

**P A R E N T S !**  
**JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST "YOUTH DECAY"!!**

Brush up on the following facts and send your kids to  
**DISTRICT NO. 2 YOUTH RETREAT**  
December 26, 27 and 28, 1970  
Lake Beauty Bible Covenant Camp  
Long Prairie, Minnesota

Winter retreats have been shown to be an effective **SPIRITUAL DECAY PREVENTIVE** that can be of significant value when used in a conscientiously applied program of **MORAL HYGIENE** and regular good, clean fun.

IN A RECENT SURVEY taken at Lake Beauty Bible Covenant Camp, tests have shown that ten out of ten young people who attended retreat found that the number of cavities did not decrease. But they did find greater spiritual strength after associating with Christian young people and enjoying good, wholesome fun.

For further information contact "THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF 'YOUTH DECAY'" by writing to:

**Elder Delvin O'Banion, Route 3, New Auburn, Wisconsin 54757**

If you are not near enough the Minnesota "youth decay" center to attend Lake Beauty Covenant Bible Camp, please contact one of the following branch retreats which are planning co-efforts in "youth decay" prevention:

**CALIFORNIA WINTER YOUTH RETREAT**

December 23 through 27

The Silver Spur Camp, Sonora, California

Ages: 13-25                      Cost: \$15.00 (due upon arrival at camp)

Contact: Harvey D. Fischer, 4110 Stillmeadow Way, Sacramento, Calif. 95821

**TEXAS YOUTH RETREAT**

December 28 through 31

Ages: 13-25                      Cost: \$6.00 total (\$3.00 registration)

Robinhood Girl Scout Camp (12 miles north of Conroe, Texas)

Contact: Elder Kenneth Knoll, Rt. 3, Box 441, Conroe, Texas 77301



# Aim *The magazine for young people*

AIM is dedicated to the promotion of higher ideals and more challenging spiritual goals among young people.

It is published monthly by the Bible Advocate Press at Second and Willow Streets in Stanberry, Missouri 64489. Second-class postage is paid at Stanberry, Missouri.

Contributions of material for publication are greatly appreciated. No responsibility is assumed for the care of manuscript, however, and only manuscript which is accompanied by return postage will be returned. Material which is original with this publication may be reprinted to the Glory of God. Please give proper credit.

Subscription rates: \$3.00 per year in the United States and Canada. Foreign, \$3.50. Clubs of 6 or more to one address, U. S. and Canada only, \$2.25 each.

A change of address must be allowed two weeks for processing. Please send both old and new addresses.

Address all mail to: AIM, P. O. Box 158, Stanberry, Missouri 64489.

Vol. XXXIV, No. 12

Hope E. Dais, Editor

## COVER PICTURES

Upper: Elder Dale Lawson and Brother Daniel Davila board the plane at Kansas City as they leave for Mexico City to help in organizing the youth work there.

Lower: The FJCsers of the Rio Blanco Church of God in Mexico City fill up the center aisle of their church.

## Contents of This Issue

"... Also Dead" <i>Lorraine Carr</i> .....	page 3
It's Real! <i>E. A. Straub</i> .....	page 5
The Marvelous Measuring Rod ..	page 8
Tell Me, Please <i>Ray L. Straub</i> .....	page 11
Look Around You ... <i>Judy Renz</i> .....	page 12
"Tis the Season ..." <i>David Robinson</i> .....	page 14
Fiel Juventud Cristiana <i>Dale Lawson</i> .....	page 17
Evangelette—That Old Black Book?? <i>Sheryl Youngs</i> .....	page 22
Scrolls of Hope <i>Editorial</i> .....	page 26
A Retreat Is ... <i>Jerry Griffin</i> .....	page 27
Testimonial <i>Lynn Taylor</i> .....	page 29
Mark of Merit <i>Nathan Lawson</i> .....	page 30
Minuteman <i>Michael D. Vlad</i> .....	page 32
2T4G—Take Time for God <i>Martha Ling</i> .....	page 33
News and Reminders .....	page 34

BRADEN ACRES  
GRADE SCHOOL

# "...Also Dead"

Lorraine Carr

There it was—hidden halfway down on page two: "Also among area deaths was Freddie L. Bates, 17-year-old high school senior who was struck by a car driven by Mrs. Mary Jones." (End of item)

"I don't think it's much of a loss!" I muttered to myself as I put away the paper. In my mind I remembered the day I met Freddie. I could see his black face glaring at me as I coldly demanded his name and an excuse for coming into my study hall fifteen minutes late. I'd heard about Freddie—at least enough to know you had to be tough with him. You didn't dare let him get away with anything. I remembered the lies he told more easily and fluently than he told the truth. I could see myself witnessing as the principal "frisked" Freddie for some lost or stolen item. I remembered how he'd cheated. There were days he'd skipped school and times he'd been expelled for a week. Once I'd heard talk of his improper conduct with some white girl, and another teacher even confided they were trying to prove him a dope pusher.

Freddie represented to me everything that I despised. All the insolence, hatred, and rebellion I could imagine was wrapped up in one obnoxious bundle, and even now I despised him for what he stood for.

Then I heard another voice—a soft voice—"Inasmuch as ye have

done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." I realized how I had failed. Freddie was dead and I had only thought of *my* feelings. Sure I'd prayed about Freddie—"God help me not to lose my 'cool' when that *problem* comes in" or "God, give me strength to go ahead"—or on the really bad days—"God, keep Freddie quiet—I can't do it alone." But in my conceit I had never once prayed or even thought, "God, help Freddie."

Now he was dead, and as surely as I knew that, I knew that if his soul were lost it was my fault and I had failed once more to be a witness of the God I claim to serve.

Perhaps you too are perplexed by today's "new generation." If you feel frustrated and helpless in the face of the hip or the hippie (like I with Freddie), perhaps we can discover together some constructive ideas on dealing with youth.

First and foremost (although I'm not sure my classroom experience could have followed this rule)—“Don't just do something—stand there!” Our first thought is “Now, here's someone who is lost—I've got to lead him to the way.” So we start spouting a lot of fancy phrases about giving yourself to Jesus and becoming new and saved. Stop! These things are good—but later. Talk to them about themselves (be objective—don't comment) but let them *talk* and you listen! (To begin with they won't listen anyhow until they trust you.) Let them talk—even though you may think you know them—you may be surprised what they think!

My Mother talked animatedly of a recent bus trip in which she had encountered her first “hippies.” Her surprised but not surprising conclusion was, “You know, those kids really were intelligent and I'm not so sure they are all mixed up.” Lots of kids who don't live in communes have ideas that are just as revolutionary and important. So listen—don't comment or try to change them—hear them out. By the way, also watch out! The real danger here is that some kids *don't* think, and have no opinions—these are really dangerous and seriously need help to meet the challenges today offers.

Secondly—Pray about them. Fortunately I don't know of anyone with magic words to deal with each situation except God. Don't try anything without His expert help.

Thirdly—Check yourself. Are you living what you preach? Teens are (in spite of what you may think) about the most brutally frank and open age. They can spot a phoney a mile off. After all, one of their main gripes with the “establishment” is

the concept of false values—the idea we have to pretend we enjoy certain things. Idealistically, they speak of equality and love and we can't reach them unless we can show them Christ has the real answer to this and all their modern thinking, and furthermore that we believe and practice this. *You won't have to preach what you live if you live what you preach.*

Then examine what you “live-preach.” Is it right? Do you really believe it? Why? Is *it* the force that guides you? Do you honestly believe that this person would be better off in every way were he to share your belief? Why? You know you're putting yourself in quite a self-important position to say “Look, I'm better than you—you're a sinner.” The truth is—I, too, am a sinner, and if I don't know it, I'm not fooling anybody by putting on “Christian airs.” *But* I am a redeemed sinner and I want and need to share this with others. If I don't believe earnestly that we are equal—in other words, really love that person as a brother—then I'll never win him or anyone to Jesus.

Finally—Make a list—mental if you like—of what you believe in order of *importance!* This is your work plan. Do you believe that the greatest of these is love? Fine. Start here and it's a natural after all; those kids have been chanting “love, not war” for years. Feed them on milk served with love and the rest should follow naturally.

I still don't have the answer for cases like Freddie, but with God's help I don't intend to make any mistakes of self-righteousness. If I can learn to listen and love, then try to teach—I think I'll be a better teacher of whatever I may try!

# It's Real!

by E. A. Straub

Young people may be easily discouraged when they try to do right and do not receive the results for which they hoped. Heavy burdens may arise—things hard to understand. There may be indecision and frustrations. It may seem that heaven is shut up against us. We begin to wonder if there really is a God. We can find an answer—if we sincerely seek for it.

The Bible has proven that Its Author (God) has lived throughout the ages. That He is alive today is seen before our very eyes as we see His plans and promises fulfilled. Peter says that the prophecies are more sure than what our eyes can see. After relating what he, James, and John saw on the mount of transfiguration, Peter said, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy . . .” (2 Peter 1:19). It is this word of prophecy, the Bible, that proves that God always was and will always be. If we look to the beginning of Israel, we see that what God said about Jacob and Esau several thousand years ago is being fulfilled today. Even though these two are twin brothers God said that they would be two manner of people and two different nations, and that the older (Esau) would serve the younger (Jacob).

God's favor upon Jacob (Israel) is seen all through the Bible. Space will not permit us

to go into details on that subject, but you can read the basis of the story in Genesis 25:20-34. Also read Genesis, chapter 27 and 28.

