

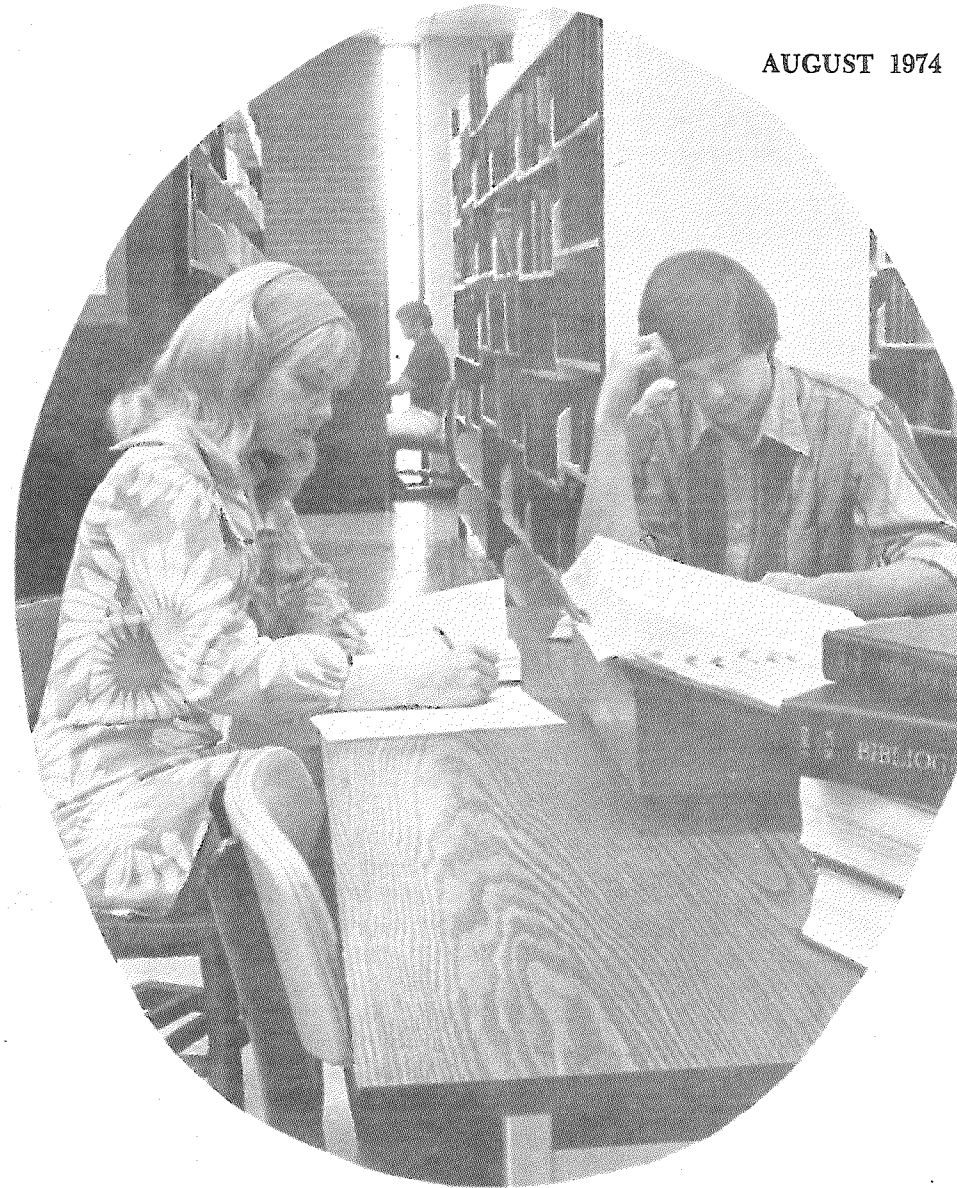
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Aim

The magazine for young people

AUGUST 1974



Aim THE MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Gail Rincker, Editor
Vol. XXXVIII, No. 8

Two men please God—who serves Him with all his heart because he knows Him, who seeks Him with all his heart because he knows Him not.

