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Aim

The magazine for young people



Do It Today

We cannot change Yesterday, that is quite clear;
Nor begin on Tomorrow until it is here.
So all that is left for you and for me,
Is to make today as sweet as can be!

—Selected

Aim *The magazine for young people*

AIM is dedicated to the promotion of higher ideals and more challenging spiritual goals among the young people of the Church of God. It is published monthly under the direction of the Young People's Department of the General Conference by the Church of God Publishing House at Second and Willow Streets in Stanberry, Missouri. It was entered as second class matter on September 10, 1959, at the Post Office in Stanberry, Missouri, under the act of March 3, 1897.

Subscription rates: \$2.00 per year in the United States and Canada. Foreign, \$2.25. Clubs of 6 or more to one address, U.S. and Canada only \$1.50 each.

Volume XXVIII, Number 11

Donna D. Faubion, Editor

The sweetest path of life leads through the avenues of learning, and whoever can open up the way for another, ought to be esteemed a benefactor to mankind.

—DAVED HUME, Scottish philosopher (1711-76).

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The Jewel of Thankfulness

Mont Hurst

THE WORD OF GOD admonishes us: "In everything, give thanks." Thankfulness is a trait which so many individuals do not possess or fail to express because of carelessness or selfishness. The thankful person is one who has in his makeup a jewel of rare value. Thankfulness to God for His countless blessings and manifestations of His divine love is the key to His treasure house and the way to His approval. For the most part, prayer should be praise. Praise recognizes God, and God honors praise. Is the bulk of our prayer life devoted to praise to Him?

Each person should strive to make his life one of thankfulness to God

and to his fellow men. One ancient writer said that our whole life should speak forth our thankfulness; every condition and place we are in should be a witness of our thankfulness. This will make the times and places we live in better for us. When we ourselves are monuments of God's mercy, it is fit we should be patterns of His praises, and leave monuments to others. God gives us this life to do more than just to live it. We live not merely to live; this life is not the end in itself, but we should live it in praise to the Giver of it. Are we grateful even in the face of problems, sorrows, and disappointments?

God's Word says, "Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his good-

ness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" It will surprise us when we pause to reflect on the wonderful way God does work with us. We shall quickly realize that He always does more for us than we merit. That is a cause for sincere thankfulness. God does not deal with us according to the degree of our service to Him. Very few of us measure up to His yardstick. However, we can all thank Him for His mercy and patience with us in our short comings. When we take an inventory of our failures and shortcomings we may be appalled at our condition. It is here that we should give Him sincere thanks for not dealing us justice. He always deals mercy instead of justice. We should thank Him for that!

Our friends, loved ones and associates in daily activities merit our thanks when they manifest their regard for us. When we express thanks we manifest one of the finest traits of human character. Every time we express thanks we manifest freedom from selfishness. Most of us have experienced the absence of thanks at times from those whom we have served or favored in some manner. We know how the feeling affects us. How marvelous is our feeling when someone thanks us for something we have given them or for some help or favor we have extended to them! Such an expression serves to keep them on a high human plane and to increase our appreciation of them.

As we observe our official Thanksgiving Day we are made to think of God's eternal goodness with greater appreciation. We must allow nothing to hinder us in this special emphasis on appreciation to Him. J. R. Miller wrote that Thanksgiving

Day is a public recognition of God as the Author of all prosperity and good things that we enjoy. It is the erection of a memorial to the honor of Him who has led us through another year. The annual proclamations which call to the duty of thanksgiving are calculated to remind the people of their indebtedness to God, to stir in their minds and hearts emotions of gratitude and praise, and to call out thanks and sincere worship which otherwise might not find expression. However, if the observance of the day be not marked by real remembering of mercies and by real lifting of hearts to God in thanks, what blessing can possibly come with it? God's Word tells us: "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." May God help us to be more and more unselfish, more thankful, and more contented as we inventory our blessed assets and partake of the boundless joys He wants each of us to enjoy. Thankfulness is an emphatic acknowledgement of the sovereignty of our heavenly Father and His constant flow of love unto us.—*Selected*

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The Danger of A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE

Clayton L. Faubion

IN THE INTRODUCTION of the book of Proverbs, the wise preacher used these words: "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel; to know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; to give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion."

This was an ambitious program and we see how earnestly he pursued it as we go on with the work which follows. His observation, "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels," should be a challenge to every person to strive earnestly, sincerely and intelligently toward a greater understanding of all things which pertain to life with its many pursuits, and to the life beyond.

In this day we find that technical knowledge has been increased to such fantastic proportions that it is almost unbelievable. In fact, a few years ago one would have been laughed to scorn if he had predicted seriously some of the amazing technological developments of our day. Moreover, people are also studying more in fields of other than technology, and general information on many subjects is far more extensive-

ly available than it was just a few years ago. In our day it is becoming more and more important to be informed.

For many years it has been an acceptable thing to depend upon a ministry comprised of many who were inadequately educated and not particularly interested in improving their qualifications beyond sharpening their capacity to debate and harangue over doctrines. The time has come when the minister of the gospel cannot fulfill the obligations of his calling unless he has more knowledge of the work he is expected to perform and the subjects upon whom that work is to be executed.

The eternal welfare of man is the most important matter which we can consider. Life here is but a short day, and we know that it must end for all; but eternity as the paradise of God is the one thing which we all want to enjoy. Yet this life, which is but a transient breath, is entrusted

only to the care of medical men who have completed many years of formal study and crowned that with more years of experience under supervision before they are qualified to practice the healing arts. Our eternal welfare we are content to leave in the hands of those who often do not adequately understand the language into which the Bible comes to us, to say nothing about understanding the root languages from whence it came.

Who can lead another out of darkness into the light of the Gospel of life if he has but superficial knowledge of the process he hopes to put to work? The Gospel of Christ is capable of producing amazing changes in the personality of an individual. Such psychological manifestations are not to be passed over lightly at any time, but in our day of extreme tensions, neuroses, psychoses and "men's hearts failing them for fear," is it not more important that the minister of the Gospel have at least some grounding in this area of knowledge?

It has been often said that the apostles who followed Christ were unlearned men. When He called them they were, indeed, unlearned. But by the time they had completed their service with Him as their teacher they had received an education in Theology that has amazed the world for two thousand years. The books and letters which they wrote, along with the apostle Paul who, also, received his theological education directly from Christ by a special dispensation, are the basis of all theology even to this day. Men of extensive learning spend years poring over the works of these men, and yet never come to full understanding of all that is contained therein. Is it reasonable

for us to expect our teachers and ministers to be astute in Biblical knowledge without extensive effort on their part to absorb all the knowledge they can get in this field?

Alexander Pope is credited with the following poetic observation which is, in itself, a gem of thought:

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing!

Drink deep or taste not the Pierian spring.

There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,

And drinking largely sobers us again.

How true it is that those who have but a smattering of knowledge become drunk in their egotism. A small amount of knowledge only obscures the vast infinity of knowledge that is yet to be invaded. But deeper draughts begin to reveal the infinite spaces beyond, and further pursuit of knowledge serves to spur us on to greater conquests.

Who can tell the danger that would lie in entrusting our spiritual health to an imposter, posing as a qualified physician? And how serious the risk if we were to depend upon a pseudo psychologist or psychiatrist for guidance in matters pertaining to mental health? Then how great the danger when our eternal life is placed in the hands of one who is hardly capable of working out his own salvation?

For many years we have felt that we have fully arrived in matters of doctrinal truth. We speak of others who do not hold to our tenets of faith as they who do not know the truth. When one embraces our belief we say he has accepted the truth. We use these expressions as if there were no truth in all the universe be-

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The Traveling Turkey

Lois Hoadley Dick

It was the day before Thanksgiving. Just an ordinary day, with the stilted trees balconied over with sky, the same old wind souging under the doors, and a warm kitchen smelling of flour dust and pumpkin.

Mrs. Smith-Bennington watched the maid fold wax paper around the plump, white turkey. "That will do nicely, Frieda, Thank you."

"You're really going to...?"

"Yes, Frieda. I couldn't keep it after... what happened. I wouldn't enjoy it. Neither would Albert. So-o-o, put it in a shopping bag and take it... where shall we take it?"

"Gales, Ma'am. Floyd Gales has been out of work for two months."