Today this hatred between Jacob and Esau is so great that the whole world is concerned about the matter. All eyes are focused on the middle east crisis. Israel, though a very small nation, knows her promises from God; and therefore does not give in to the demands of other nations, no matter how great they are. Three years ago Israel broke the steel chain around her and conquered in six days what the world thought was impossible. This was nothing short of a miracle performed in favor of Israel.

There are other outstanding things transpiring in our present day. Yet at this time as never before, the cry goes out that there is no God or that God is dead. God has done His part so we can know that there is a God. If we want to know, there is evidence all about us.

Let us think of the Sacred Scrolls which were hidden in the caves for several thousand years, and recently found by a young Arab boy who watched his father's sheep. These scrolls show that the Bible has not been changed nor has the Bible been written by men uninspired by God. No man could tell the future as does the Bible; yet these scrolls several thousand years old contain the same truths as does the Bible.

When I was in Israel I saw

cities which are recorded in the New Testament but for many hundreds of years were not seen or inhabited because they were completely covered with sand. The city of Caesarea named after Augustus Caesar is named several times in the Bible. The Apostle Paul spent some time there (Acts 8:40; Acts, chapter 10; and several other places). Had it not been for the Bible, it might well be that no one would have ever known of this place. As recent as ten years ago, this was only a level place of pure sand. A friend of mine was there when the excavation started at Caesarea, and when I was there five years ago I saw the streets paved with brick, houses with open doors—all of it from 20 to 30 feet below surface.

Another city known by reading the Bible but not seen until our day is Capernaum on the northeast shore of the sea of Galilee not very far from Nazareth. It was a place where Jesus spent much time with His disciples (Matt. 4:13; John 2:12; Matt. 8:5; and numerous other texts.) This city is still under sand except that one synagogue and a few other edifices are now excavated so that one may now see that which was unseen for so many hundred years. How can we doubt that the record is true and that God IS?

I must not fail to mention one more fact, and this one is, or should be, a real eye-opener to the greatest skeptic. Only a year ago some astronauts and space

scientists at Green Belt, Maryland, were checking the position of the sun, moon, and planets out in space where they hope to be 100 and 1000 years from now. In order to lay out the orbit in terms of the life of the satellite, it was necessary to compute time in the past also. As they ran the computer measurement backward across the centuries, it suddenly came to a halt and put up the red signal which indicates something is wrong. When the service department was called in, they checked the machine thoroughly and declared it perfect. Still a missing day had to be accounted for.

Finally one man recalled reading or hearing in the Bible somewhere that the sun stood still one day. The suggestion sounded ridiculous to his fellow-workers, but since they had come up with no other answer, they searched in the Bible and found in Joshua a story which would sound incredible to anyone who accepts only pure logic. Joshua, being concerned because he was surrounded by the enemy and might be overpowered by them if darkness fell, asked the Lord to make the sun stand still. The Lord answered his prayer, "and the sun stood still and the moon stayed . . . and hasted not to go down about a whole day!" (Joshua 10:13).

The space men thought they had found their complete answer, but when they checked their computers again, they found that, going back to Joshua's time, the elapsed time was 23 hours and 20 minutes—not

a whole day. They read the Bible again, and there it said "about (approximately) a day."

Again the religious fellow came to the rescue. He remembered that there was an incident in the Bible where it said the sun went backwards. Incredible as it seemed, the men once again had to find their answer in the Bible. They read in 2 Kings 20 how that Hezekiah, on his deathbed, was visited by Isaiah who told him that he would not die. Finding it hard to believe him, Hezekiah asked for a sign as proof. Isaiah said, "Do you want the sun to go ahead ten degrees?" Hezekiah answered, "It's nothing for the sun to go ahead ten degrees, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees." Isaiah spoke to the Lord and the Lord brought the shadow ten degrees backward!

Ten degrees is exactly 40 minutes! Twenty-three hours and 20 minutes in Joshua plus 40 minutes in 2 Kings make the missing 24 hours the space travelers had to log in the logbook as being the missing day in the universe! This was reported by Mr. Harold Hill, president of Curtis Engine Company at Baltimore, Maryland, and appeared in the Evening World, a newspaper in Spencer, Indiana. The sun's standing still for about a day and the shadow's being turned back ten degrees are often considered myths. Others may care less and say, "So what?" But these things all hap-

*(Continued on page 28)*

# The Marvelous Measuring Rod

Edith Smucker was one of the brightest, most enthusiastic and well-liked young women in the church. Married only a year, she was always present at any kind of activity or gathering in the neighborhood. Whatever she undertook was nearly always a success for she was never at a loss as to what to do or say. There was, however, one thing for which Edith did not show such charming enthusiasm. What that one thing was you will see before you finish this story.

One bright morning in June, Edith put on a new lavender dress which she had finished only the evening before and went to church. The minister read the third chapter of the second epistle of Peter and spent some time stressing the last verse. "Grow in grace," the minister said, but just at that time Edith's mind was on the new dress she was wearing and she decided the cuffs were too narrow and she really ought to change them next week.

Then she noticed Kate Graber, and she thought, "What a big ugly hat she has, and how sober she looks."

"Growing unto the stature of a perfect man," the minister was saying and Edith wondered what that could mean. But not for long, for soon her mind was on Lillian Lichty, the gay, young girl who was sitting on a bench at the back of the room whispering to her companion. Edith had always envied Lillian a little for her happy, carefree way of living.

It so happened that there was a stranger in church that day from Iowa, a tall young man. On the way home from church Edith told her husband, "Did you see that tall, young man? I think he would

have been tall enough and strong enough for King Frederick's army."

Edith had once read the story of how King Frederick of Prussia had the hobby of gathering the tallest men of Europe for his guards. He rejected every applicant for that position who did not measure well over six feet.

When Edith went to bed that night the minister's sermon and the story of King Frederick's guards mixed themselves up in a most curious way as a dream, the strangest she had ever had. And here is that dream just as she told it the next day to her husband.

"I dreamed I was on my way over to Helmuths where there was to be a canning for relief. Suddenly I saw a crowd of people gathered on the lawn. People were hurrying to and fro and when I asked what all this commotion was about a girl said to me, 'Why, don't you know? It's Measuring Day and the Lord's angel has come to see how much our souls have grown since the last Measuring Day.'

"'Measuring Day?' I exclaimed. 'Measuring souls! I've never heard of such a thing.' I began to ask questions. But the girl hurried on and after awhile I went along with the crowd on the lawn.

"There in the center, on a kind of throne under the great elm tree, was the most glorious being I've ever seen. He looked just like the great angel in the Bible story book. He had white wings, his clothes were a queer kind of white and he had the kindest, yet most serious face I'd ever beheld. By his side was a tall rod fastened upright and it was made of gold. It had curious marks at regular intervals from top to bottom. Over it, on a

golden scroll were the words, 'The Measure of the Stature of the Perfect Man.'

"The angel held in his hand a large book in which he wrote the measurements as the people came upon the calling of their names. The instant each one touched the golden measure a most wonderful thing happened. No one could escape the terrible accuracy of that strange rod. Each one shrank or increased to his true dimension—his spiritual dimension, as I soon learned, for it was an index of the soul growth which was shown in this mysterious way. We could see with our own eyes what otherwise the angel alone could have perceived.

"The first few who were measured I did not know but soon the name of Elizabeth Frey was called. Elizabeth was the main one in charge of the committee to gather up clothing for the tornado victims and she had also been on a lot of other committees to help people. I thought, 'Surely Elizabeth's measure will be very high indeed.'

"Now she stood at the rod and the instant she touched it she seemed to shrink shorter and shorter and the angel's face grew very serious and he said, 'This would be a soul of high stature indeed if only the zeal for outside works had not checked the lovely secret graces of humility and trust and patience under the little daily trials. These things are needed for perfect soul growth.'

"I pitied Elizabeth as she moved away with such a sad and surprised face to make place for the next. It was poor, thin little Betsy Mast who makes her living by sewing for other people. I never was more astonished in my life than when she took her

stand by the rod, and immediately she increased in heights until her mark was higher than any I had seen before. Her face shone so that I thought it must have caught its light from the angel, who smiled so gloriously that I really envied little Betsy. Nearly everyone had kind of looked down on Betsy before. As the angel wrote in the book he said, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' Then Betsy passed on and our minister took his place under the rod.

"I knew he would measure well, and he did. The angel said, 'How beautiful are the feet of him that bringeth tidings of good, that publisheth salvation. They that turn many unto righteousness shall shine like the stars forever.'

"Then I began to tremble myself for I knew that I had been a poor example to others and that I had not turned anyone unto righteousness. After I had joined the church I had somehow lost my interest in spiritual things, but I thought that if I kept on going to church regularly, and said my prayers every day and read the Bible when I could find time, then I would be doing all that was necessary for a young Christian. I had never concerned myself about growing in grace so I began to tremble, lest my name should be called next.

"But just then Harry Troyer's name was called and I thought surely his mark would be almost as low as mine for I had never heard him speak up for Christ or to point anyone in the way of righteousness. He was always a quiet kind of fellow. But I was in for another surprise for he measured nearly as high as Betsy and the

angel said with a sweetness that thrilled me through and through, 'And no man shall despise thy youth; be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in faith, in purity. Such the Lord loveth and they shall grow speedily toward the stature of a perfect man.'

