

What are you contributing to

# THE DEVIL'S DIARY

? ? ?

December 23. Aha! Mary Jean saw a blouse on the clearance rack today and she couldn't resist it. That will take care of any possibility that she might have spent \$3.00 on a gift subscription to AIM magazine for her friend Evelyn.

December 27. Another victory!! Dan paid \$3.50 for a gadget to stick up in the interior of his car. That's his splurge for the month. On *his* budget, he won't be at all inclined to give a gift subscription to AIM during the subscription campaign.

December 29. Phooey! Foiled that time!! —Didn't get to Randy in time. He sent a gift subscription to the Reece family—his friend Tim plus his two younger teen-age sisters . . . sure have to be on the ball each of the 12 times that magazine comes into their home—or they'll be picking it up and reading it. I *know* what kind of effect THAT has on young people!

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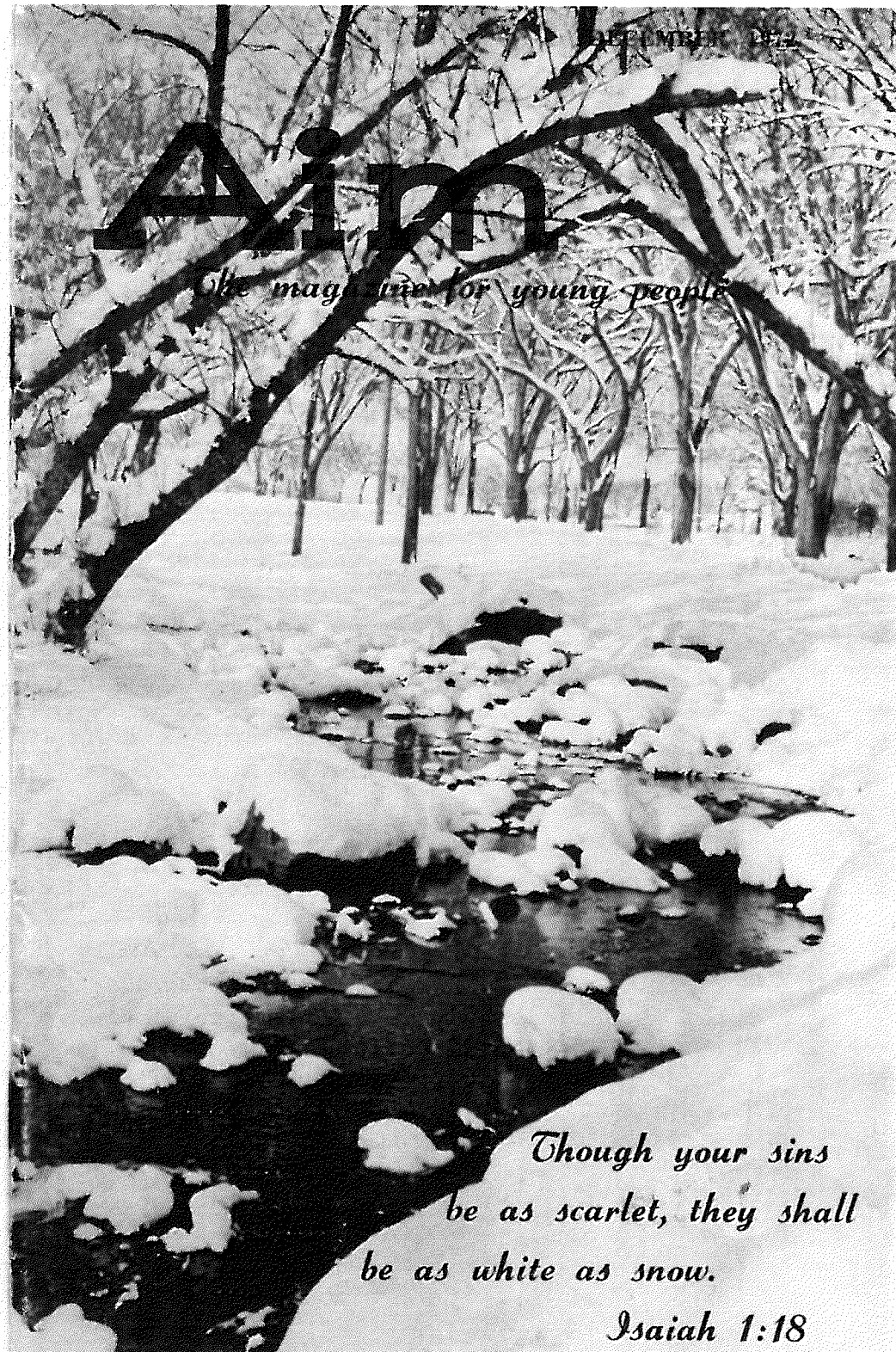
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*Though your sins  
be as scarlet, they shall  
be as white as snow.*

*Isaiah 1:18*

# 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 330 W. 152nd Avenue, Broomfield, Colorado. Second-class postage is paid at Broomfield, Colorado 80020.

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: \$3.50 per year in the United States and Canada. Foreign, \$4.00. Clubs of 6 or more to one address, U. S. and Canada only, \$3.00 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 2370, Denver, Colorado 80201.

Gail Rincker, Editor

Vol. XXXVI, No. 12



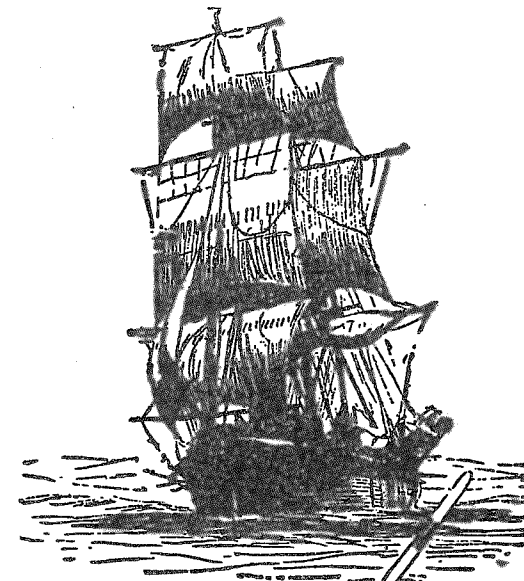
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BRADEN ACRES  
GRADE SCHOOL

A fictional account based on the adventures of Paul in Acts 27.

# Just Like He Said



by Lori Johnston

## Thursday, October 15

Well, I finally did it! I left home!! I'm aboard a ship pulling out of this crummy port. We're going to Italy. Now people won't have to worry about my being in their way. I really didn't have to stow away. I have plenty of money, but the captain said I couldn't ride because I'm a female and because they have an important, dangerous prisoner on board. Well, I couldn't stand being home any longer so I just sneaked aboard and crawled down into the cargo area.

**THIS PLACE STINKS!** Now and then a big fat rat runs across the floor. It's sticky and damp. I'll probably catch a

cold...but why should I care about myself? No one else does.

## Sunday, October 18

In the middle of the night a rat crawled into bed with me. I screamed and all of a sudden a mob of people stormed down on me. One man seized me and started shoving me around, asking real dumb questions like, "Don't you know where you are?"