—Panini

EDITORIAL ETCHES

Groceries were stacked so high in her arms that her face was only partially visible. I watched with awe as this young woman quickly made her way down the crowded aisle of the grocery store. She steadied her load with her chin as she reached up to take another can from the shelf, but the load was just too great. All the cans, boxes, sacks, and a big jar of pickles crashed to the floor. "OHhhh," lamented the young lady. "Wet clean-up on Aisle 8" boomed the store manager's voice over the P.A. system. Fellow shoppers stopped to help the young lady gather up the scattered merchandise, and a stock boy rushed in with a broom and mop to clean up the broken glass, pickles and pickle juice. "This disaster could have been avoided if only she had used a grocery cart," I thought, "and how much easier her shopping could have been."

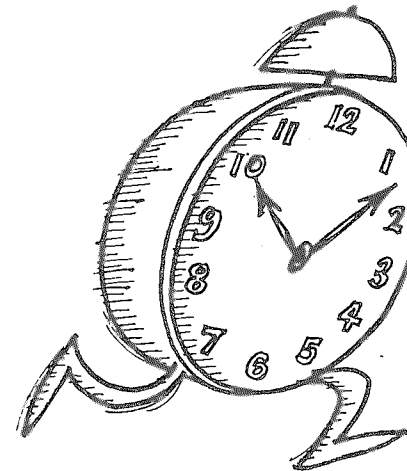
Sometimes we Christians are like this lady I saw in the grocery store. When trials and burdens come upon us we try to carry them all by ourselves instead of getting the readily available help from God. We don't need to let worries, fears, problems and sorrows pile upon us until they finally bring us down completely. We have a powerful, loving, caring Heavenly Father who invites us and wants us to "unload" on Him. He will bear our burdens for us. When we

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BRADEN ACRES
GRADE SCHOOL

Where Does Time Go?

by Dorothy Keim



Time... a period of days, hours and minutes. Why do we say time is our enemy—my enemy, or your enemy? Today is here and quickly gone, and becomes only a yesterday. The idea of time is usually linked with that of space. How often we hear the words, "How time flies." In meeting someone whom we haven't seen for some time, we often say, "Why don't you come over sometime and visit," and so often the reply is, "Oh, I would love to if we could only find the time." And you will answer, "I know what you mean. Isn't it terrible? Where does the time go?" This seems to be a common question: *Where does time go?* An even better question and maybe more searching one is this: *What goes with the time that goes?* So often we wait to do something at a better time, and the better time never seems to find a place in our lives.

James 4:14 tells us "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For

. . . For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James speaks of our life, which seems like a long time to most of us, as just a vapour. It appeareth for a little while and then vanishes away.

We often hear young children say, "I just can't wait to get big." Ten to fourteen-year-olds say, "I wish I were 16 so I could drive the car"; then when they get 16, "I wish I were 18 so I could get a job and buy a car"; and then, "I wish I were 21, so I could be my own boss." And so the story goes, until we hear, "I would give anything to be back in school again—the time went so quickly." The older one gets, the faster the days seem to go by.

One can sit by the clock and watch it move. The minutes go by quickly and soon the hour is gone. There is no recalling the minute that is just past. We can struggle to say what time really is and how it exists, but I am afraid we would become exasperated by its vanishing as an object of thought.

Paul was a man of God and was always using his time doing something. Before he was converted, he fought for the things he thought were right, even though many died at the cruelty of his hands. But when God struck him down on the road to Damascus, Paul started to use his time wisely and gave us such wonderful words of exhortation. In Ephesians 5:15 and 16, he wrote,

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." One might ask the question, *How can we redeem the time?* The dictionary tells us that redeem means to make good, to fulfill; this is part of its meaning. I am sure he was telling us to be busy doing good, for the days are evil; and that if we are not careful we will find ourselves having done nothing, with time slipping by. If one would read on down in this chapter we would find some of the things that Paul tells us would help us to redeem the time.

Jesus redeemed His time, even as a child, by talking with the wise ones in the temple. Thinking that possibly He was still playing with the other children, His father and mother looked for Him, but could not find Him. When in their search they found Him, His answer to them was, "Wist ye not that I must be about my father's business?" He realized as a boy that time was important in His life and that He had something to tell others about.

When we lose something very valuable, we don't waste any time looking and searching for it. We redeem the time until we can find it and then redeem our lost article. A young lady lost a diamond set from her ring while crossing the street of busy traffic. All that concerned her was the value of the diamond, not the danger of her

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Yes and No

by Kit Watts

The days are bumper-to-bumper, Lord.
The deadlines, the pressures,
the lists of things to do keep funneling into my schedule
until I feel like one monumental traffic jam.
I've nearly concluded that it is
after all
my own fault.

