

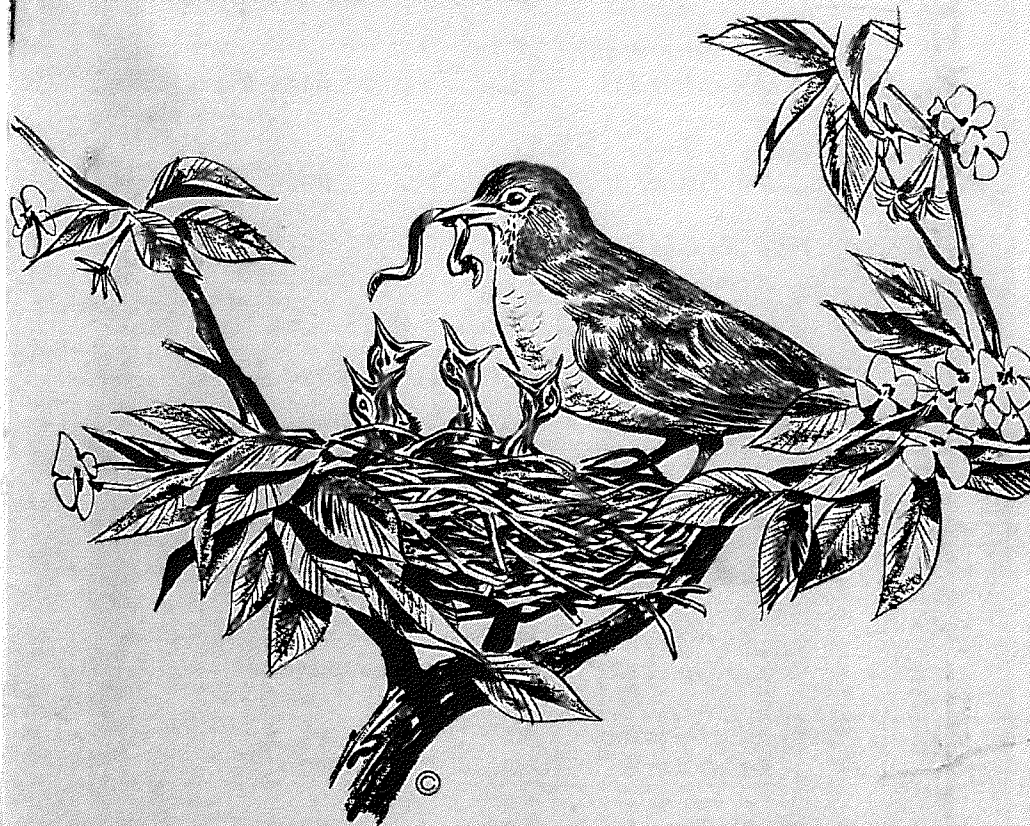
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Aim

APRIL 1974

The magazine for young people



*"I love to think of nature as an unlimited
broadcasting station, through which God speaks
to us every hour, if we only will tune in."*

George Washington Carver

Do I Have to Die, Lord?

Aim THE MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Gail Rincker, Editor

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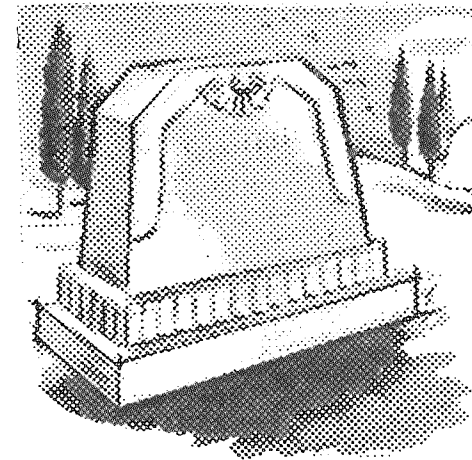
The best portion of a good man's life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love.

EDITORIAL ETCHES

"Mommy, there's Jesus!" i quickly turned to see what or who my three-year-old son referred to. There he stood gazing up at the larger than lifesize statue of Jesus. "Why doesn't him move?" was his next question. As we walked to our car in the hospital parking lot, i explained to my little boy that what he had just seen was simply a statue—something like a picture. "It is what the person who made the statue thinks Jesus looks like," i told the inquisitive little one.

While talking to my little boy about who Jesus *really* is, it occurred to me that i sometimes view my Saviour as something like a lifeless statue—visible, yet not real. Jesus, Who walked this earth as a breathing, thinking, feeling person . . . Jesus, Who was crucified, buried and resurrected . . . Jesus, Who now lives in Heaven and is my Advocate with God the Father . . . Jesus, Who will walk on this earth again someday . . . this Jesus is REAL! He lives and moves and IS!

Let us not be guilty of simply recognizing Jesus, but rather, let us believe in and experience His Realness as we take hold of His hand, listen to His voice, and follow in His footsteps. Let our lives radiate with His realness so that others will meet Him through us!



by June Crisp

Dear Lord, I know you died on a cross for me. It's hard to understand such love. You completely yielded to the will of God. Surely you understand how hard it is for me to forsake sin, and give my life completely in service to our Father. You know all the things I would like to hold back for myself.

The priests sprinkled the blood of animals upon the altars. You do not ask that I kill an animal. You do not want sprinkled blood. You want my heart sprinkled from an evil conscience, and my life offered to you on the altar of spiritual sacrifice.