"Of course I do, stupid!" I hollered. Then he told me to watch my mouth or I'd be seeing the inside of a jail real soon. This guy really got on my nerves. The brute kept pushing me around, making me a spectacle and a laughingstock

in front of all those men. So I told him to go soak his head and then the big clod slapped me on the face! I can take yelling, pushing and ordering, but when someone hits me, WATCH OUT! I jumped at him and bit him on the arm. The next thing I knew I was being thrown into a makeshift jail by two mean-looking characters. The captain came down and told me I'd be sent back home soon as we reached the next port.

I hate to admit this, but I started crying. I was lucky enough that they left me alone—I sure didn't want to give those clods the enjoyment of seeing me lose my cool. Since no one was around I really let loose and bawled like never before. Was I ever humiliated when I looked up and saw this man staring at me. There he stood, right smack in the next cell to me. I quickly stopped crying and eyed him suspiciously. He introduced himself as Paul something - or - the - other. He then asked me my name, where I was from, and how old I was. When I told him I was nineteen he gave me a look that said, "There's no need to pretend with me." So I had to tell him that I'm only fifteen. Then a man came and took Paul away.

#### Friday, October 23

I know it's been five days since I've written, but I just haven't had a free minute. My hours have been filled with

talking to Paul. This guy sure can talk good. He talks and talks and talks. The thing he talks about most is some man named Jesus Christ who died but rose from the grave. Paul is really smart. He knows how to answer all my questions. He also seems to understand my feelings about things. I think he's the first person who ever said he likes me and really meant it. He listens to me, too. No one ever listened to me before. Another thing he talks a lot about is wanting me to accept Christ. He says this really is the only way I can overcome my problems and have everlasting life. I don't know... it sounds kind of far out. My sins just couldn't be wiped out like that. But I really like the man.

Oh, and another thing, the weather is really getting bad. We've been blown off course.

#### Sunday, October 25

Paul has really been stirring up a ruckus here. He's been telling everyone within listening distance that this ship is going to be wrecked. He says that God revealed this to him in a vision. Half of the crew believe him and half don't. Yesterday the crew started throwing the valuable grain over the side, and today they've even started throwing over the ship's tackle. Things are really getting scary! Some of the crew have even tried to form a mutiny. They asked Paul to lead it, but he refused.

Now and then they let one

of us up on deck for some fresh air. Paul told me while he was on deck some men tried to get away on a life boat. Paul told the rest of the crew that if those men left, all lives would be lost when the ship wrecks, but if everyone stays on board, all lives will be saved. So a couple of crew members ran over and cut down the life boat. I'm getting real scared now. The food supply is low, and now the life boat is gone.

#### Monday, October 26

I'm so sick! The storm is causing the ship to viciously rock from side to side. We're almost out of food. That doesn't bother me too much—I couldn't eat even if I wanted to. Paul said that the end is near. One way or the other I wish something would hurry up and happen.

#### Wednesday, October 28

We've run aground! Paul asked me to pray to Jesus to save us. I can't pray!! I don't know how. But Paul is counting on me. I guess it won't hurt anything. So I'll try.

*"I know You don't know me, and I don't know You. I'm willing to try for Paul if You're willing. Things are really bad down here, and it looks like a lot of people are going to die. Paul really believes that You can save us. And if a man like Paul trusts you, I'd be silly if I didn't, too. I'm a nobody! Why would Someone like You be interested in me and my prayer? I'm the meanest, dirt-*

*iest creep around. And I've sinned so many times I bet You are getting sick just listening to me. Paul says he sinned greatly too. But Paul is so good, and I'm so rotten. I could never be like him. But Paul says that all I have to do is believe in You and accept You into my heart, and I'll be saved. Wow! You know something; everything else Paul said has come true. We were shipwrecked and everything. This must be true too! Jesus, please forgive me for all my sins, especially for hating my parents the way I do. Accept me, please Lord; I need You so much. Make me a different person. No matter what happens, Lord, I'm going to count on You. Thank You! I still can't pray right, but Please, accept this one God!"*

#### Saturday, October 31

SAVED!! Not only from death in the ocean, but from death eternally! It isn't just me either. Many others talked to Christ just like I did.

After the ship ran aground some of the guards came down to kill Paul. The centurion stopped them. He set us free and told us to save ourselves. Paul was so calm that I decided where he went I would go. As soon as we got on deck, Paul started giving orders on how to get to shore. Sure enough, just like Paul said, everyone was saved! On that shore many lives were given to Jesus.

Wow! I'm so happy! I know  
(Continued on page 17)



by Walter E. Isenhour

## The Essential "Kind"

One of the most beautiful characteristics of life is kindness. Not only is it beautiful, but it is very essential. If we are to get along with each other in a peaceful, helpful, encouraging, uplifting way we must be kind one to another. Jesus said for us to love our enemies, and do good for evil, and of course this leads us to be kind to them.

I often think of what the great Apostle Paul said: "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32). This one passage of Scripture, if put into practice, would change lives, homes, churches and perhaps communi-

ties. Unkindness is very hurtful, injurious, and sometimes destructive, while kindness is constructive. Unkindness can wound deeply, but kindness saves wounds and pains. If some homes would turn from harshness and unkindness to sweetness they would be so different. Whereas they are little hells on earth, they could be almost heavenly; blessedness in them.

*Kindness becomes all classes, colors and creeds of mankind.* It should start in childhood and continue on through life as long as life lasts on earth. What is more charming and sweet in childhood than a kind, friendly, loveable disposition? What crowns old age more gracefully than a sweet, kind, gentle, pa-

tient, loving disposition? Naturally the love, grace and sweetness of Christ in the heart and life is the secret and mainspring of genuine kindness and everything worth-while.

Since I am writing this message especially for you, young people, I want to make a deep impression upon you as to the vital and great importance of kindness. Of course this should begin early in life—in the home, with associates and playmates, then go into the school room as one seeks an education, and should follow one all the way through school, even into the higher and highest brackets of learning. One's school and college career should reveal a blessed spirit of kindness. The truly noble person must be kind to parents, brothers and sisters in the home; kind to teachers and principals of our schools and the presidents of our colleges. You will be highly respected for your kindness to classmates and the company you keep as you go through life.

Not only that, but you should take the spirit of kindness with you as you enter business, or as you give yourself to work for others for a livelihood. No doubt unkindness has defeated many a person in life. Many have failed because of their unkindness. Maybe they were capable of filling some high and trustworthy position, but having a disposition and spirit of unkindness, along with that of irritability, faultfinding, and being hard to please, has meant their undoing and final defeat.

Oh, dear youth, as you go forth along life's rugged journey, *learn to be kind*: this will mean more than a high education without kindness and love intermingled. Realize that in kindness there is something that wins its way into the hearts and lives of your fellowmen like nothing else can. Everybody loves kindness, but nobody loves unkindness, harshness, and a sour, repulsive disposition. Learn to be kind. Practice it daily. Sometimes it may not be easy to be kind, especially when you are spoken to very unkindly by somebody else, or someone shows you a very ugly disposition, or deals you a hard blow. Pause and think before you speak and act. Sometimes real victory depends upon keeping your lips closed. Ask God to help you. Never do evil for evil. This will only turn the tables against you in the future, or maybe at the time.