"Then I realized that Harry had really been more concerned about serving God than I knew and I longed to get away before my turn should come but it seemed I was held fast.

"The next name to be called was Lillian Lichty, the girl who dresses so beautifully that I had often wished I had such clothes and so much money. The angel looked sadly at her measure, for it was very low, so low that Lillian turned pale as death, and her beautiful clothes no one noticed at all, for they were quite overshadowed by the glistening robes beside her.

"Then the angel said in a solemn but gentle voice, 'Oh, my friend, why take thought for raiment. Let your adorning not be that outward adorning of putting on of apparel, but let it be the ornament of the meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.'

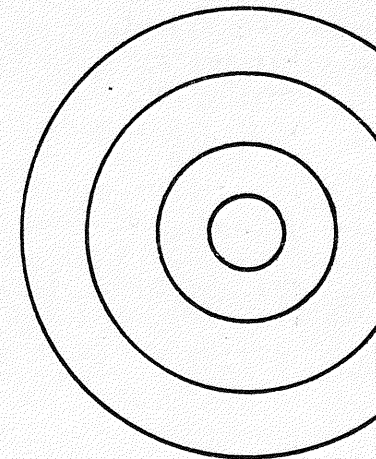
"The next name to be called was poor old Jerry Whetstone, who takes care of his orchard over on the other side of the ridge. Poor, clumsy, lame, old Jerry, as he hobbled up the steps the angel's face fairly blazed with light and he smiled and led him to the rod. Lo and behold, Jerry's measure was higher than any of the others, even higher than our minister's. The angel's voice rang out clear and loud so that we could all hear it, 'He that humbleth

(Continued on page 31)

# Faithful Youth Challengers

# 2 T 4 G

## A Daily Goal



## For A Life with A Daily Purpose

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



ons  
r  
b

dly hold the kind of  
at him anywhere. The  
experience now is but  
; misery that will haunt  
op out.  
t you recognize school  
y that it is. Make the  
; struggling with your  
; they are right. Get  
; your existence and  
; a few people in this  
u can do. You may  
ost surprised.

y attracted physically  
my sex. It scares me,  
hat I mean. What do  
ould do about it?

o discuss your feelings  
r soon. You need pro-  
a analyzing these feel-

a problem, you are  
write to: Aim, Box  
, Missouri 64489.  
esting a personal an-  
he mail are honored,  
e for print.

## THE PURPOSE OF 2T4G

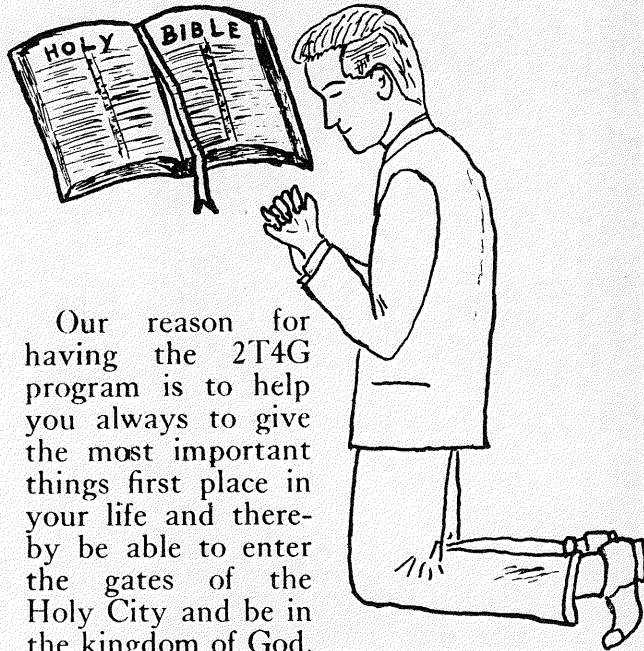
stand by the rod, and increased in heights was higher than any fore. Her face shone so it must have caught it angel, who smiled so I really envied little everyone had kind of Betsy before. As the the book he said, 'I poor in spirit, for the dom of heaven.' The on and our minister under the rod.

"I knew he would and he did. The an beautiful are the fee bringeth tidings of god eth salvation. They t unto righteousness sl the stars forever."

"Then I began to for I knew that I had ample to others and turned anyone unto rig ter I had joined the somehow lost my inte things, but I thought on going to church said my prayers every the Bible when I cc then I would be doir necessary for a your had never concerned growing in grace so I ble, lest my name sh next.

"But just then Harry was called and I tho mark would be alm mine for I had never h up for Christ or to p the way of righteousn ways a quiet kind of fe in for another surpris ured nearly as high as

The most important thing in any of our lives is for us to stay close to God—and never stray from His wonderful way, and miss His glorious Kingdom. If one thinks that this statement is not true, he should be cautioned that less important things may be taking the place of the most important things in his life. However, it still remains that the eternal things of God and His Word belong to first place in the life of each of us.



Our reason for having the 2T4G program is to help you always to give the most important things first place in your life and thereby be able to enter the gates of the Holy City and be in the kingdom of God.

Reading your Bible every day and praying to God will keep your spiritual life strengthened and will help you to be a real overcomer. Earnest participation in such a program as this will certainly be of special benefit to you.

We invite you to join us in the 2T4G program. If you have any questions or problems, feel free to write to us or ask your pastor.

## Tell Me, Please

### QUESTION:

*I hate school and want to quit. There would be nothing illegal about it. I'm old enough, but my parents won't let me. Why do I have to go to school when I don't want to? It's not doing me any good, and I'm just wasting my time.*

### ANSWER:

You may *think* you are wasting your time! If you quit school you will *know* you are not only wasting more time but a lot of your life as well. Most young people are not real excited about having to go to school, but they have the maturity to accept it as being necessary.

Apparently, you have made the mistake of allowing yourself to dream about getting out of school to make some money. You may have become enchanted with this prospect while school has become progressively disenchanting. It is too bad that you allowed this to happen to you because you are steeped in thinking that is not realistic. You have your eye on some dream bubble that will burst as soon as you try to step into it.

Someone who lacks the responsibility and stamina to make it through

### Youth Questions

answered by

Ray L. Straub



school will hardly hold the kind of job that will get him anywhere. The misery you may experience now is but a fraction of the misery that will haunt you if you drop out.

I suggest that you recognize school for the necessity that it is. Make the best of it. Quit struggling with your parents because they are right. Get some fiber into your existence and will, and show a few people in this world what you can do. You may well be the most surprised.

### QUESTION:

*I am strongly attracted physically to members of my sex. It scares me, if you know what I mean. What do you think I should do about it?*

### ANSWER:

I urge you to discuss your feelings with your doctor soon. You need professional help in analyzing these feel-

---

*If you have a problem, you are encouraged to write to: Aim, Box 158, Stanberry, Missouri 64489. Questions requesting a personal answer through the mail are honored, as well as those for print.*

ings. There is a good possibility that your fears are unfounded.

If your fears are confirmed, you need to know as much as possible about the life you face. There are complexities involved that can lead to much grief if you get hold of bad information. Be careful about accepting advice from anyone, including members of your family and ministers, unless you are sure they are sufficiently knowledgeable about this matter to qualify them to advise you.

If you are not satisfied with the information given by the doctor, either ask him to refer you to another doctor or find another yourself. This may take some courage, but it will be worth it to you.

#### QUESTION:

*Our youth class in Sabbath school is dull! What can be done to make it more lively and interesting?*

#### ANSWER:

A class is dull because of the behavior of the people in it. If those who compose the class liven up, your problem will be solved.

It is true that youth classes, especially, are more subject to becoming uninteresting. Young people need a good relationship with their teacher so that they will feel at ease in asking questions and offering opinions.

How about discussing this with your teacher? I am sure that he would welcome any suggestions that the members of his class may have that will contribute to the value of the time spent in Sabbath school.

If you are hesitant to do this, or if it accomplishes too little, talk to your pastor. He will not be content to settle for a dull youth class, if he is aware of the situation.

## Look Around You...

By Judy Renz

"Until tonight, I was unable to figure out why everyone thought Stanberry Youth Retreats were so great. It seemed like any other retreat... inspiring sermons, fireside services, admonitions to remain active and alive, moments of quiet meditation. Of course, these mean a lot, but something was lacking to make the retreat outstanding. Tonight made the difference—there was an overflow of the Spirit in testimonies that touched the hearts of all."

The miracles of God oftentimes seem insignificant and unimportant except to those experiencing them. What is a miracle? Many defined that word in a short and simple testimony

without even realizing it...

A miracle is God's healing touch providing relief from an "incurable" affliction. A miracle is receiving a letter concerning attending Midwest Bible College on the very day of a prayer asking God's guidance in one's life. A miracle is finding the truth in a world of sin and corruption. A miracle is being freed from the web of worldliness. Life, with all its beauty and mysteries, is God's miracle.

But God's Spirit did not leave the group after these testimonies; it only brought a keen awareness to all of His *daily* miracles.

Laughter, something few regard as a miracle (but could any other word better describe the smile that lights an entire room?), filled the youth at the retreat. Feathers drifting lazily to the floor testified of a recent radical pillow fight. Boys hang-

ing from the rafters rescued blankets and other items draped there by mischievous girls. Ketchup splattered the walls as several engaged in a good-natured (?) feud. Two figures were seen dashing up a large tree. Is it not a miracle that God has given us freedom from the doldrums of life?