Lord, you wanted me to die and be buried in the watery grave of baptism. I wonder how many of us Christians were buried *alive*? You want this old man of sin to be crucified. He is pretty hard to kill, Lord. Does he have to die?

When we try to bury that old man of sin, he doesn't want to go under. Is that why You tell us, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me"? You died once, and sin was taken away. For me it will be an every day business

of denying the carnal nature; an every day filling myself with Your Spirit.

And Lord, You tell me to love others even though they don't appreciate me. Isn't that asking a lot? Paul told the Corinthian brethren he would gladly spend and be spent for them. Even though he be loved less, he would more abundantly love them. Are we *really* to love and keep on loving Mrs. Grump in the middle pew, even though she doesn't appreciate us? But that was the way You loved us, wasn't it?

Lord, a grain of wheat must die to give life. Even so with us. Kill my pride, self-pity, selfishness, and all sin. It is hindering my fruit crop. Help me bear the fruits of your Holy Spirit. When my life has been saturated with Your Spirit, I will be able to bear souls for Your kingdom.

I am glad I do not have to fight Satan in my own strength, for I am weak and can do nothing. *"But I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*

Help me die to self now, dear Lord, that I may live in your kingdom.

Thank you, Lord.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

June Crisp, who lives in Conroe, Texas, with her husband and three young children, is a regular contributor of AIM material. June attended both Spring Vale Academy and Midwest Bible College, and is now active in the programs of her local church.

"Then Jesus said to his disciples: If any one wants to follow in my footsteps he must give up all right to himself, take up his cross and follow me. For the man who wants to save his life will lose it; but the man who loses his life for my sake will find it. For what good is it for a man to gain the whole world at the price of his own soul? What could a man offer to buy back his soul once he had lost it?" (Matthew 16:24-26, Phillips).

Public Education



by Barbara J. Fischer

CAN Be Worthwhile

To the young Christian, enrollment in a public school can be both exciting and troublesome. The majority of our young people are not able to share the blessings of Spring Vale Academy or Midwest Bible College, but that should not hinder them from enjoying their school years. This article offers some hints on how to be a successful Christian while attending a public school or secular college.

It is true that in a public junior or senior high school you will sometimes be faced with difficult situations—having to sit through classes which promote theories and philosophies contrary to the Bible, being forced to use restrooms that may be havens for smokers, being denied sports activities that take place on Sabbath, enduring the lonely feeling that you have nothing in common with fellow students, listening to constant defamation of Christ's name—but **these should not compromise or lessen your Christian witness.**

There are many good aspects of public education and you can be an instrument for making your school even better. Public schools and secular colleges offer a variety of subjects that can prepare you for a productive Christian life. If you are planning a career that is church oriented, for example, these institutions provide courses that apply di-

rectly to your interest. The church desperately needs writers to prepare Christian education materials, articles for church publications, manuscripts for correspondence courses, and the like. High schools and colleges generally offer elementary and advanced instruction in the art of writing and its practical application. These include not only English composition, but journalism, media production (film, television, tapes), graphic reproduction (printing), etc. In this same vein, you can take courses in art that will increase your ability to illustrate for church purposes.

If you are planning a career in church education, you will have to be trained in a secular institution. Likewise, a career in the ministry can be enhanced by instruction at both the high school and college levels.

Much valuable instruction can be obtained in a public school that will enhance your future life, but what can you do to make your term in school more enjoyable? The following suggestions are offered:

1. Does your school have a Christian group or club? If so, join and be an active member. You will find there many other students with common values and goals. They may not believe exactly as the Church of God does, but yet their lives should be influenced by a belief in Jesus Christ. Your enthusiastic participation in such an organization will provide a basis for forming good friendships and also for witnessing.

2. A school can be influenced for good by its students. If you would like to try to improve the moral atmosphere in your school, become a student officer. School administrators will listen to student suggestions if supported by solid and realistic evidence. Many members of the Church of God have served as student body officers and have worked as leaders

in campus groups. They speak glowingly of the changes that were wrought (even if only temporarily) by their interests. One Christian testifies how sports activities were rescheduled for days and nights other than Sabbath because the coaches desired his participation badly enough to make changes. He wasn't a star athlete, but was an asset to the team because of his spirit and willingness to give all he had in support of his teammates.

Another notes that a senior banquet was rescheduled to a Saturday night (it had been held formerly on Friday nights) because she was a class officer and her presence at the banquet was important to the school. In return, she was willing to devote extra time and enthusiasm in supporting other projects.

Don't be afraid to work hard to improve not only your situation in the school, but that of others. People will respect you if you are willing to work unselfishly on behalf of the school. A word of caution: Don't become so involved in school that you neglect your church and home responsibilities.

3. Be a model student. Give your studies and extracurricular activities the best you've got! A Christian should try to do his best,

CHRIST DID NOT ASK THAT HIS PEOPLE SHUN CONTACT WITH UNBELIEVERS. RATHER, THE CHRISTIAN IS PLACED IN THE WORLD TO SHOW OTHERS HOW TO LIVE AN ABUNDANT LIFE IN THE MIDST OF HARDSHIP, DESPAIR, AND DISCOURAGEMENT.

no matter what the situation. People will have little respect for a so-called Christian who only performs tasks because he has to and then does them sloppily or with little interest.

4. Be hospitable to classmates. Invite friends to your home and to your church. Don't shy away from contact with non-Christians. Show them that you care, and you may influence them to seek Christ.