*Whatever your business in life may be, or your profession, be kind.* You will win people unto you by your kindness, whereas you will drive them from you by your unkindness. To be a clerk in a store, or a nurse in a hospital, or a doctor, or a minister, or a missionary, or a school teacher, or a farmer, or anything else, requires kindness. Even an animal will take to you for your kindness, or will be driven from you by your unkindness and mistreatment. A child will love you, take to you and feel sweet toward you for your kindness. Be kind  
(Continued on page 17)

Teen

Guidelines

by Jerry Moldenhauer

# The Jesus People

A minority of young people are, once again, making a sizeable splash in the pool of American culture. Some on-lookers show real interest, some show curiosity and then there are those who are in the traditional "couldn't care less" category. There may be a message for us in this movement that involves religion as it appeals to the new generation. It certainly presents the challenge of investigation, understanding, and maybe even some action.

The background of this fascinating movement has its roots in the theological era of the 1960's when it was widely proclaimed and more widely accepted that "God is dead." For many youth of that time it was satisfying to know they could say to themselves, "I thought so all along... now I can do my own thing without fear of hell or my minister." While many people and churches did not accept this new theology of the 60's, some churches and homes of the middle to upper class society strata, from whence the Jesus People would emerge, did accept this philosophy.

As a result of this acceptance (combined with other factors) youth found that the established churches were not fulfilling or understanding their needs. They were preaching civil rights, ecology, etc., but not Jesus Christ, salvation and hope. *Sophistication made Jesus, the Bible and the church merely objects of faith. There was a real problem in consistently giving sufficient identity to Jesus, the man, the Son of God.*

*Christianity became an unnecessary waste of time. It became popular to try to fill the spiritual void with political involve-*

*ment. Then came drugs, meditation, Eastern religions, the occult and violence until these youth were literally spaced-out. They knew there was something else in life, but they just didn't know what.*

As an aftermath of the counter-culture of the 1960's, the Jesus Movement emerged. It was, apparently, quite spontaneous and ubiquitous in the United States. A general background became evident. The Jesus People were from middle to upper middle class families, of high school and college age, former drug users and had engaged in pre-marital sex. They had been searching for love, understanding and discipline. Their homes were not providing these, but a new look at Jesus showed that He could.

The Jesus Movement began catching fire. College campuses lent tremendous support because they were built-in communes which could keep it going. One group would spark another. Often youth organizations would help co-ordinate various activities for greater effectiveness. They preached only Jesus Christ and Him crucified—not just as an historical figure but as being in the here and now. Faith is not in possessing God or Jesus (as an object) but in believing in Him. Conversion is then followed by definite commitment.

The initial emphasis on repentance, while still strong, is being replaced by Bible study for the sake of spiritual growth. These Jesus People believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible but there is a wide divergence of views on faith healings, glossolalia, miracles, etc. It is generally agreed that drugs, alcohol and extra-marital sex are out.

One might very well question whether the Jesus People or their movement is for real. For so many of them it is the reality they have been searching for to fill the spiritual void that left them incomplete persons. Many of them are finding answers to questions like, "Who is the Lord? What are His demands? How does He affect my life, attitudes and activities? How does loyalty to Him differ from loyalty to popular people or issues of our day i.e., is more than just the name worshiped?" These are questions that few "Christians" seem to take the time to ask or to answer with soul-searching honesty.

A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY is being presented to both young people and adults in being witnesses of Bible truth and the Holy Spirit to the Jesus People. Try to imagine how Paul might take advantage of a similar situation. After reading about what he did on Mars Hill (Acts 17:22-33) we should be inspired to literally exploit the Movement to the glory of God.

**Our own commitment to God is standing a test. Have we been**  
(Continued on page 16)

# Little Red Wagon

by Albert L. Carlin, M. D.

Those were pioneer days in a sense, even though not so very long ago. The little boy lived on a Montana homestead with his parents, a baby brother and his Grandpa. Drouth and crop failures brought hardship and the little boy sensed it in the scarcity of toys and playthings. Even food, although adequate, was scarcely more than the plainest of essentials; sometimes bread and water.

However, the time came when the parents and Grandpa were able to promise the lad something that he wanted so much—a wagon! Very likely the fact that the older folks used teams of horses and wagons for transportation made his own personal wagon especially thrilling to plan for.

The day that Grandpa was to return with the wagon was a day of eager awaiting. Of course, it was hard for the youngster to avoid being anxious when Grandpa and the team of horses seemed delayed, for he could not fully appreciate the twenty-two mile journey home over prairie roads. But near sunset as the team breasted the hill and broke into a trot nearing home,

what great joy of anticipation welled up in the heart of the young boy. Yet, suppose Grandpa had forgotten? Oh, surely he would remember!

Bringing the horses to a stop, Grandpa greeted the expectant eyes of the youngster of whom he was so fond. There under the questioning gaze of the boy he unloaded provisions and among them produced a splendid, smooth-running little red wagon! Now the boy's dream took substance in reality, filling his life with the ecstatic joy which youngsters know best.

Even as this boy knew hardship, we experience weary days, disappointments and near heart-breaks. Through all of these we are uplifted and encouraged by a fond hope, the promised reward for God's redeemed people. The great prize that we await is the coming of the New Jerusalem, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, and the untold joys of the life with Christ.

The promise is more real to us as He dwells in our hearts now by His Spirit, "the earnest of our inheritance." So let us keep looking up!

# How Can It Be?

HOW CAN IT BE that it is almost time to take down our 1972 calendars and hang up new, unmarked 1973 calendars? HOW CAN IT BE that this year—1972—will soon become merely another mark in the record-book of Time?

*And they passed so quickly—those 366 days—the 12 months—the year! And now they are all behind me... forever gone... and the only proof that i've lived those days—this year of 1972—is hidden in my memory, the memories of others, and the memory of God.*

Soon—so very soon—it will be 1973. But HOW CAN IT BE? i can still hear horns honking and through my memory's eye, i can clearly see the vivid red, gold, and green flares of Roman candles lighting the midnight sky... how completely i recall the excitement i felt that cold December Texas night as i witnessed the death of the old year—1962—and celebrated the birth of a new year named 1963, i was 14 then—a Freshman in high school. BUT HOW CAN IT BE? It seems like only a yesterday when i was that Freshman high school student... when i welcomed the year 1963 with such vigor and excitement. HOW CAN IT BE that ten years—A WHOLE DECADE—has elapsed—no, silently, stealthily sneaked away—since those fun-filled teenage days?

More disturbing than the question, "HOW CAN IT BE?" is another question i must ask myself on the dawn of this new year... "JUST WHAT HAVE i ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS—DURING THE YEARS OF MY YOUTH?? WHAT CAN i SHOW FOR A WHOLE DECADE'S WORTH OF LIVING??"

The answer came spontaneously. "Why, LOTS! i've graduated from high school, i've worked at several different jobs, i've gained some real, true friends, i've married, i've become a mother, i've traveled many miles and have lived in several different places, i've acquired new knowledge and new skills, and most important of all, i've become a Christian."

(Continued on page 26)

by Vivian C. Hall

# WHY?



To the very small child a simple answer to his question will suffice. He goes on about his play until a new question comes to mind, and then he returns to mother or daddy for the answer to it. As he becomes older the answer becomes more detailed in order to satisfy the inquisitive young mind. Now at school age he begins to add "why" when mother or daddy answers his question. He is not satisfied just with the answer, he must now know *why*, or *how*; or *what*, or *when*. He must have an answer with a reason.

We sometimes have been made to wonder if perhaps the *why* is added automatically at a certain age, for the child doesn't seem too interested in the further reasoning. Yet to another it seems a very serious matter and is listened to with rapt attention. Later one might be surprised to overhear a child explaining the weighty matter to a smaller one with all the seriousness of an expert on the subject.