God's miracles surrounded our very being. His nature was ours to behold in every move—especially as several undertook a hike to the lake. Barbed wire fences, muddy streams, and briar bushes guarded it carefully. But we knew the trip was worth all the hardships as we gazed at the sky lit by diamonds and their twinkling reflections in the calm water. So peaceful—truly a miracle.

Miracles... Look around you... If you fail to see any, make plans to come to the Stanberry Youth Retreat next year.



*In the warmth of a "fireplace" atmosphere, young people sing praises to their Heavenly Father.*



# "Tis the Season . . ."



by David Robinson

The apostle Peter once stated to Jesus that he would be faithful and loyal to Him even to prison, and if necessary, to death (Luke 22:23). Peter was confident that his faith was strong enough to carry him through all trials and persecutions. We are later told that Peter denied Christ three times and then wept bitterly because of his sin (Luke 22:54-62). As we can see from this incident, Peter's faith was not as strong as he thought it was.

We, as followers of Christ today, are called upon many times to witness for Him. If we have been faithful servants of our Lord and have studied His Word, we will be able to present a good witness to those who ask questions concerning Him. This time of the year presents many golden opportunities to share with those around us some Bible truths that we hold dear. December is the month when the mind of the general public becomes religiously orientated, and people throughout our nation supposedly celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour

Jesus Christ. In the schools we attend, at our places of employment, and in our social activities we are constantly confronted with questions as to why we do not join in the observance of this most "sacred religious holiday." When questioned about our belief concerning Christmas, we must be careful not to fall in the same category Peter found himself in when he was given three opportunities to witness for his Lord and failed to do so. We have the choice of either presenting a good witness by giving a sound and sure answer to questions we are asked or of passing by the opportunity to witness by avoiding discussion of the issue, giving a vague or unknowledgeable answer, or giving no answer at all.

In order to present a good witness to acquaintances, friends and relatives who may be caught up in this Christmas fallacy, we must first be truly well acquainted ourselves with the Biblical and historical facts concerning Christmas; secondly we must feel a real burden to share this and other Bible truths with the ones to whom we witness, and thirdly, but most im-

portant of all, we must rely completely upon God to guide us in any discussion.

The following are three of the most common questions that may be asked during a discussion about Christmas, and here are some examples of the type answers we can give.

## 1. WHY DON'T YOU CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS? IT'S THE BIRTHDAY OF CHRIST, ISN'T IT?

No, it really isn't. We can plainly see that Christ was not born in the month of December! The account of the birth of Christ in the gospel of Luke tells us "... there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night" (Luke 2:8). By checking different references, one of which is the Encyclopedia Britannica (volume 5, page 704, 1892 edition), we can see that the month of December in Judea is the height of the rainy season, when neither flocks nor shepherds could have been at night in the fields of Bethlehem.

## 2. SO WHAT IF DECEMBER 25TH ISN'T THE ACTUAL DATE OF CHRIST'S BIRTH? IS THERE ANY HARM IN SETTING ASIDE THIS PARTICULAR DAY ON WHICH TO CELEBRATE AND HONOR CHRIST?

Christmas is widely acclaimed and advertised as the birthday of Christ, however, it actually stems directly from a specific pagan holiday, the birthday of a wicked king, Nimrod, on December 25. History bears out that after the untimely death of Nimrod, his mother claimed that an evergreen tree sprang up overnight from a dead tree stump to signify his continuing life. She also claimed that on

each December 25, Nimrod's birthday, he returned and left gifts on the evergreen tree.

True Christians following the Word of God will not want to be associated in any way with this or any other paganistic practice.

We find in the Bible many times when the children of God forsook God and His commandments and adopted the ways of the heathen. In scriptural accounts (found in Leviticus 26, 2 Kings 17 and 21, Ezekiel 11 and 23, and Revelation 18), God said that they must turn from their sinful ways and be pure if they are to be His children. God is the same today as He was then and He expects us also to avoid paganistic or heathen practices of the world.

"And ye shall know that I am the Lord, for ye have not walked in my statutes, neither executed my judgments, but have done *after the manners* of the heathen that are round about you" (Ezekiel 11:12).

"... I heard another voice from heaven, saying, come out of her (Babylon, vv. 3, 4) my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4).

There is no mention in the Bible about Santa Claus and his reindeer, holly wreaths, yule logs, mistletoe, or Christmas carols. All of these integral parts of the Christmas holiday and of Christmas worship have been conjectured by man and are not of God! A similar thing to the Christmas tree *is* described in the Bible, though. Jeremiah 10:2-5 has this to say about it—"Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the heathen are dis-

mayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good."

### 3. WHY DON'T YOU CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AS A TIME OF GOOD CHEER AND BROTHERLY LOVE? WHAT'S WRONG WITH GIVING GIFTS AND DOING GOOD FOR PEOPLE? THE WISE MEN BROUGHT GIFTS TO CHRIST, DIDN'T THEY?

We know that Christians are to show love and good will to all men at all times of the year (Matthew 19:19, John 15:9, and 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9). Christians are followers of Christ, Who is the Supreme Example, and Christ showed love and compassion to all men and did good deeds at all times throughout His life. It is a good thing to want to give gifts to others; however, the Bible does not say that the wise men exchanged gifts upon Christ's birthday. The wise men brought gifts to the Christ child because they had come before a king. It was the custom of that time for anyone who appeared before a king to present the king with a gift. So you see, the wise men were not exchanging gifts in tribute of Christ's being born; rather they were merely paying tribute to the king of Israel.

We have brought to light only a

few of the basic truths about the origin and history of Christmas. Through your own personal research and study on this subject, you will find more information that will be valuable to you in presenting the truth about Christmas, and you can be ready to answer any questions brought before you (1 Peter 3:15).

Although it is of utmost importance for us to have the knowledge necessary to answer questions about Christmas and explain our beliefs, the most important factor in any discussion is the tact with which we present the truth of God. If not careful, we will overwhelm people with facts and figures and will close the door to good Bible study and discussion. We must choose a correct approach and presentation of our witness being wise as serpents but as harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16). We must keep in mind that most people have little or no knowledge of the true origin of Christmas and they celebrate it simply because of family and religious tradition. To some people who are striving to live Christian lives, but do not yet know the Bible truths, Christmas is a time of deep religious significance, and we must be careful to present God's truth to these people in such a way that it is acceptable to them rather than offensive.

We must be diligent about our witnessing at this season of the year, and we MUST NOT pass by opportune times to speak the truths of the Bible. Perhaps a discussion of Christmas will lead to a Bible study of the subject, and this in turn will lead someone to other truths of the Bible, and then to salvation through Christ. We must keep afresh our bur-

*(Continued on page 25)*

## Fiel Juventud Cristiana (Faithful Youth Christian)

**National FYC chairman, Elder Dale Lawson, with the excellent assistance of Daniel Davila as interpreter, recently flew to Mexico to aid in organizing an effective youth work there. Brother Lawson's report follows.**

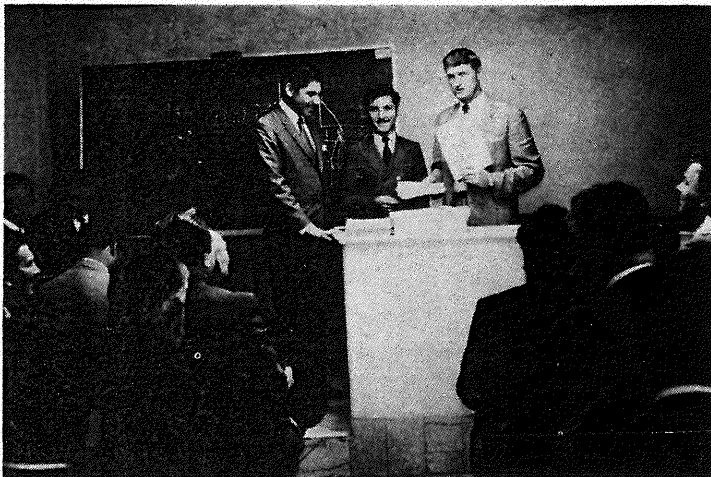
My heart ached with a burden as I watched a young lady about 20 years old with a tiny baby in her arms, struggling as she walked on her knees across the cobblestones to reach the shrine to the Virgin Mary. For three agonizing miles the cement and gravel had ground into her knees and now the cobblestones of the last 100 yards. Companions lifted her up to give her knees a rest but it seemed that the pain was even more severe as they lowered her and her knees again made contact with the stones.

I noticed a young girl, probably in her early teens, whose knees were still bleeding even through the bandages though she had completed the pilgrimage. Such darkness! Such futile attempt to arouse God and cause Him to extend mercy to one in need! Such useless, self-inflicted punishment when all God requires is a repentant heart!

Again my heart was moved with compassion as we stood by the side of the road in front of a small mud-stick house and listened to Elder Padilla sing and then speak to the occupants (about 20 in number) of Jesus Christ and His soon-coming kingdom. He spoke concerning their need for Christ and a living experience with Him. Their eyes seemed to yearn for peace in their hearts. All of them had been born into the Roman Catholic faith.

Perhaps the organization of Faithful Youth Challengers in Mexico will help reach many of those who are so wrapped in the darkness of "commandments of men." I believe "perhaps" is too passive. "IT WILL CAUSE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE REACHED WHO WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND GOD AND HIS CHURCH." Please pray for the young people of Mexico. Pray that God will abundantly bless their work!

