you can come," replied the teacher. Being tired both emotionally and physically, I had to wipe away the unseen tear.

Now I have finally reached my senior year and time for the annual Banquet. My junior teacher kept her word and even though there are many conflicts in scheduling, the Banquet isn't going to be on Friday night.

At first people think it strange that one's religious convictions should mean so much. But today I'm happy, and I'm sure my friends respect me because I am not ashamed to stand up to be counted for what I sincerely believe.

This is my true story.

I  
Can't

Go

# Excerpts from Spring Vale

The students and faculty of Spring Vale Academy and the members of the Owosso church all enjoyed a spiritual blessing from March 30 to April 3—the time of our Spring Prayer Emphasis Week.

The theme for these revival services was “Youth Turn to Christ”; the special singing was plentiful; and the messages were centered on Christ and the salvation He freely offers. Brother Dale Lawson, a senior at Midwest Bible College, was God’s messenger for these meetings, and there was abundant evidence that the Lord was using him to draw young people to their Saviour. Many of us found a closer walk with Him.

The following is an example of the testimonies we heard after the Prayer-Emphasis Week was complete:

## MY TESTIMONY

By Dianne Ledford  
S. V. A. Sophomore

*I thank the Lord for my life, health and strength. I thank Him for food, clothing, shelter and especially a Christian mother that can bring us up in the way that we should go, I thank the Lord for the many blessings that He has given me. I thank the Lord that Dale Lawson could be our speaker during these meetings. I have gotten a blessing from them. I see now that I can do a lot of improving in my spiritual life. I ask you that*

*you will pray for me that when I am out in the world and away from Spring Vale that I will let my light shine wherever I may go and that I will not be ashamed to tell others of Christ and that He died for our sins.*

## MY TESTIMONY

By Darlene Moldenhauer  
S. V. A. Senior

*Blessings and more blessings, the Lord has bestowed upon us over and over again. Yet do we realize these blessings or do we*

*take them for granted?*

*I often think of these few lines from a song, “Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.”*

*I don’t doubt, but what many of us go through the day taking everything in our stride, and if the day turns out to be a good one, we are pleased with ourselves. Or do we give special thanks to God for guiding us through the day?*

*My heart overflows with thankfulness when I realize how God has so abundantly blessed me with my wonderful Christian parents, my life, and the opportunity to attend S.V.A. this year, where we can put Christianity first in our lives.*

## MY TESTIMONY

By Barbara Mann  
S. V. A. Senior

*There are many things in my life that I am thankful for. I was given life here on earth and parents, and a welcoming home.*

*I am very thankful for being able to come to Spring Vale Academy again this year. I only wish I had known of this school sooner and attended all my high school years here. It is really a blessing to associate with other Christian young people.*

*Most of all, I am thankful to have a Saviour Who died on the cross to save me from my sins. Someone I can take my problems to and Who’ll understand.*

## I LOVE

By Kathleen Roche  
A senior at S. V. A.

*I love the tune of the songbird  
As I wake to morning’s light.  
It gives me strength from God above  
To start the day aright.*

*I love the scent of spring—  
So clean and fresh, the air,  
The sense of an awakening  
In all God’s land so fair.*

*I love to walk by a rippling brook  
And sit and think awhile.  
It seems to carry away my cares  
And leave me with a smile.*

*I love to walk in crisp, white snow  
And listen to the crunchy sound,  
As I view the frosted branches of  
trees*

*With boughs bent low to the  
ground.*

*I love to ride on roller coaster  
As it’s reaching the top of a climb.  
I thrill with the surge of excitement  
As we plunge back down each  
time.*

*I love to listen to chimes  
In a tower or church near by.  
They remind me of angels in heaven  
Singing for you and I.*

*I love to look up to the sky  
On a clear and moonlit night.  
It brings me closer to my Lord,  
The God of love and light.*

# 2T<sub>4</sub>G - Take Time For God

## John, a disciple whom Jesus Loved

The apostle John and his brother James probably lived at or near Bethsaida. They fished with their father in the Sea of Galilee. One day a Man walked by as they were in their boat mending their nets. He called to them, "and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after Him" (Mark 1:20). James and John had heard of this Man from John the Baptist.