There is no time for quiet or reflection
There is no time to think.
When the blank spaces do occur in my schedule
I feel I have been so rushed that now I owe it
to myself to vegetate.

Lord,
when will I learn to live a controlled life
without apology?
Help me learn to say Yes and No
at the right times.



When We Are Gone

by Elden Fischer

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

The life we live will leave a monument when we are gone. Judas Iscariot and Lot's wife left monuments of the life they lived. We may leave a favorable memorial in our society of friends, but more important, is the record that includes our thoughts not known to our friends.

Let me urge you not to live a life that would qualify you for the Tomb of the Unknown Christian. This tomb is only an illusion, but if it did exist it would be no honor

to be buried there. To die as a Christian you must live as a Christian and there is no possible way to keep it a secret.

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

It is not important what kind of home we have when we retire, it matters not what model car we drive or how many stocks we own, but it does matter whether we have lived the Christian life. Did we witness to others? Were we indifferent about church activities? Were we always behind the church programs or did we do

nothing—and then criticize the results? Did we have time for hours of television, but no minutes for Bible study or reading? Did we sing, "Oh, How I Love Jesus" and never show any concern for the spiritual welfare of our neighbor or the cry for help from foreign lands? Did we claim to put God first, but have funds for vacation

trips and none for tithes and offerings?

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

She planned to be converted when she was old and gray.

But alas, she still was in her teens when she was called away.

Bowled two nights a week,

Oliver Kilmer

*When the offering was passed, he
had only silver.*

*Amos Alexander, his life was al-
ways hurried,*

*At last found time to come to
church the day he was buried.*

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

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

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

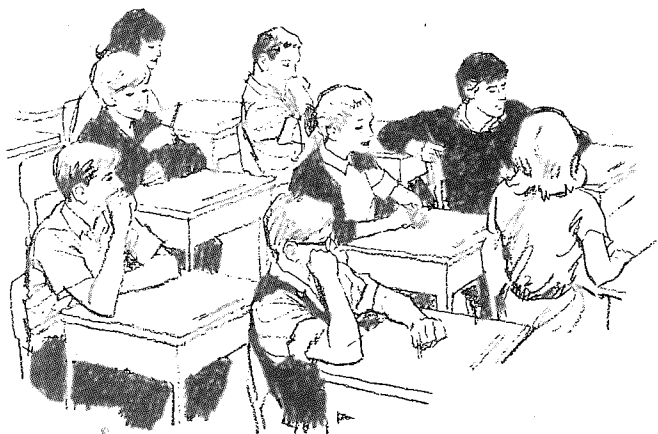
*Loved his family, Albert Shore
But yet he loved his Saviour more.*

*Harold Foster lived quite hum-
bly, barely sheltered from the
cold*

*But in the kingdom he has a man-
sion that is overlaid with gold.*

(Continued on page 19)

by Harvey D. Fischer



Those Around Us

Perhaps the most difficult question for Christian young people today is, "How can we make the gospel meaningful and relevant to our friends?" We really want to be a true witness for God, but this matter of communicating the gospel to people around us is very difficult. It is easy to talk of our faith to those in our church and with whom we worship, but what about our associates outside the church?

From the very beginning Christians have had a tendency to limit their evangelistic task by devoting their effort to duties within the church. However, no church can feel that it has accomplished its mission until it has reached beyond its church rolls to bring a message of hope and forgiveness to those outside.

It is easy to say, "Wait, I am just a young person," and feel that perhaps our response to being a witness for Christ will be so much easier when we grow older. There really is no "easier time." Perhaps it is the students in our schools that need to be reached more than any one segment of our population. Young people in this country are searching for something—peace of mind, meaningful goals for living, answers to the perplexing social and political problems of modern life. In their search for that "something" our youth have turned in desperation to drugs, sex, crime, and rebellion but still are not finding soul satisfaction.

While many questions are asked by students, they all basically center around "What is the meaning of life?" This is where the young people of the Church of God need to strengthen their witness as never before, for their salvation in Christ gives life a purpose and a goal as no other ambition or job or social "crusade" can.