Small children remember much more of a thing than we sometimes give them credit for, so it behooves us to answer with truth on the level they can understand. But it must be truth for a child, however small, soon learns to whom he may go for the right answer. Great is his disappointment to discover his parents have been telling him "stories." His confidence in the world of adults is shaken to the point of not knowing whom he can trust. If he can't believe his parents, whom can he believe?

Questions do not end with the first grades in school. The older a child gets the greater the curiosity, and as he becomes involved in his studies he wants further light on a particular subject. He goes to reference material to find all he can concerning this thing—its structure, its work, and why it does as it does. Experiments sometimes show more clearly the answers to his many questions, and give him the "*why*."

The child asks *why* he must go to bed earlier than an older brother or sister. The explanation that younger children need more sleep to replenish their supply of energy and brain power does not seem to satisfy. As long as he can awaken when called and get to school on time, that is all that's necessary, he thinks. He doesn't think of that tired feeling with no fast-coming answers as being an indication he's not had enough sleep.

The teen-ager who is dating looks horrified when told to get in at a certain hour. *Why* is it necessary to get in before midnight even when there is no school the next day? Others stay out longer, and *why* can't we? It is hard for the teen-age person to take the advice of one who is no longer in his teens. He is sure this person is so old he can no longer remember how it was to go out on dates, to go for drives in the country, to stop at the corner drugstore for a coke, or just to sit and talk with the "gang."

He fails to realize history repeats itself, and even though it is a more "modern" world he lives in, the activities enjoyed by the young folks are essentially the same. Not only are the activities the same but the temptations are the same also. The "old folks" have been through it all. They know from experience and can help the young folks with their knowledge, if only the young folks are ready to accept the advice.

The young married couple many times questions *why*. *Why* doesn't the budget stretch as far as they thought it would? *Why* doesn't hubby pay as much attention to his wife now that they are married? *Why* does the wife let her appearance go somewhat now that she has a husband? Sometimes these "*whys*" arise when everything isn't going as smoothly as both feel it should, or when one or the other is feeling a little under the weather.

THE "WHY" QUESTION IS WITH US ALL OUR LIVES. We see someone who does not even profess a Christian life succeed at his job with many an advancement and an increase in salary. Success seems his without any effort whatsoever. He can buy a new home, drive a new car, and dress with an abundance of new clothes.

Nearby may live a man who is a Christian in every way. He may buy a new home, but it is a great struggle and sacrifice to keep it because no matter how hard he tries, the promotions seem to go to the other man. The car he owns is forever breaking down. He can hardly afford to repair it but he can't afford a new one. His family wear their clothes until they are worn out and then if they are fortunate enough to find a sale somewhere perhaps one or two members of the family may have their turn at being outfitted with new apparel.

*Why* the difference? *Why* does the non-Christian seem to re-

ceive all the blessings? Has this situation or one quite similar come to your attention? Didn't you wonder *why*?

Many times we have heard of an accident in which a drunken driver was at fault. The innocent was the person or persons killed or maimed for life, while the drunk received only minor injuries and is released after a time. He is free again to kill or injure. *Why? Why* should he not be the person killed or injured, and the innocent person live to carry on his good life?

In illness we sometimes are made to wonder if there is justice. The good person is ill and seemingly with no complications or even serious illness, but he dies. A wicked one is brought into the hospital at death's door and begins a slow, laborious climb back to health. There may even be setbacks and complications, but somehow he pulls through to health once more to continue in a life of sin. *Why?*

Truly we must "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). From studying the Scriptures we may receive comfort in a time of sorrow. We may find the answer to a problem that has been bothering us. We may find peace of mind where before has been only chaos. We may find a renewed faith where before we were discouraged and blue.

**In order to receive the answers to all these questions that have been bothering us all our lives—the WHY'S that have come to mind at a time when God seemed unjust, or when God seemed to have abandoned us altogether, we must have our lives hidden in Christ. We must be living His will at all times. We must have faith in God for surely without faith we cannot serve God.**

We receive faith through hearing the Word of God. When we hear the Word or read the Word we know what God has done for others in times past, and we know what He is able to do for us. Through faith we know that all good things God has promised us, but which we have not yet received or known, will come to pass. "*And ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you: all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof*" (Joshua 23:14). Joshua was reminding the people of Israel of God's goodness to them, of His promises He had made to them, of His deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, and how He had fulfilled all to them. If God made and kept His promises to Israel, He will also keep His promises to us. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

**So we must run the race of life with patience, knowing that if we are a child of God we will some day know all the answers to**  
(Continued on page 21)

## Bible Prophecy

By Stanley J. Kauer



We have been watching with interest the news of the efforts being made by Henry Kissinger to arrange a cease-fire and peace in Viet Nam. The newspapers and news magazines are saying that a peace agreement is very near. Yet the negotiations continue day after day and the war also goes on with more and more people being killed. It is possible that by the time this is being read there will have been a cease-fire arranged. But I would not be surprised if such is not the case and the war goes on and on.

The Bible commends efforts at peacemaking. Jesus said "*Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children*

*of God.*" But when it comes to attempting to make peace among the nations there is so much deceit and cheating done that it would not seem that those peacemakers are very godly! We live in the last part of the "last days" and we see that it is true as predicted: "*But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*" This applies not only to religious teachings but to affairs of the nations.

President Nixon has been holding out for a "lasting peace," and a "peace with honor." It is doubtful if either can be achieved in the Viet Nam situation. As we read in Jeremiah 8:15, "*We looked for peace, but*



no good came; and for a time of health, and behold trouble!" And if a cease-fire is attained, it will probably be as the prophet said in verse 11 of this same chapter: "For they have healed the daughter of my people lightly, saying Peace, peace; when there is no peace." As in Korea and as in the Middle-East, there is only an armed truce with danger of renewed war at any time. We are still in the time of "... wars and rumors of wars... but the end is not yet" (Matt. 24:56). The outlook is only for continued trouble and warfare. We are so far along in prophetic fulfillment that there is no chance of any "lasting peace." People are so filled with hatred and greed and have developed such powerful weapons that all feel they are able to get the advantage. The "kings of the east" will continue to prepare for Armageddon. Communism will not be stopped by a cease fire in Viet Nam. It would appear that before Armageddon



all the nations of the far east will be under one evil rule, greedy for more power.

And so as we watch the peace efforts being made, we hope the fighting will be stopped, even if only for a short time. And the tense war fears in the world, we must realize, are but one of the great signs that the second advent of our Lord is near. **LET US WATCH THE NEWS WITH UNDERSTANDING AND PRAYER AND DO ALL WE CAN FOR GOD AND HIS TRUTH WHILE YET THERE IS OPPORTUNITY.**

## THE JESUS PEOPLE

(Continued from page 9)

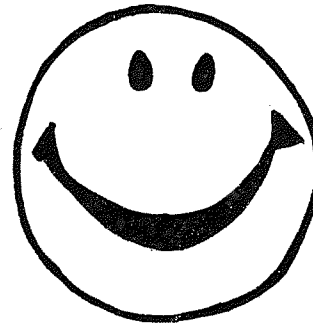
conscientious enough in our Bible study to have confidence that God will help us lead the Jesus People into greater truth? Are we sufficiently spiritually endowed to involve ourselves in a profitable way? Too often we sing, "Bring Them In" but avoid various classes of people—too often we act like the oldest brother of the Prodigal Son. Let's truly bring them—the Jesus People and all others—in to the saving grace of our Heavenly Father!