5. **SMILE** even when conditions don't warrant cheerfulness. Try not to become discouraged, even when you are having a rough time. Christ understands your trials and will offer you strength if you ask for it. Study and pray more earnestly that you would acquire the strength to resist bitterness and discouragement. Learn from the Apostle Paul: He was able to achieve serenity in all his experiences. (Philippians 4:11).

6. Be very active in church programs as this will provide solace when things in school don't go the way you feel they should. Volunteer to teach a Sabbath School

class... use your imagination in developing a super FYC program... share your enthusiasm with the local women's group... attend weekly Bible study and encourage other church young people to do the same.

7. When things get really tough look ahead to your goal in life. Remember that your high school and college years are but a short span of time when compared to all of life. God is testing how well you do with the relatively minor difficulties of teenaged years to prepare you for the larger trials of adult life. Think on the good things of life and list the things you like about school and concentrate on these. Share your problems with pastor, parents, and friends.

Christ did not ask that His people shun contact with unbelievers. Rather, the Christian is placed in the world to show others how to live an abundant life in the midst of hardship, despair, and discouragement. How do you meet this challenge in school?

Barbara Fischer, from Sacramento, California, is the wife of the Director of Christian Education Agency, Harvey Fischer, and the mother of two boys. Barbara has in many different ways contributed to the progress of the youth work as well as to the overall work of the Church.





God's Perfect Timing

The flow of tears washes away the years and floods my mind with vivid memories of the year with Harold as my employer—my “boss.” And now, 11 years later, I received from his wife the belated news of his sudden death in June, 1970.

How can it be? How could I have allowed the enemy of T-I-M-E to rob me of opportunity to express to him my appreciation for the helping hand he had been to me. He had been more than a “boss.” He had been a real friend; and, unknown to him even, he had unconsciously given me the strength I needed to “go on going on” for Christ.

How can it be? This man, still in his youth, with a lovely wife and four precious children resting on his strength, snatched away so quickly—so uselessly. —NO! One must not say “uselessly,” for doesn't God's Word tell us there is a purpose to ALL things? It is only in our frail human minds that we cannot justify death's visit to one who had so much for which to live.

And yet, even after death's sting has lessened somewhat for his dear family, I feel the need to justify—or maybe it is a need to rectify—my own slothfulness. Many have been the “good intentions” to write “tomorrow” and let Harold and Jodie know

how much their friendship and acts of kindness meant to me. I want to question God's plan, I guess, and ask “Why them?” Why?—Before I had opportunity to say “thank you”?

And now, as I sit here staring

hopelessly at Jodie's handwritten news (belated due to only recently re-established communication), I realize that any tribute to Harold now can only be for the loved ones he left behind. But then, isn't that tribute, within itself, worthy of a few minutes—a few thoughts—and a few prayers?

How many failings does it take to shock us into doing our “thing” for the Lord? My “thing” for the Lord was once a simple letter of appreciation to a former employer. A small thing, perhaps, but then isn't it the “small” things that coerce to form the great? And, too, who knows? The Lord may have had a deeper, more meaningful purpose for that letter when He activated my inner urge to write it. Perhaps this is a question that will be forever unanswered.

Has there any good thing come out of my “failure”?—Yes, I believe so—if nothing more than this simple reminder to you, young people, to act WHEN God speaks. To delay may be spiritual suicide—if not for you, perhaps for the person whose

life you may help mend.

When God told Moses to write, he WROTE! When God told Abraham to go, he packed up and WENT! When God told Peter to preach to the Gentiles, he PREACHED!

ARE WE ANY BETTER THAN THEY? —that we can choose OUR own way and OUR own time to obey? NO—we MUSTN'T! God's timing is ALWAYS PERFECT.

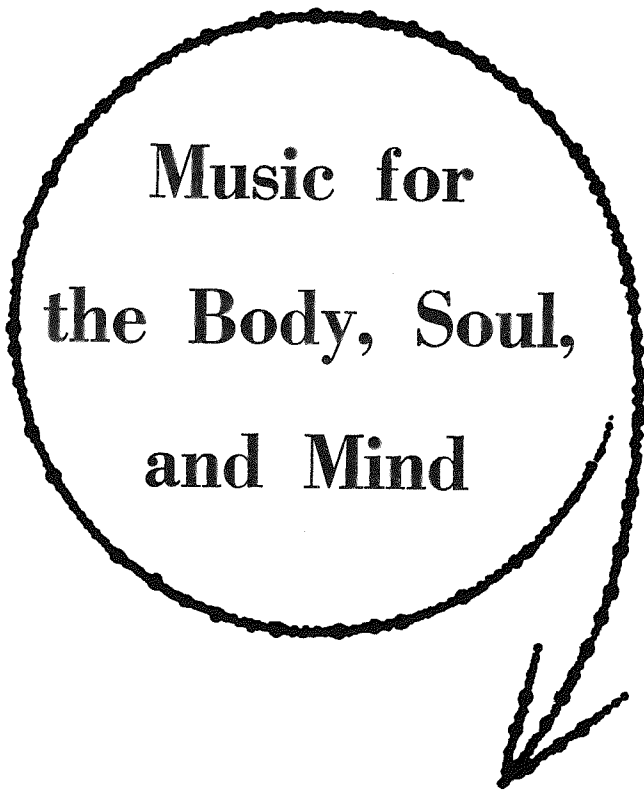
Thousands of “good intentions” have gone to rot because someone copped out on God's timing! Don't add your name to those thousands! “Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness” (Romans 6: 16).