"Yes, Gales!" Mrs. Smith-Bennington beamed with pleasure. "Really, Frieda, this will be our happiest Thanksgiving!"

Frieda glanced slantwise at her mistress and pulled down the corner of her mouth. "If you say so, Ma'am."

The sun was climbing up the sky and turning a brimstone-yellow when Betty Gale found the package on her doorstep. "From someone in the church, of course," she sang out to Floyd, who was standing in the doorway on crutches. "What a gigantic thing!" she admired, turning the bird over and over. "Oh, Floyd, wouldn't it be perfect for the Mathews?"

"Of course, honey," Floyd said slowly, trying not to remember how roast turkey tasted when you were really empty inside. "After Sabbath I guess people are beginning to wake up. I mean, after hearing what we did... Hurry up and take it over to the Mathews."

"We have vegetable soup," Betty said joyfully. "And no children, Floyd. Turkey should be for children. Mathews' little boy is ill but I'm sure he can eat turkey." She rolled the

creased wax paper around the turkey and dropped it back into the shopping bag.

Meringue-piled clouds were blowing across the face of the sun when Betty wedged the turkey inside Mathew's screen door and hurried away. An instant later Timmy brushed aside the curtain and spied the package. "Mom! Somebody's left us a box! No, a bag! Come, quick, and see what it is!"

Mrs. Mathews opened the door a crack and pulled in the bag. "Keep away from the draft, Timmy. Better get back on the couch. What in the world? Oh...! Oh, my!"

"For me, Mom?"

Mrs. Mathews hesitated, then set the brown wrinkled shopping bag on the kitchen table. "N-no, it's not for us, Timmy."

"What's in it? Don't you know, Mom?"

"Yes, but never mind, Timmy. Do you remember what we heard the minister say? Did you understand any of it?" She sat on the couch and gathered him up on her lap.

"I think," Timmy replied, puzzled, "it was about loving each other."

"Loving others more than ourselves," his mother corrected. "Love will spread if we start it. But somebody has to start it. The minister started it. He did a brave, splendid thing. We're going to keep it going," she ended firmly. She unhooked her shabby coat from the closet and pulled a felt hat round her ears.

"I'll be right back, Timmy. Stay on the couch and read. I'm taking the package to Dobsons."

"I don't understand," Timmy protested. "Will that make people love us?"

"Dobsons aren't going to know who it's from."

"Well, then, how...?"

"It doesn't matter if nobody else sees or knows. God does." And she was gone, down the dirty street and through town. The stores and shops looked warm and cozy but she didn't dare take time to go in and warm her hands. Now and then a door would open and the caraway-spiked air drifted out to the street.

An hour later Virginia Dobson stumbled over the package on the front porch. She ripped it open hurriedly and ran back into the house. "Kurt! Look! An answer to prayer!" She tumbled the turkey on to the stove top and clasped her hands together. "Didn't I tell you God answered prayer?"

Her husband gulped down the last of his coffee and chewed on a sandwich. He had a bullish head and neck, but a kind face with eyes that were lenient with people. He had a thick, comfortable voice like a deep easy chair. He chewed on without talking.

"What's the matter, aren't you glad? The children will go mad with joy when they see it!"

"That fellow—the minister—is he havin' a turkey for Thanksgiving?"

Virginia's face fell and she wrinkled her muffin-small nose. "Afraid not, dear."

"They got four young'uns ain't they?"

"Wrap it back up." Her husband hauled himself to his feet and wiped the crumbs from his mouth. "See you when the five o'clock whistle blows."

"But—but Kurt! I thought you didn't like the minister!"

He forced his big hands into his work gloves. "Went to church didn't I! I like him now."

A cold rain pinged on the side-
(Continued on page 34)

LOVE

Greater Than

REVENGE

Martha Heavilin

SISSY! That's what you are all right! A big sissy. Anybody with sense wouldn't fall for something like that Christianity stuff. I'll bet you the whole world that you aren't as good a Christian as you claim to be! Why in the world can't you go to dances? I don't see anything wrong with them. You probably don't know how to dance, that's all! Why don't you go places on Saturday? I'll bet you pretend to believe these things to make it look like you're some big person!"

These were only a few of the mean insults handed out to Roger Smith during the noon hour at school.

"I'll teach you to leave me alone!" he shouted angrily as he knocked Jerry Douglas. Jerry, caught off guard, tumbled backward into a mud puddle.

Do you think this was the right course for Roger to take? There are several opinions on this subject. Let's take a peek at the Smith home and see what the discussion was at the table that evening.

"That Jerry Douglas was bothering me in school again today, so I showed him what I thought about what he said," and Roger went on to tell about his experience earlier that day. "I guess he will respect me more now!" he ended.

"I don't know that I would like that kind of respect. I would want to be

respected for being able to keep from striking others. Don't you respect those who seem to be able to get along with everyone?" his father put in.

"But I find it awful hard to control my temper," Roger tried to excuse himself.

"That's a poor excuse. Paul said in Hebrews 13:5, 6: 'Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, *The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*' All we have to do is ask the Lord to help us and he will be with us," Mr. Smith replied to his son's feeble excuse.

"But we should let people know we aren't sissies; that we can stand up for our rights," argued Roger.

"Son, let's see what the Bible says about that," his mother joined in the discussion as she reached for the family Bible. "In Hebrews 12:14 it says: 'Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which *no* man shall see the Lord! And the servant of the Lord must *not* strive; but be gentle unto *all* men, apt to teach, patient,' is another verse. It's found in II Timothy 2:24. James 1:19, 20 says: 'Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh *not* the righteousness of God.' Another verse says: 'And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.' You won't have a chance to show Jerry the right way if you don't stop fighting with him, according to this verse. It was found in James 3:18. In I Peter 3:17 it says: 'For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing!' It's better that you have to suffer for doing good, at least I take it that's what Jerry was criticizing you about, than if you had done something bad and were criticized about it."

"Oh, Roger, I found this short article I'd like for you to read," Mabel, his older sister handed him a small sheet of paper. It read: "When you are criticized, commit it all into the hands of the Lord. Refuse to strike back, refuse to hate, let God work it out."

Remember, Jesus is coming soon and if you have lived a holy life it won't matter what people have said about you.

All that counts is, are YOU ready?"

"Well, how should I treat those who make fun of me then?" Roger was still unwilling to give up.

"Peter says in his first Epistle: 'Above all, continue to love one another fervently, for love throws a veil over a multitude of faults,'" Mrs. Smith quoted for him.

What do you think Roger finally decided? What do *you* think is right?

* * *

Count Your Blessings

Rev. A. B. Simpson

Once again our glad thanksgivings
Rise before our Father's throne
As we try to count the blessings
Of the year so swiftly flown.
As we trace the wondrous working
Of His wisdom, power, and love,
And unite our "Holy, holy,"
With the seraphim above.

He has blessed our favored country
With a free and bounteous hand,
Peace and plenty in our borders,
Liberty through all our land.
And although our sins and follies
Oft provoked Him to His face,
Mercy still restrains His judgments
And prolongs our day of grace.

As we gather 'round our firesides
On this new Thanksgiving Day,
Time would fail to count the blessings
That have followed all our way;
Grace sufficient, help and healing.
Prayer oft answered at our call,
And the best of all our blessings,
Christ Himself our all in all.

While we love to count our blessings,
Grateful for the year that's gone,
Faith would sweep a wider vision,
Hope would gaze yet farther on;
For the signals all around us
Seem with one accord to say,
Christ is coming soon to bring us
Earth's last, best Thanksgiving Day!
—Alliance Weekly

Lest We Forget

Katherine Bevis

FACED WITH ALL the confusions, uncertainties and threats of the present world, we are sometimes tempted to agree with those who say that the reason for our great difficulties is that our problems are so different from those which faced other generations of our people. This is as someone has said, "A too easy rationalization; it is defeatism."

Comfortably seated in a centrally heated room, we forget those early days of our forefathers. In those early days there was no easy way of doing things. The Pilgrims who sailed the Atlantic seeking religious freedom, the pioneers who cleared the wilderness and crossed the continent, all the men and women who created America, built with their hands and their backs and their hearts, with muscle and sinew and courage. Theirs was not an easy task; they faced the problems of their day, bringing to America a gift of traditions, which is our duty and pleasure to treasure and keep alive.