Peter, James and John made up an "inner-circle" of Jesus' close friends. John was at one time called the disciple whom Jesus loved. But in spite of this distinction he was refused a personal request. James and John and their mother asked Jesus to permit them to sit on either side of Him in the kingdom. But Jesus showed them that their request was out of order. Only His Father could assign those places of honor to whom He chose.

The ten other disciples were filled with indignation against the brothers. Then Jesus taught them all a lesson in humility.

"Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:26-28).

They continued to follow the Master, and John witnessed the transfiguration, was with Him in the garden and stayed close to Him on the cross. We know that Jesus had confidence in John for He committed His mother's care to him just before He died.

After the ascension and Pentecost, Peter and John worked together, preaching boldly in Jerusalem. Many were added to the church. Fifteen years later John was considered a pillar and authority in the church at Jerusalem (Gal. 2:9).

Tradition later connects John with the church at Ephesus. It is believed that he had special charge of the seven churches in Asia. Eventually, persecutions drove him to the island of Patmos. While he was there he received the revelations. He lived to be very old, and was the last of the apostles to die.

—J. T.

The poem below was written for a Youth Rally presented by the Tacoma, Washington, FYC. Appropriate signs were used to illustrate Life's Highway markings.

## *Life's Highway*

by Darlene Walker

<i>Date</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	
May 15	2 Peter 3	
May 16	1 John 1	
May 17	1 John 2	As we travel along life's highway
May 18	1 John 3	There are signs for you and me.
May 19	1 John 4	If we choose to go the right way
May 20	1 John 5	We will reach eternity.
May 21	2 John	"KEEP RIGHT"—A sign we find
May 22	3 John	Printed boldly in black and white.
May 23	Jude	
May 24	Rev. 1	For perfect rest and peace of mind.
May 25	Rev. 2	This sign we cannot slight.
May 26	Rev. 3	
May 27	Rev. 4	Straight ahead—to the "HOLY CITY"
May 28	Rev. 5	"WATCH FOR CHILDREN" we read
May 29	Rev. 6	As we hurry down life's road.
May 30	Rev. 7	Is there a child of GOD who needs
May 31	Rev. 8	Your help to bear his load?
June 1	Rev. 9	Many are the signs we spot
June 2	Rev. 10	As we travel along life's way.
June 3	Rev. 11	
June 4	Rev. 12	Go "SLOW"; prepare to "STOP"
June 5	Rev. 13	And mend your ways this day.
June 6	Rev. 14	Will you stop and make things right?
June 7	Rev. 15	Will you to the signs take heed?
June 8	Rev. 16	
June 9	Rev. 17	Trusting GOD and in His light
June 10	Rev. 18	Walk the path where He will lead?
June 11	Rev. 19	He will guide you to the "HOLY CITY"
June 12	Rev. 20	There to dwell in perfect peace.
June 13	Rev. 21	
June 14	Rev. 22	Straight ahead to the "HOLY CITY"
		Built by GOD—for you and me.

# The Editor's Page

According to the lyrics of one of the popular secular tunes, the only difference between a hero and a "zero" is "confidence—CONFIDENCE—that's all!"

Confidence is important—and very effective in our dealing with others, but it is genuine only as it is correctly channeled. With confidence, you may greatly impress those with whom you associate, but if your confidence is unfounded, it is useless and will one day let you down.

I found some interesting thoughts in the scriptures which enlighten us much further as to the nature of the confidence which we should have.

Some of the interesting observations we find in the scriptures are:

#### **The source of real confidence:**

"In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence..." (Proverbs 14:26).  
**God's regard toward OUR OWN confidence:**

"...for the Lord hath rejected thy confidences, and thou shalt not prosper in them" (Jeremiah 2:37).

#### **A heart condition producing confidence:**

"Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God" (1 John 3:21).

#### **A reward of our confidence:**

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us" (1 John 5:14).