Listen for that still small voice urging you to service, whether it be telling you to write a letter, help the sick, attend Bible college, pray for someone, or preach the gospel!

AND THEN—don't delay! DO IT! Do God's “thing” in God's time!

Jewell Linville's involvement in youth work began when she answered a plea in AIM and became the first Foreign Correspondent. Since then she has served in the capacity of National FYC Secretary, teacher at Midwest Bible College, and Leadership committeeman, as well as unselfishly giving her time on many occasions to counsel young people. Jewell resides in Wichita, Kansas, with her husband and two children.





Music for
the Body, Soul,
and Mind

We all have minds, our decision-making powers, and our feelings. We were all given a body with a physical being, and God most graciously has given us our spiritual life. Another way to state these three aspects of our being is to say we all have psychological drives, spiritual drives and physical drives.

As has been very intelligently and adeptly pointed out in a previous "Speaking Out" article, our church music has had its source in "popular" music even though it has sometimes taken a generation

or two for the church to accept the style that was developed. It is enlightening to know that much good has been accomplished in our churches through the music we have adapted.

Thinking for a moment about music, we can agree that music has various influences on the state of mind. Music is defined as, "the art of combining tones to form EXPRESSIVE compositions." Being human, we have expressed much through music.

Music can reflect feelings. Music can also powerfully convey

ideas and thoughts. Music can almost *force* us to move with it. Our bodies become involved in music, not just our thoughts, our emotions or our decision-making powers. *To be most useful to God, music should appeal to our spirits—that realm where God touches our being.*

If our spiritual reality is in fact the most important realm of life, is it possible for us to choose music which emphasizes and enhances this reality? Certainly we know the lyrics should convey a message in the church.

Is it possible that the elements in music, the harmony, melody or rhythm actually influence one area of our being more than another? For example, I think we can agree that the rhythm of a song can cause one to tap his foot or clap his hands. Has your body ever expressed rhythm, the pulse of a song? I'm glad that our bodies are sensitive to rhythm. Rhythm can cause tension by being repetitious, or it can be relaxing through variation.

Harmony has been made of consonant tones or tones that "sound good" together. Now dissonant sounds are being used more widely in our compositions. These sounds or tones that are put together can make us feel tense or they

can express a restful attitude. Dissonance and consonance in a song have a lot to do with whether the song leaves us feeling keyed up or relaxed.

Melody consists of rise and fall in musical tones. It can also give us a sense of tension through high sounds, or a sense of depression if the emphasis stays on the lower tones excessively.

Melody is the one element of music about which we have been given a Biblical injunction. Concerning our lives, Ephesians 5:18, 19 point out that as we are filled with the Spirit we will make melody in our hearts to the Lord. This passage also mentions that our songs should be *spiritual*. If the songs we choose emphasize the bodily rhythm, will they have a primarily spiritual effect? Or if a song is too sentimental in harmony, will the intellect be encouraged to function at its optimum?

On the other hand, music (without considering the lyrics) can leave one tense and unfulfilled when the harmony is excessively dissonant. Can God's Spirit flow into us most efficiently when we are in this anxious frame of mind? If the melody is depressing because of so much emphasis on the tension-releasing, restful qualities

(Continued on page 17)

Lucy Marris, an accomplished pianist and a piano teacher, resides and works in Stanberry, Missouri. Lucy has completed the Bible Foundations course at Midwest Bible College, and is an active member of the Stanberry F.Y.C.



The Lesson from a Bus Trip



by Mary Jean Knoll

It is truly unfortunate that we do not take more time for observation. Watching other people in their daily activities can be amusing as well as educational. At this moment, I am riding a bus nearing Dallas, Texas. Already the bus is one hour behind schedule. Unexpected events, like flat tires, do interrupt journeys and ruin time schedules.

Under such conditions, it is most interesting to view the reactions of others. Elderly ladies sitting nearby show little concern over the delay. Yet students who recently boarded the bus are most verbal in their criticism of the driver as if he should have prevented the flat.

In the midst of my own worrying about arriving late, and wondering if I will have time for a quick call to my parents to inform them of the delay, I glance to the west toward Lake Dallas. The pink clouds in the blue sky reflect into the water of the lake—a sight of calmness and beauty. As I study the serenity of the lake and sky, I am reminded that God is ever near to calm us—even during the smallest everyday crisis... like the unexpected delay on this bus trip.

**“THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE, WHOSE MIND IS STAYED ON THEE BECAUSE HE TRUSTETH IN THEE”
ISAIAH 26:3.**

Mary Jean Knoll is the wife of our National F.Y.C. Chairman and the mother of two small daughters. Mary Jean has remained very active in the F.Y.C. work, both on the local and national level, since she first became old enough to participate in her local F.Y.C. at Conroe, Texas.



You have committed yourself to Jesus Christ as Lord. So far as you know there are no areas of holdout, but your problem is...

How Do You Know What God Wants You to Do



by Paul E. Little

Do you wait for a liver shiver or for an anonymous message in the mail? Do you wait for some verse to spring out of the Bible like a hot ingot and strike you in the eye and heart? Do you open the Bible at random and use it as a divine Ouija board?

How do you, in fact, get guidance to know what God's will for you is?

There are two aspects to God's will.

First, we need to see that there are two aspects to God's will. The first aspect is that which is already revealed in His Word and which applies to every one of us. Most of

us don't realize that the vast majority of the will of God has already been revealed.