Great occasions for serving GOD come seldom, but little ones surround us daily.—Francis de Sales

## THE ESSENTIAL "KIND"

(Continued from page 7)

to the poor and needy, the old and decrepit, the offcast and forsaken. Be kind to those who are higher up than you are. They will appreciate it and perhaps your kindness will help to lift you higher up.



Learn to smile. The value of a smile may be far greater sometimes than you realize. Greet somebody with a kind word and smile as you pass him or her on the street. To even go out of your way in order to show somebody kindness and helpfulness won't lead you astray. You won't get lost in doing so. Perhaps it may be the best and safest way to go occasionally. It may mean as much to you as it does to the one you show the kindness, or maybe more. In fact, if you will make others happy by your deeds and words of kindness, you will bring to yourself happiness by the love and grace of God, or God working through you.

Let me say again, young peo-

ple, learn to be kind. This will indeed help greatly to make your life's career pleasant and enjoyable. Kindness from your heart and soul will beautify your life far more than diamonds and pearls, fine raiment and expensive jewelry. Of course with kindness go many other beautiful loveable, praiseworthy, commendable traits and characteristics of life. They associate themselves together, and what a wonderful, blessed, glorious association!

Again, let me call your attention to what Paul said: "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." This you will never, never regret. It is worth-while and wonderful to live by and will be peaceful, sweet, blessed and glorious to die by.

## JUST LIKE HE SAID

(Continued from page 5)

I've made the right decision. I can't wait to get back home to tell my parents how wrong I was and how much I love them. And I'll tell them about Paul and about my Saviour, Jesus Christ, and about God.

I'll never forget this adventure or Paul. They will be my testimony. PRAISE GOD!

Prayer — The beginning of the answer.

# Criticism— Stumbling or Stepping Stone? Block

by Jessie Truman

Life's been going along reasonably well, when suddenly you receive a jolt. Someone criticized you, rather harshly you think. At first the bottom dropped out of your little world with a thud. Then your pride came to your rescue and you said, "Now what makes him think he's so smart? Is he sure he knows what he's talking about?" Before you know it, you've turned the tables and you're busy criticizing the other fellow.

Or perhaps you're hurt and angry, and just give up with a shrug. "What's the use of trying? You can't please everyone no matter how you try."

Everyone has or will experience criticism at some time. It's been said that if you want to avoid criticism, do nothing. But I'm not sure you'd avoid it even then. Are you? In the parable of the talents the servant who did nothing received the most severe criticism of all.

The problem, then, is this: **How should Christians handle criticism?**

First of all, keep your cool. At all cost, keep a cool head so you can think clearly. "In

your patience possess ye your souls" (Luke 21:19). This means that in your impatience you risk losing your soul.

Second, ask yourself if the criticism against you is true. If it is, and a fault has been brought to your attention, be thankful. Strive to correct it. God promises a place in the Kingdom to those who overcome (Rev. 3:21).

If the criticism was untrue or unjust, what then? It won't be easy the first time but REJOICE, and be EXCEEDING GLAD! You've just stepped in line for special blessings. Jesus said so in Matthew 5:10-12. Even He, the perfect One, drew criticism from onlookers. Yet He didn't let them stop Him from His work and purpose. He is our example. He also said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them which despitefully use you and persecute you" (Matt. 5:44-48).

Mountain climbers fasten their ropes securely to the jagged rocks, the hard places—and climb. Their climbing is not without scratches, cuts and bruises. But they must keep climbing if they are to reach

the peaks. So must Christians use the hard places, the harsh experiences, to climb upward. Without these experiences we would not grow in grace. We can not learn about forgiveness if we've never experienced forgiving.

Now that you've been the victim of unkind criticism, what's your idea of the right way to criticize? How do you suggest that it be done? An old proverb says that "It is not good to eat much honey." All praise and sweetness lack in character - building qualities just as a diet of all sweet foods lacks in body-building qualities. So we see that criticism, properly applied, can help us to grow and mature.

*Kindness is never out of style.* Many times I've seen little girls line up in front of a judge at a 4-H dress review. Here they are modeling their first attempts at sewing. They have tried so hard to sew their gathered skirts just right. But their lack of skill is bound to show some place. Each one steps up for her turn to be judged. What will the judge say? *The right words will encourage; the*

*wrong words can do great damage.*

One judge has endeared herself to the girls. She always finds something nice to say about each garment.

"This color is very good for you. Did you pick it out?"

"Your waistband fits very nicely."

"Your placket is excellent."

"Your hem is beautifully stitched."

Then she points out the weaker points, assuring each one that she knew they'd do better next time. And they did. The girls were learning about their mistakes and how to correct them. By accepting the judge's criticism, they were able to overcome their difficulties.

The way you accept criticism is also a yardstick to measure your degree of maturity. "*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things*" (I Cor. 13:11).

**Will criticism be a stumbling-block or a stepping-stone for you? It's up to you. Read Romans 8:35-39 and renew your determination to make it a stepping-stone to God's kingdom.**

# Suicide



by Shirley Goddard

John was twenty-three years old, a smart college student. He had worked and dreamed of graduation and a promising career, but John never reached his goals—he slashed his wrists.

Mary was a thirty-five-year-old housewife. She had a comfortable home, two children and a successful husband. Mary gave all of this up when she swallowed a bottle of sleeping pills.

No one knows how many people around the world, like John or Mary, end their lives by committing suicide. Suicide tragedy is causing much concern. Over two hundred suicide prevention centers have sprung up across the United States in the past few years. In the United States alone, recorded suicides average somewhere between twenty-two and twenty-five thousand annually or *one suicide every twenty-six minutes.*

WHY? For every problem there has to be a cause, and there IS a cause for suicide. Those who have extensively studied this field cite the following as common reasons for suicide: loneliness, guilt, sudden shock, and revenge. *There is one common factor apparent in every suicide case, and that factor is a feeling of failure in one way or another.*

Loneliness, for example, is failure... failure to have friends, failure to love and be loved. Guilt is the failure to do what one knows to be right. Causes of guilt may range from cheating on tests to stealing or to doing something contrary to the teachings of one's parents. A sudden shock resulting from the loss of a loved one or from losing a treasured job have been known to cause suicide. Revenge is another failure, but this time the failure to grow up emotionally. Sometimes a teen-ager who wants to get even with his parents reasons the way to do so is to hurt or kill himself.

It is natural to want to succeed, to want to be happy, and to want to be loved. These needs and desires are not wrong, but when emotions are not properly controlled, the natural desire for self protection creates unnatural neuroses. An individual must learn to control his emotions, and a way to do this is by praying to God and asking for His help. *God can help us with our problems and when we have Him as our Refuge there is no need to commit suicide!*

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WHY?

*(Continued from page 14)*

our WHY'S. We will know all the reasons for things happening as they did during our life time.

And we will know how just and wise God is. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

*So we must run the race of life with patience, knowing that if we are a child of God we will some day know all the answers to our why's.*

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"Base your happiness on your hope in Christ. When trials come endure them patiently; steadfastly maintain the habit of prayer" (Romans 12:12, PHILLIP'S TRANSLATION).

When men speak badly of you, so live that no one will believe them.