A traditional *faith* in God, as demonstrated by the founders of our country, is something that we, when faced with the problems of our day, should never allow ourselves to forget.

It is up to us to carry this tradition of *faith* into the future—to do our duty to God and to those about us.

Today some folks must have an abundance beyond their needs to be thankful. This is a strange contrast with Governor Bradford's surroundings at his thanksgiving time more than three hundred years ago. They were surrounded with their dead, their meager crops, unfriendly Indians, and poor climate, but they were thankful.

Are you sincerely thankful?

Does your heart, like Paul's go out in gratitude to Him Who has blessed you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus? Paul taught the Philippians, "With thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Even Jonah said, "I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving."

The Psalmist said, "I will bless the Lord at *all* times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1). Are we guilty of forgetting to praise God?

The Literary Digest of September 15, 1923, said: "History knows no disaster which parallels the earthquake and fire that laid waste the

capital city and the five chief cities of Japan. . . The 45,000 square miles were covered with lava, including the five chief cities of Japan, containing 7,000,000 people. The Red Cross estimated that 300,000 people died. Food and clothing, medicines and supplies to the total of ten million dollars were sent."

The *International News Service* said again and again, "Japan will NEVER forget!"

Only eighteen years later, however, on December 7, 1941, came that terrible day—Pearl Harbor. Japan *did* forget!

Have we been guilty of forgetting Christ? Just what is our attitude toward the God who "so loved the world"—you and me—that "he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Fuller says, "Ingratitude is a fault never found alone. It is always attended with other vicious evils that go hand in hand with it."

Luke lists ingratitude with evil, for God "is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil" (Luke 6:35).

THIS IS A TIME for THANKSGIVING! Throughout the English-speaking world, one day is set aside in which we give thanks. Yes, in a social order obsessed by grasping greed, we take time out to give thanks for the good things of life that have been bestowed upon us. Admit men and institutions beset by extremes of selfishness, we proclaim *Thanksgiving*, a day on which we offer thanks to the Giver of all good gifts.

However, what about the other 364 days of the year? Lest we forget, let us then enter "into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise" every day in the year.

The Japanese are not the only ones

who have overlooked and are today overlooking past mercies. Long ago the Lord said of Israel, "My people have forgotten me days without number" (Jeremiah 2:32). God blessed them, but they forgot Him.

Lest we forget, let us begin *today* to "give thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20).—*Selected*

* * *

Thrill-Seeking

Several years ago a picture of an aging, weathered, wastrel appeared in the newspaper. His face was heavily lined and great pouches sagged under tired eyes. His mouth was a thin line of sadness. The caption under the picture read: "The man for whom there isn't a thrill left in the world."

For years his only pursuit had been self-gratification. And now, by his own admission, there was nothing left but emptiness and futility. Youth was gone and dissipation had used up the strength of middle years.

I had never seen the man, but I had read from time to time of his dissolute life. A short time later when I read of his death, I was sobered by the thought that he had lived without purpose and died without hope.

How many today are living a selfish, thrill-seeking, purposeless life? For all of them the end offers the same—the bitterness of regret and a lonely death. Pleasure seeking as an end in itself offers nothing more.

Jesus said, "Follow me." And when we accept His call by faith in Him, the way is radiant and filled with high adventure. And the end of the way brings only joy and victory.—*Selected*

Foreign News

Elden W. Fischer

Dear Sir:

Kindly accept our fundamental greetings to you and the entire family of our Lord Jesus Christ over there. We, the above mentioned FYC members are pleased to inform about the progress in our meetings through our leader, John E. Orie. Might be we shall receive better instructions which shall help us shine in the environment.

Our local FYC in Idu Osobile was organized on the 19th day of January, 1962, through the aid of our leader, Brother Orie, and Jonah Nwobodo the local chairman and since then we have made tremendous progress in every aspect through the help of our Lord. The children are trying to attend our regular monthly meeting which is held every last Sabbath in the month and are endeavoring to give their monthly dues despite the fact that they are scholars. All these are helpers of God. They had carried on an intensive tour to all the churches of God in the division: this they started since the 8th day of June, 1963, and they had covered almost nine churches. These churches are about 15-20 miles apart, but most of them trek, some borrowed, while some use their own money to hire bicycles, without minding the asperity of the roads. They are still continuing their tour.

The next thing which has made them very popular is song, though they don't use any instrument as there is no money to buy one, but where their voice is echoing in the air, even non-members draw nigh to

see. Even I could remember when we went to Omoku, the headquarters of our district, the people (not the members) did not allow us to return when we wanted to return. Even most of them gave us some cold drinks as the weather was very hot that day.

In fact, Chairman, the children are ambitious toward the work of God. They usually ask me for tracts and booklets to give to others, and speak of going far distances to evangelize the people, but as we are yet very junior there is no money to finance the journey. But as times goes on, we shall see how the Lord shall help. They are making big plans, which if God provides I think should be an example to our old people.

They have allocated some amount for foreign missions correspondence. We shall be happy to correspond with any people, place or continent which is ready to exchange views with us. If you reply to this letter I shall enclose their names for a pen pal. Though I have one, Virginia Hrenchuk of Canada, I should like others to share also. We should be pleased if you would send us AIM, the youth magazine, even one would suffice so we can read of the progress made by FYC in other places. If possible tell us the price. We shall inform you regularly of our activities in the meetings.

Extend our sincere greetings to other local FYC organizations around the world. Thanks.

Your Brother,
John S. Orie
Church of God Mission
Ahoada, East Nigeria

YOUR HEALTH CLINIC

Specializing in Internal Medicine

Counselling and advice by Dr. Victor Reeh

Dear Dr. Reeh,

I am a teenager, very healthy, athletic and I eat, drink and sleep sports. When football is in season I spend most of my weekends playing football, when baseball is in season I spend all my spare time on the diamond. I feel great and I love it, but my mother is worried about me overdoing it and I am hoping you can set her straight. She insists I am going to overwork my heart and have a stroke or something. I keep telling her that only happens to older people and that it is good for young people to get lots of exercise, but she won't take it from me. I'm sure she would listen to you.

Thanks loads.

Yours truly,
Jim Nastic

Dear Jim,

I would like very much to help you, however I fear there may be some grounds to your mother's anxiety about a stroke or heart attack. Does she mean physically or spiritually? Physically speaking, there is very little danger of either at your young age. In fact, exercise strengthens the heart and keeps it young. Unless some unusual factor such as an embolism, aneurysm or high blood pressure are involved (into which I will not go into detail as they obviously are not a factor in your case),

it is highly unlikely that you would be a victim of heart attack or stroke.

Spiritually speaking, however, I think you are in grave danger. Young people are as subject, if not more so, to spiritual stroke as are older people. Relaxation, exercise, and recreation are important to our health, both physically and spiritually, but just as cholesterol which is an essential element of the blood often builds up harmful desposits in arteries when present in excess, so too much recreation in our lives builds up a spiritually symbolic "cholesterol" deposit on the arteries which carry our spiritual lifeblood. Soon the flow of this lifeblood may be cut off completely and the spiritual self will suffer greatly or die. In your case, I feel the danger is even more eminent. Instead of the gradual thickening of arterial walls by the "cholesterol deposits" of pleasure, I feel your life is so seriously overbalanced with sports as to represent a fast growing tumor or swelling which may soon press hard enough upon a blood vessel to stop its flow of "lifeblood." You admittedly spend nearly all of your spare time on a ball field or a tennis court. Obviously you have allowed no time for God or your fellowman. I hope you will realize in time what a serious omission this is. No doubt your mother's anxiety is for your physical longevity, these few short years of

natural life that is given to each of us who are "fortunate" enough to survive. But what about after that? We should be feeding on spiritual food, exercising our Christian duties and fortifying our Christian beings against

the infections and deterioration of sin so that our lifeblood will flow on and on through the countless years of eternity.

Sincerely,
Victor Reeh, D.S.

Project of the Month

Advertising the Searchlight Bible Course

Opal Coulson

Every FYC or S.S. could help spread the Gospel and increase the size of the local congregation by advertising the Searchlight Bible Course in local newspapers. The thirty lesson course sponsored by the Home Missions Department covers most of the doctrines of the church in an easy to understand approach beginning with "Is There A God?" Although simple enough for the beginning Bible student, it also provides a challenge for the more experienced Bible scholar.