Daniel and Holly Davila and I left Kansas City, Missouri,



*Elder Wilfrido Martinez, Brother Daniel Davila and Elder Dale Lawson in the meeting with the Ministerial Council. Elder Lawson was just concluding his presentation to the council.*

Wednesday morning, December 2, for Mexico City. The Young People's Department sent Daniel and me to the Ministerial Council in Mexico so that we could inform the ministers and young people of the manner of youth organization in the U.S.A. and so that we could help them adopt a program that would be applicable to their needs.

The organization of the young people's work in Mexico now seems to have good foundation. I had opportunity to make four special presentations that will, with God's blessing, help the youth of all Mexico to join with us in FYC activity and gospel work.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT

We opened our youth work in Mexico on Friday night with a presentation concerning basic FYC organization. About 2,500 people were in attendance that night but it was impossible to tell how many young people were there because they were scattered throughout the congregation. At the conclusion of the meeting, two FYC sweaters were given as a gift to Edmundo Arteaga, newly appointed director of the youth work in Mexico. FYC pens and bookmarks were presented to all the youth leaders present.

#### SABBATH MORNING

On Sabbath morning, after Sabbath school, Daniel and I were called to Ministerial Council where we made a presentation to the

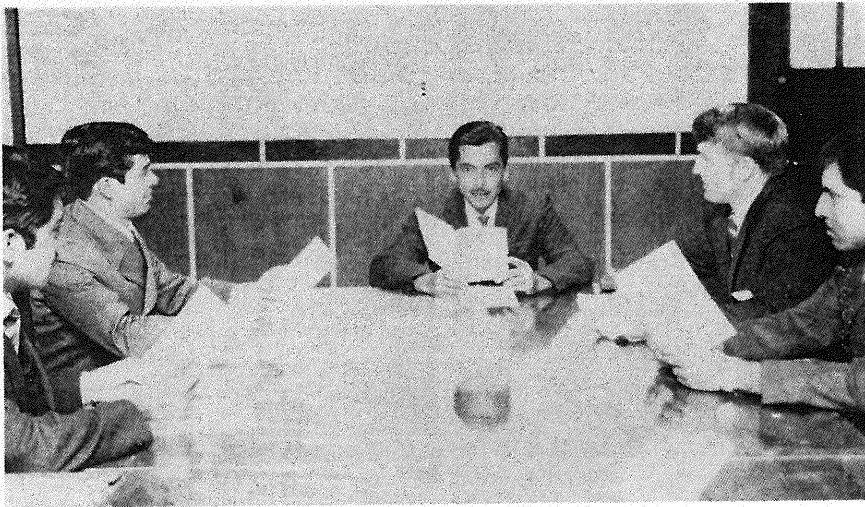
ministers concerning the importance of organization and activity in young people's work. That presentation was well received and the ministers seemed to be in agreement with a plan of organization for the youth work in their churches. This could well be the most important session that we had because pastoral support is going to be extremely important to the success of the organized youth work in Mexico.

#### SUNDAY AFTERNOON

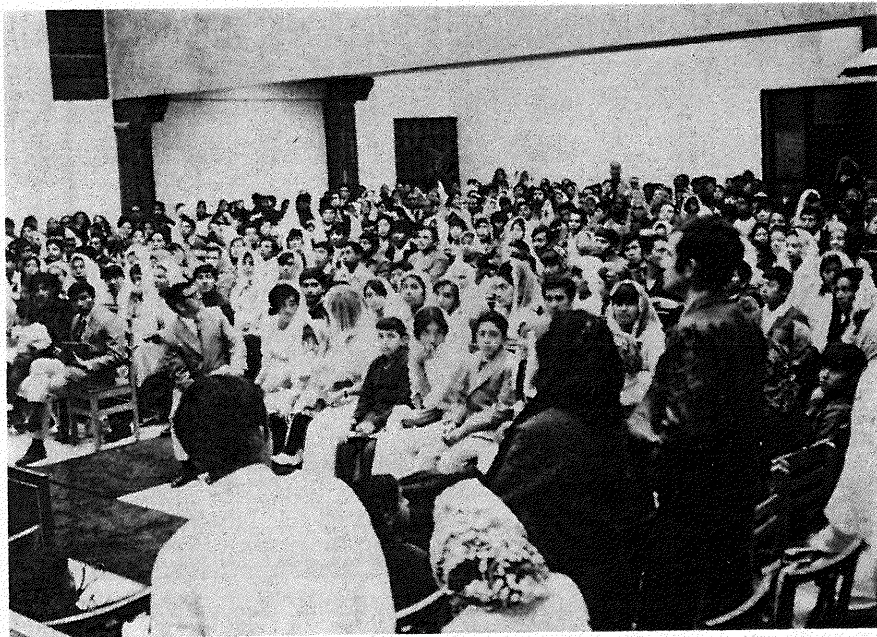
Our third presentation, December 6, was made to the newly-appointed Mexican Young People's Departmental Committee and to the General Overseership of the Church of God work in Mexico. Brother Davila was not able to be present for this meeting because he had to catch his plane about one hour before time for the meeting, but Elder Trinidad Padilla was able to join us in the meeting and serve as translator since Ministerial Council had ended on Saturday night. At this meeting we encouraged the official adoption for Mexico, of the international name and emblem for the Young People's Department of the Church of God (7th Day). The name chosen for this work in Mexico is "Fiel Juventud Cristiana" (Faithful Youth Christians) with the letters for the emblem then being "FJC." The minor changes from "Faithful Youth Challengers" were necessary because of translation problems. There is no letter "Y" in the Spanish language and so the letter "J" in the emblem comes



*Elders Wilfrido Martinez and Raul Escalante of the General Overseership of the Church of God work in Mexico meeting with Elder Lawson and the Mexican young people's committee. Elder Trinidad Padilla (far right) is serving as translator.*



*Elder Dale Lawson meeting with the young people's committee that oversees youth work in Mexico. Elder Edmundo Arteaga, director of youth work in Mexico, sits at the head of the table.*



*A portion of the congregation of young people that met on Sunday evening for our concluding session on behalf of the youth work in Mexico.*

from the word "Juventud" which means "youth." In Mexico, the word "challenger" signifies a revolutionary and so that word could not be used. "Christian" was then substituted for "challengers" and the name "Faithful Youth Christian" was adopted by the Committee.

At this same meeting we talked of the adoption of a constitution for the young people of Mexico, organization of district work, and of ways to enlist the cooperation of the pastors in this youth work.

#### SUNDAY EVENING

Our final meeting was held on Sunday evening at 5:30 p.m. This meeting was designed to explain the spiritual needs for an active youth work. Its main part was a sermon encouraging the youth to eliminate all barriers to a spiritual life so the young people's work could have proper foundation.

A sea of youthful faces filled the large church which seats about 2,000 people. There were over 1,500 young people at this meeting. God's blessings were evident and the young people showed determination to be active in service to God and His Church.

Night after night the young people rose to give us their customary greeting, "Pas Avos!" It seemed that they were always pressing toward us to extend their hands and say, "Dios Te Bendiga" (God bless you). And even though we are now at home here in the United States, our hearts keep returning those messages to the young people there in Mexico. "Avos Pas! Dios Te Bendiga!"

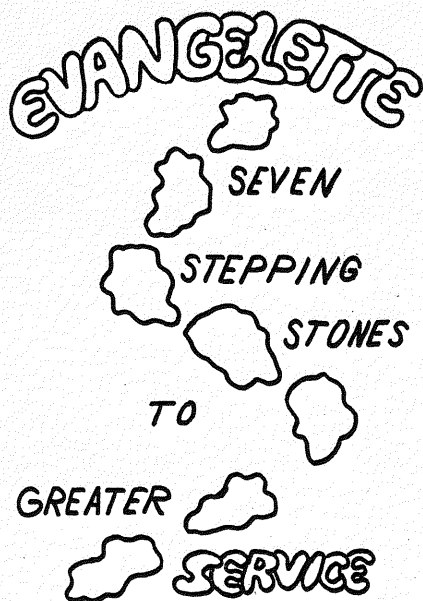
---

#### DOLLARS AND CENTS

A big silver dollar and a little brown cent  
 Rolling along together they went,  
 Rolling along the smooth sidewalk  
 When the dollar remarked (for the dollar can talk)—

"You poor little cent, you cheap little mite,  
 I'm bigger and more than twice as bright;  
 I'm worth more than you,—a hundred fold;  
 And written on me in letters bold  
 Is the motto drawn from the pious creed:  
 'In God we trust,' which all can read."

"Yes, I know," said the cent,  
 "I'm a cheap little mite, and I know  
 I'm not big, nor good, nor bright,  
 And yet," said the cent, with a meek little sigh,  
 "You don't go to church as often as I!" —Selected



## That Old Black Book??

by Sheryl Youngs

"I know I'm *supposed* to read the Bible, but frankly I find it boring. . . ." Your words? Your thoughts? At one time they were mine. As I devoured hundreds and hundreds of books of every kind, I used to wonder how my Mother could read that same old black book day after day, over and over. I don't think I ever remember her lying down without those worn-thin pages opened before her. Now I know why. Day after day as I open God's Word, my hunger for a greater knowledge of it increases; "over and over" I am inspired by its message to me. No longer do I have that same obsession for other books because I love the words of that "old black book"—they've changed my life.

God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). He has not favored me above other young people; His book can also inspire your life. Not only is Its message necessary for growth but, young people, it is *vital* that we partake daily of God's Word for spiritual survival. It is urgent that the Bible become *your* treasure.