# The Lesson

by Lorraine Carr

O.K. Where do I go from here?  
I made the scene at church today—  
I sang "Holy, Holy" and bowed at  
the right time.  
So, now what do I do?  
I heard a man read some words about  
Peace and Love.

I really dig that—I mean we need peace  
today—what with  
everyone screaming for  
rights  
and brutality—  
and then there's  
THE BOMB—not that we can do much  
about that—

Now about that love bit . . .  
I mean now that's IMPORTANT  
I wanted to scream LOVE, LOVE to all  
those  
white shirts  
and fur collars  
in the plush seats  
around me.  
I wanted to reach out and grasp hands  
and tell them how I saw this great scene.

You see—  
all these people and  
hundreds—  
who knows even thousands—  
all join hands  
and make a chain around all the bad.

The last "Amen" came and  
I felt funny—  
funny good  
like I knew the answer from  
that Bible book.  
I felt great—I turned to join hands  
with my neighbors .

"Who is that stranger—anybody you know?"  
"Goodness no—where would I meet someone  
like that?"  
"Must be one of those weird kids from the  
university—he'll probably not  
bother us

anymore."

by Joyce (Weir) Wilfong

# Our Love Chapter

Even if we can speak like angels and make others believe we're good, we're just another one in the crowd without Charity.

If we have the ability to tell of things to come pertaining to our Lord and His Word—if we seemingly understand all mysteries with knowledge of all things—We can have faith as big as to move mountains—But if we do all of these without Charity, we're just another piece of sand on the seashore.

If we give with all generosity to the poor and even sacrifice our bodies for His cause and still lack Charity, we are just another "drop in the bucket."

With Charity we would be **STRONG** in sufferings. We wouldn't be envious of anybody or anything. We wouldn't be always boasting about what we've done. We wouldn't be proud. We would always be ready to praise another.

We would be careful in the way we behave and realize we are witnesses at all times. We wouldn't always be doing what we want to do. We would be more considerate of others' wishes.

We would be more longsuffering and not easily provoked. Our minds wouldn't be filled with shady, unclean thoughts that aren't pleasing to our Lord. He said our bodies are the temples of the living God—if we keep them fit for Him.

We shouldn't delight in the wicked ways of those in our communities. We should be happy in the truths that we know are good and pure. This should be enough to take care of us till Jesus returns.

We must strive to bear our burdens, and believe our gospel's truth. We should hope for the best things. We should be able to endure whatever comes, with patience.

If we have Charity, we cannot go wrong. Some day we may speak no more. We won't be able to talk about things as we once did. The things we've learned may perish with us. If we have lived, being full of charity, people will not forget our kindness. Even after we're gone.

Our wisdom may be only half of what it should be until Christ comes. He'll explain it out fully to us. We are now ever learning. We don't achieve all knowledge in our life time.

Until He comes and tells us all things that aren't clear to us, let us continue to abide in Faith, Hope, and Charity.

—Remembering—Charity is the greatest example to others.

(Continued from page 11)

At first this answer pleased and satisfied me, but then the private voice of my inner self probed deeper, "But Gail, what have you accomplished during the past 10 years of your life?" Quickly, defensively, I answered (verbally this time) by listing all those important and cherished events that had transpired during the last 10 years of my lifetime. But that voice wasn't satisfied, for it asked, "HOW CAN IT BE that you have accomplished so little over such a long time?" And this question prodded my thinking... pushed me to self-examination and analyzation... prompted many "resolutions" for the new year of 1973.

*Ah, but how illusive is this thing we call Time. Each day, though "a little lifetime in itself" is as nothing when it is passed. Each year—though 365 days long—is here for a "minute" and then forever gone. Each lifetime—though several decades long—is, at the very longest, much too short. HOW CAN IT BE?*

Now, during these final days of 1972, I look forward with much anticipation to the unused, untouched, unpredictable days of 1973. And I realize, more than ever before, the need—my personal need—for accomplishment. The need to live—truly live—each and every day to the fullest degree. Somehow I can see with new and clearer vision the importance of filling the hours, the days, the weeks, the months, and the coming year with real worthwhile work, with real purpose-filled living, with true loving and with notable accomplishments.

And it is through tears for all the "wasted years" that I smile a smile of determination... determination to achieve, to accomplish! And it is with this determination that I am prepared to enter the new year, that I am prepared to live each day, from beginning to end, for God. And it is with feelings of joy that I remember "ONLY ONE LIFE, 'TILL SOON BE PAST... ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST."

And just as the last day of December, 1972, is fast-approaching, so is the last day of this age in which we live. Soon Christ will appear to reign on this earth for 1000 years! Let's live every hour of every day in such a way that we will be preparing and accomplishing for that One Great Day when Christ shall come again! Let's keep Christ in all we do—not just in '72—but ALWAYS! Let us so live that when He does come we will not be among those unhappy ones who will cry for the rocks to fall upon them when they gaze into the heavens and see the Saviour descending... Let us not be among those, who on that Great Day, will look at Christ and say, HOW CAN IT BE???

## That All-Purpose Power

by Marcia Woods

One of the most debated, discussed and perhaps most mysterious doctrines of the church is that concerning the Holy Spirit.

This *supernatural force* which was sent to take the place of our Lord and Savior when He returned to heaven to be with His Father is the medium by which Christ abides in the hearts of those who diligently seek Him. By this Spirit, God reveals Bible truth unto men and gives power to witness for Christ. The evidence of the Spirit within an individual's life is the *fruit of the Spirit* as found in Galatians 5:22-23.

Although the Holy Spirit was sent after Christ's resurrection and ascension, there is evidence of its presence and its workings before the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. It is first mentioned in Genesis 1:2 at the time of creation and then later in Genesis 6:3 where it is recorded that the Spirit was at that time striving with man. During the Old Testament time period, however, the Spirit seemingly worked only with the religious leaders (note Exodus 31:3, I Samuel 10:10, Numbers 24:2, and Psalm 51:11). Further evidence that the Spirit was then at work is the fact that the Bible was written by the inspiration of God by men who wrote "as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21).

In Acts 2 we see the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the entire congregation as had been prophesied in Joel 2:28, 29.

*The working of the Holy Spirit in our lives is nothing to be taken lightly but rather should be considered essential. The Spirit gives power for witnessing (Acts 1:8), seals us unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30), reveals the vision of the kingdom (I Corinthians 2:9-13), testifies of Christ (John 15:26), is a comforter (Acts 9:31), brings truth to our remembrance (John 14:26), guides us into all truth (John 16:13), is essential if we are to be reborn (John 3:3-5), is our access to the Father (John 6:44) and many other workings.*

How important is this Holy Spirit? Without it in our lives we cannot please God and thus we cannot have eternal life. (Romans 8:9, 10).

Galatians 5:22-23  
John 16:13  
Luke 11:13  
Romans 8:26

Ephesians 4:30  
John 14:26  
Romans 8:16  
Acts 1:8

# 2T4G-Take Time For God

## God Is Love

by Marilyn Current

“... Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ALL thy heart, and with ALL thy soul, and with ALL thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Matthew 22:37-40).

*PRAYER: Lord, help me as I study so that I can gain a better understanding and a broader concept of love. And help me then to apply my new and deeper understanding of love to my own life and my own loving. Thank you, God, for Your great love.*

### GOD'S LOVE TO US

**Jan. 1. I John 4.** Comment: God is Love. The very best definition of love is simply “LOVE IS GOD.”

**Jan. 2. John 3.** Comment: God's love for us is almost incomprehensible. He loved mankind so much that He gave His ONLY SON to die for our sins (verse 16).