*You can move mountains by first
carrying away the pebbles—Start
witnessing right where you are!*

The most effective way of making Christ known is through the sharing of the gospel with another person—direct person-to-person evangelism. There has been a tendency to identify witnessing and evangelism exclusively with the spectacular event such as Pentecost, healings, or modern-day evangelistic campaigns by people such as Billy Graham. Personal evangelism as portrayed by Christ Himself proves to be much more accurate. The most effective ministry of Christ was His witnessing as He walked along and met the people's needs, as He visited with them, rather than pointing them to some spectacular campaign or service.

Through personal evangelism you are usually working with a person whose needs and desires are familiar to you. Problems which are peculiar to that individual can be talked over and prayed about.

One of the greatest benefits of personal witnessing is that we can help people see themselves. We can shine forth a realism of the Christian faith. What a great joy it can be when we introduce a friend to Christ!

There can be something discouraging about a responsibility so large that one does not know where to start. The commission of witnessing is an enormous task. There is an old proverb that we can move mountains by first carrying away the pebbles. So start witnessing right where you are. You witness in the manner in which you conduct yourself in the daily tasks—not only by the conduct a friend may see when he visits your home or church. Our Christian experiences should be related to ALL aspects of our lives. It is impossible to overestimate the potential testimony in witnessing. People like biographies better than essays. The testimony must be related to life NOW. It is our joy in service to Christ that others will see most. This very type of witness has power to change lives as it is a "joy" that others will want to claim for their own.

Be not merely good; be good for something.

—Thoreau

Tell Me, Please

Youth Questions Answered by
Dale G. Lawson



Question

Should women hold high positions in the Church according to the Scripture?

Answer

What do you mean by "high positions"? The Scripture certainly does not say that women should not hold positions in the Church, but the Bible DOES teach that the woman is not to "teach or usurp authority over the man." Positions that she could scripturally hold would necessarily come under that Spirit-inspired statement.

Certain responsibilities are given to women in the books of Timothy and Titus. The Bible does give a number of examples where women played a significant part in the spreading of the gospel and the work of the Church. Priscilla and Aquila, and Phoebe are good examples. Note Acts 18:24-28 and Romans 16:1-6.

The Bible holds little agreement with the "women's lib" philosophy so popular today. You will find that God teaches that Christ is the head of the man and that the man is the head of the woman and then that the head of Christ is God.

Note I Corinthians 11:3 and Ephesians 5:23.

Question

What about the problem with teenagers?

Answer

"Problems with teenagers?" or "Problems and teenagers?" "Problems with teenagers!"

Teenagers aren't the only problem people. I would say it is just about "even up."

Any person (teenager or otherwise) with proper sense of respect for his fellowman is pleasant to be around, and when that is coupled with a desire to do the will of God, that person is GREAT TO BE AROUND. Needless to say, a person without respect for his fellowman and God is a PROBLEM PERSON (teenager or adult). *"Problems of teenagers!"*

Teenagers do not have a monopoly on problems. Adults and even Christians have problems. The happy thought is that God living in a person will help that person solve his problems in a proper way. He can face them in a Christ-like manner; AND BE HAPPY WHILE HE IS AT IT.

Question

How do you know that the Church of God is the right church?

Answer

I use the Bible test!

God's Church keeps the Commandments of God and has the faith of Jesus! (Rev. 14:12 & 12:17)

God's Church seeks and teaches doctrines (truths) of the Bible! (Eph. 4:11-16 & 8:19-22).

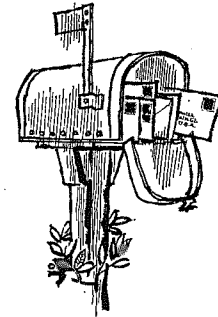
God's Church avoids and teaches against idolatrous customs of worship! Matt. 15:8, 9 and II Cor. 6:16-19).

God's Church manifests love. The fruit of the Spirit is LOVE! (Gal. 5:22, 23 & I Cor. 13).

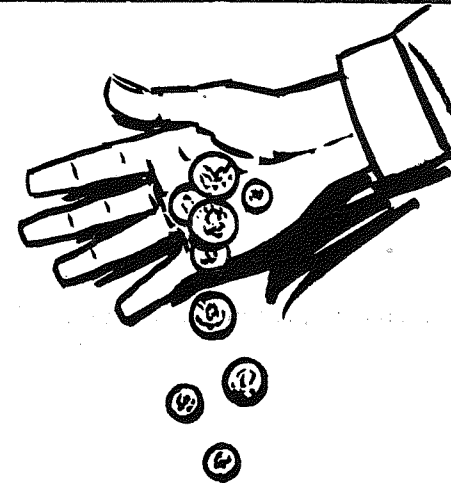
God's Church follows the Biblical pattern of organization that

God (Himself) gave for the Church in both the old and new covenants.