#### **Confidence is not always commendable:**

"A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil; but the fool rageth and is confident" (Proverbs 14:16).

#### **A daily, abiding confidence described:**

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

If you have developed confidence as a young person, this is good. Perhaps the above thoughts will help you in determining whether your confidence is soundly motivated.

Another interesting observation here is that all too often we have confidence in every other phase of life more than in our ability to witness for Christ. Too often our approach in speaking a word of witness is so meek and apologetic, that we sacrifice what

(Continued on page 34)

If you are blest with health and strength  
And sickness seems a stranger;  
If roses bloom upon your cheeks  
And symptoms show no danger;  
If at your work you're making good,  
Or gaining much in learning;  
There's one who has your life at heart,  
And for your welfare's yearning—  
That's Mother.

That's  
Mother



If illness puts you fast in bed  
And keeps you from your duty;  
If fades the roses from your cheeks  
And with it goes your beauty;  
If suffering lingers through the months,  
Your eyes grow dim with weeping,  
There's one who has your life at heart,  
Her vigils round you keeping—  
That's Mother.

If friends forsake you on life's road  
When friendship's so much needed;  
If help seems scarce and almost gone,  
For which you've asked and pleaded;  
If better days have passed away  
And left misfortunes staying,  
There's one who says, "I'll stand by him,  
Or else go down a-praying—  
That's Mother.



If you look through the prison bars  
At those who visit others,  
And there behold their friends about,  
Or maybe loving brothers;  
But in your heart you're sad and drear  
And maybe down and lonely,  
There's one somewhere who loves you still,  
Perhaps just one and only—  
That's Mother.

When our Lord crowns the saints of earth  
Who've been so sweet and tender;  
Who've blest the sad and broken hearts  
And been to them a mender,  
I think there'll stand up near God's throne  
A person bright and shining,  
And on the blessings of our Lord  
She'll be forever dining—  
That's Mother.

By Walter Isenhour

# So Reads Your Epitaph

By Elden Fischer

A few years ago LIFE magazine wrote up an actual account of a Colorado farmer, Jim Gernhart, who staged his own last rites rehearsal in the local armory. He bought a solid copper coffin and headstone, hired a preacher and pallbearers, and read his own obituary with interest. Not many of us would have the courage or desire to preview our funeral.

The life we live will leave a monument when we are gone. Judas Iscariot and Lot's wife left monuments of the life they lived. We must prepare for eternity now rather than when we reach seventy or eighty years of age. We may leave a favorable memorial in our society of friends, but more important is the record that includes our thoughts not known to our friends.

Let me urge you not to live a life that would qualify you

for the Tomb of the Unknown Christian. This tomb is only an illusion, but if it did exist it would be no honor to be buried there. To die as a Christian you must live as a Christian and there is no possible way to keep it a secret.

To the young person death seems remote, but many a youth has died unexpectedly. They will be judged, not by what *might* have taken place in their lives, but what has taken place. You can not say with a surety that you will be alive tomorrow. Are you satisfied with the record you would be leaving?

It is not important what kind of home you have when you retire, it matters not what model car you drive or how many stocks you own, but it does matter whether you have made the effort to help others by witnessing to them for Christ. Have you cooperated with church pro-

grams or were you indifferent about church activities? Were you always behind the church programs or did you do nothing—and then criticize the results? Did we have time for hours of television, but no minutes for Bible study or reading? Did we sing, "Oh, How I Love Jesus" and never show any concern for the spiritual welfare of our neighbor or the cry for help from foreign lands? Did we claim to put God first, but have funds for vacation trips and none for tithes and offerings?

When we have finished our course will the world be a little better place to live in as a result of our efforts or will our presence not be missed? How will others remember us? What memorial will we leave? Would any of the following epitaphs summarize our lives?

Here lies Howard James McRuse  
He could have been an engine,  
but he was a caboose.

*Amos Alexander, his life was  
always hurried,  
At last found time to come to  
church the day he was  
buried.*

She planned to be converted  
when she was old and gray.  
But alas, she still was in her  
teens when she was called  
away.