**Jan. 3. Rom. 5.** Comment: God loves us so much that while we were still in sin, He sent His Son to die for us (verse 8—See also Matt. 18:23-35).

**Jan. 4. Rom. 8.** Comment: Absolutely NOTHING can take God's love away from us.

**Jan. 5. Eph. 2.** Comment: God's love is so great and so far surpasses anything we can imagine that He loved us even when we were

completely sold-out to sin and were entirely forsaking His Way (verses 4-5).

**Jan. 6. Eph. 3.** Comment: We should seek to comprehend the complete fullness of Christ's love (verses 17-19).

**Jan. 7. Rev. 3.** Comment: When we are afflicted or rebuked, instead of feeling resentful toward God, we should repent and then thank God for loving us and caring for us enough to be concerned about our spiritual growth and welfare (verse 19—See also Eph. 5:20).

**Jan. 8. Isa. 38.** Comment: God, in love, casts our sins behind His back (verse 17).

**Jan. 9. Isa. 63.** Comment: The Lord, in love and pity, redeems His children (verse 9).

**Jan. 10. Jer. 31.** Comment: God's

love to His people is **everlasting** (verse 3).

**Jan. 11. Hosea 11.** Comment: God's love to backslidden Israel is an example of perfect love (love gives, even when it is not returned, even when it is actually rejected). (verse 4).

**Jan. 12. Zeph. 3.** Comment: God's love rejoiced in the repentance of the ones who had rejected His love. God did not build a wall between Himself and the transgressors (verse 17).

### OUR LOVE TO GOD

**Jan. 13. Matt. 22.** Comment: The Greatest commandment given to us is to love God with our whole being (verses 37-40).

**Jan. 14. Matt. 10.** Comment: If we don't love Christ more than anyone in this world, then we aren't worthy of His love. (verse 37).

**Jan. 15. Gen. 22.** Comment: Our love to God should rank first and highest above all other loves (verse 2).

**Jan. 16. I John 3.** Comment: We show our love to God, indirectly, by loving those around us (verse 17. See also Matt. 25:31-46).

**Jan. 17. John 21.** Comment: We exemplify our love to God by caring for and teaching those around us (verses 15-17).

**Jan. 18. I John 2.** Comment: If we love the things of this life—pleasure, prestige, self-gratification, etc.—we do not love God (verse 15).

**Jan. 19. I John 5.** Comment: We become God's children by loving Him and keeping His commandments (verses 1-3).

**Jan. 20. Philippians 1.** Comment:

Our love to God should grow in knowledge and judgment of what is **excellent** (verse 9).

**Jan. 21. I Tim. 1.** Comment: (Read “charity” as love). The basic part of our obligation is to have love out of a pure heart and a good conscience. This love can come only after we've asked God to forgive us of ALL our sins. (verse 5. Also see Matt. 5:24).

**Jan. 22. Rev. 2.** Comment: We should NEVER lose our first love which is our love for God (verse 4).

**Jan. 23. Deut. 11.** Comment: We are commanded to love God and to evidence that love through our obedience to Him and His ways (verse 1).

**Jan. 24. Luke 7.** Comment: When we realize the full magnitude of our sins that God has forgiven, our love for God will grow proportionately (verses 36-50).

**Jan. 25. Luke 16.** Comment: In order to love God we must hate evil, not partaking in it in any form or fashion! (verse 13).

**Jan. 26. Psa. 40.** Comment: Those who love the Lord should be **continually** praising Him (verse 16).

**Jan. 27. Deut. 6.** Comment: We are commanded to love God with our **entire** being (verse 5).

**Jan. 28. Deut. 10.** Comment: We are to love God and serve Him by walking in His ways (verse 12).

**Jan. 29. Psa. 5.** Comment: We are to be **joyful** in our love to God (verse 11).

**Jan. 30. Psa. 31.** Comment: David sang of His love for God.

**Jan. 31. James 1.** Comment: The reward for **faithfully** loving the Lord is eternal life (verse 12).

The following testimonies reveal some of the many blessings 2T4Gers receive:

Since participating in the 2T4G program, I have become very interested in reading the Word of God. The Bible isn't an easy book to read, and it is even more difficult to understand. I've come to realize that in spite of its complexities and difficulties, the results of reading are very much worthwhile."

Terri Salazar

"Greetings in the name of Jesus. I just wanted to tell you how much I am enjoying the 2T4G program. Even though I don't follow the outlined chapters in the AIM, I am receiving great blessings from reading various parts of the Bible. I have finished reading the Pauline Epistles for the program, and I learned a lot though I've read them many times before. Looking forward to many more days in the program and many more blessings."

David Robinson

"I really enjoy doing 2T4G every night before I go to bed. When I'm feeling down all I have to do is read some chapters and then I feel cheered up."

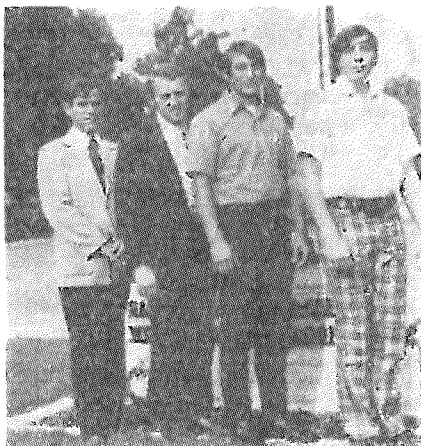
Deanne Jackson

**ATTENTION! All 2T4Gers who have discontinued participation in the program because of reaching the age of 25, please let us know so we can include your reason for quitting in our files. Thank you.**

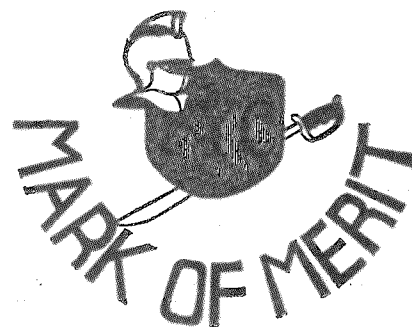
One 2T4Ger wrote, "I hope you aren't disappointed in my 2T4G participation, but I have decided to quit sending in the forms since I am now 25. I am still reading the chapters you have outlined in the AIM, perhaps more faithfully than before!"

**IT'S A GOOD REPORT FROM Stockton, CA, after Jerry Moldenhauer, District No. 1 Youth Worker, completed a tour during which he conducted a series of meetings and presented workshops and programs for each FYC group in the district.**

*"The meetings we had with Jerry Moldenhauer, our District Worker, were really a blessing and a help to our FYC. It's really wonderful to learn about the progress the Youth Department has made, and we're very happy to have a full-time youth worker in our district. It's really encouraging to have a PERMANENT worker to help spur young people and FYCs on to accomplishment. We are truly thankful for the opportunity of having Jerry work with us, and we have benefited much by his help and suggestions."*



Don Anderson, sponsor of the Stockton FYC, Nathan Lawson, pastor of the Stockton church, Jerry Moldenhauer, District No. 1 Youth Worker, and Tim Ogren, Leader of the Stockton FYC.



by Nolan D. Rincker

In sermons preached to young people the prophet Daniel is often mentioned as an example for us to follow. This is done because the Bible mentions Daniel as a youth and as one who followed God and obeyed His will. Daniel, of course, is a good example to cite.