Do you want to know what God's will is for your life? Read the Book of James and write out the commands. That will give you enough to get going for a while.

Are you praying about whether you should marry a non-Christian? Save your breath. Read Second Corinthians 6:14, where God clearly declares that it is not His will for us to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. You are no exception.

What God has commanded and what God has forbidden are both quite clear in the Scripture and it is not necessary to pray about it. There are specific commands that have details and there are

general principles which, as they are applied to life, have very real significance for us. You should read the Word of God from this standpoint.

For instance, it's quite clear that you're to be a witness. Are you obeying this? Who are the non-Christians you're praying for specifically by name? Whom are you attempting to reach for Christ beyond the immediate circle of your friends? Will everybody in your class have had the opportunity to hear of Christ because of you? Romans 8:29 tells us God wants us to be conformed to the image of Christ. We become transformed according to Second Corinthians 3:18 as we look into the face of Jesus Christ and His Word day by day. Are you doing this? These are very clear indications of God's will for you.

But the second dimension of the will of God has to do with those areas of life which are not specifically referred to in the Scripture and which vary for each of us. There is no verse that will tell you, Joe Green, whether or not you are to be married. There is no verse that will say, Mary Jones, you should be a nurse in Jackson, Mississippi. Or in Phnom Penh, Khmer Republic. The questions of what you are to do, where you are to do it, and with whom, are dimensions of the will of God that He mediates to us in different ways.

God is good.

The first prerequisite to getting guidance in these areas is to see that God is good. He is not a di-

vine killjoy. This takes away our fear of total commitment. We then come to the Lord and say, "Lord, I don't know what Your will for my life is, but I want it. I don't care what it is; as long as I know it's Your will I'll do it with joy." This acceptance of the will of God for our lives sight unseen indicates that we trust Him, that our food, as was the case with the Lord Jesus Christ, is to do the will of Him who sent us.

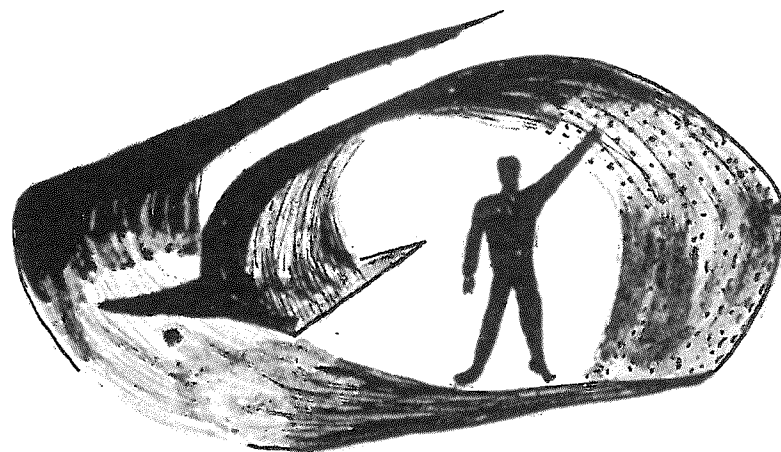
How then does God actually guide? We've already indicated one way, through His Word. **Second**, He guides us as we pray. How many of you are spending five minutes a day in prayer asking God to show you what His will is in a particular area in which the Bible is not specific? As we pray, God by the Holy Spirit often deepens a conviction of the rightness or wrongness of a particular course of action. This conviction differs from emotion which is undulant, up and down. One day we're going to Japan, the next day we're going to Nigeria, and the following day we're going to Argentina, all because we happen to meet enthusiastic people from those parts of the world. That's not conviction, and that's not the way God guides. Conviction is a deepening constant.

He guides in circumstances.

He guides us, **third**, through circumstances. You may be praying about going to graduate school. If you can't get into any graduate school in the country, this may be negative guidance that God has

something else in mind for you. On the other hand, circumstances are only part of the picture. The fact that you can get into five schools is not necessarily an indication that is where God wants you. He may want you to do something entirely different because He wants you rather than your training. But circumstances are a factor and need to be considered.

Fourth, there is the counsel of Christian friends, those who have been down the road longer than



LIFE SHOULD BE MORE THAN STUMBLING THROUGH A MAZE

we have, who are equally committed to the will of God and who know us well. This is, I think, one of the most neglected dimensions in guidance today. It is significant that in Acts 15 we are told, "It seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us." I always get a little nervous when people imply that they have a private pipeline to God. The words "God led me" are often merely the squirting of spiritual perfume on inverted self-centeredness.

My question to a person who uses that expression rather glibly is, "What makes you think so?" Do others sense that this is God's leading? It is the rare situation when people who are equally committed to the will of God have no sense in their spirit that what you suggest is of God. It is true that we sometimes get mixed counsel from friends, but we neglect the counsel of others at our own peril.

When all of these factors coincide—the Word of God, convic-

tion in prayer, circumstances and the counsel of mature Christian friends—we can be fairly certain that we are in the will of God.

It is important, however, to avoid certain common mistakes when it comes to getting guidance and discerning the mind of God. **One** is not to think that if you want to do it, it can't possibly be God's will. Remember Psalm 37:4 and Romans 8:32. To do the will of God, if you're really committed, will be your deepest joy in life.

It's not all moonlight and roses.