*Bowled two nights a week,  
Oliver Kilmer  
When the offering was passed,  
he had only silver.*

Sold the most girl scout cookies,  
Marjorie Stack,  
But never was known to hand  
out a tract.

*Loved his family, Albert Shore  
But yet he loved his Saviour  
more.*

Here lies Conrad Lincoln, his  
health was rather tricky;  
Never missed a day of work, but  
Sabbaths found him sickly.

*Harold Foster lived quite hum-  
bly, barely sheltered from  
the cold  
But in heav'n he has a mansion  
that is overlaid with gold.*

Young People, avoid delay in giving your best to the One Who loved you the most. The pattern of life you pick up as a teenager will largely be the pattern you will follow when you are mature. Don't be misled to think that it's easier to accept Christ or witness for Him after you are married and settled down. Family obligations are often demanding and the desire to get ahead too often crowds out service to God.

The memorials and monuments you will leave behind must be begun now. Will your memorial be for eternity or will it pass away with your passing?

## THE AIM SPEAKS AGAIN

### Part II

By Don Lawson

Now I sent to you a message  
Where're you live or roam,  
Asking for an invitation  
To come into your home.

I have one more request to make;  
(I hope I'm not too late.)  
May I bring along my mother  
The Bible Advocate?

Mother's getting up in years  
But she's as spry as she can be  
She was only born on August 10th  
Eighteen and sixty three.

She is very, very active  
And she never, never sleeps  
And every place she ever goes  
She always earns her keeps.

I am sure that you will like her  
And a blessing she will be;  
She only costs "two-fifty"—  
Just a little more than me.

Oh, she loves the little children  
And she helps the grown ups too.  
She will bring to you a blessing  
That no other one can do.

She is just a plain and humble lady  
Nothing fancy, that is right;  
And most always when she travels  
She is dressed in black and white.

The white-it shows she's held her  
purenness  
And the black her sorrows bore  
As all down her span of lifetime  
Through her hundred years and  
more,  
Many, many of her so-called loved  
ones  
Have turned her from their door.

Through it all she's born her sorrow  
Kept her form and held her grace,  
And there's never been a wrinkle  
Ever crossed her lovely face.

When she comes to you, dear people  
I am sure she'll look her best  
In her clothes so clean and shining  
Black and white and freshly pressed

Of many things that are old fash-  
ioned  
The people mock or laugh and shout;  
Then they say my mother's old  
fashioned  
And from their homes they leave  
me out.

Now I guess you are growing weary  
But I still must have my say  
For I know that very soon  
There will be a judgment day.

Yes, I know our days are numbered;  
Still there is so much work to do  
Mother and I must still work harder,  
Doing the things God wants us to.

And it seems our work goes faster  
When we're working hand in hand,  
Doing just the things God wants  
us to—

Doing every thing we can.

You say your expenses are so heavy  
You can't stand four-fifty more?  
But I see the Journal, Post and  
others

As they litter up your parlor floor.  
Then that boy coming yonder  
Throws a "Daily" at your door.

Now sit down and take your pencil  
Write these down; figure the cost.  
Underneath this pile of figures  
The price of mother and I could get  
lost.

You may say that we're not worth  
it!

Now I say this—If there's just one  
soul

Somewhere black with sin and vice  
That by spending just four-fifty  
You can make all clean and nice—

Then there, my brother,  
Your work may just begin.  
You can save a soul from death  
And hide a multitude of sins.

Oh, yes, we are willing workers  
And we have so much to do.  
But, dear brothers and dear sisters,  
We need a helping hand from you.

We're all pressed and packed and  
ready;

Don't let us sit here and grow stale,  
But quickly send four-fifty  
And you will get us in the mail.

## Foreign Correspondence Activities



### Africa:

"The continent of Africa is second to the largest continent in the world, but less populated when compared to other continents which are smaller.