A free Bible Correspondence Course appeals to many who would not attend evangelistic services if held in your area. Especially during the winter months people take advantage of an opportunity to learn more about the Bible by home study at their own rate.

A sample ad might read: FREE BIBLE COURSE AND DIPLOMA. Write SBDP Bible School, Box 2525, Denver 1, Colorado, 80203. The word "free" is appealing to all of us. A diploma is important to many who want to better qualify for teaching in S.S. The initials SB stand for Searchlight Bible. The other initials identify the name of the newspaper

in which the ad is placed. This helps the Home Missions Department know where the new student saw the ad. They in turn keep the group who placed the ad informed of the response to the ad.

Do not expect immediate results from advertising the Searchlight Bible Course. This is a long range project. The ad must appear in the paper regularly for a long time. Repetition is important in advertising. One may not have a desire to write for the free Bible course the first time he sees the ad, but it will be there for his information when a crisis comes or he feels the need for it. It takes about a year for most students to complete the thirty lesson course.

The Home Missions Department will send the name of the graduate, his address, and other relevant information about him to your local pastor or leader who then may call on him and invite him to your local services. The National Women's Association pays for a six month's subscription to the *Bible Advocate* or *Aim* for each Searchlight graduate.

Regular support of the United Fund will help pay the expenses of the Bible course which is free to the students. Before placing an ad in

your local newspaper, write to the Home Missions Department, Box 2525, Denver 1, Colorado, 80203, for suggestions regarding the wording of the ad and other questions you may have.

* * *

The Danger of a Little Knowledge

(Continued from page 6)

yond that which we have discovered, and nobody possesses any quality of truth except us. Yet how infinitesimally small is our knowledge and understanding of all that is truth. Our small amount of knowledge has made us intoxicated with our wisdom. As long as we continue to sip shallowly at the fount of learning we shall continue to reel in this drunkenness. The one thing we need more than anything else is to drink deeply of the knowledge that God has for us if we will seek it intelligently.

Someone wrote, "When you know all the answers, it's obvious that you haven't asked all the questions." How many times have we found this out to our own embarrassment? Another writer has summed it up with, "It's what you learn after you know it all that counts." Now how about it? Do we have anything more to learn? What shall we do about it?

* * *

MAGAZINES HAVE A MINISTRY . . .



My Garden

My garden has been harrowed with care. The Weeds of hate and blindness have been raked and burned; the Ragweeds of bitterness have been removed; the Poison Ivy of jealousy has been destroyed. The gossiping Tumbleweeds no longer infest my garden; Thistles of intolerance have been weeded out; the greedy Quack Grass has been rooted and killed.

There shall be flowers of understanding and consideration where weeds of bigotry grew. I shall plant seeds of love and kindness, and I shall cultivate my garden with good deeds.

I shall plant Chrysanthemums for beauty. And Daffodils for kisses. I shall plant the Moon Vine for peace and contentment, and Roses for love. Violets shall be planted for thoughtfulness, and Pansies shall be my playmates.

I shall plant Forget-me-nots for promises, and Lilies-of-the-valley for secrets. I shall plant Tulips for cups of happiness. Nodding Buttercups and flirting Bluebells shall smile at me.

I shall plant the stately Gladioli for dignity and character, and Hollyhocks shall lend grace to my garden. Sweet Peas shall be planted for their perfume; and for purity, Lilies will abound. I shall plant the Morning Glory to greet the sun; and the Golden Glow and Coreopsis shall glow in the sunset.

I shall collect the seeds for my garden from friends, and then no chaff of falseness will be found, for these seeds will have been germinated in truth and love.—Selected from *Sunshine Magazine*

Be Thankful

George Wells Arms

Thanks from the head or lips may be polite; but it is the heartfelt thanks that rings true and warms the heart that receives it.

Moreover, gratitude is the test of character. Shakespeare tells us that the winter wind is not so unkind as man's ingratitude. The wind may chill the body, but ingratitude chills the soul.

Of course, there may be some who say, "I have nothing for which to be thankful." Such a one is poor indeed. These flow only from a poverty-stricken heart—unhappy, bitter, jealous, covetous. Did you ever notice that it is the poor who are often more thankful than the rich? The reason is that they count their blessings. They have God's sun and air, health and life, and loved ones; the things that make life rich indeed. Thanks is not measured by the amount of our possessions. It is the man with a thankless heart who is poor, and the man with a thankful heart who is rich.

When we are offered a gift, and then snatch it out of the hand of the giver and say, "That's mine; it belongs to me anyway," there is no gratitude there. How often a child does that, and "a thankless child is sharper than a serpent's tooth." Yet that is what countless thousands do toward their heavenly Father, count-

ing every earthly blessing plus all the beauty of this world as theirs by right . . .

Once again our nation is summoned to observe its national day of Thanksgiving. We do not thank a thing, nor a law of nature, nor luck; we thank a Person. We do not thank America; we thank God for America. Whether it is on the bleak New England shores of the Pilgrims, or in the dark days of the Civil War when Abraham Lincoln called our nation to give thanks, or today; how much there is to be thankful for to Him! Yet when our God looks down upon this nation which we want Him to bless, I wonder if He sees us snatching everything out of His hand, boasting of our own sufficiency, or does He see us in His courts giving thanks? How much do we warm His heart? How much can we expect His mercy and blessing?

Then above all this we hear the clear call, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (II Cor. 9:15). referring to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We can't be thankful for that which we refuse to accept. Our hearts will never know the thrill of that joy if we have not accepted Him. Christ has come, the gift of God's love, freely offered to all, and, if our hearts are not warmed with gratitude, it is be-

cause we have not received Him. The gift of \$100,000 does not rejoice you, if you turn it down; moreover, it is not yours for which to be thankful until you take it.

If you have not done so, then do it now. Get down on your knees and accept Christ as your Saviour from your sins, and as the Lord of your life. When a gift is offered, all that we can do is accept it. A gift is not to be worked for, nor paid for, but just received. So it is with God's unspeakable gift, eternal life in His Son. Join that great company who sing from the heart, "Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow," united in their shout of triumph, "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (I Cor. 15:57).

"Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ!" (II Cor. 2:14).

From Boy to Man

A boy must grow to be a man;
Slow, inch by inch, through span by span.
His limbs must find a nobler length,
His heart new tenderness and strength.
His mind must stretch, his muscles fill;
His sinews toughen, and his will.
Life does not leave a boy content
With being less than he was meant
To be; the urge to grow is strong.
He cannot stay a boy for long;
There's in his bones the urge to grow,
There's in his brain a need to know;
There's a pattern in his heart—
A dim perfection he must start
To mount toward, willingly or loath;
For the spirit in youth was made for growth.
By ways our wisdom could not plan,
The boy in us becomes a man.

—James Dillet Freeman

Move from Grumble Street to Thanksgiving Street, not just for a day, but forever, to the praise of the glory of His grace—*American Tract Society*, 513 West 166th Street, New York 32, N.Y.

Prayer Changes Things

There is no circumstance in the individual life that the Divine Master could not alter. Prayer changes things, or sometimes the message is given, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Whatever the test may be, remember, "The Name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe" (Proverbs 18:10). It is sweeter to be in the storm with the Lord Jesus at your side, than to be in the calm alone.

—Selected

SCHOOL BIBLICAL NOTES

Midwest is our school for the training of workers for the Lord and the group this year is very active in putting into practice what they are learning.

The F.Y.C. has been organized with Dale Lawson from Oregon as the leader. A Youth Rally is held the first Saturday night of each month. The rallies held October 5 and November 2 were well attended and featured several of the young ministerial students as speakers in addition to many fine musical numbers. Most of the local F.Y.C. are college students but it also includes the other young people of the Stanberry church.

The F.Y.C. had a large tract rack made for the church entryway. It is one of the new type made with punch board and with the wire pockets which permit the entire cover of the tract to be seen. Many more tracts have been taken by those attending church since the new rack has been up.

College students have taken the lead in tract distribution on Sabbath afternoons. Stanberry and several nearby towns have been covered in the tract distribution, a different tract being used each time. The students report many good personal experiences in witnessing for God and the truth of the Bible.