If you don't have a yearning to enjoy the Words of God, your *first* action should be to pray; pray fervently that God will give you an unsatisfiable craving for His Word.

*Secondly*, FORCE yourself to read it, if that's what it takes at first. Satan knows just how to defeat you; determine to ENJOY the Bible and God will help you do so. Its appeal will grow as you read.

*Thirdly*, start in a place you can understand and have an interest, such as stories of the Old Testament, Proverbs, or Psalms.

*Fourthly*, make a habit of beginning each day with a search for one passage that adds something to your Bible knowledge or has special meaning for you, even if it's only one verse of inspiration.

*Fifthly*, ponder that thought gained, and if it seems to be meant for your edification or guidance, apply it to your life. Remember the passage, and mark it if to do so will help you.

Read, listen to God, and you shall hear Him and be inspired.

Communicating with God is a two-way thing; besides hearing His voice, you must . . .

"But I don't know how to PRAY . . ."

"It doesn't even seem like God hears me . . ."

"I lack faith . . ."

*Don't know how?*

If you can talk, and if you desire something from God, then you can pray. The best prayer, the most beautiful, the one God hears—is the one right from the heart. . . . takes no fancy words or phrases—just tell Him exactly what's on your mind; let God know your requests. If you've just been blessed with a bright, shiny, pink pimple and are afraid to look anyone in the eye, tell Him about it. If you'd like to be all-wise, ask Him for wisdom. If you've failed 14 times to get rid of your favorite evil thought, tell Him about it; "God, I did it again, that makes the 14th time. . . I'm about ready to give up; help me. . . . Let Matthew 6:5-13 be your guide."

*Doesn't seem like He hears you?*

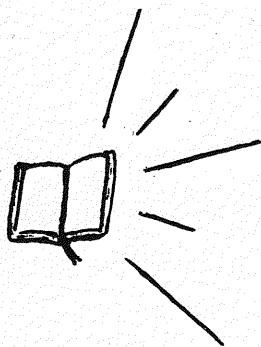
Regardless of what "seems to be," the Bible says, "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers . . ." (1 Pet. 3:12; Psa. 34:15). Pray, and mean it. Pray "Thy will be done," He hears. Wait on Him; He will act.

*Lack Faith?*

Step out on faith, pray for faith. Find God. We all found Him when He answered our prayers. Even those *small* miracles added up: help on a test, a deserved scolding forgotten, a "yes" answer. "Perfect that which is lacking in your faith." " . . . ask in faith, nothing wavering" (1 Thess. 3:10; James 1:6).

Teenager, in spite of whatever problem you have in praying, you must PRAY! Talk to God more confidently than you would even to your best friend. Let prayer become an important part of your life, and a great joy. And, after you have overcome your prayer-problem, your prayer-life will grow.

A growing prayer life? Right. From the prayer of a sinner (Luke 18:13) to the Garden-prayer of that Perfect Sacrifice (John 17), we have Biblical example and admonition of various kinds of prayers. . . .



## ROUTINE PRAYERS (Not routine praying)

A potent prayer life begins when prayer becomes a habitual part of one's routine. "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray . . ." (Psa. 55:17). David and Daniel prayed three times a day—morning, noon and night. Begin your effective prayer life by striving daily to pray at a specific time.

## PRAYER WITHOUT CEASING

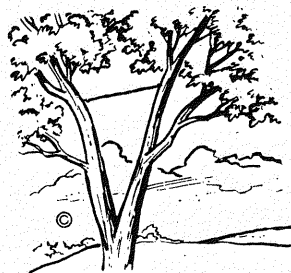
As you go through your daily activities, "pray without ceasing." In this regard probably the prayer most often prayed is that of a quick plea for help, but besides just sentence prayers for help, take a moment to breathe a prayer of thanks when the Almighty has blessed. Some of the most wonderful answers I have received were answers to prayers that were silently breathed with open-eyes as I drove down the freeway or sat in a classroom.

## BURDENED PRAYERS

As we grow in God, He gives us burdens and cares; sometimes our concern is for others; other times for self—personal depression, plea for forgiveness, etc. Whatever the burden, your duty and compulsion is to pray. Don't put off praying—let your heavy heart be broken with tears and fervent prayer unto God. "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite heart" (Psa. 34:18). "Cast thy burden upon the LORD and He shall sustain thee" (Psa. 55:22).

## A PRAYER OF PRAISE

Some of my greatest blessings have come while out amongst God's creations—under the stars or beneath a fir tree, praising God in prayer and song. Examples are given over and over in the Psalms where David proclaimed his gratefulness unto God. Yet this type of prayer is so often neglected. When God's been good, forget about the "give-me" prayer, and spend some time thanking Him.



BIBLE INSPIRATION AND PRAYER (Standard I) go hand in hand and are inseparable as they relate to your communication with God. Let them become your way of life in a daily devotion. I learned the hard way that my days are a lot more fruitful when I give them to God by taking this time for Him each morning. ". . . O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up" (Psalm 5:3).

The guidelines given for Bible Inspiration and effective prayer life are only suggestions for your benefit, and should be taken as such. Whatever you do, don't underestimate the value of prayer and Bible reading in your life; their

value to you cannot be stressed enough. No matter how much effort it takes, no matter how many times you fail,

Pray to Him, teenager,  
listen and be inspired,  
and then  
Be still and KNOW your God!

## ATTENTION EVANGELETTES

The preceding article introduces the first standard for the revised EVANGELETTE Program. You can participate by working on this standard, Bible Inspiration and Prayer, beginning January 1st. An EVANGELETTE booklet will soon be on its way to all FYCers. If you're unsure of getting a booklet, and would like to be involved in this program, or if you have any questions write to—

EVANGELETTE  
Sheryl Youngs  
Stanberry, Mo. 64489

## "TIS THE SEASON . . ."

(Continued from page 16)

den for those lost in the sin and confusion of the world as we present our "Christmas" witness. We do not want to feel as Peter felt when he had denied his Lord three times. Let us speak up for the truth of God's Word, yet let us speak with words that will open doors, open eyes, and lead to salvation.

TIS THE SEASON . . . FOR WITNESSING!

For more detailed information, the following reference materials clearly point out the paganistic origin of Christmas:

1. *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia* under the heading of "Christmas."
2. *The Source Book*—an international encyclopedia authority—under the heading "Christmas."
3. *The New Standard Encyclope-*

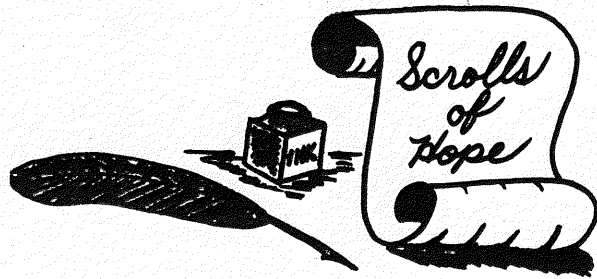
dia under the article "Christmas."

4. *The Bibliotheca Sara* (volume 12, pages 153-155).
5. *The Encyclopedia Americana* under the heading "Christmas."

Also you may obtain a free tract, "Christmas Investigated," by writing the Bible Advocate Press, Stanberry, Missouri 64489.

## PREPARED TO MEET THEE

Dear Father, when I pass away,  
Perhaps there won't be time to pray.  
For death may strike so suddenly,  
I'll not have time to call on thee.  
So, precious Lord, while I live,  
Be Thou my Saviour, cleanse, forgive.  
Help me, Lord, to watch and pray,  
To serve gladly day by day,  
To be at all times by Thy grace,  
Prepared to meet Thee face to face.  
Lynn Taylor



The most profound sermons delivered with skillful oration are not always the ones which one remembers. I remember a simple sermon which I heard several years ago concerning "good intentions."

As the end of another calendar year approaches, we may be reminded of many good intentions with which we started out the year. Good intentions seem to be easy to push around. Procrastination is an enemy of good intentions. More than an enemy, it too often is the destroyer. Should we take more seriously the exhortation in James 4:17 that "...to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin"?

Are there some letters of encouragement which you have been *intending* to write?—Or perhaps a letter of witness to a friend or relative? Are there some lonely people you have been *intending* to visit? Is there an article for "AIM" which you've been *intending* to write?

The opportune time to fulfill these intentions will not fall into our laps. I am convinced that we need to employ more *planning* in these seemingly incidental matters. Perhaps they have been *too* "incidental" in our lives, and not enough an *integral part* of our Christian living.

Let's start 1971 with a *plan* for carrying out some of these *good intentions*. Perhaps we could make a list (not just a mental list) of the people to whom we have felt impressed to write. Then set aside a *particular* time each week, each month—however often your particular schedule allows for—to write that letter or that article. If one special letter a month is all you can schedule, it may not sound like much; but how much better it will be to come to the end of 1971 having written twelve of these important letters than to look back at the end of a year on only good intentions.

We need an occasional reminder of the joy that can be brought into the life of an older person—or just a lonely person—by a simple act of kindness on our part. I was reminded of this recently when I helped deliver fruit baskets to the lonely and shut-ins. It was real therapy to see their sincere joy and gratitude. Receiving no answer to my knock at the door of a deaf lady, I slipped inside to leave her fruit basket and to make sure that all was well with her.

(Continued on page 28)

MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ YE . . .