"Our Africa, however, is a continent of more than forty-two countries which are scattered throughout the continent. According to geography, the North and the South Poles are having the same Vegetation. Let me not go further in describing African vegetation as I solely believe that it is not a new story to anybody who had an elementary education in geography, but don't forget Nigeria and Ghana in the West. There are many countries in Africa; all these countries, however, were dominated by the British and the most of the countries are independent, with their own constitutions according to their own cultures. Practically, I cannot say with any degree of certainty the welfares and customs of each country; therefore, let me return home to Nigeria, my country.

### OUR COUNTRY NIGERIA:

"Nigeria is a country which derived her name from famous River Niger which flows through the country. Nigeria, with a population of more than 55 million people, is bounded on the north by Niger and Chad Republics, west by Dahomey and east by Cameroon Republic, and the Atlantic Ocean on the south.

"Nigeria is the thickest populated country in the whole continent of Africa and it is politically divided into four Regions—Viz: The North, East, West, and Mid-Western Regions. Though all these

*Would you like to take a trip to Africa?*

*Now you can do so!—maybe not literally, but the following report will take you through Africa on a brief tour. In this way, I think we may better understand the thoughts and needs of our African brethren.*

Brother John Orie writes...

regions are subdivided again into provinces, districts, county, and French Governments politically and economically. But meanwhile, local councils. There are four houses of Assembly and of Chiefs in the whole Federal Republic, with premiers in each region as well as governors. To conclude, may I remind you that there is a central government for the whole Republic where we get the Prime Minister and the President.

"Before I leave the Federation to our Eastern Region, may I include the Islamic Religion in the North. Though there are many other Religions like the R.C.M., N.D.D., S.D.A. and many other missions in the North but their number there cannot be compared to the East. May I not forget the Sudan Interior Mission which has the North as its father land. Nevertheless, all these missions are working for the development of the areas by building schools, colleges, hospitals, teachers' training centers, and other technical institutions, because the above people are easily convinced to accept their religion without asking for the correct doctrines.

"In the East, education and religion move together and education is the dream of every youth. The region with a total of more than 12½ million people seems to be the fastest moving region in the whole Republic in many aspects. For religion, it is the home of every mission in Nigeria. As for education, it is the highest, as six out of every ten children must at least have an elementary education. In fact, all the missions in the East in particular are just progressing on well when compared to our mission where nothing is practically done; even the newest mission that comes to Nigeria today must be known through the whole federation, but ours which has been here before my birth has not at least been known in many, many, of the Eastern Regions, Provinces, and Townships. I can put it to you that our mission is not in any big Nigerian Town. 'Why has this happened?' some would like to ask. The answer is that there is no American Missionary representing here and it can't move without a missionary here. Still, returning home to our Province and Division, there are more than eight divisions in our province but I can say that you can only find our mission in one out of the eight divisions. Is that not a poor ratio? In our own division there are more than ten religious bodies. All these missions have some things to attract members. There are about ten churches in the whole district of about more than 30 villages.

"O. K., in my own village, Idu-Osobile, our church is the largest church with a very big chapel in comparison to other churches in the village. What is the progress there? In fact, very deteriorating. In fact, I can put it to you that if not that many of the children are born in the church they would have not minded deserting the church owing to poor ruling. Really, Church of God is the only church

which God has, but . . . God forbid ours should be the least in the village.

"Therefore, upon all these what will you do? I think the only answer will be just to send permanent missionaries to be with us here. Don't neglect this petition if at all you want to spread the message round the world. I had been reading of your progress in America. Why not establish the same here? To conclude, many boys are leaving our church due to no help rendering by the mission. If we allow this exodus of boys from our church where can we get ministers of tomorrow? Therefore, act at once and save many souls because many had not heard of our Church here in Nigeria. There are plenty of chances here; language is no barrier. English is the official Nigerian language."

*Let us here in America pray earnestly and fervently for our African Churches, that the way will be provided that we may be able to give them the help they need.*—JEWELL LINVILLE

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M A K E      M A R K      M E R I T

By Dale Lawson

GREETINGS TO ALL OF YOU AGAIN. After just completing the first quarter of 1965, we hope that your program is in full progress and is a credit to your church. It is time to report the first quarter merit scores. Some F.Y.Cs haven't reported yet and I feel sure that they will be reporting soon. *If you wish to join the Merit Program, (and I urge you to) it is not too late for you to report for the first quarter.* If you don't happen to have a report blank, just report on any paper and send it to me as soon as possible.