The Church of God has shown me all of these!



If you have a problem or a question, you are encouraged to write to: Elder Dale G. Lawson, P. O. Box 108, Cloudland, GA 30709. Questions requesting a personal answer through the mail are honored, as well as those for print.

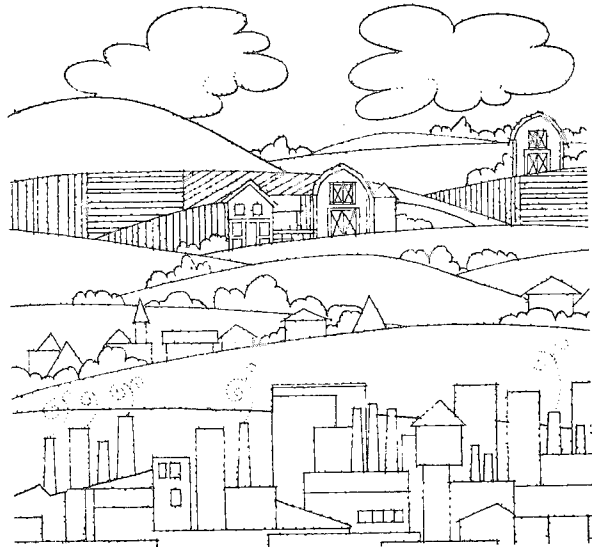


The surest way to know our gold is to look upon it and examine it in God's furnace, where he tried it that we may see what it is. If we have a mind to know whether a building stands strong or not, we must look upon it when the wind blows. If we would know whether a staff be strong, or a rotten broken reed, we must observe it when it is leaned on and weight is borne upon it. If we would weigh ourselves justly we must weigh ourselves on God's scales that He makes use of to weigh us.

—Jonathan Edwards.

THE END TIMES

by Cheri Starchman



As I sat in a social studies class not long ago, the teacher was discussing the problems developing in the world today:

1. We're facing a food shortage. How will the nations cope with this situation?
2. How can we manage without fuel to heat our homes? The supply of coal isn't going to last forever.
3. What about fresh water? The world has many seas and oceans, but we need fresh water to drink. We could always take the salt out of seawater and purify it, but that would cost millions of dollars.
4. How much longer will our fresh air last? The environment is becoming more polluted every day.

5. Our natural resources are dwindling away. The shortage of petroleum is causing a shortage of plastics. (Most plastics are made of petroleum.) Loggers are clear-cutting the land, and trees don't grow overnight! But the world no longer seems to care.
6. The crime rate is climbing higher each year. Many people say there's no way to stop it—it's too late to reform the nations!

These are just a few of the many problems on earth today. Right now our very existence depends on what the Arab countries do about our supply of fuel. In times past scientists have always come up with a solution for all the world's problems. But now they say that there are no answers to the problems that exist today.

I heard a minister make the comment the other day that when he was a boy and heard it preached about the nations getting into a war over the land around the Dead Sea, he used to look at the map and laugh at the thought of any country battling over a stretch of desert. But today scientists have declared that that "stretch of desert" is the most valuable piece of land in the world! The United States can't afford to let Russia get it, and Russia can't afford to let the United States get it.

The teacher made the comment, "Eventually all of these shortages and problems are going to wipe out the very existence of man." But friend, this is only God announcing the return of His Son. Everything is falling in place the way the Bible says it will. The end of the times is here. Jesus is coming soon!

—Lighted Pathway



The National F.Y.C. is busily working on a stimulating new personal growth program to be introduced in December. Plan now to participate in this new program!



Please
Listen to
Us!

Ministers are preaching that the end of the world is near and that there is something that each of us can do, young people included, to bring the gospel to unsaved souls. Adults tell us young people that we are the church of tomorrow, so we must prepare and work today. This is all true and I agree with it 100%, but why don't adults listen to our ideas? Why do they so often discourage us from attempting difficult projects?

I don't think I'm the only teenager questioning adults' ideas of what we can do. It seems as though we are often not allowed to do something just because we approach it in a different manner than an adult would.