There are four young men in the class in Directed Ministry. They are very busy helping the Stanberry pastor, Elder R. C. Moldenhauer. They help with the office work and prepare church letters and help plan and conduct the services.

Dale Lawson was the speaker at the F.Y.C. meeting held at the Kansas City church for the all-day meeting October 12. He was the speaker for regular services at the Marion, Iowa, church Sabbath October 26. Dale has had college work and church experience in Oregon before coming to Midwest to complete his ministerial preparation.

The Student Council of the Bible College has been organized with Roger Blankinship as chairman. They are securing interesting films for showing to the local group. They are also in charge of arranging for a recreational evening each month. They arranged an inspirational worship program which was presented in connection with the hike and weiner roast the night of November 3.

The six girls at Midwest are enjoying their dormitory this year. The house rented for this purpose has been arranged and furnished very nicely. The girls held an open house the night of October 26. Mrs. Doris

Grantham is the dean in charge of the dormitory.

Life at Midwest is very busy, with classes from 7 to 12 in the morning and work time in the afternoon. There are many calls from people of Stanberry for the work of the young men, and the girls also have found quite a bit of work. Most of the students are trying to earn a part of their college expense.

* * *

A Cup of Cold Water

Matthew 10:42

He was pretty active for his years—but not active enough, it seemed, to qualify for any sort of a steady job. He kept busy around the home, however, taking a genuine interest in seeing that the lawn didn't get shaggy, and that the little garden at the back of the lot added something to the fare of the family each year.

I was passing there one day just as the mail carrier stopped.

There he was at the door to greet him.

"Want a good cold drink of water?" he asked.

"I sure do," answered the thirsty man promptly, and eagerly drained the tall glass offered him.

My errand was up the street a block or two, and before I left, I spoke of how this elderly fellow had thought of a drink for the hot, tired postman.

"Oh, yes, he does that all the time!" my friend told me. "And he does it for the iceman, too. A lot of people around here take ice, you know, but he's probably the only one that thinks about giving the ice man a drink."

"He does something else, too,"

spoke up another member of the family. "I've seen him put down a pan of water for a stray dog that I know didn't belong to anybody around here. And he keeps out a pan of water all the time where any cats that might come can get it; and then he hangs a shallow pan with a bail on it on the limb of a tree, so the birds can come there and drink and bathe.

It was a little later that I stopped at my grocery for a few things, and there I saw the old fellow, just leaving with some small purchases.

"See that old fellow?" said the clerk as he weighed my oranges. "You know what he does? When we send things out for him, if it's a hot day, he always thinks to give the delivery boy a good cold drink."

I smiled and told him of what more I had heard about him that very day.

A cup of cold water—I mused as I went on home. Blessed is he who gives even a cup of cold water in the Name of the Master; and by the kindness of this man's simple life one would certainly infer that his cups of cold water are truly given in that way.—*Selected*

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Stationery with the same letterhead used by the national F.Y.C. is now available for your local group. The price is \$1.25 per 100 sheets, plus postage.

Order your supply now, from
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Publishing House
Stanberry, Missouri

F.Y.C.

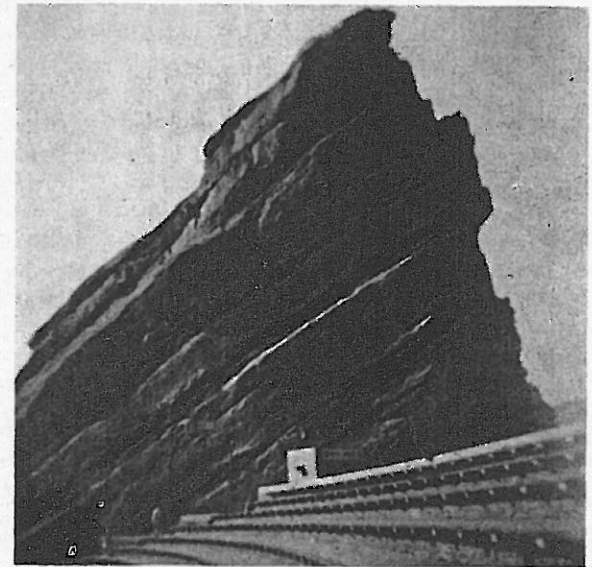
A Lesson from Red Rocks

Elden Fischer

During the Denver camp meeting one day the morning devotions for the young people were held at Red Rocks natural amphitheater. The outdoor theater is a few miles west of Denver toward the Rockies and lies between two huge cliffs of solid rock. Our group took up just a small corner of the 10,000 capacity theater. In spite of the warm sun, the group seemed to be inspired by the scene that could only come about by the miraculous hand of God.

While we visited colorful Red Rocks several of the Faithful Youth Challenger's saw a challenge. Due to the slope of the rock, some fellows by winding around, crossing over deep crevices, crawling on their hands and knees, and exercising sheer determination, climbed to the very top of the rock a long, long, way above the parking lot over the edge of the cliff. I am sure the view of the area and the city in the distance was tremendous.

Let the spirit of the boys at Red



Rocks be our guide as the new officers take over for the National FYC this month. May we move forward with determination like we have never had before. Let's climb to heights that will give us a vision of a city just beyond the horizon whose builder and maker is God. Let's reach the top of every goal and every hill that would cross our path. Some did not make it to the top at Red Rocks; but Christ did not turn back when He was asked to climb Calvary for the 1963 FY Challengers. Let's get on our knees and move forward... and upward! Remember Red Rocks and remember Calvary!

Forward in Foreign Correspondence

Correspondence from our department to friends beyond the border of the United States has for several months been below par. This summer a "Help wanted" ad in AIM brought an application from Mrs. Jewell Linville, a 22-year-old commercial teacher, presently teaching in Neosho, Missouri, while her husband is stationed in Alaska in the service. She is well-qualified for serving as foreign correspondent with other Y.P. groups and I am happy to report that after some correspondence she has accepted the post. She is donating her time in this capacity because of her love for the Lord. Pray for this work that we may become better acquainted with the Church of God outside the United States. Look for Sister Linville's report starting with the January issue. (Also see the interesting foreign report in this issue of AIM.)

The New FYC Committee

At the FYC business meetings in Denver four members of the Y.P. National Committee were elected. A letter from our Denver headquarters states that all four elected have agreed to serve. The new committee takes office November 1. The committee consists of Elder Vernon Patchen, pastor at New Auburn, Wisconsin; Elder Noah Camero, pastor at St. Paul, Minnesota; Donald Brenneise, a student at Chico State College; and myself, Elden Fischer, a school teacher in Kansas City, Missouri. These people need your ideas and your interests to direct the work in the right direction.

No one has written in to show interest in lapel pins, a motto, or other matters of interest. How about you writing us during Thanksgiving

month? Your letters mean so much to us.

Awards Ready

The Merit awards are ready and waiting to be awarded to any qualifying local FYC. Let's not run out of breath on the last lap of the race. Keep pushing toward the top. The 2T4G awards are also something to treasure. Do not quit this program. This is a real power-building program.

Merit System Reports

FAIRVIEW, OKLAHOMA—The young people of the Fairview church are only 90 points short of the Gold Merit Award. During the third quarter they worked hard on a 45-minute 3-act play which they presented at the Oklahoma-Texas Camp Meeting. For other projects they cleaned up their local church for the August project and ordered manuals and Constitutions which they have studied for their September project. They also held three business meetings, presented three Youth Rallies. One rally was on "Check Points of the Christian Life." At the September rally they gave a report of activities at the Denver Camp Meeting. Twice socials were held at homes of members with refreshments and games. This group has been very faithful in supporting the national FYC financially.

110 points, total 410

NORTH SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—The leader at Sacramento is Steve Sheffield. This group conducts Youth Rallies every second and fourth Sabbath evening. They have raised \$228 for the Church Pew Fund. They also bought cribs for the cry room. During the third quarter they have had a baseball social

(Continued on page 33)

Proper Tension

A sign in the window of a store selling athletic equipment says: "Tennis Rackets Strung to the Proper Tension."

A glance at this sign made me aware of my own tension and that of the people hurrying past on the crowded sidewalk.

"How wonderful it would be if there were a way for the individual to be strung to the proper tension," I thought. Everybody recognizes that it does take a certain amount of tension to accomplish activities in home, school and business.