IT WOULD BE WELL FOR YOU TO CHECK THE MANUAL and report on each of the 10 standards in the program. Whatever you do, make your F.Y.C. group so active that it will be a real witness for Jesus. If you are using the name, Faithful Youth Challengers, use it well and live up to it. In Revelation 3:15, 16, Jesus reveals His distaste for lukewarm churches and I feel safe to say that He feels the same way about lukewarm F.Y.C. groups.

YOUNG PEOPLE, DEDICATE YOURSELVES to the work and make your

F.Y.C. a real power for the Gospel of Christ. It will be worth it all when your labors bear fruit and how wonderful it will be when we see Jesus.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON, and hope to see many of you at youth camps and camp meetings this year.

At this time we have 14 groups that have reported for the program this quarter. I hope your group is on this list in the next AIM.

#### Missouri

Stanberry  
Merit points ..... 205  
Bonus points ..... 34

Kansas City  
Merit points ..... 135  
Bonus points ..... 29

St. Joseph  
Merit points ..... 155

#### Oregon

Harrisburg  
Merit points ..... 120  
Bonus points ..... 5

Elmira  
Merit points ..... 120  
Bonus points ..... 20

#### California

Pomona  
Merit points ..... 95  
Bonus points ..... 5

Stockton  
Merit points ..... 108  
Bonus points ..... 11

Lodi  
Merit points ..... 175  
Bonus points ..... 9

Tacoma, Wash.  
Merit points ..... 175  
Bonus points ..... 5

New Auburn, Wisc.  
Merit points ..... 185  
Bonus points ..... 61

Nampa, Idaho  
Merit points ..... 130  
Bonus points ..... 5

Fort Smith, Arkansas  
Merit points ..... 120  
Bonus points ..... 10

Marion, Iowa  
Merit points ..... 115  
Bonus points ..... 5

Fairview, Okla.  
Merit points ..... 195  
Bonus points ..... 17

Eureka, S. Dakota  
Merit points ..... 195  
Bonus points ..... 59

Spring Vale Academy  
Merit points ..... 135  
Bonus points ..... 199

## Minutemen Program . . .

# Know Your Gift Horses

By Cecyl Fischer

There is an expression, I'm sure you've heard it, "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth." This was undoubtedly good advice in the circumstances in which the phrase was first coined, but it might be wiser for you and I to take care how we apply it. Satan often masquerades as a gift horse.

What percentage, for example, of alcoholics do you suppose started with drinks offered them by a friend or acquaintance? Or what percentage of drug addicts do you suppose started on marijuana cigarettes handed to them free of charge? Let's be sure we know our horses.

Some years ago there was a certain chief among the Ottowan tribe, Chief Pontiac, a great advocate of peace. Relations were good between his tribe and the whites for quite some time and then an American General came to power who was an ardent Indian-hater. As a "peace" offering he sent Chief Pontiac a supply of blankets and food—all contaminated with Small Pox. The good chief accepted them in good faith. It was days later when Pontiac saw the sick and dying around him that he realized what had happened and reached for his war paint.

Satan wants to offer us such treasonous "peace" offerings if we will accept them. He won't start with something as obvious as a drink or a cigarette; he's much too cunning. No, he may just offer us an opportunity—an opportunity which is harmless in itself, but will cause us to slip out of our pattern of good habits little by little without knowing it. Perhaps it will crowd out precious time with God. Gradually we will let our armour slip and from there on Satan's work is easier.

Satan is watching us closer than we are watching him. He knows when we are vulnerable and will take advantage of us. "... But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13).

Minutemen, let us "put on the whole armour of God" and never be found without any part of it.

Memorize these verses during May and June. They will reinforce your armour.