A second mistake to avoid is thinking that to be in the will of God everything has to be moonlight and roses. Sometimes it's after commitment to the will of God that the bottom falls out of everything. That's what happened to Jairus when he got our Lord to agree to come and heal his daughter. They were interrupted by a woman who had been sick for twelve years and could certainly have waited a few more hours. While our Lord was helping her, Jairus's servant came and said, "Your daughter has died; . . . don't bother the Teacher any longer."

Jairus's spirits plunged to the basement. But our Lord's word to him comes to us as well: "Be not faithless, but believing." The disciples got into the boat to cross the Sea of Galilee at our Lord's command, but they encountered tremendous turbulence in the storm. Sometimes we do, too, in the center of the will of God.

Not all decisions need confirmation.

Third, don't make the mistake of thinking every decision must have a subjective confirmation. You may have to make a major decision by

When all of these facts coincide—the Word of God, conviction in prayer, circumstances, and the counsel of mature Christian friends—we can be fairly certain that we are in the will of God.

next Thursday and really not have any clear guidance as to what you should do. Four different courses of action may seem equally valid. You've prayed and prayed, studied the Scripture, talked to other Christians and analyzed the circumstances, but you still come up with equal possibilities. You're honestly willing to do any of them—whatever the Lord wants you to do. You just want Him to show you, but somehow He doesn't seem to.

What should you do? What you should do is act in faith and trust that God will guide you in your reasoning process. Say, "Lord, I don't seem to have any clear guidance from You, but I'm going to go down Lane 2 trusting that You will close that door if that's not what You want me to do." You can go on your way rejoicing without spending the next five years second-guessing yourself.

God does not play the game of mousetrap. He doesn't say, "Aha! You thought that was the right one, but back to the start, try again; next time you've only got three possibilities." Here again, this attitude betrays the concepts we have of the character of God. He loves you and me too much to play games with us. If you can wait to make the major decision until you have a clear conviction, fine, do it; but if you can't, make the decision and know that God is guiding you.

Fourth, don't make the mistake

of deciding what you're going to do for the Lord. God hasn't asked you and me to make that decision. He's not asking you to say, "Lord, I'm going to be a businessman for You." He's not asking you to say, "Lord, I'm going to be a missionary for You," or "Lord, I'm going to be a college teacher for You." What He is saying and inviting us to do is to say, "Lord, what

will You have me to do?" It sounds very spiritual to say you are going to do something for the Lord, but He hasn't given us that option. We are recruits reporting to the commander-in-chief, and we are to allow Him the option of assigning us in the battle line where He sees the need is greatest and where in His judgment our gifts can best be used.

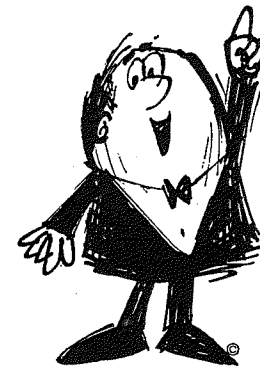
MUSIC FOR THE BODY, SOUL AND MIND

(Continued from page 11)

it contains, can it minister to our spirits efficiently?

We are also told in Ephesians 5, verses 14-17, to redeem the time.

Of the hours and hours we spend with music, does it matter that the music as well as the lyrics should influence our use of our bodies, our minds, our decisions and that all important, God-given privilege—a living Spirit from Him in us, in all of life lived through us?



"SPEAKING OUT" is the monthly AIM feature designed to give AIM readers an opportunity to "speak out" expressing their ideas and opinions on topics of interest to today's youth. Send your articles for the monthly "SPEAKING OUT" feature to: AIM, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201.

CORRECTION

Please note that on page 20 of the February, 1974, AIM under the title "A DEADLY GAME," a mistake appears in the quotation of I Timothy 2:4. The word could in this verse properly reads would. Also, this verse is from the American Standard Version rather than the Revised Standard Version. We are sorry for these mistakes.

Dear FYCer,

Spring is here! Is there any doubt about it? You can tell simply by the feeling and the smell in the air. To some this feeling is an uncontrollable urge to get out of the classroom; to do something different; to be free from the same old grind. From such a fever came the "goldfish swallows," the "telephone booth packers," and even the modern "streakers."

Hopefully each local church has an active program provided so that any pent-up energy and enthusiasm may be swallowed up in constructive activity.

Youth Week 1974 is now history. We hope that the experiences and blessings are not part of the past but that you are continuing to build upon them. Write and tell us about it!

For the summer ahead there are special activities. In almost every district there will be a youth camp program or a camp meeting. These kinds of activities provide potential spiritual creativity and encouragement as well as fellowship. Plan to attend the youth camp or camp meeting nearest you!

National Leadership Retreat should prove to be a highlight. I personally urge all F.Y.C.s to plan to sponsor their local leader to the retreat. The retreat, held at North Platte, Nebraska, June 28-July 1, is designed to keep you informed of new programs, to provide leadership training, and to inspire us to greater service for God. I want to see you there!

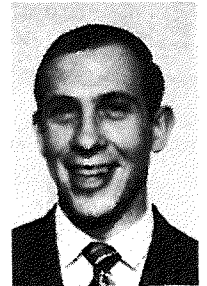
Much is said about the President's Council of Physical Fitness and the need for citizens of the United States to be physically sound. Various programs of training have been established and endorsed by celebrities to encourage greater physical exercise. The theory is that a physically fit people make for a stronger nation. THE SAME PRINCIPLE APPLIES TO THE CHRISTIAN AS WELL. THE GREATER YOUR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH, THE GREATER THE INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH WILL BE. THE MORE TIME YOU SPEND READING YOUR BIBLE AND PRAYING AND APPLYING GOD'S WILL TO YOUR LIFE,

THE MORE SPIRITUALLY FIT YOU WILL BE. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITIES TO BE STRENGTHENED. YOUTH CAMP, CAMP MEETING, AND LEADERSHIP RETREAT ARE JUST A FEW SUGGESTIONS.