The problems come when individuals develop too much tension or become defeated with too little. Indeed, the sign in the window emphasized that even for an object like a tennis racket, there is a "proper" tension.

Thus every heart faces the question of finding the tension at which the individual can serve best. Many become too tense and collapse in the struggle. Others remain too limp to make a good fight for the things which matter.

Fortunately, there is a mechanism to string the body tension to its proper tone. This wonderful tuning instrument is called prayer.

Turning to God in prayer when the heart is almost lifeless with strain

and sorrow can recharge it and fix life's tension to the point where the individual is strong enough to serve again.

When too keyed up from the competition of trying to earn a living, going to God in prayer can relax the individual to the proper tension, furnishing new strength for each day.

When properly tuned to God's tension, the heart becomes aware of the needs of others and the importance of sharing of substance and self.

This wonderful tension regulator of prayer is available to all. Yet there are many lives which are as ineffective as the tennis racket which has lost its tension.

Almost nothing is so useless as the tennis racket with the untensed strings. It was meant to be used in a lively game of tennis among friends. Now it gathers dust in the closet. Yet all it needs is to be taken to the store and be strung to proper tension.

Many apparently worn-out lives could be revived if they would go to the place of prayer, where its power could be used to restore the heart to proper tension. When you feel tired and discouraged, why not turn to God in prayer and ask to be restored to full usefulness by His gift of grace regulating the heart's tension.

—Ruth C. Ikerman in *The War Cry*

A man's character is like a fence; it cannot be strengthened by whitewash.

"Take Time for God" PROGRAM

Nelson Caswell

The Two-Edged Sword

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). These words do a remarkable job of pointing out the usefulness, the relevance, and the vital potency of the Word of God. They point out the great power that is potentially available and further comment on the way the Bible has of seeing right through us.

When the Bible is spoken of as a two-edged sword, it is certainly meant only in a figurative sense because it is a different kind of sharpness required to pierce even into the things of soul and spirit. It makes one feel naked to know that God's Word is also a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. It's almost as though we were being explored under a high-powered microscope which is capable of exposing even what we think about.

Isn't this book remarkable, and yet for all its treasures and value, it can be bought for a very reasonable price! The crime of it all is that nearly every home has a Bible or several of them but few allow it to do its "piercing" and "discerning." Most

folks seem glad to let their Bible lay and of course that way there's no risk of learning things about themselves they prefer not to know.

It's like the lady in the writer's past experience who refused to discuss Bible or read it because of her belief that if she didn't know what it said, she wouldn't have to be obedient to it. She seemed to subscribe to the old saying, "Ignorance is bliss." This poor lady fits into the classification of the "willingly ignorant" mentioned in II Peter 3:3-5.

Certainly few people will desire ignorance in such an age as ours where education seems to be getting more and more emphasis. If we need to be educated in high schools and then college to prepare for a vocation, then we certainly need to know the facts about eternal life and the kingdom to come.

A few pointed facts may help you in your understanding and appreciation of the Bible.

First of all the Bible is given by God as II Timothy 3:16, 17 tells us, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Secondly the Bible is a collection of books by about forty writers writ-

ing varied circumstances, and living over a period of 1500 years.

Next, let us be reminded that in addition to being written over a long period of time, the books of scripture have been preserved for centuries on all kinds of scrolls of parchment before they ever became bound together as one book containing the Old and New Testaments as we know them today.

Our Bible had to be translated from the original tongues of the writer to our present language. In translation we lose some of the original meaning but there's more risk involved as it was copied over and over again before it ever saw a printing press. That the Bible books could be collected from so long a time and then undergo the many copying and eventual translations, and still be accurate is indeed a miracle. We certainly should recognize that God has looked after His book. The new Bibles printed right today still carry the same message that was originally recorded by the inspiration of God so many centuries ago.

The King James version of 1611 is among the most accurate translations we have because the translators were careful not to insert their own interpretations. The newer translations may use a more modern English but they are also affected by more interpretation of the translators in many ways. Because the English language has changed so much since 1611 when the King James version was made, this accounts for many obsolete words and expressions in it which at the time were proper and understandable, but now mean differently. Therefore a good Bible dictionary helps in understanding many passages because it can clarify the meaning of the obsolete words.

It helps us to gain the most from the Bible if we know something about how it has been preserved, and who wrote the many books, and how long ago, and to whom. For instance, the books of Timothy have much more meaning for us when we realize that they are written by Paul, an experienced minister, to Timothy, a young minister, to encourage him in God's work. Knowing this makes certain passages more meaningful for us.

The Psalmist said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Without God's Word we stumble along a dark path and we fall. With God's Word the way is bright and narrow and straight. But we must depend on the spirit to really bring us understanding of a book which is "the Book of books" and brings us the whole counsel of God.

It is a sharp, two-edged sword which can pierce into any soul and heart... unless we put it away in some sheath because we are afraid of what it may teach us.

Texts for Nov. 15—Dec. 14.

Dates	Chapters
November 15	Genesis 17
November 16	Genesis 18
November 17	Genesis 19
November 18	Genesis 20
November 19	Genesis 21
November 20	Genesis 22
November 21	Genesis 23
November 22	Genesis 24
November 23	Genesis 25
November 24	Genesis 26
November 25	Genesis 27
November 26	Psalm 1
November 27	Psalm 2
November 28	Psalm 3
November 29	Psalm 4
November 30	Psalm 5

<i>Date</i>	<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Chapter</i>
December 1	Psalm 6	December 8	Proverbs 10
December 2	Psalm 7	December 9	Genesis 28
December 3	Proverbs 5	December 10	Genesis 29
December 4	Proverbs 6	December 11	Genesis 30
December 5	Proverbs 7	December 12	Genesis 31
December 6	Proverbs 8	December 13	Genesis 32
December 7	Proverbs 9	December 14	Genesis 33

Would You Like To Be Rich?

If someone were to ask you this question: "Would you like to be rich?" how would you answer it? Would you answer by asking another question, such as "Who wouldn't?"

Strange as it may seem, when eight persons in San Francisco were asked the question by the "Question Man," four of them answered: "No!"

The reasons given for the negative answer were: "You wouldn't have any goal to work toward"; "Too much money has its problems, like worries about what to do with it"; "Then everyone would be on my tail, and I'd have more ulcers than I have now"; and "If you have to work for things, you enjoy them more."

Those who said they would like to be rich, said: "You always have more advantages when you are wealthy"; "I wouldn't have to work any more and could travel around the world, and also take care of all my relatives"; and "I'd help students through college."

Wealth itself is not evil. Abraham was very rich, and was called, "the friend of God" (James 2:23). Job was extremely wealthy; and is mentioned as one of three exceptionally righteous men (Ezekiel 14:14); and he is the outstanding example of patience (James 5:11). Joseph of Arimathea was a disciple of the Lord Jesus. He was rich and had the great honor of placing our Lord's body in his new, rock-hewn tomb (Matthew 27:57-60).

It is the "love of money" which the Bible warns against (I Timothy 6:10). It also warns that those who crave to be rich "fall into temptation and a snare..." (I Timothy 6:9). It is said that the metaphor here may be taken from the wild beast which, leaping at the bait hung over a pit, falls in, and is impaled on the stake below.

Whether or not you would like to be rich in this world's goods, there

(Continued on page 28)

The Editor's Page

Guest Editorial

Thanksgiving in a Competitive Age

This is an age of unlimited competition. From the time a child begins to think and act for himself he finds himself in competition with others. Sometimes his environment is such that it does not teach him the proper attitude toward his competitors, with the result that he is inclined to seize the coveted toy and turn it into a weapon.

As he grows older he finds himself competing at school and later in the workaday world. Every element of life in our age has its aspect of competition. Our ideologies compete with those of other people. Our social efforts compete with others. Our political programs are competitive, and above all, the conduct of business is most keenly competitive.

Competition in business (which extends even to the wage earner as well as to the manager or proprietor) has placed a great deal of emphasis on gain. Unless a business shows a profit it cannot stay in business. Unless a worker can produce for the employer he is in danger of being replaced by one who is more productive. We judge the manner in which we meet this competition by the material things

which we have to show for our work. Thus, we may call this not only the competitive age but the age of get all you can.