Habakkuk 2:20  
Revelation 22:12  
2 Thessalonians 3:10  
Mark 7:7

Daniel 12:2  
Luke 21:33  
Isaiah 55:6  
Matthew 16:26

## Remember Mother

By Rhea Hendricks

O, give your mother roses while you may  
And fill with flowers her pathway every day  
O, kiss her fingertips with joy untold  
Before her hand in death is still and cold.  
Remind her often that your love is true—  
For someday God may take her far from you!





# FYC NEWS and REMINDERS

## New Tapes Available

Many blessings are waiting for you in the form of recorded music by Church of God talent. These can be ordered from the Publishing House and all we ask is 25¢ to help cover mailing costs. Here are some of the latest tapes available.

**Dutch Trio (former Nienhuis sisters)**  
**New Auburn Youth Male Quartet**  
**Midway, Oklahoma Trio**  
**Eureka Girls' Trio and FYC**  
**Butrick Family**  
**Spring Vale Academy**

Check former issues of AIM for other tapes and filmstrips available.

## Evangelette Suggestions

For your memory verses on Standard Number 2 you will find good verses in the Minuteman program in AIM.

A quiz on the life of Samson is available. Ask for yours when you send in your April report. You can correct your own test, have someone else correct it, or send it in and have us correct it. It's a check on yourself to see how well you did your reading.

Don't forget Standard VI if you want credit for this. Also consider bonus points for this program.

The tract we suggest for May is **Faith and Repentance** and for June it will be **Bible Baptism**.

For the May project you should select tracts from this list, five for one person, but if possible supply tracts to five different people. These tracts are available free, but a donation for postage, handling, and printing is appreciated. Select from these: The Ten Commandments; The Second Coming of Christ; Which Day is the Lord's Day; The Change of the Sabbath; Four World Empires; The Time Element in the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

It would be well if one responsible person in your area ordered for all Evangelettes in your area. The **Faith for Our Time** handbills for June also can be ordered from the Publishing House. Mention that your materials are for the Evangelette Program. Order early. This is Missionary work. God bless you and make you a soul winner.

## Yearbook Needs You!

The deadline for getting your pictures in for the Yearbook, "The Challenger" is approaching. A letter from Harvey Fischer, the editor, dated April 15 says that three groups have responded and of those only one has their pictures in. We realize the difficulty of getting the entire group together so we announced this early in January, but we need your pictures by May 15. Others have written the FYC office, saying they are working

on their pictures. Be sure you don't forget about giving this project your best support. We are anxious to see this project completed.

## 2T4G Winner Number 3

Danny Camero, a ministerial student at Midwest Bible College, is the third person to complete a program of daily Bible reading and prayer. We urge others of you to accept this real challenge and have the determination to have devotions for 365 days. When you miss a day you start over. May God bless Danny for his dedication!



## Quizzing Equipment

The FYC now has a panel of lights and buzzers controlled by pushbuttons for use in the quizzing sessions. This is similar to the buzzer systems used on the televised college bowl quizzes. We thank John Westfall for building this system for us. It adds much interest to the quizzes. This panel will be used at General Conference Camp Meeting and possibly at various youth camps.

## New Evangelette Feature

If you are interested in the Evangelette program, but didn't get started in time, here's news for you. It has been decided that you will be allowed to start the program in any month, rather than keeping it on a January to January basis. As soon as we receive monthly coupons from you (see

the Evangelette booklets) totaling 250 points within twelve consecutive months you will receive your Evangelette Award.

## Pomona, Calif., FYC News

A report from Pomona, California, was left out of last month's issue of AIM. We note with interest that included in the Pomona, California, February activities, other than the regular business meetings, were a baseball game, a football game, and a picnic in the park.

This is certainly a unique thought to us here in Missouri and in many other parts of the country where we make snowmen in February, and the thought of a picnic would be a big joke!

## Youth Missions Tour

Progress is being made on plans for the Youth Missions Tour. The tour will begin in early July. A route has been laid out and the team will include Vernon and Mary Patchen, Ken Knoll and Mike Weir of New Auburn and Elden Fischer. There is a possibility of one of Spring Vale's teachers joining the team too. Watch for more information in the June AIM.