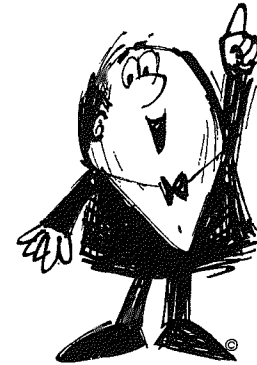
As the leader of our local FYC, I've seen our young people become completely discouraged several times. We are expected to present entertaining, spiritually uplifting rallies; yet adults sometimes don't have time to attend. We have to cancel our plans sometimes because they interfere with the adult's plans. I realize that this kind of thing does happen, but if we young people are so important, why are we pushed to the back of the line so often? When we plan a new project and adults have never heard of such a thing, they ask whether we actually think we can handle such a big undertaking. It's great to know that they are concerned, but when they doubt our abilities so much they think it's impossible for us to accomplish our goals, we become discouraged and don't even try.

It's only natural that we fail sometimes: I believe that an FYC that has never failed in a single project is an FYC that hasn't accepted the challenge of really accomplishing something for the Lord. Failure is a part of life, and we all have to learn to accept it and live with it.

Is the church as a whole afraid of failing when it comes to trying new ideas? I certainly hope not! I know that many young people don't voice opinions or ideas, but many of those who do, have ideas that certainly deserve fair consideration. I think that the church—the adults—need to listen to the ideas of young people and consider them. We're not ignorant—and more important—we're not void of feeling! We have burdens for lost souls and we're willing to work hand in hand with the adults, but we want and need to be listened to.

Until adults realize that teenagers are intelligent, realistic, and often mature human beings, capable of conceiving logical and practical ideas, we'll have to do our best not to become discouraged and allow ourselves to become bogged down with 19th Century ideas.

Young people are open-minded! We think big, and this is what the Church needs if we want to grow. Young people, don't be afraid to voice your ideas, and adults, please don't be afraid to listen!



"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.

Youth is not like a new garment, which we can keep fresh and fair by wearing it sparingly. Youth, while we have it, we must wear daily, and it will fast wear away.—Foster

On the Curve

by Hope E. Dais

A rather common practice among teachers these days is that of grading on the curve. This system employs a strictly comparative standard for grading. The best paper in the class, even though it may be poor, gets a high mark; all others are graded in proportion to this. Consequently, even if you have done quite well on a very difficult test, if some "brain" gets a perfect or near-perfect score, your grade may be pretty far down the line.

I wonder if we are often guilty of living and acting as though God were grading on the curve.

Sometimes our reasoning may go something like this: "Well, I really doubt that this is the best practice for a Christian, but Brother So-and-So's daughter does it, so it must be okay for me."

Or: "I really should volunteer to help with this project, but 'what's-his-name' has more time than I and he isn't helping, nor did he help with our last project, so why should I?"

Or: "I know I should study the Bible and church literature more to be better prepared to witness, but I'm sure I know as much about our beliefs as most people, . . . SO!!"

To the very extreme might be one who would say, "I'm not living up to all the standards of our church, but surely I'm far from being like so many outside the church who drink and curse, and never go to church, so . . ."

Remember, God is not asking how much more or less you have done than someone else. God has standards. He has unchangeable laws and principles, and when He gives you a "grade," it will be graded from His Master Test Sheet. ". . . Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

Jesus' advice was, "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me."

Remember, God DOESN'T GRADE ON THE CURVE.

Dear FYCer,

Your monthly F.Y.C. program is dead, right? You make plans but somehow work on a program just doesn't get off the ground and either "bombs out" or is ineffective because you just didn't have enough time to make advance preparations. Somehow there is no zing in the program and when you do make plans, no one shows.

This may be typical of many of your local F.Y.C.s as you strive for an active program in your area. What plan can provide that fire to keep a local F.Y.C. active and growing?

One thing is sure—not all local F.Y.C.s are the same. What works for one may not work for another, and therefore any program must have a measure of flexibility. There is one thing that is sure to help any F.Y.C., and that is **PLANNING!** Many times a hit-and-miss campaign is launched without an actual goal set for accomplishment.

Perhaps we can compare the F.Y.C. to a business. The organization and planning provides the framework and guidelines of production. The setting of goals, along with methods of achievement, can provide incentive to the workers. With the variety of jobs to be done, everyone can be assigned to a particular area of work. By using planning committees, new ideas constantly emerge to provide constant growth and added experience. And, yes, there should be time for evaluating the results of planning your program.