How is it possible for a people so absorbed in the competitive aspect of life and pursuit of a livelihood to approach the Thanksgiving season with sincerity of thought? Is it possible that one can enter into such competition without at the same time becoming selfish? How can Thanksgiving be a truly significant occasion under these circumstances?

We believe that those who have come to know God and His Son, Jesus Christ, can approach the Thanksgiving season with sincere gratitude in their hearts. While some may be so engrossed in the business of gaining worldly goods, there are those who have a different outlook. The conduct of a business or the serving of an employer are not all that there is to life. They are not the final accomplishment, but are only the means whereby we become able to accomplish many things. Those who belong to Christ recognize this fact.

We do not believe that a Christian

is not competitive. The fact that one is a Christian automatically puts him in competition with the forces of Satan. Not only is he opposed to the wickedness which is characteristic of godless people, but he is also in competition with other religions. So ideologically his life is highly competitive. In other phases of life the Christian competes but his attitude is not one of greed or selfishness.

The Christian who is able to meet the various competitions of life considers his successes to be blessings of God. Whatever his gain, he recognizes that God has provided for him, and his gratitude is spontaneous. Every achievement in business or social life makes him realize that he is dependent upon the goodness of God. When one's "affections are on things above," it precludes the selfishness and absorption with earthly values which would interfere with true and sincere thanksgiving.

We believe that it is possible to live in this competitive age, compete for those things which are necessary for our livelihood and comfort, and yet not become a victim of the competitive spirit which tends to make people greedy. Christ is the deciding factor. He delivers us from the frame of mind that hinders true thankfulness. He keeps us from becoming totally absorbed in temporal things.

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving we are made to think about thanks. Special emphasis is placed upon it so that even the most callous of us have to give it some thought. A guide to our own condition will be the realization that we have, or have not, entertained many thankful thoughts through the year without waiting to be forced into them by

the special season.—CLF

Would You Like To Be Rich?

(Continued from page 26)

is a species of wealth which everyone should like to possess and enjoy.

King Solomon, who was fabulously rich, said: "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it" (Proverbs 10:22).

There is such a thing as being blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich" (II Corinthians 8:9).

Think of being blessed with the forgiveness of sins, and deliverance from judgment, and the possession of eternal life, and the sure and certain hope of being with and like the Lord Jesus Christ, at His return!

All these precious things—and more—enrich a person when he places personal faith in the One who died for our sins, rose for our justification, and ever lives to make intercession for us!

Would you like to be rich in that sense of the term? If so, receive Him, in whom all these riches are to be found.—Now

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Thankful--for What?

Emil A. Balliet

THIS MONTH we shall celebrate a national holiday—Thanksgiving. Our American Thanksgiving was first celebrated in 1621 by men and women who had miraculously survived that terrible first winter on the bleak Massachusetts coast. To offer thanks after the fearful things which they had endured seems amazing to us, for our usual reaction to desolation and disaster is rebellion and hardness—not praise to God. Yet, in the face of another lonely winter on strange shores, the Pilgrim fathers came together to give thanks to Almighty God.

The situation they faced was not very promising. The land was strange; the wilderness was filled with enemies whose customs and cunning they did not know. Worse yet, in the summer through which they had just passed about half of their little number had been laid away in death. Did they really have anything for which to offer thanks?

To many people it would seem that a memorial service, or a prayer meeting with a strong cry for mercy and help, would have been more appropriate. But not the Pilgrims! They proved that a thankful heart, filled with faith in God, can always find a way through!

I wonder if there is not a clear parallel between those days and the

days in which we live? The mounds of the graves of that Pilgrim group were no more depressing than the multiplied thousands of similar graves the world over, where beneath little white crosses lie the bodies of young Americans and their Allies, who have died in war in our generation. The question is just as real now as it must have been then—*do we really have anything to be thankful for?* It seems so bitterly true that the last war which was won at such terrible cost has not brought peace, nor any of the four freedoms for which we fought.

When the Civil War had ended and the fighting had stopped, President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling the nation to "humility, prayer, and thanksgiving," for, said he, "we have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have grown and prospered as no other nation . . . but *we have forgotten God!* We have become too proud to pray to the God who made us."

If one would make a study of the many calls to national thanksgiving since Lincoln's day, he would find a strangely familiar pattern has been repeated: our times of national thanksgiving have been largely limited to times of war or economic distress. As a nation we have not been as thankful to God as we ought.

You ask, "Well, what should I be thankful for?"

You should be thankful for God's gracious supply for your physical needs! It seems shocking that our materialistic age has to be reminded of this simple, fundamental fact. All that we have in the way of material blessings has come from the hand of God, and we should praise Him for it!

"Oh, no!" I hear someone say. "The bread that is on my table I bought with hard-earned money. God didn't put it there. I did!"

This reminds me of the boy carrying a loaf of bread who was stopped by a friend with the question, "Where did you get the bread, son?" "From the baker." "Where did he get it?" "Oh he made it out of flour?" "From the miller, who made it from what he got from the farmer."

"But where did the farmer get the wheat?" "He harvested it." "Who made the wheat grow?" "I guess God did." "Well then, son, where did you get your bread?" "I guess I got it from God, mister!"

Sometimes grown men, like that boy, have to be driven into a corner before they will acknowledge that the blessings of life have actually come from the hand of God.

Men have invented many comforts—but their inventions have been made out of the things which God created. You should be grateful to God for the supply of your physical and material needs, and you should express your gratitude in thanksgiving to God.

Furthermore, *you should be grateful to God for the provision of your spiritual needs.* Whether you have recognized it or not, without Christ you are a guilty, lost sinner. But the

gracious God who supplies our physical needs has also supplied the means of cleansing and salvation to meet our spiritual needs. With the Psalmist you should cry, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. . . . Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."

We should praise God for the Christ who bore our sin in His own body on the tree. We should be thankful for the precious blood which cleanses from all sin. We should gratefully remember that day by day and hour by hour we have been and are overshadowed by the mighty, keeping power of God, whose mercy and goodness are more than we can tell.

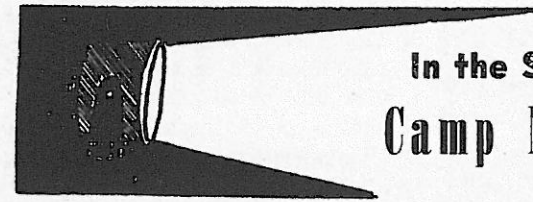
Mark Guy Pearse was walking home from church one night with his little daughter. Looking up into his face she said, "Daddy, I want to count the stars." "All right, dear, you count," he agreed. "One, two three, four, five . . . two hundred thirteen, two hundred fourteen, two hundred fifteen. . . ." She counted, and then, with a great sigh she said, "Oh, daddy, they are too many; I can't count them."

And isn't that true of God's blessings to each of us? God's mercies are so numerous that we could not possibly count them all!

Once again, God has given us the opportunity to express our thanks. Let us at this Thanksgiving season be humbly grateful to God for His goodness, and offer Him praise and thanksgiving!—*Pentecostal Evangel*

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The will of God will not lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.—*Loete Dotson, Missionary to Nigeria*



In the Spotlight Camp Meeting Award

At the Denver Camp Meeting a religion award was made by the National FYC. The winner was selected by the sponsors of the four teams at the Denver Camp Meeting and the National Leader. The award was presented the last night of the camp meeting to Betty Lou Crawford, a 1963 Spring Vale graduate. Betty's home is in Kansas City, Missouri.

During the camp meeting Betty scored high enough on the written test over the book of Mark to be a member of the quiz team for the Red team. She was very faithful in attendance to all camp meeting activities. During testimony time Betty was ready to witness for Christ. On "Youth Emphasis Night" she was a blessing by singing a solo for the evening service, a favorite of hers, "The Keys to the Kingdom." On the Friday night talent program she helped team

number three by being a part of two numbers. During the business meeting she served on the Emblem Pin Committee. Even at the picnic at the Denver City Park Betty was a big help in getting the food ready and cleaning up after lunch.

Betty Lou attended Spring Vale her Junior and Senior year in high school. She was missed at home, but others have been able to see spiritual growth in her life for which the Lord should be praised. This year Betty is attending Warrensburg State College in Missouri where she is majoring in English and minoring in music. She is able to be in her home church for weekend services.

May you continue your faithful service for the Lord, Betty. May God bless you and keep you humble as He uses you to glorify His name.