Sincerely,

Ken Knoll

Elder Kenneth Knoll, our new National FYC Chairman, has served on the National Youth Committee for the past six years and has been involved in many phases of the FYC work both on national and local levels. He is also presently serving as pastor of the church at Fairview, Oklahoma.



The National F.Y.C. has produced a new and exciting Bible Baseball game for all ages. The game has two hundred Bible question cards to help the players learn important and interesting Bible facts. The questions are separated into four levels of Bible knowledge, classified as "Single," "Double," "Triple," and "Home Run" questions. Players who answer their questions correctly move their "man" around the magnetic diamond to pile up scores for their team.

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“Christians should believe their beliefs and doubt their doubts.”

BUT--ERS

by Jonathan West

That moon,” remarked George as he walked Betty home from church, “is lovely tonight. *But*, as Tom would say, a black cloud may come and hide it.”

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

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

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

George chuckled, “Doubting Thomas, sure’s anything. Better still, *Buting* Thomas.”

The pair walked in silence for a half block, then Betty said: “Speaking of Thomas in the Bible, he is called the doubter because he doubted the reality of Christ’s resurrection. But when the Lord returned to that room a second time and invited Thomas to touch Him, the Bible doesn’t say that Thomas

actually did touch Him. The Lord’s invitation and presence seems to have sufficed. I wonder whether Thomas didn’t suddenly realize that he actually was doubting God?”

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

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

“They caught so many fishes they could not draw in the net. You know, Betty, you’re a wonder at thinking of practical applications of the Scriptures. Perhaps if you were to speak to Tom about his

habit of doubting, it would profit him.”

“Perhaps, but I don’t believe he would—”

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

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

“You weren’t judging, Betty, merely stating facts. Tom’s a fine fellow and a good friend of mine, but—”

“*But*? I think we’re even now.”

“And just for that, young lady, I shall march you straight home—and sentence you to spend the rest of this lovely evening sitting on your porch, looking at the moon. No *ifs*, *ands* or *but’s* about it.”

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

“I’ll serve the sentence with you—looking at the moon,” he said, piloting her porchward.

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

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

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

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

Mr. But-er is found in all organizations: the crowd we go with, among our fellow workmen, even in church, Sabbath school, young people’s societies. There are of course some sincere, honest, proper *but’s*. We refer here to the ones that merely retard progress and express foolish doubts. These spring from unbelief, lack of faith, ingratitude, disrespect.

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

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

Dr. Graham Scroggie once was asked why so many learned persons doubt that the Lord ever existed in the flesh while many poor and relatively unlearned persons are convinced of it. He replied: “The learned persons lean unto

(Continued on page 26)

A French philosopher recently said, "The whole world is on a mad quest for security and happiness." As we live today, we see continual and convincing proof of this statement. Our materialistic world rushes on with its eternal quest for the fountain of happiness. This happiness for which men long, is bound up in business success, financial security, social acceptance, and worldly pleasure. It may be said that man has been successful, to a degree, in this quest for happiness. Vast amounts of knowledge have been gained, living standards are at a new high, and the opportunities for worldly pleasure offer a wide choice to any moneyed partaker.

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

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



Social Acceptance?

and financial security? "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" (Matthew 6:19, 20).

In Quest

of Happiness

by Calvin Burrell

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

Turn in your Bible to II Timothy 3. Begin reading with the first verse, and read slowly, to fully grasp what is being said. Read down through the sixth verse, then notice especially the seventh.



Worldliness? "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." Can you think of any one prophetic scripture that more accurately describes man today? Think of the brilliant men—scientists, physicists, mathematicians, chemists, doctors, psychiatrists, experts in all fields of fact and theory. These men, in all their brilliance, *are generally ignorant* of the basic plan, *God's plan*, for mankind in this earth. Read the seventh verse of II Timothy 3 again.

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



Business Success?

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

Our Unseen God

“What does God look like?” is a question often asked by children, and it is a question that all of us, at one time or another, have pondered over. There are scriptures in the Bible that seemingly indicate that someone has actually seen God, but upon careful examination, these references reveal that it was an angel rather than God who was seen, that the person simply had a vision, or that the person did indeed see some part of God, but not His face. John 1:18 tells us that “No man hath seen God at any time . . .,” and we are told in Exodus 33:20 that “. . . Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me and live.”

This month’s daily readings will help us understand more about the form and features of God. Read the following chapters paying particular attention to the verses listed:

READ YOUR BIBLE AND PRAY EVERY DAY.						
SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAB.
	MAY, 1974		1 Ex. 33:20	2 Deut. 4:12	3 John 1:18	4 John 5:37
5 John 6:46	6 1 Tim. 6:15 & 6	7 1 John 4:12, 20	8 Gen. 12:1-4	9 Gen. 13:14-17	10 Gen. 15:1-18	11 Gen. 17:1-22
12 Gen. 26:24	13 Gen. 31:13, 34	14 Gen. 35:9-13	15 Deut. 5:4, 5, 22-26	16 Josh. 1:1-9	17 1 King 19:13	18 Ex. 3:6
19 Ezek. 43:2-3	20 Gen. 28:13-15	21 Ex. 24:10, 11, 15-18	22 Ex. 34:5, 6, 29-35	23 Is. 6:1, 5	24 Rev. 4:2-3	25 Ps. 11:4
26 Ezek. 1:26-28	27 Ezek. 8:2-4	28 Dan. 5:5	29 Dan. 7:9, 10	30 Dan. 10:5, 6	31 Rev. 1:11-18	

Thou Shalt Not Kill

MINUTEMAN

Inasmuch as Christians are to love their enemies and to work for the salvation of mankind, the Church of God stands opposed to carnal warfare.