If there is insufficient participation, if there is not "fire" in your F.Y.C., or if you simply are not accomplishing anything worthwhile, you need to consider your plan!

1. Set goals
2. Appoint committees
3. Hold regular committee and business meetings
4. Meet deadlines
5. Evaluate your progress

In the months to come, concentrate on the organization of your F.Y.C. and look for ways and methods to make your program run more smoothly for a truly effective F.Y.C. that has participation, goals and achievement.

Sincerely,

Ken Knoll

WHERE DOES TIME GO?

(Continued from page 4)

looking for it in the midst of traveling vehicles. She knew if she didn't redeem it at once something could happen that she would never see it again.

Many hours of our day are wasted in idleness. I am reminded of a young boy who was lounging in front of a TV watching a second-run Western when his father came into the room from shoveling snow. He looked at his son and said, "In 24 hours from now you won't remember what you have been looking at. Now why don't you go and do something for the next 20 minutes that you will remember for the next 20 years, and enjoy each time you think of it." So the young man inquired as to what it was. "Well, son, there's eight inches of snow on old Mrs. Woodbury's walks. Why don't you see if you can shovel it and get back home without her knowing." The boy has told many times since "I did the job in 15 minutes. She never knew who had done it, and my father was right, I enjoy it every time I think about it." How easy it is, though, to just sit back and let the hours slip by while watching TV or maybe just playing a game for hours, evening after evening, and accomplishing nothing good for ourselves nor those about us.

Daniel redeemed the time, in the very face of evil. We read where he prayed three times a day on his knees and made supplication before his God. Let's look at Daniel 6:10, 11: "Now when Daniel knew that the writ-

ing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God." Daniel served a God that was real and alive. He served a God that knew when Daniel was faced with problems and knew that Daniel was a praying man. When the real test came and Daniel was forbidden by man's law to pray any more, still he prayed and then had to pay the consequence—being thrown in the den of lions. God delivered Daniel and Daniel praised God for it, and through this a decree was sent out to all the land (Dan. 6:26). Praise the God of Heaven for a man like Daniel. Daniel used his time in such a way that it was not an enemy to him.

I wonder if I redeem my time in a way that God is pleased with me. I wonder if I could be more cautious with the minutes and hours of every day. None of us can recall the hours of yesterday, for they are gone today and are only a memory.

Quite often we see those who will sit and brood over the days that are in the past, wishing things could have been different. I am reminded of a young man in his early thirties who lost his sight instantly in an accident. He would often say, "I never really looked good at life, and now I hear the birds sing, the waters of the river running by, the wind as it blows through the trees. I never took the

time to look at these things, and now I can't see them in their real beauty." His sight was gone. Instead of using the hours of his sightlessness to the advantage of doing something else with his hands, he sat and grieved over the days that had come and gone. Let us live each day as though there would be no more tomorrows. Let us enjoy God and all His blessings to us each day we live. We should be able to say as the Psalmist David, "For He is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart" (Psa. 95:7, 8).

Please let us not live in any way that time would be our enemy. David went on to say in Psa. 96: 2: "Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day."

WHEN WE ARE GONE

(Continued from page 7)

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

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



The following items are available from the National F.Y.C. office:

Challenger's Bible

Baseball Game \$3.95

Faith Trio Record \$3.00

F.Y.C. Sweatshirts \$2.50

F.Y.C. Stationery \$1.25**

F.Y.C. Decals 25¢ each

F.Y.C. Plaques \$1.00 each

All proceeds from the sale of these items will be used in support of the work of the National F.Y.C.

**F.Y.C. stationery may be purchased from the National FYC office for \$1.25 per package, however, FYC groups may order quantities at 75¢ each for resale at \$1.25.

EDITORIAL ETCHES

(Continued from page 2)

ask Him to help us, He will. He gives us the strength to face the fiercest trial, the wisdom to solve the most troublesome problem, the assurance to overcome the most nagging fear or worry, and the comfort to survive the deepest heartache.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: CASTING ALL YOUR CARE UPON HIM: FOR HE CARETH FOR YOU" (I Peter 5:6, 7).

"Here's How . . .," a new feature that will appear from time to time in AIM, is designed to offer program and activity hints and helps to local FYC groups.

HERE'S HOW . . .