As Daniel grew older and became involved with leaders of the nations into which Israel was taken captive, he continued to remain close to God. Surely God was with Daniel in every thing and helped him live a very righteous life without a "holier than thou" attitude.

Even when he was second in command to Darius he was living as God commanded. The presidents and princes under Daniel tried to find fault with him so they could bring a case against him to the king. The *only* thing they could find was concerning the law of his God.

Notice that these men *searched* to find an error or fault but could find nothing so they had to resort to accusing Daniel concerning God and His law. The reason for this inability to find a fault was because *Daniel had lived according to God's law in his youth and continued throughout his lifetime to live for God.* Read Daniel chapter 6 to gain a more complete understanding of the story about Daniel and those accusing men.

**AS FYCERS WE NEED TO LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD'S LAWS, AND WHEN SOMEONE TRIES TO FIND ERROR OR FAULT WITH US LET THEM FIND NOTHING TO CHARGE AGAINST US EXCEPT THAT WE RESORT TO GOD AND HIS LAWS!!**

We are happy to add another FYC to the program. The FYC at Delaplaine, Arkansas, has organized and elected officers and they expressed their desire to participate in Mark of Merit for



the remainder of the year. Their points below are just for one quarter. The other groups are reporting their third quarter. Only the groups with third quarter reports are listed.

This is the last month of the quarter and the last month of the year. The report forms are on their way to each FYC. After the points are totaled, a complete list will be printed in AIM and the Lighthouse Award winner will be announced. Be watching for this!

Group	Merit Points	Bonus Points	Amount Sent	Goal
<b>ARKANSAS</b>				
Delaplaine	195	367	\$10.00	
Fort Smith	380	92	37.50	\$75.00
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>				
Lodi	380	850		
<b>CANADA</b>				
White Fox	240	195		
<b>COLORADO</b>				
Denver	453	455	90.00	100.00
<b>IOWA</b>				
Marion	440	585	45.00	45.00
<b>MICHIGAN</b>				
S. W. Michigan	323	50	56.25	75.00
<b>MINNESOTA</b>				
St. Paul	453	615	45.00	60.00
<b>OKLAHOMA</b>				
Midway	205	190		
Claremore	270	160		
<b>OREGON</b>				
Marion	315	777	55.00	110.00
<b>TEXAS</b>				
San Antonio (Sp)	453	285	56.25	75.00

#### SUGGESTED PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Take two or three photos (preferably black and white) and write a short summary of some notable project your FYC has accomplished. Send the pictures and the short report about your project to AIM Magazine, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201. Again this month there is no "Spotlight" on any FYC because we have not received pictures or reports from any FYC group.

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Our desire for a thing is measured by the sacrifice we will make to attain it.—*William Feather*

# The End.

by Hope E. Dais

Back in May, 1780, an interesting phenomena occurred in New England. Suddenly in the middle of the day, the sun darkened, and night seemed to descend. People going about their usual day-time duties were startled, and yes, frightened, by this sudden change. Those who were familiar with prophecies in the Bible quite naturally assumed that the great day of the Lord had arrived. They were reminded of Amos 8:9: "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day."

In Hartford, Connecticut, Congress was in session. Seeing the strange darkness that had crept over them at noonday, the legislators were about to pass a motion to dismiss the session in the middle of the day. But one thinking man arose and said, in essence: "Whether or not the great Judgment Day has arrived, I want to be found accomplishing those things that are ours to do. I move to proceed as usual."

To this day, science has not explained this strange occurrence, but the attitude of this one man in Congress that day is a real example to us.

We may reflect as to what our thinking would be in similar circumstances. Would we have some rushing around to do? If you are a believer, you are well acquainted with God's plan—and God's promises. You know that a GREAT DAY is coming; signs point to the fact that this day is coming in the not-far-distant future. Yet, it seems difficult for you and I to rid ourselves of a feeling of remoteness concerning Christ's return.

Would you feel completely satisfied and content in what you in your young life are doing if the sun began to darken at noonday, and you concluded that the Glorious Day was now?

What are some of the things you would be inclined to try to do before Time closed in with finality?

Are there habits you know you should change—yet you do not take positive action to accomplish it?

Are there values you would change? Do you suppose there are some material aspirations you have now, which would look terribly insignificant at such a time?

On your campus, high school or college—are you diluting any Christian standards in any way in an effort to gain or preserve the approval of some certain individual or group? How do you think your attitude would change concerning the importance of that individual's or group's approval, if you were suddenly aware that Christ's coming were today—and that what you will do IS DONE?

As you see the close of another calendar year approach, consider in a constructive way what changes you would make in your living, and your loving, and your giving, if 1973 were clearly marked THE END on your personal calendar.

#### ON SALE NOW!!

There's a big sale in progress at Spring Vale Academy!! The yearbook, "FLAME '73," is on sale now, for only \$3.50 and the sponsorships are only \$10.00 a page. Help support your church school and order now. Make your checks out to Spring Vale Academy and indicate that the money is for YOUR 1973 SVA yearbook or your sponsorship.

#### A NEW YEAR —A NEW CALENDAR

1972 is almost gone and it will soon be time to take down the old calendars and put up the new. Attractive new Sabbath calendars have recently been printed for the Bible Sabbath Assoc. These calendars are available for 50¢ each from: BIBLE ADVOCATE PRESS, P. O. Box 2370, Denver, CO 80201.



#### READY FOR COLLEGE?

**UNDECIDED?? CONSIDER MIDWEST BIBLE COLLEGE!**

Regardless of what vocation you're considering, the one-year Bible Foundations Course at Midwest Bible College offers you the tremendous opportunity to become firmly grounded in Bible truth and principles before furthering your secular education.

Ministerial training, of course, continues to be the prime function of Midwest Bible College. If you feel called into gospel work, by all means write now to: Midwest Bible College, P. O. Box 86, Stanberry, Mo. 64489.

by Calvin  
Burrell

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As I press on toward the mark of my high calling in Christ Jesus, one thing continues to impress me as being outstanding: the Christian Way stands out!

The Christian Way is a life. It is not an additive, not a supplement, not merely an emergency first-aid station. Christianity is a life-time profession. The requirements for admission to the profession are repentance, conversion, and baptism. Considerable in-service growth is required to maintain the profession's high standards.

Several interesting facts may be noticed relative to "the Way." All members of the profession are dead (to sin), die anew each day (to self) yet are completely alive. Each member has exclusive liberty, yet each is inseparably chained to the Master of the profession. The members of this profession would rather give than receive; they would die rather than kill another; and strangely enough, they rejoice when faced with affliction or persecution.

The most distinctive advantages enjoyed by the Christian are his fire and life insurance policies. They are both infallible, by divine authority. The Christian is guaranteed immunity from the fire which will someday engulf the earth, and is promised unending life in the world made new. No one but a member of this profession may receive such assurance.

Despite the wonderful assurances and many fringe benefits enjoyed by members of this profession (to say nothing of the joy and contentment one derives from service therein), most people today are in avenues of work which promise substantially less returns. Why they are willing to settle for the pathway which leads only to death is difficult to tell; the director of personnel for that group undoubtedly has an answer.

My friend, if you would like to have these assurances personally, then get to know Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord. Join this outstanding profession, and *make it your life!* See what God can do for you!