## San Antonio FYC News

In January 1965 the San Antonio FYC was reorganized and new officers were elected. The officers for this year are Patricia Baker, president; David Robinson, vice-president; Jeanne Crisp, secretary-treasurer; and Gail Robinson, reporter. The group, which now boasts a membership of 12, has a business meeting

and a social once each month.

Members of the FYC worked hard selling candy and earned about \$44 profit. We have recently purchased some Bibles for use in the local church. We have made participation in our local church services one of our long-term projects. Each week members of our group participate in church services by leading the singing, playing the piano, and presenting "specials."

### From the Mailbag

CALIFORNIA—"... Enclosed you will find my first Evangelette Report. I think this is a very good program for all of our young people."

ALABAMA—"I would like the address of a young person in Trinidad. We enjoy our AIM very much. I would like to send our AIM to someone in Trinidad after we have read it." Also, "we have enjoyed the slides you sent very much. Enclosed find a check for \$3.00 for rental of tapes and the remainder as a gift to help the youth department in their audio-visual work."

SPRING VALE ACADEMY—"Enclosed please find a money order for one dollar as a donation for the work of the Young People's Department. (by a student)

### LABOR NOT TO BE RICH

(Continued from page 13)

supplied if we but serve Him, not all our wants."

"Oh, Grandma, I've been so wrong. Always complaining of the things I didn't have. I forgot to notice all the blessings I do have. I've the knowledge that my sins are forgiven. I know Christ has promised me eternal life. Mother and all my brothers and sisters are simply swell. Why, look at Sally. Her parents are divorced and she has no brothers or sisters. She has lots of clothes and money but doesn't know the Lord. Do you think, Grandma, that maybe I could witness to her? Come to think of it, she doesn't really seem deep-down happy. In spite of all she has she's really missing a lot not knowing Christ. Maybe I could introduce her."

"That's a wonderful idea," smiled Grandma. "Why not start by asking her over for supper on Friday night and to go to Young People's with you? After all, it's not impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom!—if you can only get him on his knees!"

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### EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 22)

might otherwise be an excellent opportunity. We need to meditate more frequently on the wonders of God's love and mercy toward us. How can we be apologetic and hesitant about the surest thing—and the most joyous thing in the world—God's love and His sure promises?

"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (1 John 2:28).

### MY PROBLEM IS ...

(Continued from page 15)

value of these observations is for any group of people to arrange dances for one sex only—girls dancing with girls, or boys with boys. Enjoy the exercise. But, when you feel its appeal weakening and recognize that it is only enjoyable with a member of the opposite sex, you prove my arguments.

Sometimes young people point an accusing finger and observe that there are other activities which are far more sexually stimulating that seem to be allowed by the church and parents of it, such as hugging and kissing (petting).

There is much of this kind of activity going on, but it certainly does not have church approval. Too little has been said about the dangers of this, also, and we ought to do better in expressing them. But, let's not make matters worse! One weakness does not give reason for us to become more lax and permis-

sive. Rather, it gives all the more need for our church to insist that questionable activities be avoided. Dancing is simply not geared to better us.

Besides, who needs it? A return to primitive tribal dances, as are many of those today with modern names, will give no reason to hold one's head high. Little can be gained through such indulgence, and so very much can be lost!

Your parents and everyone that love you want what is best for you. Try to remember this. I hope that your parents are aware of the many activities that appeal to any healthy young person, and that they will give wise guidance in helping you choose those consistent with Christian living. And, I also hope that you will wisely recognize the sincere efforts by your parents and others in this direction. Remember, a religion that is not worth giving something up for just isn't worth much at all!

## Here is your invitation

### Midwest Bible College Graduation

May 22, 1965

There will be an all-day meeting on Sabbath. Graduation is on Saturday night.

### Spring Vale Academy Graduation

May 29, 1965

Attend Friday night services, all-day meeting on Sabbath, graduation on Saturday night.