Understanding

If I could only see the road you came,
I might more kindly think of your missteps,
With all the jagged rocks and crooked ways,
And only praise.

If I could know the heartaches you have felt,
The longing for the things that never came,
I would not misconstrue your erring then,
Nor even blame.

—*Nautilus Magazine*

Scholars For Christ

The need of the day is youthful minds which God can use.

Satan is capturing the minds of the masses. He has claimed both teachers and students, leaders and laymen. And his following is growing by leaps and bounds. But his advances can be stopped.

Young people, you can halt this evil progress. Give yourself to God. He needs your mental faculties in this war against sin. If you are of college age, this means you! Give Him your heart and mind today. Give yourself for life.

If you desire to do something worth-while, let God help you. Your mental faculties plus the power of God can make your life a memorable blessing to this generation.

Be satisfied with nothing less than the best in service to God. Lend Him your mind and your members, trusting in Him to make you a fit vessel for service. Seek the best training available in your mission for Christ. Attend Midwest Bible College.

Here your dedicated mind will become an educated mind. Other institutions give degrees on a piece of vellum; here God gives degrees on the walls of the heart—written there by the Spirit of truth. Throughout life it remains as a constant guide.

Second semester will commence with registration on January 17. Plan now to enroll. Write for the needed forms and pray for God's guidance in every plan you make.

Midwest Bible College
Stanberry, Missouri

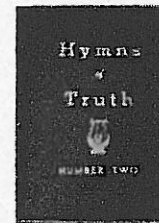
FYC News

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in conjunction with a church potluck. Members of other Central California churches attended. Another social was held at the home of Elder and Sister Haeger in September. At the regular September business meeting they decided to hold a district Youth Rally November 8-10. A car wash was held to raise money for this project.

125 points, total 280

Hymns of Truth Number Two



256 well-loved hymns especially picked for Church of God use.

Available in either shaped or round notes in both limp and stiff bindings.

Stiff binding, per copy . \$1.25
 per dozen 14.25
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50 books at the 100 rate.

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**CHURCH OF GOD
 PUBLISHING HOUSE**
 Stanberry, Missouri

LODI, CALIFORNIA—The FYC-ers at Lodi gave a gift subscription to AIM to a teenager interested in the church. The group conducted a Bible Study with some of their friends and among themselves. One of the Youth Rally themes was "Look to the Hills from Whence Cometh Our Help." They used a guest speaker on this program. Another time they had a religious variety party. Next they selected the unusual theme of "Anger" and the leader used the younger children to give Bible examples of where someone became angry and the outcome. One evening after a Y.P. meeting a social was held at their sponsor's home. Several real good games were played and then refreshments were served.

90 points, total 400

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Let It Remind You

When you switch on the light, let it remind you that every time you do so you are committing an act of faith. You believe that if you press the switch the room will be flooded with light. Why? Because everybody knows it works.

But what is electricity? You don't know? Yet by faith you press a switch and pass from darkness into light—and are quite happy about it.

Now what is so difficult about accepting Jesus Christ by a deliberate act of faith? Multitudes have done so and have passed from spiritual darkness into marvelous light and are mighty happy about it.

You can't find the switch? That's no reason for staying in the dark. "Seek and you shall find," is still Christ's promise today.—Selected

The Traveling Turkey

(Continued from page 8)

walks outside the parsonage as the family sat around the supper table for devotions. The cold was creeping in under the window sashes and cracks and Pastor Linson shoveled more coal into the kitchen stove. "What shall we be thankful for tomorrow?" he asked, taking up the worn Bible.

"Thanks be for pea soup!" laughed Mabrey, the oldest boy.

"And homemade rye bread!" said Butchy.

"And hot lemonade," Joe chimed in.

"I feel thankful right now," said Patty. "I'm thankful for Jesus our Saviour, and that last week I invited Him to come into my heart to stay. I'm thankful that He took my sin away and that God is my Father and cares for me."

Pastor Linson smiled warmly at his youngest. "We don't have to save our thanks for Thanksgiving. We are thankful for more important things than food."

"I'm thankful for last Sabbath," Mother Linson sighed in contentment and rested her hands on the table. "Brien, you did right and I'm so thankful you did. It would have been easy to just leave and take that larger church. We might even have felt justified, especially the way everybody treated you."

Pastor Linson looked thoughtful. "Do you think there will be any—any change? Not that I want things easier. I want souls saved, but they won't be saved unless our people change."

"Say, what's this?" Mabrey asked, bringing in a brown paper bundle.

"It's something all wrapped up in wax paper. Looks like a turkey!"

"A turkey!" they all shouted together, like a choir rehearsing for an anthem.

"Now I'm really thankful!" Butchy clapped his hands and danced on his heels. "Stuff it right away, Mother, before it disappears."

"Is it real?" Patty touched it in awe.

"Let's go all the way, my dear ones." Pastor Linson folded the paper around the turkey tenderly and stuck it back into the bag.

"Oh, Brien!" Mother Linson looked at the children and looked away again. "Haven't you done enough? I don't care for myself, but you deserve this. Whoever sent it meant it for you. They wouldn't like it, I mean, they probably want the children..." Her words spilled out faster and faster, then she fell silent.

"Do you want anyone to say the minister dined on turkey while the rest of the congregation ate sandwiches? Last Sabbath we took a stand on a certain question bothering everyone. We did it, first of all, to bring glory to His name. Secondly, as an example."

"Run down to the Zieglers," Mother Linson sighed to Malbray. "You were thinking of them, weren't you, Brien?"

"Exactly. Eight children, an elderly uncle and two hard-working parents. Who would better appreciate a turkey?"

"Thank God we have something to give, then," his wife said cheerfully, taking up the shopping bag. "How happy the Zieglers will be tomorrow!"

The day before Thanksgiving was almost over. The lowering sun was being coffined in the valley. Splinters of light still showed in the west

as the darkness prepared to close down over the town. Inside the kitchen it was warm and spicy. Mrs. Smith-Bennington tapped her foot and shook her head and stared at the turkey on the kitchen table.

"I declare!" she said for the fourteenth time. "I guess it will remain a mystery forever! You can tell by the wrinkled bag and the wax paper that it has been opened several times."

"I'm sure it was Mrs. Ziegler I saw scurrying away."

"Impossible! Why would Ziegler's with eight children leave a turkey on our doorstep? And how did they get the turkey to begin with?"

Frieda smiled broadly. "It will be Thanksgiving, after all, won't it, Ma'am?"

Mrs. Smith-Bennington turned on her sharply. "You trot that turkey right down to the minister and his family!"

"But you gave him money for a..."

"Never mind! Wait! Stuff and roast that bird first. I won't have him given away again. He's traveled enough. Even if the minister ends up with two turkeys, he deserves them."

"Asking your pardon, Ma'am, but was there a bit of a scandal...?"

"Yes, someone in the church started a rumor about the minister re-

ceiving too much salary. Imagine! Anybody, everybody seemed very anxious to believe it, I—I admit I did too. So last week he stood up and gave back all his salary for the past six months. It was a pitifully small sum. It wiped out all his savings."

"What a wonderful thing to do," Frieda breathed, sitting on the edge of her chair.

"Yes, he told how he had been offered a much larger church, and refused because he loved the people here. The folks in our church have always *talked* about honesty and kindness and love—but now we've *seen* these things. He's preached many a good sermon, but last week we saw a sermon *lived!* I tell you, we're all ashamed and there's a great deal of good will come of this. Frieda, take the money the mister and I saved for a trip to Florida! Go out and buy turkeys for everybody in the church! There's still time!"

"I—I never would go to church with you before," Frieda said thoughtfully. "Every time you asked me I said Christians were hypocrites. I think I'd like to go next week." She turned her head away carefully. "I'll be roasting that turkey real beautiful. And tuna fish won't be bad for Thanksgiving!"

—Gospel Herald

The Goodness of God

All God's dealings are full of blessing; He is good, and doeth good only, and continually. The believer who has taken the Lord as his Shepherd can assuredly say in the words of the Psalmist: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." Hence we may be sure that days of adversity, as well as days of prosperity, are full of blessing. The believer does not need to wait until he sees the reason of God's afflictive dealings with him ere he is satisfied; he knows that all things work together for good to them that love God.—J. HUDSON TAYLOR