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn

...e saying, "Oh, no, sn't mean anything writes these things to say even before tendous time. God's ed a real blessing'

...the boys knocked round in a football e scenery was beau-Victor Burford was ) be turned over to ace. It is true that activities, names, highlights of a re-

You may begin the 2T4G Program at any time. If you should miss a day in the program, you may (and should) start again on the next day and mark your new starting point.

## 2T<sub>4</sub>G Program

"Take  
Time  
For  
God"



day keep the devil away."

AR \_\_\_\_\_

esday Thursday Friday Sabbath


The most profound the ones which one re several years ago conc

As the end of anc many good intentions seem to be easy to p tions. More than al more seriously the ext to do good, and doeth

Are there some le to write?—Or perhaps some lonely people yo "AIM" which you've l

The opportune tim convinced that we nec matters. Perhaps they an integral part of our

Let's start 1971 w Perhaps we could mak we have felt impressec each month—however letter or that article. I may not sound like m of 1971 having writte at the end of a year o

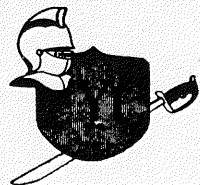
We need an occa the life of an older pers on our part. I was rem to the lonely and shu gratitude. Receiving no inside to leave her fru

Send your completed folder to

Mrs. Martha Ling  
National FYC Office  
316 N. Willow  
Stanberry, Missouri 64489



For additional folders write to the Bible Advocate Press at Stanberry, Missouri, or to the national FYC office.



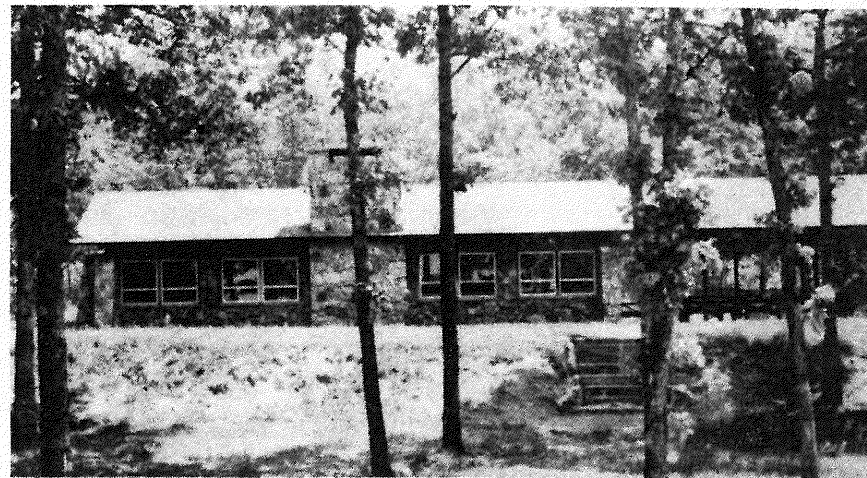
# A Retreat Is . . .

by Jerry Griffin

Glancing at this article, the reader may be saying, "Oh, no, here's another dull youth retreat report that doesn't mean anything to anyone except to those who were there. Who writes these things anyway? I know just what this article is going to say even before reading it—the same old cliches, 'We had a tremendous time. God's Spirit was truly in our midst. Everyone received a real blessing' . . . and bla, bla, bla."

Knowing that this attitude exists it seems fruitless to mention that the Alabama youth retreat recently held at Camp Comer on Lookout Mountain was tremendous, that God's Spirit was felt, that everyone enjoyed a Thanksgiving banquet with live Southern entertain-

ment, that the boys knocked each other around in a football game, that the scenery was beautiful, or that Victor Burford was threatened to be turned over to George Wallace. It is true that the services, activities, names, places, and highlights of a re-



Camp Comer on Lookout Mountain.



treat may mean little to those who did not experience the retreat directly or who do not know the people involved, because a retreat is more than devotionals, discussion groups, choruses, campfires, football games, banquets, or awesome surroundings.

A retreat is a feeling—a good, deep-inside feeling that one experiences by withdrawing from the hustle-bustle of man's world into the tranquility of God's environment. A retreat is laughing, talking, praying, and sharing this good feeling with other Christian young people. A retreat is finding serenity with oneself, others, and God. After the last chorus has been sung, after the last prayer has been said, a retreat is a reluctant good-bye and an inner sadness in knowing that the sensations that can only

be felt at a retreat may somehow trickle away leaving only nostalgic memories.

If the feeling or atmosphere of a retreat could be described and transferred by an author's pen to the reader's heart, then this report could be an accurate and true account of the *real* Alabama youth retreat instead of a chronological summary of the events of the retreat written on dead paper. There is no other way to fully experience the feeling of a retreat except by attending one. Numerous retreats and youth camps are planned for the coming months. If you are out of touch with yourself, others, God, or life, do yourself a favor and attend as many retreats and camps as possible. Then you too may experience the greatest feeling in the world.

---

## IT'S REAL!

(Continued from page 7)

pened and are now being revealed to an unbelieving world to prove that God really is and that He is almighty, and that He is a rewarder to His children. Let us trust and believe His promises. Let us see how exact He really is right down to 40 minutes out of 24 hours. God means what He says. We need not fear nor be frustrated. He is unchangeable and is able to bring to pass what He says. Take courage. He is your God and He lives.

## SCROLLS OF HOPE

(Continued from page 26)

No one to visit with and nothing else to do, she had fallen asleep. Seeing her there on her sofa, I paused a few moments. "This is what the scripture speaks of when it tells us to visit the fatherless and the widows," I thought. How soon we forget how much they need us—and all too often our good intentions continue to be unfruitful.

May we remember during this year 1971 that "small deeds done are better than great deeds planned."\*

\*The late Peter Marshall

## Testimonial

I am so thankful I met one of my friends in school. He invited me to come over and after I did, his mother, Pat Wallace, invited me to go to church with them.

I went and I liked what I saw. Everybody was so nice. They acted as if I had been with the church for a long time. I had been to many other churches, but they were not nearly as friendly as this one.

I am going to be baptized after Brother Lawson gets back from Denver. I have never been so happy or so close to the Lord in my life and it feels wonderful.

The Lord's forever,  
Lynn Taylor

---

## In Harmony With God

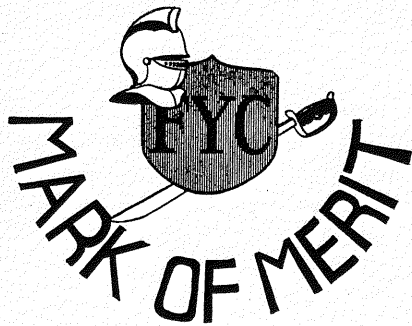
It is said that there once lived a lonely shepherd in the barren hills of Montana. He loved music and he enjoyed playing his violin. Each Sunday afternoon, he listened to his small radio as the great Toscanini conducted the NBC Symphony Orchestra. One day he sat down and wrote Toscanini, "If you will sound your 'A,' I will try to play along with you."

The "A" of God's universe is always the same whether it be in the concert hall or beneath the stars. The universe in which we live is an orderly world. The chemist can depend on God's laws. They are not capricious. Nor are they erratic. Two parts of hydrogen and one of oxygen always produce water under normal conditions. To accomplish his experiments, the scientist works in harmony with these physical laws God has made.

There are moral laws in the universe. Simply stated, they are found in the Ten Commandments. These have been interpreted in every age, even as they must be interpreted for our age. There they stand, like great rocks in the midst of the sea of years. Men often say they break the Ten Commandments; yet it is they who are broken and the Commandments remain.

If one would know the fullness of life, one must learn to live in harmony with the laws of God.

—Harleigh M. Rosenberger



by Nathan Lawson

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house..." (1 Peter 2:5). More than any thing else, this is our goal. We as FAITHFUL YOUTH CHALLENGERS want to be "lively stones" in God's Building. We hope that the Mark of Merit Program is helping you to accomplish this.

Following is a report of THIRD QUARTER ACTIVITIES.

FYC Group	Mark of Merit Points	Bonus Points	Support of... National F.Y.C.
Tacoma, Wash.	445	1066	\$ 5.27
Stockton, Calif.	445	501	20.07
Lodi, Calif.	445	114	7.80
Eureka, S. D.	445	581	6.11
Wichita, Kans.	445	827	5.00
Sacramento, Calif.	405	505	
Elmira, Ore.	385	298	3.56
Ontario, Calif.	445	719	7.90
Marion, Iowa	445	710	15.85
Kansas City, Mo.	425	426	13.20
Harrisburg, Ore.	445	778	5.00
Alfred, N. D.	445	375	11.61
San Antonio, Tex. (Sp.)	445	203	9.46
Saginaw, Mich.	335	523	7.06
San Antonio, Tex. (Eng.)	255	54	
S. W. Michigan	345	160	4.98
Toledo, Ohio	260	340	
Austin, Tex.	365	117	3.69
Nipawin, Sask., Can.	370	40	3.00
Tahlequah, Okla.	420	329	2.25
Midway, Okla.	375	315	
New Auburn, Wisc.	445	681	2.87
Marion, Ore.	445	383	7.23
Bloomington, Calif.	355	395	

Stanberry, Mo.	435	563	12.41
Oklahoma City, Okla.	395	284	
Fort Smith, Ark.	355	99	10.00

THANKS!

The National F.Y.C. would like to thank each local FYC for fine support that has been extended to them through the Mark of Merit Program. This support involves 15% of each local FYC income for the quarter. THANKS AGAIN!

#### PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Join the Gideon Band! Gideon Band Members support Spring Vale Academy with a donation each month. It would be a good project for your FYC to be a member of the Gideon Band. For information, write to Spring Vale Academy or just send them a donation and tell them your FYC wants to become a member of the Gideon Band.

#### THE MARVELOUS MEASURING ROD

(Continued from page 10)

himself shall be exalted. Whoever shall humble himself as a little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

"And then, at last my name was called and I trembled so I could hardly reach the angel, but he put his arms around me and helped me to stand by the rod. As soon as I touched it, I felt myself growing shorter and shorter. Although I stretched and strained every nerve to be as tall as possible, I could only reach Lillian's mark—Lillian's! the lowest of all, and here I had been a member of the church for three years already.

"I grew crimson for shame and whispered to the angel, 'Oh, give me another chance before you mark me in the book so low as this. Tell me

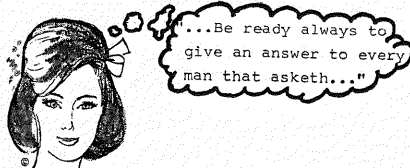
how to grow and I will gladly do all I can, only do not mark me down so low.'"

"The angel shook his head sadly. 'The record must go down as it is, my child. May it be higher next time. This rule will help thee: Whatsoever thou doest, do it heartily as unto the Lord in singleness of heart, as unto Christ. This one thing do, press toward the mark. The same earnestness which thou throwest into other things will, with Christ's help, make thee to grow in grace.'

"With that I burst into tears and I woke up and suddenly found myself crying. But I will never forget that dream, I was so ashamed of my mark."

—Family Life, Aylmer, Canada, via Youth's Living Ideals

A MODEL YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING: participated in by everybody; monopolized by nobody; where everybody is somebody. Sel.



by Michael D. Vlad

# MINUTEMAN

Romans 12:19

Romans 12:17

Matthew 26:52

Matthew 5:44

John 18:36

Romans 12:20, 21

Romans 12:9, 10

Proverbs 16:7

"I'm going to beat him to a pulp." Have you heard that statement? I have heard it many times. In fact, I have been guilty of saying it myself. Just because someone wrongs us or crosses our path, does it make it better if we try to use brute force? CERTAINLY NOT! Jesus taught His followers continually that they are to love their enemies and pray for them, not try to get even with them by beating them. The way to peace-making is found in the principles of Jesus, not brute force.

In our world today there is more killing and beating going on than ever before. In the major cities of our country a high rate of murders and muggings are committed every day. The motto seems to be "get him before he gets you." Is all this pleasing to God? NO! Jesus said in Matthew 5:44 that no matter how much a person bothers us, we are to love him. Even though our enemies wrong us, the only way we can overcome them is through love and good deeds. In Romans 12:19 and 20 the Apostle Paul commands us to love our enemies and be kind to them.

What about carnal warfare? Is it all right to fight to defend your country? Carnal warfare is in no way permissible for Christians. Just because one thinks he must protect his country by fighting does not give him a license to kill. God said in Exodus 20:23, "Thou shalt not kill." He gave us no exception. Killing or fighting is not permissible AT ALL! Jesus said that His Kingdom is not of this world; if it were, then His servants would fight. But, since Jesus' kingdom is not of this world, WE ARE NOT TO FIGHT! II Timothy 2:24 tells us that the servant of the Lord is not to strive or fight, but to be gentle and patient.

What is your stand?

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



By Martha Ling

Romans is the first epistle or letter in the New Testament, and also the first book written expressly to people outside the Jewish heritage. There may well have been some Jewish converts in Rome, but since Rome was a Gentile city, it is safe to assume many converts were also Gentile. Another clue to this is the fact that Paul spends so much time in this book explaining that there is no difference between the Jew and the Gentile, saying, "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly" (Romans 3:23).

We can truly be thankful for this book, since Paul made a point of telling us there is no difference in the races—we all must be subject to God, and we all can obtain salvation! And since most of us are not of Jewish nationality, we can certainly be glad that God made a way for us to be grafted into His church.

I Corinthians was also written to a Gentile church—the Church at Corinth. It contains one of the most well-loved chapters in the Bible—the love chapter—chapter 13. We would all do well to memorize this chapter, and to apply it daily in all our transactions.

\* \* \* \*

We have another completion this month. Martha Espinosa has finished her first year in 2T4G! Esther Castellanos and Jan Patchen have finished ¾ of a year, and we have two beginners: Rex Reed and Michael Kolhoff. Keep up the good work, 2T4Gers!

Dec. 15	Rom. 3
Dec. 16	Rom. 4
Dec. 17	Rom. 5
Dec. 18	Rom. 6
Dec. 19	Rom. 7
Dec. 20	Rom. 8
Dec. 21	Rom. 9
Dec. 22	Rom. 10
Dec. 23	Rom. 11
Dec. 24	Rom. 12
Dec. 25	Rom. 13
Dec. 26	Rom. 14
Dec. 27	Rom. 15
Dec. 28	Rom. 16
Dec. 29	I Cor. 1
Dec. 30	I Cor. 2
Dec. 31	I Cor. 3
Jan. 1	I Cor. 4
Jan. 2	I Cor. 5
Jan. 3	I Cor. 6
Jan. 4	I Cor. 7
Jan. 5	I Cor. 8
Jan. 6	I Cor. 9
Jan. 7	I Cor. 10
Jan. 8	I Cor. 11
Jan. 9	I Cor. 12
Jan. 10	I Cor. 13
Jan. 11	I Cor. 14
Jan. 12	I Cor. 15
Jan. 13	I Cor. 16
Jan. 14	II Cor. 1

## Constitution Approved and Ready for Mailing

The revised constitution for national and local FYC groups has been approved by the Executive Board and is prepared for mailing in a temporary duplicated form. Please organize your FYC groups according to the constitution you will soon be receiving in the mail.

## Peppermint Oil

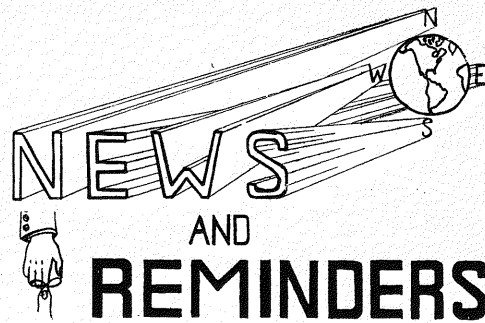
The National FYC has adopted a project to sponsor the sale of peppermint oil for a source of income to both local and national FYC work. One local FYC group is now selling peppermint oil as a pilot group and if the venture is successful, peppermint oil may be ordered by local FYC groups for resale at a nice profit. Be looking for an announcement concerning the availability of peppermint oil for your money-raising project.

## General Conference Youth Program

Four-hundred young people are expected to attend General Conference at Laverne, California, August 6-14. Will you be one of them?

## Assistant Mark of Merit Program Director

The young people's department is looking for an assistant Mark of Merit Program Director. After serving for one year under the direction of Elder Nathan Lawson, the assistant director will become director of the Merit Program.



## Another Good Quarter of Financial Support

The National FYC work is receiving outstanding financial support from local FYC groups. We appreciate your good work and we are looking forward to a record-breaking year for support from local FYC groups. Let's have a tremendous fourth-quarter in financial support from your FYC group.

## Urgent—Notification of Officer Changes

All FYC groups should send notification of officer changes, with their names and addresses, to the National FYC office at 316 N. Willow, Stanberry, Missouri 64489. Unless you help us in this way to keep our files up to date, there will be a delay in getting nationally-sponsored FYC materials into the proper hands.

## Mark of Merit Program

Make sure your FYC is in the Mark of Merit Program. In 1971 we want to have a larger enrollment in Mark of Merit than ever before. For information, write to Mark of Merit Director, 841 S. Washington, Lodi, California.

## Urgent—Local FYC Registrations

All FYC groups should send a registration form with the names and addresses of all their FYCers to Elder Nathan Lawson, 841 S. Washington, Lodi, California. After giving proper credit to your FYC for the Mark of

Merit Program, he will send the registration form on to the National FYC office for filing. This will make it possible for us to send any material designed for all the young people to your FYCers. Please do not fail to send your registration form to Elder Lawson.

## Good Answers to Hard Questions

### SOILED GARMENTS

A young woman who was defending her continual attendance at some doubtful places of amusement once said, "I think a Christian can go anywhere."

"Certainly she can," rejoined her friend, "but I am reminded of a little incident which happened last summer when I went with a party of friends to explore a coal mine. One of the young women appeared dressed in a dainty white gown. When her friends remonstrated with her, she appealed to the old miner who was to act as guide to the party.

"'Can't I wear a white dress down into the mine?' she asked petulantly.

"'Yes, mum,' returned the old man, 'there's nothing to keep you from wearing a white frock down there, but there will be considerable to keep you from wearing one back.'"

—*The Christian Herald*

### MY TEACHER . . .

It matters little if people fail to applaud, if we please The Master. A musician once wept when a great crowd applauded one of his performances because there was ONE man who did not applaud.

When asked why he was so affected by the fact that one person had not applauded, he replied: "HE was my teacher."

If we should gain the approval of the whole world and fail to receive the approval of the GREAT TEACHER, then we have miserably failed. Let us live daily with this thought in mind; and after a life of faithful service, the Master can say to us: "Well done. . . ." —Author Unknown