Jesus, in His ministry, showed a different doctrine from what the people had believed in the past. The history of Israel records wars in which God instructed destruction of nations as well as individuals. We must remember that this was a time in which the administration of God’s kingdom and His laws were in the hands of men to do as God directed them. However, we do not, today, live in the time of Moses, Samuel, or David. We live in a time when the teachings of Jesus are in effect. If God had intended that we should have power to take men’s lives, then we would not have been given specific instructions in Jesus’ teachings to the contrary.

When the soldiers asked John the Baptist what they should do, his answer to them was, “. . . Do violence to no man. . . .” A soldier who is not permitted to do violence is of no use as a soldier.

Jesus rebuked a disciple for using the sword. “. . . All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword” (Matt. 26:52). Had He intended that man should fight,

He would not have said, “. . . My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews . . .” (John 18:36). When Jesus returns to the earth, “Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle” (Zech. 14:3). He does not need men to fight for Him; and if man should not fight for the Lord, then certainly they should not fight for themselves, or among themselves.

The attitude of some people is that if the war is in another country, then we should not participate in it; but if enemies invade our country, then it is permissible to fight. Or, if someone invades my home to steal or do harm to my family, then I have a right to kill or injure in order to protect my family and property.

Is this consistent with the teachings and examples of Jesus and His apostles? If it is wrong to kill in Europe or Asia, then it is wrong to kill in our own country. If it is wrong to engage in war with other nations to protect our government, then it is wrong to use force or violence to protect our own property.

Paul said, “Dearly beloved,

avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him! if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:19-21).

Christians do not have the right to mete out judgment on others. The teachings of Jesus and the apostles are consistent in showing that those who follow Christ must demonstrate love, as Paul said further, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10). We are certainly hardput to prove love to an enemy while trying to destroy him with guns and bombs.

Exodus 20:13 II Cor. 10:4
 Romans 12:17 Romans 12:21
 John 18:36 Proverbs 16:7
 Matthew 5:44 Matthew 26:51, 52

BUT—ERS

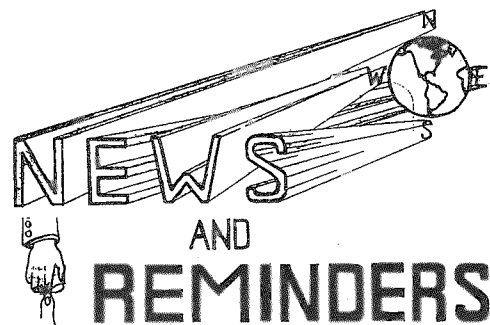
(Continued from page 21)

their own understanding,' while the others 'trust in the Lord with all their heart'" (Proverbs 3:5).

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

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

—The Lighted Pathway



SEND YOUR LEADER AWAY!

Yes, send your FYC leader away to North Platte, Nebraska, this summer (June 28-July 1) for the Leadership Retreat sponsored by the National FYC. Some of the interesting and beneficial workshops your leader will attend

there are "Creative Brainstorming," "The Ministry of Music and Developing Musical Talent," "Leadership Principles—Application and Training," and "Reaching Out—Individually and Collectively."

Plan now to sponsor your local leader or some other representative to this important retreat. Every FYC in the country should be represented at the retreat.

TELL US ABOUT IT!

Remember, we want to hear about your National Youth Week activities! Please return the Youth Week response form mailed to you in the packet containing the suggested Youth Week program. Also, include pictures with your report if they are available. We would like to compile these reports for a future AIM feature.

1974 YOUTH CAMP ROSTER

MARANATHA BIBLE CAMP (Nebraska)

July 2-6, 1974

Camp is located just east of North Platte, Nebraska. Sponsored by Central District. For further information contact Paul Linville, Camp Director, 1156 N. St. Francis, Wichita, Kansas 67214.

CEDAR LAKE OUTDOOR CENTER (Michigan)

June 23-30, 1974

Camp is located in the Waterloo Recreation Area, northwest of Chelsea, Michigan. Write Elder Vernon Patchen, Route 5, Owosso, Michigan, for further information.

SUTTLE LAKE (Oregon)

June 23-30, 1974

Camp is located approximately 25 miles west of Sisters, Oregon, on Route 126. Write Duane Tilley, Camp Director, 595 Blackfoot, Eugene, Oregon 97402, for additional information.

Announcements of other camps will be made in next month's AIM.

Orders are now being taken for the 1973-1974 Midwest Bible College annual. The 48-page, hard-back annual, which is being professionally printed, will contain no advertisements. The fine photography in the yearbook explores every facet of M.B.C. life—classes, students, faculty, extra-curricular activities—and will contain a special section featuring the past three years' graduates. This outstanding annual is available for only \$4.00. Don't delay—order your M.B.C. annual today! Send your order to: Midwest Bible College, P. O. Box 158, Stanberry, MO 64489.