To Have a Good Time

In a recent questionnaire to some Church young people, when asked what they wanted most out of life many answered, "To have a good time." Perhaps this is just another way of saying that they want to enjoy living. The local FYC should be an integral part of the "good time" young people want. Of all activities an FYC can sponsor, one of the most enjoyable is the social. Too often, though, socials get into a rut. This should be avoided.

Sports activities—softball, football, volleyball, swimming, cycling, hiking, rafting or canoeing, etc.—should be taken advantage of. Sometimes a change is nice—especially if you are planning an all-church social. This may require stunts, skits, indoor games, etc. If your original thinking falls short of what you would like to do, two excellent places to look for ideas are your public library and Christian bookstores. If these should fail you, here are some sources: (1) *Party Time Game Books* by Naoma Clark; (2) *Funtastics* by Louis O. Inks; (3) *Games for All Occasions*

by Ken Anderson and Morry Carlson; and (4) *100 Bible Games* by Edith B. Allen.

Good planning is essential for any quality activity. Try to announce your social a month in advance. The social committee should have their planning completed two weeks prior to the social, and any assignments should be given by then so everyone can adequately prepare. Also, keep a good file on all your activities—including socials—for future reference.

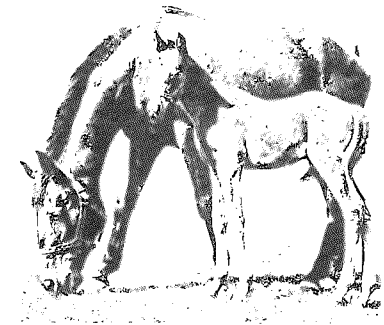
Socials provide a tremendous opportunity for witnessing. Be sure to invite your friends. Help them to see the life of a well-rounded Christian. A short, interesting devotional before, during or after a social is almost always good. God wants us to enjoy life, and good social activity is a part of real living.

Make your social *exciting* and "have a good time."

*If your group has had an unusual social that was really enjoyed, share it with us by sending a report to the editor.

MINUTEMAN

Know Your Gift Horses



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

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

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

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

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

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

Memorize these verses during the next month. They will reinforce your armour.

Habakkuk 2:20

Mark 7:7

Isaiah 55:6

Revelation 22:12

Daniel 12:2

Matthew 16:26

2 Thessalonians 3:10

Luke 21:33

Meeting the Need

There is an old German proverb that says, "Charity sees the need, not the cause." This proverb aptly expresses the real heart of Christian love. Certainly one outstanding hallmark of a true Christian is the ability to meet the needs of other human beings by reaching out, by loving, and by giving.

The Bible contains much valuable instruction and admonition concerning the attitude and the action of charity. We will concentrate on this subject in this month's daily readings.

Read the following chapters paying particular attention to the verses listed.



VISTOC, Volunteers in Service To Our Church, is a relatively new program in the church but already it has proven successful.

What is VISTOC? VISTOC is a program which asks Christian youth and adults—18 years of age and older—to volunteer from two months to a full year of their time in full-time service to the church.

There are a variety of places to go and jobs to do—Spring Vale Academy, Midwest Bible College, the World's Fair in Spokane, Washington, and even in local churches. These are a few opportunities which are available. As a volunteer, you will be contributing valuable services to your church in this exciting time.

As a VISTOC worker, you will receive transportation costs to and from your destination, room and board, plus \$30.00 per month in return for your service.

Agencies and young people interested in the program should contact the National office immediately for further consideration and placement in the VISTOC program. Let's make VISTOC a program of adventure and accomplishment in service to God!

READ YOUR BIBLE AND PRAY EVERY DAY.						
SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAB.
1 I Cor. 13: 1, 13	2 Col. 3:13	3 Rom. 14:1	4 II Tim. 2:22	5 Matt. 5:23	6 Gal. 6:1	7 Deut. 15: 7-18
8 Acts 20:35	9 I Cor. 10:28	10 I Tim. 4:12	11 I Pet. 4:8	12 Isa. 58:6	13 I John 3:17	14 Psa. 41:1
15 I Cor. 4:5	16 James 4:11	17 Luke 3:11	18 II Cor. 9:6, 7	19 Prov. 10:12	20 Luke 6:36	21 Matt. 18:21
22 I Pet. 3:9	23 James 2:13, 15	24 Eph. 4:32	25 Matt. 6:14	26 II Cor. 8	27 I Tim. 1:15	28 John 7:24
29 I Cor. 16:14	30 Luke 17:3		SEPTEMBER, 1974			